

SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 47
NOVEMBER 22, 2018

Reader



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stickiness

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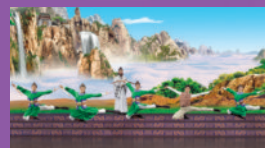


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November 22, 2018



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

A neighborhood identity crisis — page 16



He made dudes in panties cool — page 12



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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Traveler trounced outside Brother Benno's

Staging place provides stage for Shakey's rage

Four transients beat down another transient in front of a popular taco shop in Oceanside, and then left on their bicycles with the victim's cell phone, wallet, and other belongings, it was alleged in San Diego Superior Court during a preliminary hearing on November 14. The leader of the bandits, Shakey, demanded "Don't talk to my woman!" and warned "I will kill you!"

according to testimony of the alleged victim, Willie, who said he is 66 years old.

Shakey and Oopsie and two other men, who had arrived on bikes, punched and kicked Willie to the ground, there in front of Pedro's Tacos, at about 9 pm on September 12. This according to Willie, who knew his attackers only by their nicknames. "They immediately left after I stood up," Willie testified. "They all jumped on their bikes and rode away." Willie last saw his Adidas gym bag on top of the cement picnic table where he had been seated. Willie suffered two knots on his forehead, black eyes, and his nose was painful for weeks.

Responding to a prosecutor, Willie would not describe himself as "homeless." He said "I hate that word."

Instead, "I'm a traveler." It was women and alcohol that caused him to become a traveler, he said, adding that he was evicted from his last apartment in June 2014. Willie had recently "traveled" to a new location: the Chevron gasoline station at the corner of Benet Road and highway 76. He learned a week prior that it was a "staging place" where other travelers gathered at the end of each day, before going into the nearby San Luis Rey riverbed for the night. The gasoline station houses Pedro's Tacos, which has concrete tables in front. It is also conveniently near Brother Benno's, a resource for the homeless.

Even though Willie did not know the proper names of his attackers, he was able to pick out four suspects from photo lineups offered by Oceanside police, offi-

cer Brian Campagna testified. Four men in court pleaded not-guilty during a preliminary hearing. Roderick Tremell Nicholas, 47, also known as Shakey, denied robbery and meth charges. Edward Carl Davis, 21, known as Oopsie, also has several other, active court cases; these include robber-

ies-at-knifepoint of other homeless men. Warren Johnson, 56, and James Lawrence Pittman, 39, denied robbery and assault charges. Each court-appointed defense attorney argued that his own client did not

actually do any crime, but was only a spectator to the event.

Eva Knott

Jesus rode a donkey

Democrats not chuffed over chapel-chow hall changeover

The gloves are off at San Diego city hall as mayor Kevin Faulconer and fellow Republican Lorie Zapf discover that newly empowered Democrats are not likely to play nice, given their new House majority in Washington and supermajority control of the city council here.

As reported by the *Union-Tribune* November 10, La Jolla Democratic House member Scott Peters fired off a November 5 letter to the mayor and his now-defeated GOP council ally Zapf demanding a city attorney investigation of major Republican giver McMillin Companies.

At stake is a plan by McMillin for the North Chapel at Point Loma's former Naval Training Center, now known as Liberty Station, which was turned over by GOP mayor Susan Golding and the council to the National City developer in June 1999 after backstage campaign finance skulduggery undermined another developer recommended by the city manager and a blue-ribbon citizens committee. Now McMillin is said to be seeking to convert the North Chapel into an eatery and wedding venue, drawing heat from neighbors and preservationists, while simultaneously shopping its 66-acre master lease of the former Navy property to other owners.

"Several members of the community, including Save Our Heritage Organisation,

continued on page 28



Shakey (allegedly) warned Willie not to talk to his woman.



Edward Carl Davis, aka Oopsie.

Victor was bleeding a lot

Rent dispute settled with a knife

By Eva Knott

They haven't removed the stitches, I still have the stitches in there." Victor touched his ear when he spoke about that weird day when his ear got slashed. It happened on March 31, 2018, when he asked for keys from a renter.

The damaged part of Victor's left ear looked as if the skin had grown over the stitches there.

Victor claimed that Jose Diego, his renter, did not hand over his apartment keys but instead pulled out a knife. Victor spoke about the alleged attack when he was in court on July 9, 2018.

An attorney asked where he lived, but Victor did not seem to know his own address in San Diego County. "Well, we were in the apartments, I don't know how to read so I can't tell you what number it is, but that is

where we were." Victor's wife Maria said they lived near Grand Avenue in Escondido.

Both Victor and Maria testified with assis-



Jose Alberto Diego pleads not guilty, but eyewitness testimony and extensive and violent criminal record are not in his favor.

tance of a Spanish speaking interpreter.

Maria said she put an ad up in a local supermarket the beginning of March and "Yes, that same day I rented it out." They already had another couple sharing

their Escondido apartment, before Jose Diego joined them.

Maria said she asked for \$340 dollars but "He gave me a hundred and seventy-five dollars." They had no written agreement.

Jose Diego slept and kept his things in a part of their living room.

Maria said her husband and the renter were face to face or "head to head"

when Victor asked for the keys and Diego pulled out a knife. She indicated the size of the knife by spreading her hands apart; the judge guessed the knife was 8 or 10 inches.

Maria said she witnessed

Neal Obermeyer

the fracas, “He cut him in his ear and in his arm. He just knifed him.”

She said Diego then waved the knife over his head and “He started running all over the place.”

Maria testified, “He just said that he was going to kill him, and that he was going to kill both of us.”

Maria said she was able to escape the apartment but, “He walked outside, he was following me, because I was on my way to talk to the manager, to ask her to help us, because (Victor) was bleeding a lot.”

He could have killed me

Victor confirmed to the court, “I rented out the room to him, yes.” But, he said, “He did not pay the whole thing he just paid part of it.” And Diego had been with them the whole month when “I told him that the month was up.” He wanted Diego to leave. “Because he was not paying, that is why... Yes, I told him it was time



PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA KNOTT

The knife wound to Victor's ear caused prosecutors to include the unusual charge of mayhem, which deals with permanent disfigurement.

Apparently Diego did not see it that way. “No, he just pulled out the knife and he told me that he was going to kill me. That was it. And he started knifing me.”

Victor said he and Diego were in the living room, where the former's things were. “He had this thing off to the side where he would put his clothing in, this plastic thing, and he pulled it from out of there.

it “was open.” He said, “Because I held up my hand, and that's what happened, because he caught me on the finger.” Victor said the doctor also put stitches in his forearm, five or six.

Prosecutor Rikole Santin asked Victor if he believed that Diego wanted to kill him. “What was I supposed to think? I was already dripping in blood,” he said. “When he was stabbing me he told me he was going to kill me.” And, “Well, he could have killed me.”

The witness was cross-examined by defense attorney John Wilschke. Defense counsel seemed to suggest that Victor had his own knife, one he used at the plant nursery where he worked, and his knife had some kind of wrapping around its handle. “No, I don't have weapons, I have never had weapons, I am not that kind of person,” he insisted.

And Victor insisted he did not threaten Diego, “No, no, never,” but he did concede, “I was speaking in a loud tone, but I didn't do anything to him.”

Who's trying to kill whom?

After the incident, Victor recalled, “He left right away. As soon as he knifed me, he left.” Diego “started

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PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB WETHERSTON

Judge Harry Elias ordered Diego to face charges of mayhem, attempted murder, and making criminal threats.

for him to go... because we had already talked about it before.

“He told me, ‘Please, mister, let me stay one more week.’ So, yes, I gave him permission to stay one more week.”

When the week was up, and Diego didn't pay up, “I told him it was time to go,” Victor later testified, “because we had talked man-to-man so his word had to be worth something.”

He had this plastic container there, that's where... he pulled out the knife. It was a white knife. Well it might have been a kitchen knife, because it was like a white knife.”

Victor showed the judge his wounds, and said Diego had slashed “me here and here and here — my finger, my arm, and the ear.” The alleged victim said a doctor stitched part of his finger back into place because

UNDER THE RADAR

e-scooter pay-off

The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University is out with a study likely to gladden the hearts of San Diego e-scooter riders, plagued by a rash of accidents and beset by neighbors angered by cluttered sidewalks. “Of the 530 e-scooters MTI researchers observed and photographed in downtown San Jose, 97% were well-parked,” according to the November 14 report. “They were standing upright, placed on the edge of pedestrian paths or already obstructed areas, and not blocking pedestrian access.” Continued the study, “MTI researchers concluded that fewer than 2% of e-scooters blocked access for the disabled as most scooters were parked out of the way of pedestrian traffic on the edge of sidewalks or in areas already obstructed with objects such as benches, newspaper boxes, and trash cans, suggesting that perhaps e-scooter parking regulations may not need to be particularly strict. While e-scooter parking is mostly a question of sidewalk management, the authors note that cities also consider the management of e-scooters parked on private property.”

Not mentioned by the document was the role of California Strategies, the influence-peddling behemoth founded by one-time **Pete Wilson** aide **Bob White**, in funding the institute's lavish June awards banquet and convocation celebration. The ubiquitous Sacramento-based lobbying outfit has been employed in San Diego by Ofo of China, a bike and e-scooter sharing outfit seeking to grab a share of the city's e-transportation business. Other California Strategies clients here have included the now-defeated SoccerCity stadium project, for which the firm received unwanted attention after councilman **Chris Cate**, a major beneficiary of the lobbying company's political money, illegally leaked it a confidential city memo last year.

A difference of eight As circulation and readership continue to deteriorate at the *Union-Tribune*, publisher and editor-in-chief **Jeff Light** saved some work this year regarding



Former Pete Wilson aide Bob White now lobbies for e-scooter outfits.

his “Letter to Readers” introduction to the paper's November 11 “Making a Difference” special section for local charities. Wrote Light last year: “This sixth annual guide is a compendium of more than 25 organizations that are making a difference every day and need your help to continue their valuable work.” This year, Light's message was identical, except for a drop of eight in the section's advertiser count. “This seventh annual guide is a compendium of 17 organizations that are making a difference every day and need your help to continue their valuable work.” Wrote Light both times, “As **Henry David Thoreau** said, ‘One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something.’” But perhaps with an eye to income tax exemptions, Light's final phrase about charitable giving was tweaked from last year's “you'll be amazed by how it enriches your life” to “you'll be amazed by how it enriches you.”



The *Union-Tribune*'s Jeff Light displays the self-satisfied grin of a man who unironically quotes Henry David Thoreau.

Scott versus Lorie

It turns out that the volley of hit pieces that turned the electoral tide against Republican San Diego city council incumbent **Lorie Zapf** was funded partly with timely cash from the

election fund of La Jolla House Democrat **Scott Peters**. Said to be eager to run for mayor when **Kevin Faulconer**'s term ends in 2020, Peters transferred \$10,000 from his congressional campaign kitty on October 15 to the Progressive Labor

Alliance PAC, per a November 9 campaign disclosure filing by the labor-run committee. On October 10, October 12, and October 16 the PAC dumped a total of \$105,000 into a campaign fund calling itself San Diegans Against Hate opposing Lorie Zapf for City Council 2018. The effort is widely credited with aiding long-shot Democrat **Jen Campbell** — who was opposed by both mail attacks by the GOP Lincoln Club and a critical *Union-Tribune* editorial — take the

Second District seat away from Zapf... Democrat **Nathan Fletcher**, who is finally getting a handsomely-paid job as a result of his easy victory over GOP ex-District Attorney **Bonnie Dumanis**

continued on page 28



Scott Peters is smiling because the cash he spent to defeat council colleague Lorie Zapf paid off.

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LETTERS

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

Tolerance versus civility

It is interesting, although not being the main point of this article about civility in public discourses ("The case for civility," City Lights, November 14) that the author used some rather unmemorable examples of what he considers uncivil public discourse. Examples slanted against the left when there seems to be daily examples of political uncivility, sometimes several, coming from the president himself. statements designed to divide public discourse with a toxic edge. Everyone knows how divided we are as a nation, and to the point of the article, the need for civility in all parts of life are of a major necessity. However, to put a simpler point on the distinction between civility and toleration, civility allows us to debate, with an effort to change the others viewpoint, while being polite and courteous. Tolerance allows us to accept each others' differences without an effort or need to change them.

Michael Myers
Vista

Historic complications

Kudos to Joe Deegan for taking a complicated subject -- historic districts -- and explaining it in plain English ("Outdoor museums that don't pay for themselves," Cover Story, November 14). The process by which the city designates a historic district is a hodgepodge of municipal code provisions, un-codified (and seemingly inaccessible) policy memoranda, which by design or

result make it impossible for a homeowner to figure out how to oppose a historic district designation. The playing field isn't level. Moreover, the mandate of the Historical Resources Board isn't clear - is its authority limited to approving an application brought by a property owner to designate a property as a historic resource, or does the Board have the authority to designate a property a historic resource over the objection of the property owner? The city should not designate someone's primary residence a historical resource over the objection of the homeowner, yet that's exactly what the city is doing.

Gary Roberts
Golden Hill

Backstretch bumper

I opened the Reader to get an idea of what I could enjoy at the Grossmont Theater today. Before I had a chance to read about any movie, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which I've already seen, caught my eye (Movie Review). I read it in disbelief.... :(Wow did S.M. get it wrong for me. I enjoyed that movie! I thought it was interesting, sensational and resounding! S.M. spent some time reviewing the production backstretch more than the presentation. And questioning the source I found that all the people listed as reviewers are men! Geez, no wonder. In the future I will scoff at reviews by the Reader and in particular by S.M. Bummer.

StacEy Ann Turner
La Mesa

Third world roadie

I travel a lot at the street level in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile using Google Earth ("What it takes to fill a pothole," Neighborhood News, August 10). Some claim these countries to be Third World. If that is true, why are their streets so much better than those in San Diego? Does the San Diego city budget get audited by an indecent firm? Whose

continued on page 29

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers



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THE BRIDGE

The mild ones Lawless scooter gangs invading Coronado

On November 12, Steve Paen saw a photo of two people riding Lime scooters on the Coronado Bridge. He wasn't impressed; he's seen this sort of thing before. Last month, Paen, who works at McP's Irish Pub on the island, saw a larger group of motorized scooters on the two mile long bridge. "I wish I would've been able to snag a picture," he said, "but I was just trying to abide by the 'hands-free' law while driving. On October 4 at around 10 as I was heading into work, I saw what looked like seven or eight kids riding Lime scooters down the Coronado Bridge in the slow lane and heading inbound to the island. They didn't seem fazed at all by the cars whizzing by them. I can only imagine the max speed on those things is 15 mph. Put that against me traveling at 55-60 mph: it's not very safe for both the scooter gang and [us drivers] having to share the freeway." Paen added that the "teenagers" weren't wearing helmets, which are mandatory in California for anyone operating motorized scooters under 18.

Michael, an avid scooter rider, also saw the photos of the the two Lime scooters on the bridge. "They [probably] got on from

Cesar E. Chavez Parkway before it hits Logan Avenue (by Chicano Park)," he said.

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles website: "On roads without bicycle lanes, motorized scooters may operate where the speed limit is 25 mph or less." But the speed limit on the Coronado Bridge is 55 mph, and there are no bike lanes.

From an NBC 7 San Diego news report in March: "The Coronado City Council declared dockless scooters and bikes a public nuisance at a meeting...[and] dockless ride companies

aren't even permitted in the city. But because you can ride and drop them off anywhere, they make their way to the island."

Paen, from Pacific Beach, has seen some crazy stuff done with the motorized scooters in his neighborhood — including a guy riding a Bird scooter down a steep cliff leading to Law Street Beach, where he "munched it" real bad. "Bird scooters cut down on traffic and help the environment," he said, "but on the other side of the coin, you see stuff like this."

MIKE MADRAGA



From the edge of Ti-a-juana, to the shores of fair IB...

IMPERIAL BEACH

Mayor vs. Morones re: Marines

Supporting the troops or toadying for Trump?

The mayor of Imperial Beach has officially welcomed approximately 800 Marines arriving at a local military base as part of President Trump's response to the migrant caravan

in Mexico. "I have met with the leadership of Naval Base Coronado and the Marines deployed to Imperial Beach and let them know of our support," Mayor Serge Dedina said as part of a city announcement November 9 about the troops' temporary deployment at the Naval Outlying Landing Field, a base near the border used for helicopter training. The city promised "regular updates about the situation, as the details are somewhat fluid and can change quickly."

The troops are there to provide the US Border Patrol with aviation support using planes and helicopters, facilities, temporary housing, planning assistance, and medical services, according to the Imperial Beach statement. President Trump announced the sudden, temporary deployment in late October; the Pentagon has said the number of deployed troops would be 5,200 troops, though Trump has stated it could reach 15,000. "Imperial Beach has a proud tradition of supporting the men and women that serve and protect our country" Dedina said.

"We are outraged and paying attention," said Enrique Morones of Border Angels, an organization that goes to Imperial Beach on weekends to do humanitarian work with border crossers. "Unauthorized migration to the United States has dropped 40 percent in the last six years, long before Trump. Sending the military to the Mexican-US border is an act of hatred and provocation." Morones said that Trump "only wants to stoke his xenophobic base. We the people are much better than that; love overcomes hate." Morones added that he is "disappointed in the mayor of IB's support of the militarization of the border."

Immigration has been a thorny issue for the Mayor Dedina in the past. In 2016, Dedina issued a "Welcoming City" proclamation that officially welcomed immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who legally come to Imperial Beach. The mayor and city council later rescinded the proclamation after pressure from a group of residents of Imperial Beach; they compared it to a Sanctuary City resolution.

VINCENT FARNSWORTH

LA JOLLA

Judge junks Hillel holdup This is La Jolla, not Latvia

A 2002 *Reader* article detailed Hillel of San Diego's attempt to build a new facility adjacent to UCSD; in 2011, the *Reader* revisited



Once, La Jolla had a covenant against people of the first covenant.

the issue. (Originally called the Hillel Center for Jewish Life, it's since been named the Beverly & Joseph Glickman Hillel Center after the April 10 announcement of a \$5 million gift from Joseph "Chickie" Glickman toward the center's cost.) The site is a 3/4-acre



A "beacon of inclusivity," design by M.W. Steele Group.

triangle of land near the intersection of La Jolla Village Drive and Torrey Pines Road, just across the street from UCSD's Revelle College. The Hillel UCSD website describes the facility as "three structures, covering 6,479-square-feet of space on the property. The center will include a chapel, a library, a student center, a small park that is open to the public, with parking spaces for cars (27) and bicycle storage." Solar power will provide 30 to 50 percent of its energy consumption and water conservation measures (LEED Silver) are incorporated into the design. The architectural firm for the project is M.W. Steele Group of San Diego; they also designed the Melvin Garb Hillel Center at SDSU.

Opposition to the Hillel Center has raged since 2006, led by a group called Taxpayers for Responsible Land Use. TRLU is a self-described "non-profit 501(c)4 organization dedicated to preserving the special community of La Jolla." One of their arguments was that "this project will set a precedent for allowing University uses to encroach into the residential neighborhoods." The group also complained that "the proposed student center is six feet higher than any other structure in the

continued on page 8

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adjacent residential community.” But a traffic analysis conducted by Hillel showed that “the project would result in no significant traffic impacts and mitigation is not required.” Hillel also states on its website: “The activities at the Hillel facility will not cause significant noise impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.”

And on November 9, Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor ruled in favor of Hillel of San Diego and the City of San Diego, upholding the right to begin construction of the center. Responding to TRLU’s argument that the Glickman Hillel Center should be relocated elsewhere, Judge Taylor stated in court, “We don’t do that in the United States. That is evocative of Eastern Europe and not appropriate.”

Joel Smith, president of the board of directors of Hillel of San Diego, said in a statement: “This was a baseless lawsuit, and we are heartened that Judge Taylor confirmed Hillel’s lawful right to build.” Smith elaborated: “We are especially delighted that our project will serve as a welcoming beacon of inclusivity at the entrance to La Jolla, a neighborhood that once forbade Jewish ownership. We will not be bullied any longer; the time to build is now.”

DAVID BATTERSON



Who would ever think to use eminent domain on these eminent domains?

IMPERIAL BEACH Surging seas vs. Serge Dedina Mayor tackles climate change, fake news, riled residents

Hundreds of Imperial Beach residents showed up to a land-use workshop on November 14 to tell their city council they are opposed to the city using eminent domain to take ocean-affected property and give them to the rising sea and estuary waters.

Social media and local news and politics websites have been awash with alarm over the sea-level rise strategy people thought the city adopted. Some residents believe the city’s option of managed retreat – abandoning homes and buildings to the ocean rising waters – includes the city taking those homes and buildings by

force of eminent domain.

“Please remove eminent domain and managed retreat from the plan,” said Mitch McKay at the meeting. “We don’t want it on the table, we don’t want it on the books. We want it gone.” McKay was one of dozens of citizens who live in the low-lying beach town, where rising sea levels – demonstrated by storms over the last three years that flooded onto city streets near the Tijuana River National Estuary Reserve and along the seacoast – are a concern. But city officials say they never committed to using eminent domain to take homes threatened by the waters that surround south Seacoast Drive and the eastern

“People just made things up and decided it’s what they have to fight, and it just isn’t true”

edge of the estuary. In fact, according to city councilmember Ed Spriggs, neither the words “eminent domain” nor the concept are in any plans. “People just made things up and decided it’s what they have to fight, and it just isn’t true,” said Mayor Serge Dedina. “We’re trying to update our general plan, and we have people who are very upset about something that isn’t true.” Even so, city council members and people from two city committees listened to hours of comments and criticism over the

use of eminent domain. No decisions were planned for or made at the workshop.

In 2016, the city accepted a report on how rising oceans will affect IB over the next 100 years. The city council voted to accept the report and began studying alternatives to preserve and protect the areas of the city that were most vulnerable. Managed retreat – condemning homes and backing away while a new coastline is created by the ocean – was one of the options in the report, as were containment strategies, including armoring the coast against the ocean. The council hasn’t approved any of the strategies. But residents worry about what the city council will decide to do, now that it’s dominated by three members whose groups – two from Wildcoast and one from the Surfrider Foundation – oppose

armoring and embrace managed retreat as part of a natural solution to rising sea levels. Surfrider, for example, has repeatedly and successfully fought coastal armoring projects in Encinitas and Solana Beach at the California Coastal Commission and in the courts. “It’s real easy for the government to take your property,” said Richard Amos. “There’s a majority on the city council that can ram anything through the city they want to.”

In the past three years, two new hotels have been built next to the beach – while the city looks at how much the ocean will rise. “IB does not have the funds for managed retreat,” said resident Bill Whitaker, who estimated

costs of taking water-affected properties at \$150 million. “Why would we allow two big hotels to come in and then sign up for managed retreat?” The hotels have been a welcome addition to the area’s relatively stagnant revenues, which Dedina immediately sought to shore up after he was elected.

The city is in the process of updating its land-use plan, and the forum was set up to be a conversation about land use and zoning changes that includes questions about how tall new buildings can be and what people can do in them – for example, commercial uses and how many residences are allowed on each lot. But social media whipped up worries about the city taking waterfront and water-affected homes. “We’re going to have to do something, but eminent domain was not included in the plans at all,” Dedina said. “We didn’t even get to take a good look at the issues for the general plan update we need to think about.”

Dedina said he’d like to see the update to the general plan include a healthy community component, more specific ways to attain Climate Action Plan goals, and of course, clean water issues. “We should be able to record and take credit for all the mitigation effects of the estuary that is within the city boundaries,” he said, talking about emerging science that has discovered and is beginning to quantify just how much natural assets like soil and plants can reduce the effects of the emissions driving climate change. In the meantime, Dedina said he is committed to keeping the conversation with his community about land use and climate change going. “We are going to keep communicating,” he said. “We have real issues to address.”

MARTY GRAHAM

ESCONDIDO

Birthday bonfire in Kit Carson Park

Scotched suicide still serious danger, says judge

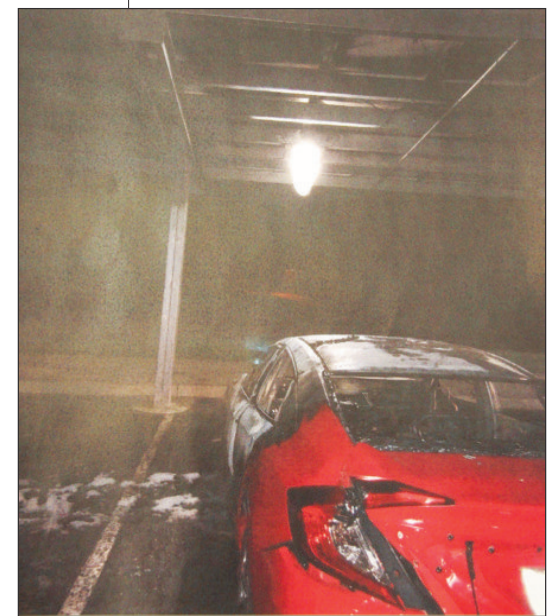
An Escondido man created a bizarre birthday bonfire for himself the day he turned 31, overnight between September 12 and 13, according to a police officer who testified in court months later. Officer Adam St. John said it was about 1 am when he responded to reports of a fire under a carport in Kit Carson Park, on Bear Valley Parkway. When he arrived, he cop found a red Honda Civic half-consumed



Cruz’s family attended the hearing in support.

by flames. The blazing car was registered to Juan Nicholas Cruz, who had just turned 31, according to records.

Emergency responders quickly extinguished the flames before they spread. The Honda was severely damaged, but the carport itself seemed to only suffer smoke damage,



The Honda was severely damaged.

thanks to the swift response of fire-fighters. One plastic light fixture, affixed to the carport above the flaming car, ended in a “melted” shape, as seen in evidence photos submitted to a judge during a court hearing on November 14.

Fire personnel were still working at the location when officer St. John noticed a man

continued on page 30

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Dear Hipster:

If it snowed in San Diego this winter (I mean, in the city proper, not up in the mountains) do you think local hipsters would be into it, or would their immunity to conventional enthusiasm prevent them from enjoying the spectacle?

— NATE, HOPING FOR SNOW IN OB

There are exactly two potential reactions to this delightfully improbable scenario:

(1) “Meh, we used to get more snow all the time in [insert name of hipster’s snow-blashed midwestern hometown here]”; or

(2) Cancel all plans, ditch work, meet with friends for impromptu “Donner Party”, Insta boomerang of self making snow angel while drinking hot rum toddy with caption “OMFG SNOW DAY! #snow #rum #ihopewesurvive #winteriscoming #winterishere.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSHUA SHERIDON

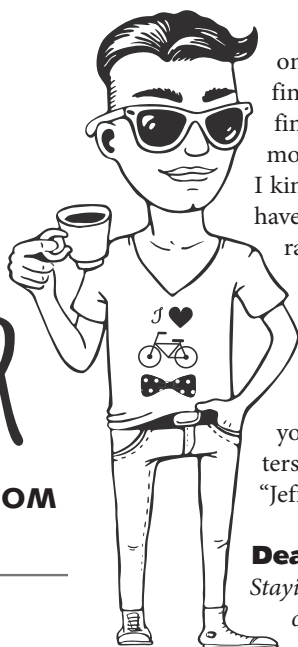
Dear Hipster:

Why does it sound weird if some hipster gives his dog a human name, like Steve or Benjamin? I don't know why it bothers me, but it does.

— LINDA (NOT A DOG)

Because it doesn't fit into one of the three main categories of dog names: nonsensical little kid names, e.g., “Princess Unicorn Poppy Pie”; basic dog names, like “Rover” or “Buddy”; and, finally, random hipster crap, like calling your pet “Chicken,” “Ziggy Stardust,” or “Lord Angus McShart.”

Diverging from that model throws people for a loop, and I agree with you that it's super random whenever somebody says, “This is my dog, Kevin.” What's going



on here? Am I going to find out “Kevin” works in finance and drives a late model BMW? Then again, I kinda like it. As you may have heard, we hipsters love random stuff, and giving a dog an unassuming human name for no discernable reason is pretty darn random. Watch out, Lord Angus, your ironic hipster masters may start calling you “Jeff” any day now.

Dear Hipster:

Staying up on things is a lot of work. Do you ever get frustrated with all the stuff you have to do to maintain hipster credibility? How might one avoid enervation from the effort of keeping up on things, so to speak?

— HYDE, HILLCREST

I think I know what you're talking about. It's the feeling you get when you've been texting your friends for three hours and nobody can decide which new brunch destination you need to get drunk at tomorrow; and you haven't even heard of two-thirds of the places on the list; and so you look deep inside yourself and think, why don't we just, like, go to Denny's?

Yeah, sometimes I get that “I can't even” feeling. You know the one. It's sort of like the feeling you get when you find out professional wrestling is fake; or when you realize all Froot Loops have the same flavor, irrespective of color; or when you learn the actor who played Screech on *Saved by the Bell* turned out to be the kind of sad example of a human who capitalizes on his child stardom with an awkwardly named sex tape, and who stabs someone in a bar on Christmas day. Like, why do we even bother getting up in the morning when your whole life has been a lie and the real story is always way worse than anything you could make up?

I take those thoughts and I bury them, where they can do no harm. Remember: the best way to deal with negative thoughts is to repress them before they gain a life of their own.

— DJ Stevens

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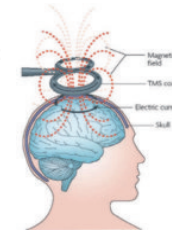
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Melancholy vs. midday meal

November seems odd/ You're my firing squad/ November
— Tom Waits, "November"

My wife might say that anyone who goes listening to Tom Waits' "November" in November — when the darkness starts closing in even before the workday is done — deserves whatever sadness they get, and she would be right. But there it is, and here I am.

"Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I

one tree has the blasted look of drought death, and if it's 75 degrees now, what's it going to be like next July? *New York* says that what used to be rainy season in California is going to be fire season from here on out, and it's easy to believe it. *Forbes* says California is simply unsustainable, and it's hard to argue. How could



Comfort ye, my people

we have tried to make a stable state out of a sun-sick dream in the desert?

But we do keep trying. Here's a Jeep loaded with Bird scooters, driven by a young man trying to make good with what he's got. And there's a dad with his daughter on the pier, fishing for "bass, corvina, halibut — anything, really." Four friends get a lunchtime workout on the basketball court. And set against all this future sorrow is the present joy of the burger: the yielding warmth of the grill-softened onions, the melty goo of the queso, and the gentle bite of the chorizo. Above me, Mexican God looks down amusedly, shrugs,



My version of Old Mr. Flood's oyster house

meet... then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can."

— Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*

"Get out of here; you're useless in your condition," says my friend at the office. "Go down to Marina Park South and get yourself a chorizo burger at Burgers, Bait & Beer, right

and says, "What can you do?" As I head back to the office, a rainbow-stripe sign on the side of Grab & Go Subs reminds me to "Smile — You're in San Diego."

Memorial for The Man

"The man is dead," texted my brother on November 12. "Which man?" I answered. "The Man." The capital "M" got my attention. "God?" "Yes. Blasphemy, but not by much. He was the Creator. Stan Lee."

"He created the Marvel comic universe that I've been immersed in all my life" said Kenny Boeche at San Diego Comics. "Or at least, he was one of the creators. It doesn't matter so much what percentage of this or that character he created. He was part of it. He turned the superhero genre on its ear. With DC, it was the superhero that was the identity, and the

human side was the costume. Superman was an alien. Wonder Woman was basically a goddess. Aquaman was an Atlantean." (And Batman was a reclusive and haunted billionaire.) Thanks to Lee, "with Marvel, it was who was inside the costume first."

"That's how he brought superheroes back to popularity," said owner Bobby Bellman. "With characters you could relate to. You have problems at school? So does Peter Parker," the spectacular Spider-Man. "When Lee and Marvel had a split, the backlash hit Marvel. They went back and reattached him; that's part of why he appeared in all the movies. DC had always been more of a corporate world, but you couldn't separate Marvel from Stan Lee. All the kids still know who he is."

"He was the first person who worked in comics that I was aware of who wasn't embarrassed about working in comics," said Comic Kaze manager Lucky Bronson. "I know that in the 70s and 80s, he did a lot of college tours promoting comics. That's why his voice is always associated with them. With Apple, we know that they wouldn't have been what they are without Steve Jobs, without his being that type of Barnum and Bailey showman." For comic books, "that was definitely Stan Lee." Further, "he grounded his stories in our reality. Marvel was set in New York, instead of made-up cities like DC's Metropolis or Gotham. It was the first time you felt that superheroes could be outside your window."

Mike Cholak at Yesteryear Comics adds a still more personal note to Lee's legacy. "I was having trouble reading, and my family wasn't going to have it. So they took me to a comic book store and said to get half a dozen comic books. Nothing happened in 1983 except for *Return of the Jedi*, and so I picked out the first six issues of *Star Wars*," a Marvel title. "They said, 'Maybe you should pick something else,' because it came out to \$42, and that was a lot of money. But I got them, and I read them and re-read them. I got more books. In third grade, I was two years behind in reading, and by the time I got to fourth grade, I was two years ahead."

Because of the way the pictures related to the words, I was starting to understand everything. It was kind of a bridge between picture books and *Catcher in the Rye*."



Lee's legacy: fun for everyone!



Mike Cholak at Yesteryear Comics estimates that Marvel makes up 50% of his business

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Morning sickness protocol

Nausea is plaguing my newly pregnant friend Sarah. "Now I know how my husband feels when he's on a boat," she moaned to me.

My friend Maire is a representative for dōTerra oils, and she seems to have a remedy for everything. "Peppermint oil (\$27.33, 15ml) is wonderful," she said. "You can smell it, rub it on topically, or take internally. The beadlets (\$15.33, 125 ct), which are small amounts of the oil in a gel capsule, are very convenient for taking. Wild orange oil (\$14.50, 15 ml) and ginger oil (\$52.00 15 ml) are also helpful."

"Get outside and breathe fresh air," said Caroline. "Smell a lemon. Stay away from the smells while food is cooking.

Also, for nausea with a migraine, magnesium (Natural Calm Powder, \$17.99, 8 oz. at Sprouts) can provide immediate relief."

Elise told me that "with my fifth pregnancy, I discovered Pink Stork morning sickness solutions. I bought the system of [vitamins, teas, and supplements] (\$129.99) when I was at eight weeks and it brought me back from the dead." (The Pink Stork tea can be purchased separately for \$11.99, 30 cups' worth on Amazon.)

"Let me tell you about my preppers protocol," said Jamie. "I eat something before bed, like crackers or bread, and again as soon as I wake up. I make sure I take my vitamins at night with food. I don't let myself get hungry. And I'm basically a vegetarian for 12 weeks. Then I put on acupressure bracelets like they use for seasickness, and remind myself this is usually gone by 14 weeks like clockwork."

The mention of bracelets led me to Katie Aparicio, owner, and founder of Blisslets. Aparicio explained, "When I was pregnant with my first baby, I had terrible morning sickness. One of the only things that helped were acupressure bracelets. But I was still very early in my pregnancy, and I was not ready to share the news with my coworkers. Since the only thing on the market were these very conspicuous sweatband-like things, I would hide them under my suit jacket at the office to avoid questions. Unfortunately, one day the wristbands peeked beyond my sleeves and a male colleague whose wife is expecting recognized them. He immediately shouted for the whole office to hear, 'Hey, I didn't know you were pregnant!' That's when I begin to wonder whether someone could make acupressure bracelets that looked like

"It brought me back from the dead."

regular jewelry.

"My husband and I teamed up with an industrial designer," she continued. "We consulted with medical program professionals and focus groups, and tested many products," looking for something that was comfortable, effective, and aesthetically pleasing.

"Many scientific studies to show that acupressure bracelets help relieve nausea stemming from a wide variety of causes. Pregnant women, but also travelers with motion sickness, chemotherapy patients, or people suffering from migraines. Even gamers who get queasy when using virtual reality headsets. If you're not feeling well and really don't want to advertise your condition to others, that's where Blisslets stands apart."

Blisslets work via a small bead that places pressure on the P6 acupoint, located 3/4-inch below your wrist crease, right between the two tendons on the underside of your wrist. (There are various theories about why this helps: one is that the pressure on the point sends neural signals that affect the region of the brain that controls nausea and vomiting.) Aparicio notes that "The American College of

Obstetrics and Gynecology lists P6 acupressure bracelets as the first line treatment for morning sickness. There are no drugs involved and no side effects. This is a big plus for mothers who want to limit their babies' exposure to pharmaceuticals. You can put them on any time when nausea starts, but we

recommend wearing them ahead of time if you expect to be a situation that may give you nausea. They also need to be worn on both wrists." Blisslets come in sets ranging from \$28-\$46 depending on style.

Aparicio didn't for the dads. For men, "We designed a whole line inspired by nautical themes. They're understated and very versatile. We also offer a pair that includes a genuine leather cuff that is crafted in small batches by Colombian artist."

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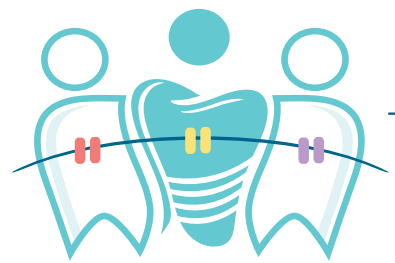
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Sorrento Valley

Lacks stickiness

From Linkabit's seminal habitation as a digital communications mecca, a spider's web of companies grew, most notably, Qualcomm.

IN AUGUST 2018, many of us were aghast at a news story, summed up in the *Union-Tribune's* webby headline, "Three dead in wrong-way I-805 crash in Sorrento Valley" that shut down free-way for 6 hours." An 18-year-old man driving a McLaren sports car 100 miles per hour southward in the northbound lanes smashed into an SUV carrying a mother and daughter. On impact, the cars ignited in a firestorm and all three were killed.

Deadly accidents are not rare occurrences at the nexus "in Sorrento Valley." Charred swaths and shattered glass on the highway speak of a Pickett's Charge to get through the Merge, famed for its 22 northbound and southbound lanes that move thousands to destinations ever elsewhere.

This getting by only popularizes a misconception about the place, like rubes end up in Bakersfield or billionaire technocrats outnumber the poor in San Francisco. No, no, no. Look closer. Wrecks don't occur in Sorrento Valley. They happen on Interstate 805, the coronary artery that skirts the community. I-805 is not in but rather above or over the Valley, much like our night and morning clouds are above and over the coastal air-vent of the county, daily sun-erased.

Most of us know little about the Valley below. For one thing, it's among the safest of neighborhoods. A glance at crime statistics shows negligible amounts in Sorrento Valley proper (most months: no murder, no rape, 20 nonresidential burglaries). The place is either an off-hours fortress with a Brink's security apparatus, or what is there — aside from a few thousand folk who live in the Water Ridge and Pacific Ridge developments — is mostly business property under lock and guard.

Indeed, there are two Sorrento Valleys. One is a beehive of daytime ritual; countless cubicled techies, screen-gazing

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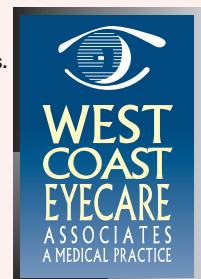
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at Qualcomm or startups such as Omnione, Injinji, and Onsolve (soon-to-launch micro-gadgetry or spicy Asian street food). The other is composed of halcyon homes where residents unwind with ample night-and-weekend quiet. They toast their five-bedroom, backyard-balcony, canyon-view homes and listen to the coyotes howl.

Birth of an old identity

One morning in March, 2013, Julia Schriber drove out of her Sorrento Valley subdivision and was shocked to see her locale had just been signed — blue-and-white plaques bolted to light poles, reading “Welcome to Mira Mesa.” There were several of these roadway placards, overnighted as it were. In one case, there was (and remains) a “monument,” a fake-rock marker announcing Mira Mesa,



Lil Nover

anchored where Mira Mesa Boulevard begins just off the I-805, which, residents rightly claim, is Sorrento Valley proper. Her pride assaulted, Schriber started phoning friends.

Soon, Susan Carolin, Lil Nover, and a woman named Suzette joined

Schriber, all 20-year-plus residents, for a kitchen-table revolutionary tea. They were more than upset, as Schriber, a sonographer at UCSD, tells it. “We felt we were literally being erased.” The word “erased” suggests intent. (Some ruthless sorts, during this

velvet takeover, also changed Valley names on Wikipedia and on Google Maps, which eventually had to be changed back.) Schriber says that what little clout neighbors thought they had, they didn’t. Her prime motivation was to protect the autonomy of the two



Wayne Cox

canyons, Los Peñasquitos and Lopez, long, walkable swales of dusty trails and chaparral. These protected spaces, Schriber says, herald a healing balm, what residents think of as their Sorrento home, “a perfect urban- vs-nature environment.”

In no time, the culprit emerged: the eight-member, authoritarian assessment-district, the Mira Mesa Planning Group. They branded Sorrento Valley a “subarea” of Mira Mesa, as well as the prosaic “Western Mira

Mesa,” in part, Schriber observes, because “no one ever questions them.” Suzette did. At Kevin Faulconer’s office, she fulminated, only to be told, Schriber recalls, “no one would fight their battles for them.” If members wanted a community identity, they must form a town council.

Which they did, only to discover the irksome fact that the City is bounded by all sorts of overlapping jurisdictions. The administrative overlord for Sorrento Valley is the Mira Mesa Planning Group. Which is where the signs came from. Peeved, Susan Carolin lobbied to have the Valley take on its police department’s designation as Sorrento Valley — in her words, their “most accurate identity.”

To become Sorrento Valley (again), the quartet of women got instruc-

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tions via Google to form a 501(c)(3) corporation, chartering tax-exempt status, a board, rules, meetings, minutes, and encouraging citizen input. First order of business was an orchestrated protest against the neighboring neighborhood thieves, the Mira Mesans. At a town meeting, the incensed Sorrento Valley residents pushed back, a hundred sympathizers chanting slogans and wearing T-shirts, "Stop the Mira Mesa Land Grab!"

Since then, these women, along with others (husbands and friends), have accomplished a rare act of civic heroism, scratching a community into being, one monthly Marriott common-room confab at a time. Actually, I should say reviving a community into being: Sorrento Valley, for a long time an expanse of grazing and mooing (the cat-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Los Peñasquitos Canyon

tle story comes later), has existed as a place name for more than 150 years.

What is a community?

First would be an agreed-upon boundary. Wayne Cox, a member of the town council, tells me that Sorrento Valley is not an amorphous adjunct to Mira Mesa. There's a

clear line: the north-south Camino Santa Fe, from Los Peñasquitos to Carroll Canyon Road.

Second is the "raised" consciousness of its community members, who trigger a mini-Tea Party, which ignites the torches of those who care the most about where they live, and who put in thou-

sands of hours of time volunteering, forgoing Netflix to read five-year community-plan reports.

Indicative of this are Susan Carolin's pursuits: president of the town council; the captain of the "Next Door" program, a website meetup; representative of the San Diego Coalition of Neighborhoods; and author of articles about the Valley. For Cox, the thing that got his goat was that the Mira Mesa bosses had no interest in hearing either his voice or those of his neighbors, homeowners and condo renters in the Valley. Thanks to Cox and a few disgruntled, dedicated others, the town has a voice now.

A transient hometown

In the Valley, there are hundreds of office parks,

turn-in lanes to warehouse bays and loading docks, abuzz with beeping delivery trucks, Monday through Friday. Employees lunch locally while a few, exhausted after work, "dinner" there. The community would like a more aggregate feel. But the rush to leave around for the Indy 500. According to Plan Mira Mesa, there are 1618 businesses in the Valley, at which 46,000 people work. Most are one-vehicle commuters. That's a sizable car-print.

For those of us who cubicle at home and feel superior, such back-patting is unearned: The majority of San Diegans not only do not live where they work, they can't. Would they like to? The assumption is yes, based on common sense and the decades-old "City of Villages" concept so central to San Diegans' hope for the post-industrial, decentralized, mixed-use city many hope to work from home in. (You would think that masses of techies could work remotely; perhaps many do, but it hasn't slowed the traffic.)

Some facts. Sorrento Valley occupies 7.7 square miles (2 percent of the City of San Diego), sports 5400 residents, and has a low density: 704 people per square mile. By comparison, orange-

grove-laden Rancho Santa Fe has 459 people per square mile, while the rabbit-warren city proper has 4337. The Valley feels roomy, the canyons giving one's legs the space to stride and roam.

The people. Thirty-nine percent are foreign born; the ethnic range is mostly white and Asian. The distribution of age groups rises sharply at age 25, peaks at 35, and falls fast at 45. (Where any 35-year-old gets the money to afford Sorrento Valley's home prices — pound for pound, among the highest in the county — is another mystery.) A tech-heavy population, almost half carry a bachelor's degree or higher; five percent are PhDs. Nowadays, there are a good deal of young urban professionals. These singles and couples are college-and-post-grad renters. There's only a smattering of kids; there's no school.

Nonetheless, Sorrento Valley offers an incomparable site that still amazes as one whizzes by in either direction and peers west: a lagoon-away hike or bike ride to the Pacific Ocean and the shudder that this valley was once among the most beautiful and wild expanses in southern California, where canyon, estuary, and beach formed the aboriginal Merge.

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Weed and speed

The big four issues that town council members chew on at their meetings, underneath the roar of jets and helicopters taking off and landing at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, include:

One, the slow invasion of marijuana production facilities — not pot shops, but dope mills (oils, creams, pipes, edibles) whose downside is more arrivals/departures, greenhouse gas emissions, and a skunk-like odor from the cooking vats, that is, if the facilities include retail or delivery components. Ten such mills are coming soon to the Valley and 17 to Mira Mesa. Twenty-seven stoner warehouses — odiferous, indeed.

Two, the accompanying image shift, by no

means certain, from San Diego's Land of Tech to pick-up-friendly ganja stops. The former San Diego County Credit Union office — on Sorrento Valley Road, zoned industrial and paralleling I-805 beneath the towering legs of the freeway — is slated as a production facility. Cannabis labs and hemp ovens will be housed in many of these one-story architectural throwbacks. Many of these throwbacks possess the aesthetic appeal of a suit-box from Nordstrom. Street-common signs, For Lease and Real Estate Opportunity, suggest not abandonment but an era that time forgot.

Recently re-elected District Six councilmember Chris Cate, who represents the Valley and Mira Mesa, issued the following word salad about



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

The Coaster at Sorrento Valley Station

his position on these facilities, a policy more cosmetic than substantive: “While I did not support the City Council’s recent decision to not limit the number of marijuana production facilities in each council district, we have proposed a number

of reforms that will limit the potential negative impacts of this industry. This includes advocating for the removal of illegal storefronts, delivery services and online platforms such as WeedMaps, as well as proposing new regulations regarding

the advertising of marijuana businesses.”)

Three, a change in image impacts not just the people who live in the Valley but, more numerically, the 70,000 who every day bumper-to-bumper into jobs or drive past, and who are lumped in with the 73,000 cars and trucks that enter the Merge, northbound, on I-805. (By 2034 that number climbs to 106,000.) Schriber and a few other seers/proposers have a vision for the Valley’s future: Move the 30-year-old Coaster train station south about a mile on Sorrento Valley Road; there, build a transportation hub where commuters, via an aerial skyway, would descend from a Trolley stop near Scripps Memorial Hospital a mile or so to the west down a breathtaking canyon-side

to the Valley — in gondolas like those that jostle across the San Diego Zoo.

At the hub, city buses, business shuttles, scooters, bikes, and Lyft service would address the first-mile/last-mile connection, mass transit’s hardest problem. Schriber says, “If we can just get people here, it’ll be easy to move them to their businesses.”

Four, a nuisance and a danger — weeds and speed. It only takes a quick turn down industrially zoned side streets to find curbside clumps of witch grass and bull thistle, then whomp-whomp over speed humps or be shamed by “speed beacons,” identifying Your Speed and telling you to Slow Down. Schriber says the worst issue of all are the deadly accidents on Sorrento Valley Boulevard, a hilly rush-hour

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race course, again, used to flee the Valley, in an otherwise “very happy neighborhood.” (Of course, every San Diego neighborhood wants weed control and brush management, not exactly fiscal priorities in a City whose shortfall in 2019 has a high-end estimate of \$40 million.)

Valleys of distinction

The name, Sorrento Valley, shares a three-beat, sibilant sound with its Northern California “rival,” Silicon Valley. We may associate the two, but their differences are stark. The main feature of Silicon Valley includes its notoriety as the home of Apple, Facebook, Yahoo, and Google, planetary apes of the most aggressive sort. Plus, the area has five sizeable cities, a population


of four million, wizards (or demons) Tim Cook and Mark Zuckerberg, humanist causes, and wealth unimaginable.

Sorrento Valley, by contrast, is puny, singular, button-down, and famed for two things, one new, the other old: Karl Strauss beer and Linkabit, a 1968 Los Angeles company that made circuit boards, semiconductors, silicon chips, and phone technology. Its two founders, Irwin Jacobs and Andrew Viterbi, moved the company to the Valley in 1970.

From Linkabit’s seminal habitation as a digital communications mecca, a spider’s web of companies grew in the 1980s — one hundred spinoffs and scions of spinoffs, most notably, the millionaire-making Qualcomm, begun in 1985 and still

on the Fortune 500 list at #133.

Joel West, writing in the *Journal of San Diego History*, notes a counterintuitive reason why startups flourished in the Valley. From 1984 to 1989, Linkabit encouraged “the dispersal of [their] technical talent,” in part because management and public relations weren’t the company’s strong suit while letting creative teams take control was. The outcome launched a tentacled revolution, wireless communications companies breeding close to the parent. Today, there are some three hundred such digital firms in the area. The truth is, Sorrento Valley has been far less monetized and social media-controlled than Silicon Valley. It remains Untucked, not T-shirt and sneakers, a kind of porous



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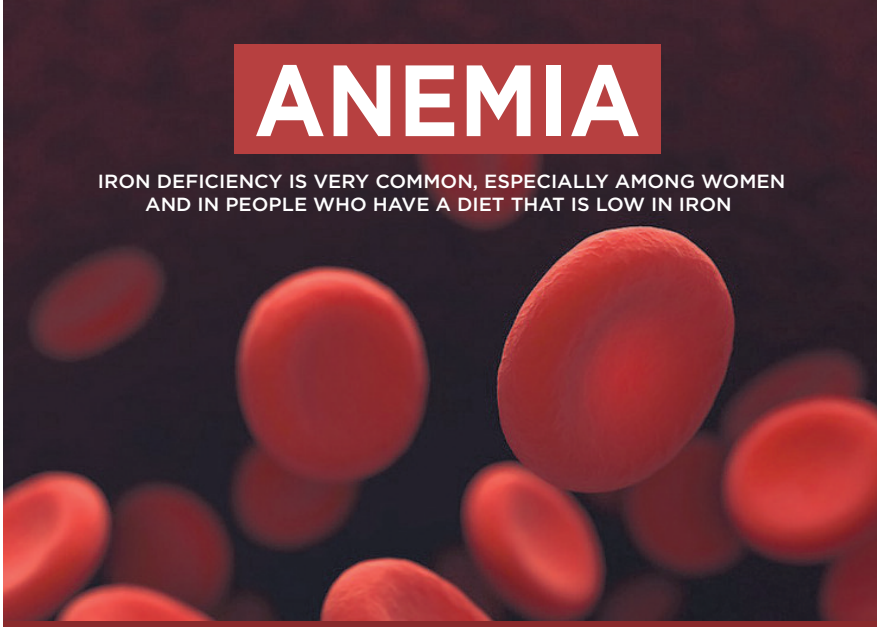


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bivouac of information firms, immune to the spotlight. Sorrento Valley is hardly associated with the morphing of humans and devices in the social-media age.

A major oddity

Another curiosity about the indeterminate nature of Sorrento Valley comes from scanning overhead maps from the 1960s. Bulldozers flattened hill-tops, canyons were back-filled, graded dirt roads snaked every which way, and the new mesa tops were prepped for concrete foundations and parking lots. Such was the developers' dream: I see houses, businesses, mini-malls. The problem was, excepting a few hundred condos and single-family homes squeezed in on some prime real estate, the lion's share of



New English Brewery

the commodified mesas and their arterial roads were zoned, IL 2-3, that is, industrial light, mainly for biotech labs and innovation incubators.

The home-to-business balance is lopsided, as I've detailed. With four of five San Diegans driving to work alone, the transportation cost

per household averages \$10,000 per year. In the residentially concentrated and even busier Mira Mesa, it's a thousand dollars less. But in Sorrento Valley, the price runs between \$16,000 and \$18,500, the higher number twice as high as it is for a Mira Mesan.

Homes in Sorrento Valley shoulder majestic open spaces; they are also wedged in by the light industrial grid. The neighborhood can neither grow up nor out. Jeff Stevens, chairman of the Mira Mesa Planning Board, a citizen-based advisory group, has been an off-and-on member since 1986. He tells me that Sorrento Valley was settled with an industry/business stamp due to "the Miramar overflights": Military planes take off toward the ocean, turn

north, and fly directly over the Water Ridge condos. The "noise contour" is a nuisance and a restriction — to the degree that most home builders cannot persuade themselves to push new projects.

The brave, occasional developer wants, when cost-feasible, to erect "workforce housing." But, Stevens says, just because you build homes in the Valley doesn't mean a person's employment will be nearby. In addition, there are two things Sorrento Valley does not have: schools and libraries. Stevens says, for families, that's a "real shortcoming."

One recent workforce housing project Stevens recalls was opposed by Qualcomm; they went "ballistic," he says. Since their founding, anyone bringing in

residential space will, from Qualcomm's point of view, "add-to or create conflicts," namely, more lights, odors, noise, vandalism, traffic, and mixed-use chaos.

Moreover, one reason Qualcomm exerts its miserly persona when it comes to property is its dominion in the Valley. The company owns, at its Sorrento Mesa campus just off Mira Mesa Boulevard, 15 parcels of land. In 2017, these parcels were valued at \$1.4 billion, with an annual tax bill of \$18.5 million. Qualcomm is not wont to let any of this go, especially after it downsized this past June and still has empty office space. Says Stevens, rezoning for residential will only drive the price up on the land the tech giant owns, raising their property taxes even

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

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All this is true also of small businesses on Sorrento Valley Road. Its two-mile-long stretch borders the Amtrak and the Coaster train tracks and has for years offered 15 percent “space available,” according to one realtor, a perennially depressed market where no one wants to relocate, since most of these spots have none of the glassy elegance the white-coats desire.

Liberty's hidden tax

Another measure of how the Valley has been altered over time goes back to the initial conquest. Beginning in 1759, a viable 12,000-year settlement of the Ystagua, descendants of the Kumeyaay, was subdued by land barons who evicted them and in their place grazed 1000 head of cattle across Los Peñasquitos' 1000 acres. The spot was called Soledad during the Spanish occupation, until a cattleman renamed it Sorrento, a romantic homage to Sorrento, an Italian city on the crest-shaped beach



Congressman Scott Peters' representative, Anthony Nguyen, presented the Sorrento Valley Town Council with a Proclamation on the success of the Sorrento Valley Beer Festival. In the picture are SVTC Board Members Wayne Cox, Julia Schriber (VP), Susan Carolin (President), Lil Nover, and Anthony Nguyen.

of the Bay of Naples. The greatest economic transformer wasn't cattle, of course. It was the railroad, tracking through in 1886, and its spurs linking the Valley to cities north and south with beef.

Elena Juarez, owner of the Sorrento Valley Children's School on Sorrento Valley Boulevard, recalls opening her preschool in 1983, with Qualcomm arriving next door two

years later, while cattle still lowed in Peñasquitos. Juarez says the occasional randy bull would get loose and require a police escort back to the fields. By 1990, people outnumbered cows — as well as horses, stabled near the canyon — and the animals were eaten or trucked away.

In the 1970s, when the district opened a Valley elementary school,

Jack Naiman built a nearby community center for children. He wanted parents who labored in the Valley to have a safe, modern, after-school kids' hang-out. He contributed a gym, a pool, and a playground, all supervised. Call it early extended workplace daycare.

Alas, place and plan succumbed to the exponential hunger of tech companies, an irony that

even Naiman, head of American Real Estate, couldn't escape. The money was in the business ventures, not in the community. Exemplary of the former is his San Diego Tech Center on Scranton Road, an award-winning architectural marvel whose white-palace citadel has nothing a swing-set-loving child would want. Indeed, his dream of a kids' magnet went south. Today, the district elementary school in the Valley is gone. Of Juarez's 80 current preschoolers, she says 90 percent are driven in from Carmel Valley to the north and 10 percent from Mira Mesa to the east.

This driven-in-ness is (stop me if you heard this before) beyond annoying — single drivers, Coaster trains (some 17 a day with more coming), dinging railroad crossings, massive struts of the Interstates and their grinding noise, stop signs instead of traffic lights, all of it colluding into a work-day Carmageddon.

It makes one think that the last thing planned for, at least, in the bright, shiny vision of pro-growth moguls, is the traffic. Even

as the cattle and horses were packed off, small-business developers sliced the whole pie of Sorrento Valley, not as a work/live magnet, but solely as a work mecca. At everyone's peril — and this sentiment was alluded to by everyone I spoke with — we ignore, unconsciously, the lesson that Americans pay a hidden tax for the liberty we prize to live and work anywhere we want.

The quandary

Driving north on Sorrento Valley Road toward Carmel Mountain Road, one finds the serviceable New English Brewery, seven years making and selling craft beer in the Valley. New English is expanding. It has a new party room, with a wall of barrels shouldering barrels and a slew of brews on tap, overseen by British owner Simon Lacey, the brew master. His tasting room opens at 4 pm weekdays where, as a pod of food trucks rattle and hum outside for a dinner crowd, a group of beer lovers convenes. “They are,” he told me recently, “the smartest group of drinkers I've ever met.”

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AFTER 90 DAYS

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PhDs and Tesla types who earn a daily breather from plying their skill set in the Golden Triangle. Off work, they wend their way, mostly, to North County homes. But, Lacey says, they like his easy-in/easy-out brewski stop, one of a few sticky way stations in the Valley.

Despite such success, a quandary remains for Sorrento Valley. I think it's this: a lack of stickiness. With little room (or will) to build more housing, with a stagnant population, with home prices precariously high, with no school, library, fire station, bus service, shopping-center shuttle, cinema, concert venue, or neighborhood park with a bandstand, the only thing that I see growing is the community's insularity.

To be fair, there are A.A. meetings, a group of Sorrento Valley Riders who horseback through the Los Peñasquitos preserve, a fencing school, a summer baseball camp, a post office, a police substation, and a shrubby canyon bordering Water Ridge that is slated to be the Valley's first/only 30-acre urban park. And, I should add, there are sticky offerings that magnetize residents to Mira Mesa proper — just a short drive away.

Such, I caution, is my viewpoint as a visitor. I'm exacting no blame. The sticky element I speak of needs investors. It needs after-work destinations such as dance studios and a bookstore. It needs kids, poison-oak infected and worried over by their parents. It needs a lot more than a dedicated few, beyond the quartet of town-council women and their Fall Beer Fest whose profits fund a Halloween Spooktacular for a face-painted passel of local kids. A hometown needs a few wuthering heights, too, a rough element, a dark

alley, a lovers' lane, from which the unpredictable may sprout.

Still, I take away the idea that even if muscular operations such as Karl Strauss and Qualcomm have given Sorrento Valley its mercantile brand, such a scorch is skin deep. It takes a few generations of people who stay in one place, whether they work there or not, who eventually develop narrative continuity when the story of staying put becomes their stickiest identity.

Eternal space available
Speaking of sticky: take a drive through the Valley's El Camino Memorial Park, final resting spot of fast-food kingfish Ray Kroc and his liberal, animal-loving, Salvation-Army-arming wife Joan. The pair, along with other notables, Jonas Salk and Patti Page, are buried in the 220-acre hilly enclave. At El Camino, all roads curve, spigots shoot early-morning arcs of sweet moisture, green grows the grass, and burial plots — slotted crypts in mausoleums or bush-boxed courtyards of family gravesites — age wine-slow under the petal falls of hibiscus and bougainvillea, the whole enterprise somnambulant with noncommercial tranquil intent.

No community wants to be known for its dead. Still, Sorrento Valley has no memorial, say, a stone statue of an engineer in a lab coat, that commemorates its history. I think, and pardon my moroseness, that viable communities last, and become celebrated, because of those who have lived and died there. Perhaps the Valley neighborhood needs a buried legacy to assert, finally, its fullest sense of self.

— Thomas Larson

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Bleeding Victor

continued from page 3

running downstairs” and “took off running outside with the knife.”

But Diego wasn't running to escape authorities. On the contrary, Victor explained, “He's the one who called the police, because I did not call the police.”

Maria testified that Diego was yelling outside, “They are trying to kill me!” She repeated that Diego claimed that it was her husband trying to kill *him*.

A SWAT officer who responded that day said there was some confusion, because the man outside had a cut on his hand and was bloody and claimed that the stabber was still in the apartment.

In court Victor said, “After that he went outside, I stayed in the living room.... When I opened the door, the police were pointing these big machine guns at me.”

Victor thought “they were trying to kill me.”

Mayhem

Jose Alberto Diego, 26, was arrested by Escondido police and booked into custody the afternoon of March 31, 2018. He is described in Sheriff's records as 5 foot 3 inches tall and 140 pounds. He is held in lieu of \$515,000 bail.

Public records show that Diego has four prior mis-

demeanors: two resisting arrests, one battery, and one theft from library. He also has convictions for injuring a spouse and failure to appear in court, according to the prosecutor.

Prosecutor Rikole Santin charged Diego with four new felonies, including an unusual charge: mayhem.

Mayhem is a specific crime that causes permanent, disabling, or disfiguring injury. The wording in the penal code includes “slits to the nose, ear or lip....”

The other three new charges are one attempted murder and two criminal threats.

At the end of a preliminary hearing in San Diego's North County Superior Courthouse in Vista, Honorable judge Harry Elias ordered Diego to face all charges. The defendant pleads not guilty and will be back in San Diego's North County Superior Courthouse in Vista on December 17 to set a date for trial. ■

Under the radar

continued from page 3

in this month's run-off election, put more than a few last minute personal dollars into his campaign as he sailed to victory. A November 7 disclosure filing shows that the former Republican Assemblyman came up with \$7500 for himself on election day, November 6, listing his occupation as Profes-

sor, University of California San Diego. In 2017, Fletcher was paid \$25,144 as a part-time “professor of practice” at the university, per salary data maintained by Transparent California. Supervisors' salaries jumped to \$172,451 after a January 2017 raise championed by Fletcher's GOP Fourth District predecessor **Ron Roberts**. Meanwhile, **Omar Passons**, a lawyer who lost out in the Fourth District primary, has joined the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency as its first director of Integrative Services. “Passons will focus on building upon the Agency's innovative integration of County services to serve individuals experiencing homelessness,” says a county news release.

— 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

have been in contact with my office to express their concerns regarding the leaseings by the McMillin Company (or a successor in interest) of the North Chapel to a commercial tenant, which they claim violates the Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties at the Naval Training Center,” wrote Peters in a letter to the mayor and Zapf. The congressman asked Faulconer and Zapf to make

a request to city attorney Mara Elliott, a Democrat, to trigger an official investigation of the matter. Faulconer instead referred the issue to his staff and Zapf was noncommittal, the paper reported.

The Republican pair has benefited from money furnished by McMillin owners and executives, city disclosure filings show, with Faulconer the top beneficiary and Zapf, who lost her November reelection battle to Democrat Jen Campbell, not far behind. Since June 2009, Faulconer has collected a total of \$21,999 in campaign cash from McMillin employees, making him the biggest overall beneficiary of the developer's support during the period, according to the records. Zapf's city council campaigns have received a total of \$9000 since March 2010 from donors employed by McMillin, giving the lame-duck councilwoman less incentive, it is widely believed, to seek an investigation of the company by the Democratic city attorney.

Republicans have historically received the most city hall campaign cash from McMillin executives, including Faulconer predecessor Jerry Sanders, with \$9185, city councilman Carl DeMaio's failed 2012 bid for mayor, getting \$8275, and the GOP Lincoln Club, with \$7325. GOP ex-city attorney Jan Goldsmith's cause picked up \$6300 and Bonnie Dumanis's 2012 run for mayor received \$4900. Over the years, Democrats have managed to pick up smaller amounts of backing from McMillin employees, including former city councilman Todd Gloria, now in the state Assembly, with \$2910, and city councilwoman Myrtle Cole, defeated for reelection this month, who received a total of \$850 from two McMillin executives in 2015 for her legal defense fund.

Current city attorney

Elliott's campaign fund got \$500 from McMillin chairman Scott McMillin in January 2017, following her election in November 2016. From January 2007 through November of last year, McMillin contributions to city hall hopefuls added up \$113,802, per city data.

Matt Potter

Definers deviancy done?

Qualcomm quiet after Times ties tech titan to anti-Apple agitprop
Qualcomm's co-founder, Democrat Irwin Jacobs, is famous for high-dollar political intrigue, including attempts to alter the school board, conceal campaign money, and promote a massive parking garage in Balboa Park with well-timed cash for mayor Kevin Faulconer. Now the cellphone giant has been linked to Definers Public Affairs, a take-no-prisoners opposition research outfit run by ex-GOP campaign staffers reported by the *New York Times* to have used by Facebook to target senators investigating the social media company.

“Definers distributed research documents to reporters that cast the liberal donor George Soros as an unacknowledged force behind activists protesting Facebook and helped publish articles criticizing Facebook's rivals on what was designed to look like a typical conservative news site,” according to the November 15 *Times* account. Following the revelations, Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg cut the company's ties to Definers, saying on a conference call with reporters, “I understand that a lot of D.C.-type firms might do this kind of work. When I learned about it, I decided that we don't want to be doing it.” Facebook's chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg later posted, “I did not know we hired them or about the work they were doing, but I should have. I have great

respect for George Soros — and the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories against him are abhorrent,” according to Axios.

According to the *Times*, “A key part of Definers' strategy was NTK Network, a website that appeared to be a run-of-the-mill news aggregator with a right-wing slant. In fact, many of NTK Network's stories were written by employees at Definers and America Rising, a sister firm, to criticize rivals of their clients, according to one former employee not allowed to speak about it publicly.”

Enter Qualcomm, which NBC News says in a November 15 dispatch has an ongoing “relationship” with Definers regarding its life-or-death legal battle over patents with one-time customer Apple, according to an unnamed former employee of Definers. “NTK is currently running an ad to promote a story published on Tuesday headlined ‘Conservatives Blast ITC Judge's Ruling on Apple,’ which refers to a patent dispute between Apple and Qualcomm,” reported NBC, adding, “Qualcomm and Apple declined to comment.”

The *Times* story alluded to Qualcomm, but did not specifically identify the firm as a client of Definers, reporting that the opposition research firm's Silicon Valley chief Tim Miller said that “Definers' work on Apple” is not paid for by Facebook but funded by another unnamed “technology company.” Qualcomm has so far kept mum regarding the matter, neither confirming nor denying its relationship with Definers, but the San Diego born-and-bred high technology company and co-founder Irwin Jacobs have often found themselves enmeshed in political goings-on of a high order.

In 2017, the company, pushing its longtime H-1B high-tech visa agenda, came up with a million dollars for the inauguration of

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LETTERS

continued from page 4

is pocketing the dollars that should be going to fix the streets?

Roger Newell
College View

Depression among pigs

Scientists from Purdue University did a study on pigs and “found they crave affection and are easily depressed” (Rifkin, 2003). As a result of the study, the European Union outlawed keeping pigs in stalls. Oxford University did a study using two birds that “were given a choice between two tools” (Rifkin, 2003). Not only did the birds choose the tools, but they also picked the better tool. I think we should not treat animals bad because they are like a human being in some ways (“Accused of hurting dogs, \$1 million bail,” Neighborhood News, August 10). It is clear to me that because animals have some human characteristics, they should be treated kind. In order to solve the issue of animal cruelty, we must not treat animals badly. This is because they are like a human being in some ways.

Brenda
City Heights

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

“The case for civility” City Lights

November 14
Having trouble understanding why this is a City Lights feature. Besides being an opinion piece masquerading as news, it's flat-out false. Making civility an end in itself, rather than a means, privileges the powerful, who are the ones who get to decide whether it's too soon or rude to investigate wrong, declare injustice, or demand change. Civility bulwarks the status quo; and a perpetrator has the luxury of politesse precisely because he is not the victim. As has been noted elsewhere, no one in history ever gained a right by asking for it. It's the unafflicted and unoppressed whom it benefits to pretend otherwise.

—Cassandra

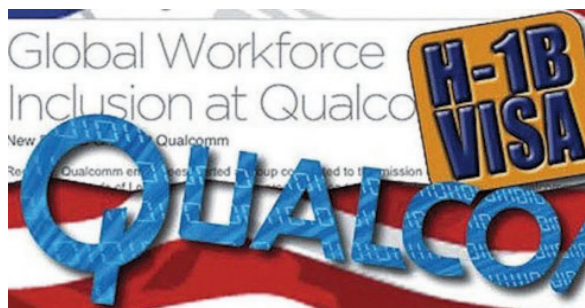
“Scooters on the Coronado bridge” Neighborhood News

November 13
The bridge authority for not providing a safe space for scooter riders. They knew or should have known that it would happen and than someone would get injured.

—AlexClarke

Thinning the Herd.

—Milton Quinn Hines Jr



Qualcomm — keeping questionable company?

Republican president Donald Trump, and in 2013 bankrolled an advocacy group calling itself San Diegans United for Commonsense Immigration Reform, chaired by Jacobs political beneficiary, ex-GOP Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher. Also in 2013, Qualcomm faced a lawsuit from New York Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, seeking “to inspect the company’s books and records to determine how shareholder funds are being spent for political purposes.”

The suit contended that Paul Jacobs, then Qualcomm CEO, and his father Irwin had a storied reputation for using company money to further their political aims. “Indeed, Qualcomm’s CEO has given the maximum donations permitted under law to his favored political candidates. In addition, the Qualcomm employee PAC, which is required to disclose its own expenditures, receives — and in turn spends — considerable sums from Company personnel for use in the political arena.”

The action was dropped in February 2013 after Qualcomm agreed to make public an accounting of the company’s “payments to influence.”

Another example of Qualcomm’s political clout occurred March 3, 2017, when a secret meeting between Republican San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer with Irwin Jacobs at the latter’s La Jolla estate was arranged for March 17 to discuss the mogul’s desire for new roads and a mammoth parking structure in the heart of Balboa

Park, necessitating removal of an 82-foot swath of the historic Cabrillo Bridge. On March 9, six days after the Faulconer-Jacobs sit down was agreed to by the mayor, four Qualcomm executives — Christine Trimble, Christine Thoene, Daniel Torpey, and William Maheu — came up with \$1300 for Faulconer’s mayoral campaign fund. On March 13, Qualcomm human resources executive vice president Michelle Stirling, listed as a Poway resident, gave \$1050. On March 31, following the meeting which led to Faulconer’s endorsement of the Jacobs park plan, Irwin’s son Paul, then-Qualcomm CEO, anted up \$1000 for the mayor. The next day, Qualcomm executive vice president and general counsel Donald Rosenberg donated \$1000 and the company’s senior director of public affairs Molly Gavin furnished \$500.

Matt Potter

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standing in the darkness about 50 yards away. That man was eventually identified as Juan Nicholas Cruz, the owner of the destroyed car. Cruz agreed to speak with cops, officer St. John said. Cruz allegedly confessed that he had purchased a gasoline container at one gasoline station and had then gone to another gasoline station to buy seven dollars' worth of gasoline. He reportedly admitted pouring some gasoline into the engine compartment of his own car, and then to pouring the rest of the gasoline onto other parts of the Honda. Cruz reportedly got into his car while it was parked under the carport, and then turned the key in the ignition. He allegedly said he expected an explosion when he turned the key, but that did not happen. So he used a cigarette lighter to start the flames. This according to the sworn testimony of officer St. John.

Juan Nicholas Cruz reportedly told officers that he remained seated inside his car, texting goodbye to his loved ones, until the smoke got



Where car and car port burned.

to be too much for him. Then he abandoned his plan and got out of his car.

Defense attorney William Stone told a judge that Cruz had been previously diagnosed with depression, but had never gotten proper treatment. The attorney said that after Cruz was arrested that night, he was able to get effective medication, and that he was doing much better now. The defense attorney told the court that defendant Cruz has "absolutely no other criminal record." Cruz's family put up the \$25,000 to bail him out, and he is currently living with his father. Cruz's family is very supportive of him, his attorney told a judge, and they appear at every one of his court hearings. Stone pleaded for the judge to reduce the one felony charge of arson to a misdemeanor.



Don't say we didn't warn you.

Prosecutor Daniel Gochnour pointed out that there was a wooded area near the location of the carport fire, and that there are residences on the other side of those woods. He wondered aloud whether Cruz's problems might resurface, and whether his behavior might become dangerous again. The prosecutor suggested that defendant Cruz might benefit from supervision on felony probation.

Honorable judge Carlos Armour said, "Treating this as a misdemeanor is not sufficient to ensure public safety." The judge remarked that emergency personnel are also at risk, when they respond "at code" for reports of fires. All attorneys, and the judge too, noted on the record that the timing of the preliminary hearing, November 14, came at a time when deadly fires were raging throughout the State of California, and that the official death toll from the fires had climbed to over 50. Armour concluded that Cruz's "underlying behavior needs more intervention, to monitor and enforce his behaviors." The judge said, "This matter must remain a felony and not a misdemeanor."

EVA KNOTT

MISSION VALLEY Hazard Center Drive? More like driving hazard central

Hazard Center Drive is a three-block, four-lane roadway that parallels the San Diego River on the south and Friars Road on the north, and stops at Mission Center Road on the east and 100 yards or so from the 163 bridges over 163 west. In the mid-90s, the only homes built on Hazard Center Drive were about 100 Union Square condominiums. Upon purchasing a condo, owners were required to sign a statement acknowledging their awareness that at some point, Hazard Center Drive would be continued west to the Fashion Valley mall.

Now, some twenty years later, that construction has started, with completion

expected in early 2019. The builder has reduced the west-bound roadway from two lanes to one, and has started the dig out and paving of two concrete-type single lane passages under the 163 bridges. During commute hours, traffic trying to escape the Friars Road backup is already cutting through to Hazard Center Drive via Frazee Road to Mission Center. This creates a huge daily backup. How is this connecting road expansion going to make the commute in Mission Valley any better?

BOB LAMPERT



March, 2018 progress.

NORTH COUNTY CAMPERLAND Bucks for blackwater? Boo! Also: sometimes, 15 minutes isn't enough for a dump

Cheryl Brandstrom of Escondido recently made her annual camping trip to South Carlsbad State Beach campground. She had a campsite right on the bluff, great weather, and good fishing, and yet she came away miffed, because prior to the summer, the state had installed a pay dump station. What had been a free amenity to departing RVers — dumping their rig's black water waste — now cost \$10. "You pay \$50 a night without hook-ups, you think you'd be able to dump for free," said Brandstrom. "You only get 15 minutes. Sometimes it takes us longer to clean out the tank."

Most developed RV campgrounds offer the free service, as do gas stations operating near national parks or U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. Brandstrom said park volun-

teers told her that the Carlsbad campground had problems with trucks coming into the campground at night and dumping. That's part of the reason for the pay dump station now, according to Lisa Urbach, supervising state ranger for San Diego's North Coast district. "We heard from campers that during the night, business vehicles were coming in and illegally dumping," said Urbach in a phone interview on November 9.

"So give campers a token," Brandstrom said. "Or why not just lock them up overnight?" Answer: at both South Carlsbad and Cardiff by the Sea's San Elijo State Beach campground, volunteers mostly run the park. "We don't have the staff to do that [lock and unlock overnight]," responded Urbach, who also noted that the local water district's sewer fees are going up. "We didn't want to have to increase camp fees for everyone," she said. "Tent campers

don't use the dump station."

"Everybody was mad," said Brandstrom. "I'll bet 99 percent of RVers won't pay to use it." Brandstrom instead stopped on her way home at Escondido's Freeway Trailer Sales, where, as a regular customer, she dumped her rig's black water tank for free.



"Here I sit, broke and sorry, paid ten bucks to drain my lorry."

Both campgrounds have a one-year pilot program for the self-serve pay dump stations. If campers wish to comment on the new program, Urbach suggested they contact info@parks.ca.gov.

KEN HARRISON

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Friday | 23

POMEGRANATE DAY WITH THE CAMELS

Feed a herd of camels one of their favorite foods, pomegranates. Enjoy camel rides, circus acts under the colorful big-top, Wild West turkey stampede, mini sheep petting town, food, and games — at Oasis Camel Dairy. Camel-milk skin-care products available for purchase, including camel-milk soap, lotion, and bath bombs. Camel-milk lip balms and serums are created on this family farm.

WHEN: Friday November 23 through Sunday November 25, 12 pm to 5 pm
WHERE: Oasis Camel Dairy, 26757 Old Julian Highway, Ramona. cameldairy.com

FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE

Hike for a clear view of the “beaver moon,” a full moon in November named after the beavers who build their winter dams this time of year. (Also called “frost moon” and “mourning moon,” depending on the winter solstice). Climb to the top of Iron Mountain to see the sunset and moonrise. Trail to summit is about five miles

roundtrip, with elevation gain of 1,100 feet; it’s a moderately strenuous hike on dirt trails.

WHEN: Friday, November 23, 6 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: Iron Mountain Trail, 14847-14909 CA-67, Poway. campbum.com

HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL

Based on the classic 1989 film. Heather Chandler, Heather

Duke, and Heather McNamara rule Westerburg High in Sherwood, Ohio.

Veronica Sawyer is part of their clique until they play a cruel joke on Martha “Dumptruck” Dunnstock. After that, she wants to play a devastating joke on the Heathers. Maybe Jason “J.D.” Dixon, the new dude at school, can help put them in their place - six feet under.

WHEN: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday 2 pm and 8 pm. Through November 25

WHERE: Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. lyceumevents.org



HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23: POMEGRANATE DAY WITH THE CAMELS

Saturday | 24

SOCAL TURKEY PADDLE

5K and relay race is open to novices and experienced SUP (stand-up paddle board) and kayak racers. Relay

WHEN: Saturday, November 24, 8 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Bonita Cove, 1100 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. socalturkeypaddle.com



SOCAL TURKEY PADDLE

members of each four-person team will paddle 50 meters while carrying a beach ball on board or kayak before passing it on to the next paddler. 5K course consists of a three-mile race through Bonita Cove, two laps around a series of buoys, then a sprint back on the beach to cross the finish line.

Tuesday | 27

PAT TRAVERS BAND AT THE BELLY UP

It has been nearly 40 years since guitar god Pat Travers had over 50,000 people on their feet at Jack Murphy Stadium, singing along to “Boom Boom (Out Go the Lights)” at the KGB-FM radio sky-show. Over three dozen albums later, he is still doing his best work on stage, possibly explaining why so many of those releases are concert albums.



His last studio album was *Retro Rocket* in 2015, but he and his band reportedly just recorded several new songs for StudioLive.com that may turn up in their setlist at the Belly Up.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 27, 8 pm
WHERE: Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. bellyup.com



FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE AT IRON MOUNTAIN

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

BITTER CREEK CANYON

Find sweet solitude in the shadow of Grapevine Mountain.

Driving directions: (Scissors Crossing) EAST END (high clearance vehicle recommended): From CA-78 turn north onto Grapevine Canyon Road (look for a small brown sign across the road from the Plum Canyon trailhead) and drive 2 miles until you reach a wide valley on the left. Park in one of the pullouts off the road, being careful to leave enough space for any vehicles that may come through during the day. No facilities. WEST END: From CA-78 turn north on S-2 (San Felipe Road) and go 0.3 mile to a large dirt parking lot on the right, an access point to the PCT is on the slope above. No facilities. **Hiking length:** 7.4 miles one-way. Allow 5.5 hours hiking time. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous, with areas of rock scrambling and cross-country travel. Elevation gain/loss: Up to 1,350 feet. Navigational skills required; GPS use recommended. The best time to visit this area is November through April, as summer months can be quite hot and there is little shade.



Hiking south on the PCT

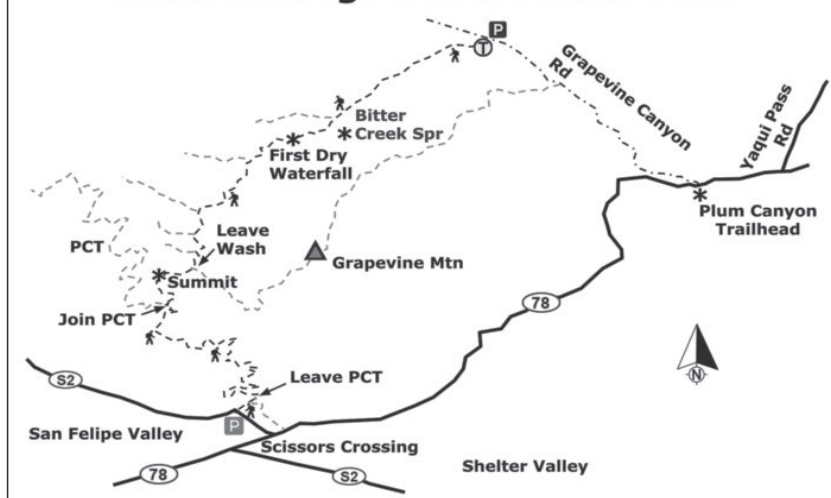
At the western fringes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park below the San Felipe Hills, you will find solitude in a broad canyon rich with a variety of desert cacti and shrubs, as well as multiple dry waterfalls and a nearby spring that is a draw for wildlife. The one-way, point-to-point hike described below begins in Grapevine Canyon and travels southwesterly along the gently inclining Bitter Creek Wash to a high point overlooking San Felipe and Earth-

quake Valleys. The remainder of the trip follows the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) as it lazily winds its way around the southern flanks of Grapevine Mountain to the exit point near Scissors Crossing. This hike requires leaving a vehicle at each end of the hike or arranging for a drop off/pick up.

From the parking area in Grapevine Canyon, turn west to enter the wide valley, hugging the southern

continued on page 35

Bitter Creek Canyon Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Lions Tigers & Bears Turkey Bash Come visit Lions Tigers & Bears the Friday after Thanksgiving to watch our big cats and bears enjoy their Thanksgiving Feast. Proceeds directly benefit rescued sanctuary animals and rescue work. Free for members (must RSVP). Friday, November 23, 10am; \$26-\$143. Lions Tigers & Bears Big Cat Rescue, 24402 Martin Way. (ALPINE)

Pet Photos with Santa Bring your furry friends in for a photo with Santa. Sunday, November 25, 5:30pm; free. Carlsbad Premium Outlets, 5620 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

ART

On Deck Art Exhibition On Deck features art by people with a passion for skateboarding and surfing, including Mele Sali, Jimbo Phillips, Shuriken Shannon, Alejandro Morales Riveron, and more to be announced. Friday, November 23, 7pm; Saturday, November 24, 7pm; Brokers Building Gallery, 402 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Prohibition Exhibit Opening Prohibition, which banned alcohol for 13 years starting in 1920, is being remembered at the History Museum in Valley Center where an area store was issued one of three original licenses in San Diego County to sell beer on the first day it was legal in 1933. The general store known as the Kellogg Store sold its first bottle of beer on that date for 10 cents. Friday, November 23, 12pm; free. Valley Center History Museum, 29200 Cole Grade Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

Santa's Arts, Crafts, & Vintage Market Over 100 artisans will be selling a variety of American handmade crafts and fine art. Free hayrides with Santa are offered Friday & Saturday from 12:00 - 2:00. Live music each day from 12:00 - 3:00. Free admission and parking. Friday, November 23, 9am; Saturday, November 24, 9am; Sunday, November 25, 9am; free. Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

BEER

Adams Avenue Spirit Stroll The fourth annual Adams Avenue Spirit Stroll will feature the participation of 32 independently owned businesses and features holiday tastes mixed and poured by some

of Adams Avenue top bar keeps representing some of the most popular bars and restaurants in San Diego. Saturday, November 24, 2pm; \$20. 21 and up. Adams Ave., University Heights to Kensington

Bingo & Beer Come in to the tasting room, grab a beer, a dauber, a card, and play amongst friends. You can enjoy food truck vendors while you wait for the gems to begin. Wednesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, December 19, free. 21 and up. Indian Joe Brewing, 2123 Industrial Court. (VISTA)

Gaslamp Holiday Kick Off Step into a winter wonderland with a Downtown San Diego twist as the Gaslamp Holiday Kick Off brings on the spirit of the season with a magical night of everything merry and bright: caroling, delicious food and drinks, live entertainment, gift-giving goodies and more! Saturday, November 24, 4pm; Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Trashy Hour Help us Keep our Neighborhood Beautiful. Join us for a short (30-45min) walk around the block to spruce our neighborhood up a bit. Stick around for \$3 Pints in the tasting room until 2pm (before/after drinks encouraged). Sunday, November 25, 11am; Home Brewing Co: Brewery & Tasting Room, 2903 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

All Girls STEM Society Game Theory Workshop Have you ever wondered if there's a better way to play rock, paper, scissors? Or why your friend always wins when you flip a coin? With game theory, you'll study the probability of decision-making and chance, win prizes, and design your own simple game. For girls in grades 5-8. Saturday, November 24, 2pm; free. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

American Buddhism in Daily Life Join Varada as she explores the power of three aspects of American Buddhism: Meditation, MIndfulness, and Managing Energy. Incorporating these three practices into your daily life can enable you to live a calmer, happier, more peaceful life. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, November 27, free. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Buddhist Meditation Learn the practical methods of Triikaya Buddhism for developing a happy, grounded and beautiful life. Class includes both meditation and mindfulness instructions for all levels. Saturdays, 10:15am; through Saturday, November 24, free. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Burlesque Dance Class This style of dance is a sensual and sexy way to move your body. The burlesque class will teach you how to soften your movement. Mondays,

8:30pm; through Monday, November 26, \$10-\$16. 18 and up. Facility Dance Studio, 1414 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Electronic Bread-Board Design Projects Students will learn how to draw and identify circuit drawings, and work with integrated chips to understand how capacitors and transistors are used. All projects will be completed in class. Space is limited. Advanced registration is required at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/library-next-fall-quarter-2>. Tuesday, November 27, 4:30pm; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Healing Meditation Class Aurelia Valentin will guide you through breathing exercises and meditative positions to help you find balance with your mind and body. Please bring a yoga mat. Saturdays, 1:15pm; through Saturday, May 25, free. National City Library, 1401 National City Boulevard. (NATIONAL CITY)

Intro to Swing & Salsa Dance Classes Beginning Salsa (7pm) & Beginning Swing (8pm) \$15 per person, per class or \$25 for both classes on the same night. Wednesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, December 18, \$12-\$15. 21 and up. Infinity Dance Sport Center, 7243 Engineer Rd., Suite B. (KEARNY MESA)

Knit-a-Bit Come check out Knit-a-Bit, our bi-weekly gathering of creative, crafty yarn workers who are happy to admire your accomplishments (no matter how modest) and assist you with your knottiest (literally) problems. Wednesday, November 28, 12:30pm; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

LaBlast Fitness Class Come enjoy an interval cardio workout, while learning the true skill of dance. All ages and fitness levels welcome. No membership required. Drop ins are welcome. First class is free. Wednesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, April 3, Infinity Dance Sport Center, 7243 Engineer Rd., Suite B. (KEARNY MESA)

Meditation Sit Join Turiya for a 45 minute seated meditation each Saturday at 11:15 am. Saturdays, 11:15am; through Saturday, November 24, free. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Opera Appreciation Class Enhance your enjoyment of the SD Opera's & Metropolitan Opera's HD productions thanks to a better understanding of each opera, its background, its composers, styles, and times. Listen to music with group discussion. Register for free class anytime. Mondays, 1pm; through Sunday, December 24, free. 18 and up. Cesar E. Chavez Campus, 1901 Main Street. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Paint Nite Create a one-of-a-kind painting along with the memory of a unique nite out. Saturdays, 6:30pm; Wednesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, October 30, \$28-\$45. 21 and up. Stella Italian-fare, 8008 Girard Avenue #220. (LA JOLLA)


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 PRESENTS
 WARREN MILLER'S
FACE OF WINTER

ENCINITAS
 LA PALOMA THEATRE
 FRIDAY, NOV. 30
 AND
 SATURDAY, DEC. 8
 Reader







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The Amigo Spot
Thanksgiving Dinner
 Join us!
November 22, 2018



We will be serving The Amigo Spot menu and our traditional
 Roast Turkey & Cherry Glazed Ham

The above entrees include: Homemade gravy, festive stuffing, creamy mashed potatoes,
 candied yams, fresh seasonal vegetables, traditional cranberry sauce,
 freshly baked rolls and your choice of soup and salad.

Add \$1.50 for a slice of Pumpkin or Apple Pie

\$21.95 Adults and \$12.95 Children (10 and under)
 Dinner is served from 4:00pm to 9:00pm • Last seating at 7:30pm

For reservations call
The Amigo Spot at 619-297-2231 ext. 171
 Beverages not included

Coupons, Discounts and Happy Hour Prices not valid for Holiday Specials

<p>Saranya's Thai Café \$1 pancake for every \$10 purchased with coupon</p> 	<p>Passiflora Bakery Every Wednesday and Saturday</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">in Little Italy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Little Italy</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SAN DIEGO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Market NOW OPEN Every Wednesday 9 am to 1 pm West Date Street From Kettner Blvd to State Street Year-Round, Rain or Shine</p>	<p>Organic Squash in Season Now CSA subscriptions: www.jrorganicsfarm.com</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">JR Organics</p>	<p>Green Fix Smoothie</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">\$1.00 off any quart-Limit 1 per customer www.GreenFixSmoothie.com</p>	
<p>\$1 OFF any 2 Paninis At Little Italy Valid through November 29, 2018 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Find us at Little Italy Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seb's Paninis</p>	<p>Salty Lemonade Every Wednesday and Saturday</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">in Little Italy</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">The California Olive At all three markets weekly</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">BEEF • PORK GAME • FOWL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Available fresh each week. Pasture raised start to finish. Hormone free, free range, humanly raised, no gmo grains.</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Vendor Applications Closing Soon for Little Italy Christmas Village</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, December 1st, 2018 Apply at www.sandiegomarkets.com</p>		<p>Maldonado Growers at Little Italy Every Wednesday & Saturday</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"> TUESDAYS  WEDNESDAYS  SATURDAYS  </p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.sandiegomarkets.com</p>		

Patterned Gift Wrap Workshop Make your own holiday gift wrap! Sign up for this workshop and learn how to print your own patterned gift wrap. We will provide all the materials: linoleum blocks, carving tools, and printing ink, plus a 8 sheets of gift wrap. You'll leave with your own, custom-printed gift wrap, ready to use for your holiday gifts. Wednesday, November 28, 6pm; \$35. Cotton & Flax, 3180 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Pink Easel: Creative Check-In If you're into networking, brainstorming, and looking to find people on the same creative wavelength, join us for a session. The goal of this workshop is to help attendees turn their big projects into small bite size steps. Sunday, November 25, 3pm; \$20. Botanical Building, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Podcast to Published Podcasting is fun and exciting, but creating a professional-sounding podcast isn't as simple as it may seem. This workshop walks you through what all is entailed in creating a podcast, how to publish it to a host server, how to get it heard, and how to tie it into your book's overall marketing strategy. Tuesday, November 27, 7pm; \$30-\$36. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Succulent Birdhouse Gourd Workshop We will be creating centerpieces using locally grown succulents and organic birdhouse gourds. Each ticket includes your first pint on us, all plants and materials needed to make and take your creation home. Sunday, November 25, 12pm; \$50-\$55. Second Chance Beer Lounge, 4045 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Swing Dance Under the Dome Swing dance classes then social dancing outside under the Dome. Monday, November 26, 6:30pm;

free. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Ucycle your Art In a Ucycle Your Art, students will continue to explore activities and learn techniques to use recycled materials in creative ways to create sculpture, collage, and a variety of projects to express themselves. Four classes will be studio time and technique trouble shooting. Marsha's classes are upbeat and with a fun atmosphere. Class sizes are limited to 8. With Marsha Cook. Monday, November 26, 10am; \$200. 18 and up. Art Center, 1140 Main St., Suite 208. (RAMONA)

Wine & Canvas Painting Class: Ocean Beach Pier Follow the art instructor step-by-step as you recreate the featured painting. Then take home your masterpiece. Wednesday, November 28, 6pm; \$35. 18 and up. Blue Door Urban Winery, 4060 Morena Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Yiddish & Yiddishkeit: Exploration of Language & Culture Were you raised in a family that spoke Yiddish? Are you looking for someone with whom to speak Yiddish? If yes, then this multi-generational five-class series is for you! Learn the basics of Yiddish as well as Yiddishkeit! \$30/person for entire series or \$8/class. Register with Eileen Marting, through the Temple Adat Shalom office, at (858) 451-1200. Sunday, November 25, 2:30pm; \$8-\$30. Temple Adat Shalom, 15905 Pomerado Road. (POWAY)

Yoga Basics: A Gentle Approach Come explore the fundamentals of yogic postures & breathing techniques in this mindful movement class designed to gently tone & strengthen the body, improve balance & flexibility, & enhance mind-body awareness. Thursdays, 10:15am; Tuesdays, 10:15am; through Tuesday, January 1, \$10-\$16. PB Yoga & Healing Arts, 961 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Isaac Rosenberg

Ed. Note: November 2018 marks 100 years since the end of World War I. The San Diego Reader will devote this month's poetry columns to the poets who wrote about their experiences of that war.

August 1914

What in our lives is burnt
In the fire of this?
The heart's dear granary?
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life—
Iron, honey, gold.
The gold, the honey gone—
Left is the hard and cold.

Iron are our lives
Molten right through our youth.
A burnt space through ripe fields,
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

Marching

My eyes catch ruddy necks
Sturdily pressed back.
All a red-brick moving glint.
Like flaming pendulums, hands
Swing across the khaki—
Mustard coloured khaki—
To the automatic feet.

We husband the ancient glory
In these bared necks and hands.
Not broke is the forge of Mars;
But a subtler brain beats iron
To shoe the hoofs of death.
Who pays dynamic air now?—
Blind fingers loose an iron cloud
To rain immortal darkness
On strong eyes.

The Troop Ship

Grotesque and queerly huddled
Contortionists to twist
The sleepy soul to a sleep,
We lie all sorts of ways
And cannot sleep.
The wet wind is so cold,
And the lurching men so careless,
That, should you drop to a doze,
Wind's fumble or men's feet
Is on your face.



Isaac Rosenberg was an English poet and one of the War Poets of World War I. His volume *Poems from the Trenches* remains one of the most vivid and praised works of poetry written during the First World War. Born into a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant family in London, Rosenberg served in the 12th Bantam Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment (a bantam designated men under the usual minimum height of 5'3"). He first began writing poetry before the start of the war and continued to write about his experiences in the trenches during the war. He and another soldier were killed at the end of a night patrol on April 1, 1918.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

COMEDY

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

Dino Archie Headlining is Dino Archie from Comedy Central, and Jimmy Kimmel Live. Featuring is Eddie Della Siepe from the Barely Friending Podcast. Additional Comics on the line-up are Allie Amrien,

Robert Bronson, Myles Magallanes, Beau Hufford, and Daniel Delgado. Wednesday, November 28, 8pm; \$5. 21 and up. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Jeremy Piven Jeremy Piven is a television and film actor who won multiple awards and is mostly known for his work on the HBO series "Entourage." Friday & Saturday, 11/23 & 11/24, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, 11/25, 7pm; \$25-\$50. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Open Mic Night Comedy, music, magic, poetry, whatever. Saturday, November 24, 8:30pm; free. 21 and up. Good Guys Tavern, 7340 Broadway. (LEMON GROVE)

DANCE

Contra Dance Come join us for modern American folk dancing to live music. No partner necessary, no experience necessary. Saturday, November 24, 7pm; \$10. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Dancing the Blues Blue Note celebrates the blues as Black American heritage and explores the dances that came up with the music. 1-hour lesson at 8pm for \$5. Open dancing from 9pm-midnight for \$8 / \$6 for students with a valid ID. Saturday, November 24, 8pm; \$5-\$13. Party Fitness Studio, 4659 Mission Gorge Pl., Suite B. (GRANTVILLE)

New West Ballet: The Nutcracker A holiday fantasy world springs to life on the stage at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts as New West Ballet Theatre presents the classic ballet *The Nutcracker*. Friday-Saturday, 11/23-11/24, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, 11/25, 2pm; \$20-\$50. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

Turnback Tuesdays Retro drag show of the '70s, '80s, and '90s. \$15 food minimum. Seatings at 7pm and 7:30pm. Tuesdays, 7pm; Lips Restaurant, 3036 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Monday Night Classics Book Club Come and discuss "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford. You do not need to read the book in its entirety to come and enjoy the discussion. If you have any questions, please email librarian@carlsbadca.gov. Monday, November 26, 7pm; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Nar-Anon Support Group Nar-Anon is a 12 step support group for families and friends of addicts. There are no dues or fees to join. Just come to a meeting. You will hear others who are going through similar problems talk about how they cope and find recovery. To locate a meeting the San Diego area, go to www.nar-anon.com or call (800) 477-6291 or text (908) 914-2848 Tuesdays, 7pm; through Monday, November 29, free. 18 and up. Del Cerro Baptist Church, 5512 Pennsylvania Lane. (DEL CERRRO)

Perseverance Panel For Giving Tuesday, Sparks Gallery will bring a cross-section of voices who represent a multiplicity of experiences together for a panel discussion on the subject of perseverance in San Diego's arts & culture community. Tuesday, November 27, 6pm; free. Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

We Are What We Eat: Documentary Discussions Join us for a documentary discussion on PBS' Food: Delicious Science Series.



Holiday Craft Workshops!

- Nov 29 Macrame Wall Hanging - Ocean Beach
- Dec 3 Ornament Making - Pacific Beach
- Dec 9 Macrame Wall Hanging - Solana Beach
- Dec 11 Candle Making - Point Loma
- Dec 13 Christmas Joy Wreath - North Park
- Dec 17 Christmas Macrame - South Park
- Dec 18 Macrame Moon - Carlsbad

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NOV. 24
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Hosts James Wong and Michael Mosley explore how the chemicals in our food feed and build our bodies. Saturday, November 24, 2pm; **free**. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

FILM

Free Movie Night Saturday, November 24, 6:30pm; **free**. Communal Coffee South Park, 2221 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Pokemon the Movie: The Power of Us Fathom Events and The Pokémon Company International bring the highly-anticipated new animated feature film Poké-

mon the Movie: The Power of Us to movie theaters. Saturday, November 24, 12:55pm; Monday, November 26, 7pm; Wednesday, November 28, 7pm; \$13-\$14. AMC Mission Valley, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Thursday Night Movies Every Thursday night just after sundown we play a series of similar genre films, collections by a specific director, actor, and range from the classics, cult classics, criterion films, independent films and/or anything we discover and consider worth sharing. Thursdays, 7pm; through Friday, December 28, \$5-\$10. Lhoog/Exrealism, 755 1/2 Carlsbad Village Dr. (CARLSBAD)

FOR KIDS

Boomont & Fall Fest Belmont Park in Mission Beach will be hosting its Boomont and Fall Fest through October and November on Friday-Sunday, from 5 pm to closing. Expect a spooky rollercoaster, plus a pirate raid on the mini golf and zombie laser tag. Fridays; Saturdays; Sundays; through Friday, November 30, Belmont Park, 3146 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Disney Junior Dance Party Incorporating live appearances by favorite Disney Junior characters. The concert is elevated by state of the art LED technology, a giant

ROAM-○-RAMA

continued from page 32

edge for the easiest path. This lower end of Bitter Creek Canyon is plentiful with ocotillo (the tall, spindly shrub with many branches adorned with short spines and brilliant red tubular flowers often visited by hummingbirds), and chuparosa (a shrub with red tubular blooms similar to the ocotillo's but with dense pale green stems and reaching usually no more than about two feet in height). Another common native shrub in this area is ephedra, or Mormon tea, identifiable by its slender grey-green jointed stems equipped with tiny cones, a key characteristic of gymnosperms. As the name suggests, this plant contains ephedrine and was used as a stimulant by the Mormons when made into a tea, and native Americans enjoyed ephedra as a general tonic. You will also pass by Gander's cholla, a cactus armed with many spiny segments and displaying yellowish-green flowers, as well as desert agave, a hearty plant that shoots up a tall, sugar-rich stalk resembling a giant asparagus before culminating in panicles of yellow flowers.

At just under 1.3 miles, you'll reach the first of several forks in the wash. Keep left here as the canyon narrows and clamber up and around boulders soon afterward. Look up to the left on the lower slope of Grapevine Mountain and spot a patch of green vegetation about 150 feet up the hill—this is Bitter Creek Spring, so named for its alkaline-rich water with a bitter taste. Historically, this spring was used by ranchers to water cattle, and today it is utilized regularly by wildlife as an important water source. If you have time for a side trip, check out the spring and see what animal tracks you can identify.

Continuing on, notice the creosote bushes with their fragrant small green leaves, especially aromatic after rain. Catclaw acacia comes and goes, a thorny shrub whose curved, claw-like spines easily grab on to skin and clothing, tearing all but the toughest of fabric. Brittlebush may be in bloom, a common springtime delight in the park with its signature large sunny yellow flowers atop a rounded grey-green shrub. A variety of cacti inhabit this area as well, including hedgehog, beavertail, and barrel cactus.

At 1.75 miles, you will reach the first of many dry waterfalls. Climb above it and continue on, passing by dudleya clinging to the rocky edges of the wash (a small rosette of fleshy green leaves that sends out tentacle-like arms with pinkish-red flowers) and a patch of the invasive tamarisk (or salt cedar) tree, commonly found in moist areas.

At just over 2.1 miles, reach another fork and go left. Brushy thickets containing mesquite trees may impede progress—bypass on the left to avoid getting hung up in the mess, keeping on course in the main wash. At 2.7 miles, the wash forks again—turn left. A short distance later, at just over 2.9 miles, is another split—go left and cross a fence shortly thereafter. At just over 3.1 miles comes the last fork, at which point you'll once again turn left. Soon

after there is an odd sight: a large, seemingly out-of-place boulder in the middle of the wash, composed of many layers of varying color and texture. Pause here for a moment to marvel at the mystery of its origin and take a look around to see if you can find any similar rocks nearby.

As you climb to the upper reaches of the wash, you may come across the occasional indigo bush, a member of the pea family with striking bluish-purple flowers against a complicated array of whitish-grey branches. Flat-top buckwheat is a common sight, and small juniper trees sparsely dot the landscape and may provide welcome shade on a warm day.

At just under 3.6 miles, find a good place to leave the wash and climb to a viewpoint overlooking the San Felipe Valley, just on the other side of the ridge above. Veer right uphill, climbing the steep slope to the high point, marked 3,350 feet in elevation on some topographical maps. You should now be approximately 3.8 miles from the start and a little more than halfway through the hike. A large patch of prickly-pear cacti is found at the summit, but there is adequate space around it to take a seat and enjoy the views. Directly below to the west is the San Felipe Valley, with the Volcan Mountains looming behind. To the south stretches Earthquake or Shelter Valley. The big peak to the near east is Grapevine Mountain, a worthy trip on its own for those seeking a more challenging climb.

After enjoying your break at the summit, note the well-maintained trail visible on the slopes just below you to the south. This is the PCT and will be your route for the remainder of the hike. To reach it, locate a small drainage to your left (south) and carefully make your way down the somewhat slippery terrain of rocks, low bushes, and cacti until the drainage meets the trail at just over 4.1 miles. Turn left (south) on the PCT and follow it as it makes numerous turns around the ridges coming down from Grapevine Mountain. This stretch of trail is sparsely vegetated and can be quite hot, so patience and an adequate water supply are necessary. Various types of cacti are still prevalent, as well as the occasional desert tobacco (a leafy green surprise with small white flowers) and desert trumpet (a perennial with long stems sporting a characteristic bulge just below a spread of tiny yellow flowers).

Soon the parking area will be visible in the distance; however, it is further away than it appears due to the circuitous nature of the trail. Eventually, at 7.2 miles, leave the PCT and turn right down a wash, reaching the parking lot and your vehicle at just over 7.3 miles. All that remains now is the short drive back to the Grapevine Canyon trailhead to retrieve the other vehicle.

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.

ADAMS AVENUE Spirit Stroll

Spirit Stops

Back from Tomboctou Gallery & Imports
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Cal Coast Bicycles
Heights Optometry
Home Start Thrift Boutique
Kiko and Sven
La Loupe Vintage
Liquid Eden Holistic Center
Maven / Little Dame Shop
MRH Interiors / Cotton & Flax
Rove: Adventure Shop
Shanti Spa & Gallery
Zac's Attic

Sweet Stop/ Pop-up Shops

Adams Avenue Integrative Health
Blackmarket Bakery
Blind Lady Ale House
The Box Stop
Mona Lizzy's
Paleo Treats
Polite Provisions
Uptown Bicycle

\$20

Cocktails By

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Blind Lady Ale House
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Cucina Sorella
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SHEEP AND GOATS

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Contact: 1025 N 2nd St, El Cajon 619-444-1374

www.firstbaptistchurchofbostonia.weebly.com

Membership: 150

Pastor: Van Tarpley

Age: 46

Born: Baltimore, MD

Formation: Johns Hopkins, Baltimore; Indiana University, Claremont School of Theology, San Diego State University

Years Ordained: 3

San Diego Reader: Why did you become a minister?

Pastor Van Tarpley: I grew up in the mission fields of Nigeria and West Africa. I've also been in the former Soviet Union. I've always been around loving, committed Christian people in

diverse settings throughout my entire life. I was on track to become a historian specializing in Russian history (and still teach one class a semester at San Diego State University). But I was also doing all kinds of lay ministry, college ministry and other kinds of ministry along the way. I love working on the day-to-day journey of faith and helping people understand and see God in the long journey. I basically felt called to do that as a vocation, and I love it.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PT: God loves you—you grow as you serve—church should be joyful.

SDR: What work of literature has influenced your life as a

pastor?

PT: I do love Dostoevsky—I'm more of a Chekov guy than a Dostoevsky guy, but don't get me wrong, Dostoevsky can write. But the work that does the most for me is *The Twelve Chairs* by Ilf and Petrov, a satirical Russian novel set in the early Soviet period. It's a wonderful book for showing the power of hope and the danger of false hope. The main character is a con artist – but a funny con artist. He convinces this town on the Volga River that they're going to be the new center of the chess universe and helps them raise money for a new chess tournament, which of course he steals. So the people of this town are

seeking something to believe in, and hope is powerful but also dangerous.

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

PT: I was visiting Kate, now my wife, when we had just become engaged. We threw a big party for friends and because we were not experienced in entertaining, we made way too much food. There I was scraping leftover chicken and mashed potatoes into Tupperware, saying, "We're going to be having leftovers for a couple days." That's when I had a strong sense of God saying, "Keep the party going." This is not common for me – I don't get a lot of clear messages from God. He speaks to me a lot,



Van Tarpley

but it's usually much more subtle. I thought and prayed about it, and realized we were supposed to take these leftovers to homeless neighbors and give it out. And so we made up plates, covered them with foil and we did. That was an early step for building my heart for homeless neighbors here in San Diego.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PT: I believe Christ comes to save and believers go to be with God, participating in the love and relationship at the heart of the Trinity. Heaven is being with God and with the community of other people who are there. I also believe that for those who don't believe, there's a possibility of separation from God, and we call that hell. I emphasize the call saving grace of God, but there is this other reality, well testified to in scripture, this separation from God, and we can't discount or underplay that reality.

– Joseph O'Brien

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

Mickey-shaped DJ booth, high-tech scrim screens that transport characters into the theater, and 4D special effects. Friday, November 23, 3pm and 6pm; Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Family Discovery Walk Fall has its own surprises to see in Mission Trails Regional Park as a family experience. Our Trail Guide-hosted interactive outing focuses on fun, childhood enrichment and memorable moments in nature. Meet inside Visitor Center Sunday, November 25, 3pm; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Family Fun Run Participants will break from the starting gate and run the one mile loop around the dirt track to reach the Del Mar finish line. The morning also includes free face painting and crafts, and a Helen Woodward puppy race following the one-mile fun run. Thursday, November 22, 8am; \$10-\$20. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Holiday at the Races This is one-stop shopping, partying

and pampering at its finest. The track will be adorned with "pop-up" booths featuring handmade, designer and one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. All ages welcome. Sunday, November 25, 11am; **free**-\$30. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Julian Country Christmas Tree Lighting The holiday season in Julian also offers an opportunity to shop at small boutiques and craft shows, without crowds or lines, for one-of-a-kind gifts. Julian kicks off the holiday season with the annual lighting of the town's huge living Christmas tree. Thanksgiving weekend through early January. Saturday, November 24, 1pm; **free.** Pioneer Park (Julian), 2811 Washington Street. (JULIAN)

LEGO League This is a weekly LEGO freestyle build session where creating, learning, and collaborating is the key to making everything fit. All LEGO pieces will be provided. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Mondays, 3:30pm; through Sunday, November 11, **free.** Mis-

sion Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Please Pass the Gravy In the spirit of the season, Clairemont's community theater, Clairemont Act One, presents a very special production of eight short plays chosen from over 140 submissions from playwrights across the country. Friday, November 23, 7:30pm; Saturday, November 24, 7:30pm; \$12-\$15. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 4324 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Rancho Christmas Rancho Christmas features tractor-drawn wagon rides, Native American storytelling, Christmas caroling, and ballet Folklorico performances. Saturday, November 24, 10am; **free**-\$5. Rancho Guajome Adobe, 2210 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

Toddler Storytime A story time designed for toddlers, featuring songs, rhymes, and finger plays. Mondays, 11am; through Sunday, November 11, **free.** Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

LECTURES

Mark Dery Guest Lecture "The Screams We Make In Other People's Dreams": Edward Gorey, the Gay Gothic, and the Camp Macabre. In this lecture, Mark Dery will draw on queer theory, literary criticism, art history, and cultural studies. Wednesday, November 28, 7pm; **free.** University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

The Chicano Blowouts of 1968 Join Professor Isidro Ortiz for a stimulating discussion about the rise and legacy of Chicano Blowouts, also known as the East L.A. Walkouts, that fought for educational justice and against unequal conditions and racism in Los Angeles high schools. Monday, November 26, 6:30pm; **free.** 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

NATURE

Blooms & Birds Join a Mission Trails Trail Guide for a guided walk through the natural environs of Mission Trails Regional Park. Perhaps the very common Mission Trails plant, Broom Baccharis, will still be in bloom. Watch for a bird; you might see a Scrub Jay, a Yellow-rumped Warbler and a Red Tailed Hawk, or was it a Red Shoulder Hawk? Meet inside Visitor Center Saturday, November 24, 9:30am; Sunday, November 25, 9:30am; Wednesday, November 28, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Crest Canyon Volunteer Clean-Up Join us for a cleanup event in Crest Canyon. San Diego Canyonlands hosts regular clean-up events every fourth Saturday of the month. Activities may include invasive plant

removal, trash removal, and trail maintenance. This is a great way to gain service hours, meet your neighbors, get some exercise, and improve your environment and community! Bring: Water, protective clothing, close-toed shoes, and gloves Saturday, November 24, 9am; **free.** Crest Canyon Open Space, Trailhead lies .7 miles down Racetrack View Drive. (DEL MAR)

Crunching Leaves The Cottonwood leaves and the Sycamore leaves are all mostly off the trees. As you walk you will hear their crunch under your feet. Notice how large the Sycamore leaves are and look up to see the clusters of mistletoe in the Cottonwood trees. Meet at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground flagpoles at the campground entry station. Saturday, November 24, 8:30am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Shop Small Saturday Join Encinitas 101 MainStreet Association and S. Coast Hwy. 101's local merchants for Shop Small Saturday, coming up on November 24th. Stop by and get a head start on your holiday shopping while enjoying live music, sales, and local specials. This event helps support local merchants, and helps you get a great deal on the perfect gifts for your family. Saturday, November 24, 11am; **free.** Downtown Encinitas MainStreet Association, 818 S. Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Tree Lighting Ceremony Join La V's annual holiday tradition in La Sala Lounge with warm holiday beverages, homemade cookies, classic carols, and children's crafts. La Jolla Country Day School Madrigal Singers to begin at 5pm Countdown

to Tree Lighting at 6pm Live Entertainment from Roman Palacios to follow. Tuesday, November 27, 5pm; La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Cutting the Core Cutting the Core with Bre includes dynamic movements that are both aerobic and anaerobic to stimulate the heart and further increase endurance focusing on your "CORE." Class includes a drink (wine, beer, or kombucha) with ticket. Class is \$20 each or \$60 for four classes. Wednesday, November 28, 5:30pm; \$20-\$60. Cape Rey, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

Hard Courts Tennis Championships The International Tennis Hall of Fame has partnered with The La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club as one of a select group of prominent clubs to pilot the ITHF Club Affiliate Program. These Clubs include those who have played a significant role in tennis and share a passion for the sport's great history, the champions who shaped it, and its longevity. Monday, November 26, 9am; Tuesday, November 27, 9am; Wednesday, November 28, 9am; **free.** La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Outdoor Stationary Cycling Class Join our co-founder, coach Corey Butts every Monday for an invigorating and fun spin class outdoors. Just look out for the bikes and come ready to sweat, and have a good fun time while getting fit in a safe outdoors environment. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, September 18, \$15-\$20. 18 and up. Trolley Barn Park, 1900 Adams Avenue at Florida Street. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

REMEMBRANCE

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WATER FRONT

COOLER WATER COOLS DOWN THE SURFACE ACTION, EXCEPT FOR BLUEFIN TUNA.

Dock Totals Nov 11 – Nov 17: 2,282 anglers aboard 107 trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 1,499 bluefin tuna, 441 yellowfin tuna, 113 skipjack tuna, 1 bigeye tuna, 5 dorado, 451 yellowtail, 724 bonito, 5 barracuda, 61 calico bass, 114 sand bass, 3 halibut, 14 sanddab, 2,838 rockfish, 623 whitefish, 20 lingcod, 201 sheephead, 56 bocaccio, 3 triggerfish, 17 halfmoon, 1 shortbill spearfish, 50 rock crab, and 201 spiny lobster (799 released).



CREDIT: PACIFIC QUEEN SPORTSFISHING

Another nice bluefin tuna comes over the rail of the Pacific Queen

Saltwater: The water has cooled to the mid-60s along the coast and the local fishing is following suit. Calico bass have slowed down, yellowtail are not biting much at the Coronado Islands, and the local boats are shifting their attention to the bottom for rockfish, sheephead and whitefish. There is still a little sporadic surface activity with the bonito still around, but any other surface biters are being found further south along the Baja coast and on the banks offshore for the 1.5 day and longer trips. It seems that the season has started to shift, but with a few holdouts, including the bluefin tuna that continue to haunt the Cortez and Tanner banks and some roaming schools

continued on page 65

My friends thought I was knocked out

NAME: ALEX GELLER

AGE: 30

FROM: PACIFIC BEACH

LOCATION: TOURMALINE SURF PARK

On a sunny day in Pacific Beach, Alex Geller was sitting in the sand. “I’m from Colorado, but I’ve lived here for the last eight years.” As a kid, Geller would visit her grandparents in La Jolla and try to teach herself how to surf. “I packed up my Volvo to move out here to surf, and I’ve surfed almost every day since. I used to suffer from really bad panic attacks, and surfing helped me deal with that.”

Geller told me about her biggest wipeout: “I was out there at South Bird Rock on an eight foot day with all my guy friends. They cheered me on as I was perfectly lined up for a wave. Suddenly I realized how steep it was, so I panicked and tried to back out, but the front of my board was already in it and took



Alex Geller - “I realized how steep it was, so I panicked.”

me over the falls. I could see the reef by my face and it felt like I was underwater for a minute— it was probably only ten seconds. When I came up I was kind of laughing at

myself. My friends were so surprised because they thought that I had definitely gotten knocked out. It was pretty scary.”

— Evelyn Grimm

Someone shot a San Diego Bay sea turtle

Green sea turtles survive in San Diego’s South Bay, but it’s tough sometimes. One sickly green sea turtle was taken from there to Sea World to assess what was wrong with it. Besides old wounds like a mangled flipper and a missing tail, four bullets were also found.

Of the population of green sea turtles found in the southernmost portion of San Diego Bay, one turtle in particular holds the record of the largest ever recorded: 550 pounds as of 2012. This large female had a deformed shell and was given the name Wrinklebutt. Wrinklebutt was last sighted in 2012. When the power plant was shut down and its warm effluence stopped flowing into the bay, Scientists thought that the turtles might leave, but they did not. The population has remained at around 60 animals ever since; some migrate, and some stay year-round, feeding in the warm shallows between the Coronado Cays and the southern end of the bay.

For a chance of an up-close turtle sighting, Ocean Connectors Eco Tours offers a Port of San Diego-sponsored two-hour guided kayaking tour inside south San Diego



NOAA's Jeff Seminoff with the largest ever weighed green sea turtle, San Diego's own Wrinklebutt.

Bay. During the tour, kayakers use waterproof binoculars and field guides to observe birds, sea turtles, fish, and rays as they paddle through the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve.

— Daniel Powell

Throw a shaka to the crowd

Pacific Beach resident Dan Larsen and his

buddies usually kiteboard in Tourmaline Surf Park. Larsen, 49, has been kiteboarding for 15 years. “My personal style of riding is more focused on freestyle and wakestyle tricks with big air jumps thrown in. Riding in boots enables me to practice much more aggressive tricks. Because of the inability to kick off your board when things go wrong,

continued on page 65

WATER CONDITIONS

It looks like it is going to get a little rough for underwater activities, though the surfers should be happy. A weather system that will pass late Wednesday night into Thursday should push a waist to chest-high bump out of the W/NW Friday-Saturday. After that, the seas will settle down for a couple days before a large swell starts developing Wednesday night that will build to over ten feet by next Friday morning. Lobster season is open, so boaters should especially keep an extra eye out for divers near the reefs and channel edges.

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

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **64°F** HIGH **66°F**

VISIBILITY **5'-15'**

HARBOR POLICE REPORT

Submerged vehicle, possible homicide, scooter neck/back injury and cliff fall.

Oct 3
12:17 Other: 911 call reporting someone drowning at Ski Beach/vehicle totally submerged in water. Multiple lifeguard units respond along with San Diego Police. Vehicle found submerged, confirmed no one in vehicle. Dive team members assist tow truck with extrication.

Oct 1
08:56 Other: Lifeguards, San Diego police, and fire rescue respond to Bonita Cove for City Worker

who reports that the reporting person informed she may have committed a homicide last night. Police investigate, lifeguards clear at 09:35.

15:29 Boating: Lifeguard vessel, jet ski unit respond to La Jolla Shores for call of people struggling in water. Jet unit makes rescues.

16:02 Medical: Lifeguard and San Diego fire rescue respond to neck/back scooter injury San Juan Place. Medics transport patient to UCSD.

20:10 Cliff/Medical: Lifeguards and fire rescue respond to cliff fall with injuries off Santa Cruz. Lifeguards able to walk patient out. Medics advise and release.

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

Taco joint at the Hotel Del?

“Better hurry, they close at sunset.”

I'm standing staring out to sea along with maybe fifty people here where the Del segues into beach. We're on the brink of sunset. And what a sunset. For sure, it's the wildfires causing it. Horizon clouds are backlit by the sun. Sun's like an orange lozenge. Everybody's transfixed.

Guy in front of me has been holding his taco, about to take a chomp, for five minutes, I swear. Just can't take his eyes off the horizon.

“Where did you get that?” I ask.

He doesn't want to turn away, miss the last moments of Huey. Points with his thumb over his shoulder. “Taco shack.”

I give up my potential membership in the Green Flash Club and look around. Oh wow. Right here, we've got a little sugar shack, in the sand, palm fronds licking over its roof, folks in beach gear sitting on stools around it. And beyond, more rough tables and stools in the sand of the actual beach. Sort of beach patio. Frank Sinatra's crooning “That's Life!” And there's a line for service. Behind, the red towers of the Grand Old Lady herself.

But this Beach Shack is strictly drinks. Steven, one of two guys working here, says the tacos come from the even smaller Taco Shack behind. “Better hurry,” he says. “They close at sunset.”

I notice the post they have with arrows pointing in all different directions to places like Swami's (38 miles), Jeffery's Bay (10,253 miles), or hey: “Tacos,” just an arrow-point away.

I follow the sign's direction to behind the Beach Shack, and a new, smaller hut has Dutch doors with the top half still open.

“Just in time,” says David, the cashier.

“Close at sunset,” warns Ernesto the chef.

So okay, I know this is the Hotel Del, shack or no shack. We're not gonna get no \$1.99 tacos here. Still, \$7.50? That's what the menu board is saying.

“This is a resort. These are resort prices,”

says David.

Choice is shrimp taco or yellowtail tuna taco.

That's it. No burritos, tortas, burgers, whatever. Just these two offerings.

“But they are to die for,” says this gal in her bikini, Rachel. She's coming away with four of them. “The shrimp taco is awesome. Such big shrimp,” she says.

I ask Ernesto what's in this Hotel Del take on the mighty taco.

“Corn tortilla,” he says, “white cheddar cheese, shrimps with salt, a chipotle cream sauce, cabbage, and lime crema. Other days, we have carnitas, pollo asado, a dozen different choices we're rotating. But we're new. We've only been open a couple of weeks. So we're still experimenting with what works.”

Whatever, need a brewski to wash down the taco. I head back to the Beach Shack. Even for a beer, I know this is going to cost, but may as well go the Full Monty.

The other bar guy comes up. “What can I get you?”

Name's Jeffrey (“Call me Red Eye”).

“Draft beer?” I ask.

They seem to favor mostly liquor and cocktails, but they do have a Saint Archer IPA. Cost? Eleven bucks.

“Location, location,” says Red Eye.

And a moment later, I kinda get it: what we're really paying for. I take the taco and IPA to the plank facing the ocean. Hitch up onto a stool. Oh man. Location is right. The post-sunset is going from great to glorious. Flaming rosy-orange clouds. Little boats on the horizon are starting to light up and twinkle. The crescent moon, high over the ocean, shines like a movie prop. In the cool, everybody's cocooning, murmuring, hugging, talking, toasting, sharing.

I chomp into my taco. Oh yes. Really big, squelchy shrimp. Garlicky, cheesy, nice lime overlay, and a little kick from the chipotle cream. Most of all, it's filling. Could I have downed a tuna taco too? For sure. Yet I don't feel deprived. Besides, now I'm too busy yakking. Rob and Meghan



Steven's wife Kristina. It pays to be a mermaid, especially here



What \$15 buys: Third night I get my tuna taco, along with one more shrimp taco



Rachel, coming back for seconds. She says the shrimp are the greatest



The Beach Shack: first-ever cafe actually on Coronado's beach

DeBolt, right next to me, turn out to be down from Washington. He was cable man in a Coast Guard chopper that hoisted crew from the sinking fishing ship *Alaska Ranger*, 180 miles west of Dutch Harbor in the Bering Sea, back in '08. He's a bona fide hero. It was the largest cold-water rescue in Coast Guard history.

And next night, I'm crazy enough to come back, just to try the tuna taco. But I get here after five, dammit, and more importantly, just after Huey has set. No more tacos. (Note to self: Every Taco Tuesday, they are open till seven, and have live music.) On the other hand, the hotel is just setting up to show *Some Like It Hot* on the beach. Hey hey! My fave comedy. I rush back inside the hotel to their 24-hour coffee shop, grab a blueberry muffin. It's the only thing in range. Even it costs six bucks. “Coffee?” says the gal. Uh, no. It's eight bucks.

I head back to the beach, and settle in to watch. Turns out this is part of the Coronado Film

Festival. Turns out (after everybody just about freezes their tails off, but stays because it's such a great movie, and is being shown exactly where the Marilyn beach scenes were shot), that the three people sitting in front of me are Jack Lemmon's grandkids. Wow! Kinda star-struck. There's Chris (works for Tesla), Sydney (she's an actress and producer), and Jon (a writer. Looks most like Jack). As our teeth chatter and limbs uncrack, they tell me how grandpa Jack would come downstairs in the morning, and always do something ridiculous to make them laugh.

So yeah. Del's Taco Shack? Not cheap. On the other hand, what rewards! And looking at this café in the sand, I realize: For the first time, Coronado actually has a bona fide on-the-beach café. A cafe where you see the sea while you chomp and guzzle cerveza and nuzzle your tootsies in the sand.

You have to wonder: what took Coronado so long?

The Place: Beach Shack, Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 1-800-HOTEL-DEL
Hours: 11am – sunset, daily
Prices: Shrimp taco, \$7.50; yellowtail tuna taco, \$7.50; carnitas taco, \$6.50; selections vary daily
Bus: 901, 904
Nearest Bus Stops: Outside hotel (southbound); Orange at Adella Avenue (northbound)

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There are two sides to every donut

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How much dough is put into these donuts?

2965 State St, Carlsbad. "There are two sides to every story." This phrase has been following me around for several weeks. Maybe it's the alternative facts-age replacement for that

FEAST!



A chocolate ganache raised donut, and mixed berry jelly donut topped with fruit at The Goods in Carlsbad Village.

cliché of acceptance, "It is what it is." Whatever the reason, people keep offering me the "two sides" adage to explain away any contentious

dispute, so it pops into my head while I'm doing something so noncontroversial as eating donuts.

Make that gourmet donuts, what some like to call artisan donuts. Plenty among us would argue artisan donuts are a pointless waste of money. That there's little one can do to a single donut to make it worth paying three or four

dollars, when you can get a dozen conventional donuts for less than a buck apiece. It's a fair point, considering the base ingredients don't vary all that much. Artisan donuts tend to rely upon flour, butter, and sugar, just like any other.

Last year, the urban gourmet donut trend made its way into Carlsbad Village, where The Goods began marketing donuts in the three- to four-dollar range. When I visited, I found myself browsing the likes of s'mores donuts boasting a chocolate glaze topped by toasted graham cracker crumbs and "brûléed" mini marshmallows.

However, unlike other gourmet donut mak-



The Goods' donuts are never more than a couple hours old, and are gourmet versions of the classics. Tahitian vanilla beans are used in their from-scratch vanilla glaze.

ers, which seem to specialize in unexpected flavor combinations that might involve tea, breakfast cereal, or root vegetables, The Goods seems to emphasize making elevated versions of classic donut styles, offering most as either cake donut, or the billowy, raised yeast variety. A fine example is The Goods' use of Tahitian vanilla beans to cook up a vanilla glaze from scratch.

My favorite of the bunch has been the simple chocolate glaze donut, presented here as a Chocolate Ganache, owing to a glaze made from a "housemade blend of cacao berry, milk, and dark chocolate." A lifetime of eating basic chocolate glazes has taught me to expect little actual chocolate flavor. Typically, it's a bare hint of fudge enveloped in a frost of crystallized

sugar. It's easily enough to touch any childlike heart, but a far cry from the darker, relatively complex chocolate notes provided by this ganache. It's only a bit larger than a conventional donut, but here The Goods' insistence on a richly genuine chocolate experience justifies the higher price tag. If you buy my side of the story, that is.

Such improvements aren't guaranteed to win everybody over. Most of my life, my favorite donut glaze has been maple, even though years have gone by since I've been naïve enough to expect genuine maple be involved. And yet, here it was: the Vermont maple glaze, promising "100% pure maple syrup combined with butter and powdered sugar." I almost tripped over myself ordering it, but unlike the choco-

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late, the ratio here didn't win me over: the genuine maple got lost in a lot of cloying powdered sugar sweetness.

Then again, that powdered sugar played well as a coating to a mixed berry jelly donut, balancing the tartness of the fruity jam, and the doughy biscuit flavors of the pastry. Whether it tastes like an extra couple of bucks is debatable, but I'd rather eat one of these than three old school donuts. That's my story, and I'm sticking with it.

by Ian Anderson

Not the usual carne asada

1766 E Valley Pkwy, Escondido. I don't suppose many readers have occasion to go out in Escondido's eastern sprawl for *carne asada*. I doubt most of us need to travel a mile to find a choice of spots serving it. But if you're out that way, past the 78, look for the big sign: Kennedy's.

It used to be called Kennedy's Karne, the expansion of a shop that opened in the early 1970s in the town of Heber, an even more way out burg near El Centro. More recently, the Escondido location operated out of a different, smaller location across the parking lot.

As of September it's Ken-



Larger tortillas made with both masa and wheat flour hold a fair amount of carne asada.

nedey's Meat Company, now in the hands of the original owner's grandson, and has scaled up, selling prime and other top-shelf meats, and briquettes to grill them over. But, not to buck more than

four decades of Soto family tradition, as a counter restaurant, grilling carne asada is its thing.

Despite the Cape Cod sounding name, Kennedy's is a taco shop. And the thing that

struck me on first glimpse of these tacos were the tortillas. They're larger than typical



A butcher counter in back, taco counter up front, and taco-making supplies in the middle.

corn tortillas — the diameter of old 45 rpm vinyl versus that of a CD — and thinner.

Turns out, that's because it's a tortilla hybrid: made with both masa and wheat flour.

Flavor-wise, it loses a bit of that succulent nixtamalized corn nuttiness. However, the thinner hybrid turns out to be more durable than straight corn tortilla, able to maintain

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Calendar RESTAURANT

structural integrity with a larger portion of beef.

The *carne* itself is made with flap steak, a flavorful part of the bottom sirloin, and for taco meat it's of pretty great quality: USDA choice. Between that and the size of the tacos, they go for \$4.99 apiece. You can also spend \$10 for a burrito or *carne* fries, or \$9 for a rice bowl. But two tacos plus a couple of 75-cent sides did me well for \$12 and change. Choice between black beans and refried pinto, Spanish or poblano rice.

That lightly flavored poblano rice was nice, but those tacos, garnished with fresh guacamole and *pico de gallo*, made the visit for me. The *carne asada* had very low gristle, but plenty of gnash, and only enough seasoning to accentuate the agreeable meat



A good looking fish taco, but not up to San Diego's high standards.

and char flavor of the choice steak. A splash of salsa is all it needed to make me stop wondering what I was doing so far from home.

Meanwhile, good news if you live on the exact opposite end of the county: another Kennedy's location is in the works for Imperial Beach.

by Ian Anderson

Close, but no thanks

When I heard about a new mariscos food truck parking in Golden Hill, I started fluttering around it like a moth on a porchlight. Mariscos El Chingon has started parking daily in front of Anakin's Barber Shop, about a half mile

out my front door. A different mariscos truck, Mariscos Nine Seas, holds down a daily location a half mile in the other direction, and I frequently run over for tacos in between writing assignments.

I wasn't about to hold El Chingon up to Nine Seas standards — those less than two dollar fish tacos are some



Only \$6 for a cheeseburger and crinkle cut fries. But ho hum.

of my favorites ever. But I'm not alone in thinking so, and there's usually a long line. So if El Chingon's tacos came remotely close, without the line, I could have a new instant gratification taco on my hands.

Sadly, I do not. Whether they're made from cod or tilapia (I've gotten different answers on different days), neither the batter nor the fish

itself tasted worth the \$2 and scant effort to visit. It's not terrible, but neither is it good enough to compete with other tacos available to me.

That's okay, I figured, you can usually count on decent ceviche. It's made with shrimp and/or pollack (or maybe something different), and the \$10 Tostada Chingona is stacked high with both. But my

Step 1: Take a pic
Step 2: Show your server
Step 3: Save money & enjoy

Reader

Buy 1, get 1 free coffee!

Purchase a coffee and receive a free coffee. One per visit. Can not be used with any other discounts/promotions.

Babycakes
BAKE SHOP COFFEE HOUSE

874 Seacoast Drive
Imperial Beach, 91932

Buy One Bowl Get One Free

Purchase one of our delicious, hearty, soul satisfying bowls and get one free! Offer does not include add ons. Offer Valid before 10am.

EVE

575 S Coast Hwy. 101
Encinitas, California 92024
760-230-2560 • www.eveencinitas.com

FREE Doughnuggets!

With any purchase! Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offers and only at the Encinitas location.

ROSATI'S

Rosati's Pizza & Sports Bar

337 N. El Camino Real • Encinitas
760-452-2007

2-for-1 Salsa Flight

BOGO salsa flight for Happy Hour M-F 2-6 pm patio dining & drinks including \$2 off appetizers, quesadillas & wine, \$5 Casa Margs & well drinks too. Dog friendly Bar & Patio.

Barrio Eat Mexican

530 Grand Ave • Carlsbad, 92008
(corner of State)

1/2 Off Select Starters

Offered 7 days a week.

20 | TWENTY

5480 Grand Pacific Drive
Carlsbad, 92008

Grubby's Taco Tuesdays

\$1.50 carnitas & al pastor tacos
2 fish and duck chicharrones.
(grilled and beer battered options)

SEÑOR GRUBBY'S

377 Carlsbad Village Dr, Carlsbad
(760) 729-6040

2-for-1 Small Plates

A classic Main Street eatery in the heart of Encinitas. Live music every night!

Enjoy 2 for 1 small plates valued up to \$12. One per table. Not redeemable for cash and not valid with any other offers.

THE ROXY
ENCINITAS-CA EST. 1978

517 North Coast Hwy 101 • Encinitas
(760) 230-2899 • www.roxyencinitas.com

Buy One Flatbread Get One 1/2 Off

Offer valid during happy hour in front or back room between 3-5pm Monday-Friday.

EVE

575 S Coast Hwy. 101
Encinitas, California 92024
760-230-2560 • www.eveencinitas.com



Free Pizza

Enjoy a free pizza with a purchase of a pizza equal or greater value and 2 drinks.

Limit of 1 per person. Coupon must be presented in order to receive discount. This coupon is not valid for cash back, can only be used once, does not cover tax or gratuities, and cannot be combined with other offers.



221 E Grand Ave • Escondido
(760) 291-1225



2-for-1 Tacos!

Buy one taco, get one free!
(of equal or lesser value)
Good through December 30, 2018.
Limit one per customer.



755 Fifth Ave, San Diego, 92101
(619) 343-2898



1/2 OFF Tots & Sloppy Joes Every Tuesday!



835 Fifth Ave., Lower Level
San Diego, CA 92101
Open Tue - Sat 5pm - 2am
619-236-1550
trailerparkafterdark.com



1/2 Off Appetizers

Everyday between 3-6pm all of our appetizers are half off. From our famous Buffalo Chicken Bites to our delicious Pepperoni Crisps!



699 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA
makesandiego.com



Buy 1 Get One Free!

Buy one frozen yogurt, get one free!
*Of equal or lesser value.



1886 Garnet Ave, San Diego, 92109
(858) 274-3950



2 for 1 Dinner Entree

With the purchase of 2 drinks
Dine in Only
Must be of equal or lesser value
(\$16 maximum)
Cannot be combined with any other offer
One per person & table
Expires 11/30



623 Pearl Street, La Jolla, CA 92037
858-454-7597
lajollachinachefs.com

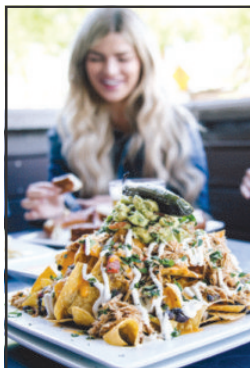


2 for 1 appetizers

3:30-6pm
Monday-Wednesday.
With this ad.

Dan Diego's Euro Café & Pub

2415 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-276-2100



Half-off appetizers

Enjoy half-off select appetizers during Happy Hour, Monday through Friday from 3-7pm, at Tavern+Bowl.



930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101



Buy One Entrée, Get One Free!

Enjoy a free entrée with the purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and 2 beverages, when you present this coupon.



3900 5th Ave • Hillcrest
(619) 220-8828



Buy one entrée, get one 1/2 off

Buy one entrée get the second entrée 50% off.



Masala Street

915 Pearl St, Suite B
La Jolla, CA 92037



Buy One, Get One Complimentary Breakfast Item

w/purchase of two drinks.
Monday-Saturday before 3pm.
Downstairs only.



Not to be combined with any other offer or promotion. Some exclusions may apply. Not valid on Holidays or Special Events.



2-for-1 Pizzas

Buy one pizza at regular price, get one free. Can not be combined with any other promotions.



756 5th Ave, San Diego 92101



2 for 1 House Tequila

1 per person. 2nd drink full price.
Must bring ad*



535 4th Ave., San Diego, Ca 92101
619-458-9455 • juantequila.net
*restrictions may apply



Free cookie or pastry

Buy one fresh baked cookie, brownie, or scone and get one free.

RUST General Store & Bistro

2720 Calhoun Street
San Diego, 92110



Buy 1 Potsticker appetizer & a beer, Get 2nd Potsticker appetizer free

Beer not included with free appetizer
Dine in Only
Cannot be combined with any other offer
One per person & table
expires 11/30



623 Pearl Street, La Jolla, CA 92037
858-454-7597
lajollachinachefs.com

Calendar RESTAURANT

\$3 fish ceviche wouldn't have much beyond lime flavor going for it, if it wasn't salvaged by El Chingon's fine assortment of salsas. It's okay, but wouldn't inspire return visits.

Maybe the fish is the problem, I told myself. The menu touts \$6 cheeseburgers, served with crinkle cut fries, so maybe this can be my local food truck burger source. The burger turned out bigger than I expected, but about as good as I'd come to expect by this point, which is to say, fair considering it's only \$6, but not likely to steal much business from Jack in the Box.

Despite a cool name and a funny cartoon shrimp logo, Mariscos El Chingon just hasn't been able to win me over. Looks like I'll continue standing in line for Nine Seas.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK

All About Syrah Join us for a tasting of five San Diego County Syrahs from different vineyards, vintages and taste the same wine in new and neutral oak. Learn about the origins of Syrah, popular styles and wine descriptors. Saturday, November 24, 1:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. Vesper Vineyards, 298 Enterprise Street. (ESCONDIDO)

Baja Tuesday Head over to Cafe la Rue for Baja Tuesday featuring \$12 taco plates and \$10 margaritas paired with live entertainment and balmy La Jolla nights. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, January 1, La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Caesar's Restaurant & Downtown Tijuana Tour Join Wild Foodie Tours and treat yourself to a special evening with a 4-course dinner at the legendary Caesar's Restaurant, birthplace of the Caesar salad. Begin with a beverage as you step back in time and admire the memorabilia-adorned walls and reminisce about a bygone era. Next, enjoy bread with tapenade, the famous Caesar salad prepared tableside as it was in the 1920s (or

any other appetizer), choice of any entree, and dessert. While there is no dress code, a smart casual attire is recommended as you wine and dine at this timeless restaurant once frequented by Hollywood celebrity. After dinner, finish your night off with a one-hour, guided sightseeing and shopping tour in the heart of downtown Tijuana. Great for date night and first-time visitors. Trip length of 3-4 hours with a walking distance of about 1 mile. \$89. Fridays and Sundays at 5:00 pm. Everything included: 4-course dinner of choice with drinks, a narrated history of Tijuana, sightseeing, shopping, all transportation in Tijuana, and a tour guide. Fridays, 5pm; Sundays, 5pm; through Sunday, December 30, \$89. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Daybreak at Del Mar Come down to where the turf meets the surf to enjoy a delicious breakfast in the open-air Clubhouse Terrace Restaurant and witness some of the world's most prestigious Thoroughbreds do their morning workouts every Saturday during the fall season at Del Mar. In addition, racing analyst and horsewoman Michelle Yu will host an interactive Q&A session during the workouts

to provide insight and fun facts about everything horseracing. Saturdays, 8am; through Saturday, December 1, free. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Festive Feast Gather with friends and family to enjoy three courses of all your holiday favorites for \$45-\$55 per person. A children's turkey dinner is available for \$25 for children 12 years & under. Thursday, November 22, 12pm; \$45-\$55. JRDN, 723 Felspar Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Four-Course Thanksgiving Dinner Gather around the table and give thanks with your friends and family this Thanksgiving at The Westgate Hotel. On Thursday, November 22, starting at 11:00am, a four-course prix fixe dinner featuring the classic and beloved flavors of the holiday will be served in the charming Westgate Room. The cost is \$69 per person; \$40 for children ages 4-12; and children under the age of 3 are complimentary. Tax and gratuity are additional. Daily Westgate Room menus will also be available. Seating for the four-course prix fixe dinner is limited, and reservations are highly recommended. Thursday, November 22,

11am; \$40-\$69. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Free & Fun Sundays Enjoy free admission and seating along with \$5 Cardiff Crack Tri-Tip sliders and \$5 16 oz. Coors Lights. Must be a Diamond Club Member: Sign up for free at the admission gate. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 2, free. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Half Pound Cheeseburger Meal Every Saturday our Veterans serve up half pound Cheeseburger Meals with homemade sides. Saturdays, 11am; through Sunday, December 30, \$7. VFW Post 5867, 12650 Lindo Lane. (LAKESIDE)

Lane Field Park Markets Exciting new food market set in a beautiful park with 20+ artisanal food vendors, boutique coffee, live music, art and outdoor games. Delicious food on offer includes wood fired pizza, grass fed burgers, moroccan, mexican, empanadas, bao, smoothies, and many more, as well as a delicious range of desserts. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 30, free. Lane Field Park, 1009 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Mexican Seafood Tour Join Wild Foodie Tours to enjoy our Ultimate Mexican Seafood Tour where we'll take you to 2 or 3 of our favorite eateries/restaurants for seafood in Tijuana! Begin with any appetizers of your choice. Options include shrimp/seafood cocktails, a Maleficio (raw shrimp and scallop cooked in lime juice with onions and spices), Pismo clams seasoned and grilled on a half shell, fresh oysters, grilled marlin tacos drizzled in a chipotle and guacamole salsa, and fresh seafood tostadas (tuna, crab, octopus, fish ceviche, or scallop). Next, we'll stop by Tijuana's premier seafood market to browse their daily catch. For the main course, we'll visit an open-air restaurant to enjoy a whole sea bass prepared Zarandeado-style—butterflied, marinated, and grilled on an open flame. Beverages will be available throughout with beer available for the main course. Trip length of 3-4 hours with a walking distance of 1-2 miles. Only \$79! Everything included: appetizers, main course, drinks, shopping at the seafood market, transportation, and a tour guide! Guests meet at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. Reservations required. For info and/or to book,



3 Rolled Taco Plate for \$6

3 Rolled Chicken Tacos Plate with side of rice & beans. Must mention ad.



Famoso Mexican Street Food

815 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101



Free breakfast

Buy one breakfast and get one of equal or lesser value for free. Available from 8-11am daily.

Hungry's Kitchen & Tap

2547 San Diego Avenue
San Diego, 92110
www.hungryskitchen.com



Buy one, get one free

Buy any smoothie or bowl, get one of equal value free.



Café by the Bay

3510 Ingraham St.
San Diego, 92109



Half-off apps, beers, & bowling

Enjoy half-off select appetizers, select draft beers, and walk-in bowling every Wednesday at Tavern+ Bowl.



930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101



Buy one, get one free

Buy any sandwich or burrito, get one free.



Café by the Bay

3510 Ingraham St.
San Diego, 92109



Free Fro-Yo!

Buy One Frozen Yogurt Get One of Equal or Lesser Value Free. Must Bring In Ad - Limit 1 Per Person Not valid with any other offer. No stamp card privileges. Max. \$5 value



619-450-5847 • 10450 Friars Rd.
San Diego, CA 92190



Buy 1 Chicken Pie, Gravy & a roll, get the 1 Chicken Pie Half Off

Buy 1 Chicken Pie combo (includes gravy & roll) for \$5.99, get a 2nd chicken pie half 50% off. Weekdays between 2pm - 8pm. This offer cannot be combined with any current promotion. Please present coupon to the server.



2633 El Cajon Blvd., North Park
www.chickenpieshops.com
(619) 295-0156



Buy 1 Entrée Get 1 Free

Of equal or lesser value. Not valid with buffet, Dine-in only, Limit 1 coupon per customer, 1 coupon per table. Not valid with any other offer. No cash value. Expires November 30, 2018



6784 El Cajon Blvd. • San Diego
(619) 303-3155
himalanyakandyeti.com



1/2 Off Any Pasta Entrée

Buy any pasta entrée at regular menu price and receive 1/2 off the second entrée of equal or lesser value. (Excludes pizzas and not valid with any other discounts) Expires 12/1/18.



3333 El Cajon Blvd. • 619-743-2371



Free shareable appetizer!

Get 1 FREE appetizer with purchase of any 2 meals. Appetizers include: Mada-Sao BBQ Duck, Shanghai Smoked Fish, Sweet & Sour Spare BBQ Ribs, Marinated Bran Dough, or BBQ Cuttlefish.



Mada-Sao Hot Pots

4681 Convoy St, San Diego, 92111



Buy One Sandwich, Get One 1/2 Off

Over 70 sandwiches to choose from! One discount per person, per ticket. Must mention ad. Tues-Sat, 11:30-4:30, thru 12/20/18 only!



Classic Rock Sandwich Shoppe

3042 North Park Way, San Diego, 92104
sandwichessandiego.com



Free Crepe

Buy one crepe, get one crepe free of equal or lesser value. Valid after 3pm only. Expires 12/1/18.

refill

3752 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103



Buy 1 BBQ Entree Get 1/2 Off

When you have an insatiable hankering for rich, sizzling barbecue meats and all the homestyle sides that go along with it, look no further than Corbin's Q to satisfy your craving. Ask about catering!



6548 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 913-3287 • www.corbinsq.com



Buy one entrée and a drink, get one entrée free!

Of Equal or Lesser Value, must bring in ad. Valid at North Park location only. Offer expires 12/31/18.



2888 University Ave • San Diego, CA
619-298-2400



Free Fro-Yo!

Buy One Frozen Yogurt, Get One of Equal or Lesser Value Free. Must Bring In Ad - Limit 1 Per Person. Not valid with any other offer. No stamp card privileges. Max. \$5 value.



619-220-4999 • 3026 University Ave
San Diego, CA 92104



Buy one meal, get one free

Buy one main meal, get one FREE. Choose from Quality Hot Dishes, Authentic Noodle Soup/Ramen, or Traditional Malatang Hot Pots. Please provide this coupon to receive your discount.



Mada-Sao Hot Pots

4681 Convoy St, San Diego, 92111



1/2 off a 1 topping pizza

Buy any regular priced pizza and receive a second 1 topping pizza for half-off. Expires 12/1/18.



3333 El Cajon Blvd. • 619-743-2371



Free Entree!

Buy an entree and 2 drinks, get a free entree of equal of lesser value. 1 coupon per person. Not valid with other discounts or promos. Must present ad.



101 W Washington Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020
619.328.2929
www.funkyfriesandburgers.com



Free Taco!

Free taco with any purchase! Must present ad. Valid for Carne, Pollo, or Al Pastor tacos only. Limit 1 per customer.



115 W Washington Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020
619-440-TACO
www.funkyfreshmexican.com



1/4 lb. Specialty Hot Dog, Buy One, Get One FREE

Not valid events or holidays. Dine-in only



8365 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa, CA 91942
619-461-4434 • centifontis.com



Miso Soup - Buy One, Get One Free!

Dine-in only. Not valid with events or holidays.



8350 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942
619-466-6446
konnichiwa-sushi.com



Buy a Taco Get a Free Quesadilla!

#StreetFoodMadeWithLove
Limit 1 per person.



TNT TORTILLA N TACO FACTORY
130 South Mollison, El Cajon, CA 92020
619-938-2211
www.tortillantacofactory.com



Dinner for 4 only \$19.99

Free spaghetti or lasagna with purchase of a large 14" two topping pizza for \$19.99.

Fletcher Hills Bottle Shop

2447 Fletcher Pkwy.
El Cajon, 92020 • 619-469-8410
Delivery Uber & GrubHub



Free Gyro Salad

With purchase of 14" one topping pizza. We serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

Gus's Subs & Pizza

5620 Baltimore Drive
La Mesa, 91942
619-462-4877

Calendar RESTAURANT

visit www.wildfoodietours.com Sundays, 12:30pm; through Sunday, December 30, \$79. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Paella Monday Enjoy traditional paella for just \$19 paired with 10 glasses of sangria at Cafe la Rue. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, January 7, La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Prime Rib Thursdays Make Thursday night your favorite night of the week at Cafe la Rue and Prime Rib Thursday. Enjoy a \$19 prime rib and \$10 martinis while live music plays for your enjoyment. Thursdays, 6pm; through Thursday, January 3, La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner The Salvation Army invites you to join us for its 35th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are alone, without a home, in need of a hot meal, or simply wish to share in the fellowship of neighbors, please join us for free Thanksgiving Din-

ner. Everyone is welcome. Thursday, November 22, 11:30am; free. San Diego Community Concourse, 202 C Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Shucks & Champs Wednesdays Cafe la Rue offers \$9 half dozen oysters and \$10 glasses of Veuve Clicquot champagne every Wednesday. Wednesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, January 2, La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Street Food Tour for Foodies Join Wild Foodie Tours for an all-inclusive, fun, gritty, and insightful street food tour in Tijuana! You'll enjoy tastings at 5 food stops, 1 non-alcoholic beverage stop, and 1 dessert stop to taste the best flavors of Tijuana. Other likely visits include the Mercado Hidalgo open-air market and a Mexican bakery. Along the way we'll point out a few of the eateries Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern showcased on their Travel Channel shows. Only \$69! Everything included: food, all transportation in Tijuana, shopping, sightseeing, and a tour guide! Group meets at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. Reservations required. For info and/or to book, visit www.wildfoodietours.com Sat-

urdays, 12pm; through Saturday, December 29, San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Taste of the Season Enjoy relaxing and personalized shopping with live music and special offers in The Village Shops. The shops will be offering a complimentary tasty bite to each shopper with a great wine pairing suggestion. Come shop, sip and savor the holiday season. Wine is available to purchase in the Tasting Room while touring around the shops, not included. One complimentary appetizer per guest per shop. Saturday, November 24, 12pm; free. Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo del Verano Norte. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Taste of the Turf Club Guests will enjoy dishes from a creative menu by Herb & Wood Chef Brian Malarkey at the exclusive Turf Club every Sunday of the season. The ticket includes Turf Club admission, a prestigious Turf Club table for the race day, the three-course meal, and bottomless mimosas, Del Marys or Chandon. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 2, \$100. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Thanksgiving Brunch Enjoy fine dining, libations and thrilling horse races with all your loved ones this Thanksgiving at the Del Mar Racetrack's exclusive Turf Club. The Thanksgiving Brunch includes Turf Club admission, a table for the race day and a delicious brunch menu or turkey dinner with all the traditional trimmings. Tables are limited. Attendees must adhere to Turf Club Dress Code. Thursday, November 22, 9:30am; \$100. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Thanksgiving Buffet Give thanks for good friends, family, and food at THE MED's annual Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet. Enjoy all of your holiday favorites including slow-roasted free-range turkey, green bean casserole and pumpkin pie alongside restaurant signatures like Coho Salmon and raw bar. Thursday, November 22, 2pm; La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Thanksgiving Celebration Thanksgiving at the Bahia Resort Hotel showcases views of Mission Bay, live piano entertainment, and festive fare—including two carving stations, additional entrees such as salmon, pork loin and butternut squash ravioli, as well as savory sides and a wide array of traditionally seasonal desserts. Thursday, November 22, 11am; \$25-\$54. Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Thanksgiving Celebration Diners are treated to vistas of Mission Bay and live piano music at the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa's annual Thanksgiving buffet—with roasted turkey and mustard-crust pork, as well as a fully stocked seafood station and decadent desserts. Thursday, November 22, 12pm; \$25-\$60. Catamaran Resort, 3999 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Thanksgiving Day Dinner At KITCHEN 1540 Chef de Cuisine Collin Leaver, collaborating with L'Auberge Del Mar's Executive Chef Nathan Lingle, will entertain guests who want to experience an exceptional Three-Course Prix Fixe Thanksgiving Dinner - featuring traditional and not-so-traditional gourmet dishes. Seasonal Starters are a choice of Red Crudo with fennel almond agrodolce; Butternut Bisque; Pears and Gorgonzola with kale, spinach and cranberry vinaigrette; or Potato Gnocchi with mushrooms. For the most delicious

Entrees, the choice is among Heritage Turkey with accompaniments, Beef Tenderloin with roasted root vegetables and whipped potatoes, Arctic Char with parsley root puree and kabocha squash or Ravioli with heirloom vegetables. For the Sweets guests may opt for Goat Cheese Cheesecake with pumpkin butter, pepitas and bourbon caramel, Maple Pecan Cake with vanilla bean gelato or Dark Chocolate Tart with cinnamon sugared cranberries and honey whipped cream. Three-Course Dinner for \$89 per adult guest; \$25 for children (12 and under), excludes tax and gratuity. Thursday, November 22, 2pm; \$25-\$89. L'Auberge Del Mar, 1540 Camino Del Mar. (DEL MAR)

Thanksgiving Dinner The Abbey on Fifth Avenue is Hornblower's on-land venue; it offers a rare, refined uptown option for Thanksgiving. Originally constructed as an Episcopal church, this elegant 1910 landmark is San Diego's only remaining Classic Revival structure. Enjoy an elaborate seasonal buffet, decadent desserts and live jazz entertainment. Thursday, November 22, 3pm; \$59. Abbey, 2825 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Thanksgiving Dinner Gather with family and friends for a family-style Thanksgiving feast at Estancia's Adobe El Restaurante prepared by Executive Chef Vincent Savignano and the Estancia culinary team. PRICING > Adults: \$68 > Children 5 and above: \$34 > Children under 5: Free Thursday, November 22, 2pm; \$34-\$68. Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa, 9700 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

Thanksgiving Dinner Join us for a buffet-style Thanksgiving dinner. Enjoy the holiday's favorite dishes and desserts with the entire family. Thursday, November 22, 2pm; \$30-\$85. Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar,

Sheraton Hotel, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Thanksgiving Feast Gather family and friends around our table for a Four-Course Thanksgiving Feast. We'll do the work, you relax and enjoy each other's company. Thursday, November 22, 1pm; \$20. Chandler's, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

Thanksgiving Holiday Buffet Gather around the table and give thanks with your friends and family this Thanksgiving at The Westgate Hotel. A Thanksgiving Holiday Buffet will be offered in the exquisite Le Fontainebleau Room and Westgate Room, and the experience will include live music for all to enjoy. Seating will take place from 11:00am to 5:00pm and the cost is \$89 per person; \$40 for children ages 4-12; and children under the age of 3 are complimentary. Tax and gratuity are additional. Pricing for the Thanksgiving Holiday Buffet excludes alcohol, but guests may add bottomless house wine or Champagne for an additional \$20. Seating for the holiday buffet is limited, and reservations are highly recommended. Thursday, November 22, 11am; \$40-\$89. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Thanksgiving on the Bay Let us do the cooking this year and enjoy your choice of either a four or six course Thanksgiving dinner at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Located overlooking the San Diego Bay and Marina, Harbor's Edge Restaurant offers local contemporary coastal cuisine eloquently curated by Executive Sous Chef Hugo Pena Venegas. Thursday, November 22, 5pm; \$45-\$65. Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. (HARBOR ISLAND)



Buy a Taco Get a Free Quesadilla!

#StreetFoodMadeWithLove

Limit 1 per person.



IB STREET TACOS

805 Seacoast Dr • Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 621-5814
www.imperialbeachstreetacos.com



Buy 1 Entrée Get 1 Free!

Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner.
Limit 1 Per Customer.
We have NFL Sunday Ticket!



4076 Bonita Rd
Bonita, CA



Free Pizza Buffet!

Buy One Adult Buffet and Two 20oz.
Drinks, Get One Buffet Free.

Valid Mon-Fri 11am - 3pm
Not Valid With Any Other Offers
Must Present Coupon
Expires 12/31/18



3007 Highland Avenue
National City
619-477-1788



Appetizers 1/2 off

1/2 Off An Appetizer between
4 pm and 7 pm when two or more
beers are purchased. Dine-in only, one
coupon per table, per visit, not valid
with any other offer, no cash value.
Expires 2/28/19.



248 3rd Ave. • Chula Vista, 91910
619-623-3553



1/2 off lunch buffet

Buy one lunch buffet and get the
second lunch buffet at 1/2 price!
Buffet is Tue. Wed. & Thurs. from 11
am to 2 pm. Not valid with any other
offer, dine-in only, no cash value.
Expires 2/28/19.



248 3rd Ave. • Chula Vista, 91910
616-623-3553



Free Veggie Tostada!

Purchase either Ceviche
(mixed or summer) and
get a free cauliflower tostada!



tj.cinetonala.mx
1303 Avenida Revolución
between 6th and 7th



Tuesday 2 x 1 Fries

Buy any type of fries,
receive another free!
Every Tuesday at El Local!



Find us inside Plaza Fiesta
[Facebook.com/ElLocalTJ](https://www.facebook.com/ElLocalTJ)

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

Puesto at The Headquarters: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$9 margaritas. \$4 tacos. Tuesday, 3-5pm: Modelo Especial cans \$3.50, \$9 margaritas. \$3 tacos.

KEARNY MESA

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 house wine by the glass, draft beer, \$3.25 domestic beer bottles, \$3.50 margaritas, \$9 draft pitchers.

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, smokey 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

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.

NORTH PARK

West Coast Tavern: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7pm: \$4 wells, drafts, house wine, \$7 specialty cocktails, \$7 appetizers. 11pm-close: \$4 wells, drafts, house wine, \$7 specialty cocktails. \$7 appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 4-7pm: \$4 wells, drafts, house wine, \$7 specialty cocktails, \$7 appetizers.

OCEAN BEACH

South Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off draft beer and wine by glass, \$4 mimosas, \$3-\$6

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Baja is Mexico's capital of craft

Back in September, in what has become an autumn tradition, the Great American Beer Festival heaped loads of recognition upon the general greatness of San Diego beer. Area breweries claimed five golds en route to sixteen medals overall, slightly up from the fourteen won in 2017, and right about our annual average over the past ten years.

The biggest local winner was Ocean Beach Brewery; the two-year-old coastal brewpub earned the right to call itself the Small Brewpub of the Year.

But it's time to start celebrating the accomplishments of another local brew scene: the one emerging directly to our south. Recently, Mexico held its most distinguished national beer competition, Copa Cerveza Mx. The judging took place in Chihuahua, October 22-24; the awards were presented in Mexico City October 25. Breweries from the state of Baja California dominated, claiming 42 out of 127 medals; its biggest regional competition came from Mexico City (22 medals) and the area around Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco (19 medals).

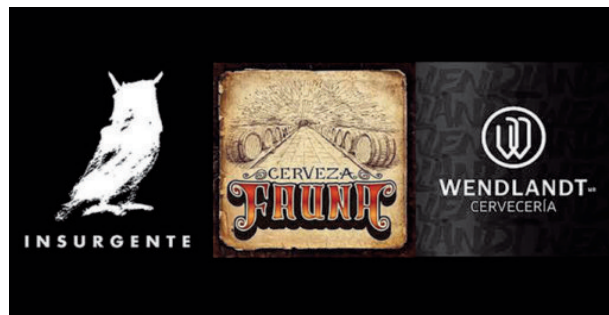
Tijuana breweries led the Baja medal count, earning 17 pieces of hardware, but it was Mexicali that truly led the way, accounting for 9 of the 19 gold medals coming home to Baja, and 14 medals overall. Particularly successful was Mexicali's Cerveza Fauna, which claimed 3 golds and 2 silver

medals, earning the distinction as this year's top brewery (Fauna also earned a bronze in this year's World Beer Cup). Not far behind was Insurgente, the rare Tijuana craft brew-

haul led by Cerveceria Wendlandt, winning 2 golds and 2 silvers of its own. Another double gold medal winner was Mexicali's Cerveceria Legion, which added a

bronze to its total. Other Tijuana breweries earning multiple medals were Kaminari Brewing Co. (1 gold, 2 silver) and Madueño Brewing Co. (1 gold, 1 silver). Ensenada's Heisenberg claimed 1 gold, 1 bronze.

Perhaps as telling as San Diego's cross-border friends performing so well were the categories that helped them do so. For example, Baja breweries swept both the American IPA category and Black IPAs. And they took the top two spots in several other categories San Diego breweries are well known for: American Pale Ale, American Amber Ale, Imperial Stout, Fruit Beer, and Double IPA. For good measure, they also took gold and silver for hazy, or New England IPAs.



Insurgente, Cerveza Fauna, Cerveceria Wendlandt, and fellow Baja breweries set the craft beer pace in Mexico.

ery that ships bottles to the U.S. Insurgente received 5 medals, including 2 each gold and silver. Rounding out the region's success were Ensenada-based breweries, their 10-medal

shots, \$3-\$6 select cocktails. All appetizers half off (except shrimp poppers). \$7.95 classic burger, \$8.95 half dozen oysters on the half shell, \$2.95 select tacos, \$3.95 wings - 6 pieces. Sunday, 10am-2pm: \$8 bottle mimosas, \$5 Cutwater bloody mary.

PACIFIC BEACH

Pacific Beach AleHouse: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half price bottles of wine, \$2 off draft beers and craft cocktails. \$7.95 fried pickles, \$9.95 mussels, calamari, chilled prawns, \$9.95 wings, \$11.95 ahi poke, \$13.95 crab cakes.

The Promiscuous Fork: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off beers on tap and select wines by the glass. \$5 Caesar salad, mini-beef sliders, grilled chicken tacos, smoked pork belly street tacos.

The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: Tuesday-Sunday, 6-7pm: \$4 draft wines, \$5 draft beers, well

drinks, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$3 pata-tas, \$5 huevos de toro and fish tacos, \$6 fritti misto.

Waterbar: Monday-Friday, 8-10pm: \$5 house wine and sangria, Modelo, and Pacifico drafts, \$7 craft cocktails. \$2 oysters.

POINT LOMA

The Ambassador Lounge: Monday-Saturday, 8pm to midnight: \$4 well cocktails and Fireball shots, \$5 wines, Sangria, Corona bottles, \$6 Long Islands, Jack Fire shots, \$7 well doubles, agave margaritas

Jimmy's Famous American Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off drafts, \$5 well drinks, \$7 margaritas and wines. \$10 sliders.

Royale: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm & after 9pm: \$2 off all drafts, wine, and cocktails.

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.

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Must present ad.



50% off wine

Every Wednesday, 2:00pm to 5:00pm, half-price for a glass of wine.



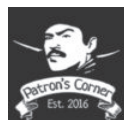
Mission Cellars

14053 Midland Rd.
Poway CA 92064



50% off all wine bottles

All wine bottles are 50% off 6:30-10pm every Wednesday.



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45% OFF Well Drinks
30% OFF Stella Artois Draft
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\$1 Well Cocktails and Select Beer 5-6pm on Tuesdays!

\$2 6-7pm, \$3 7-8pm



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Patron's Corner

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Ocean Beach, CA 92107

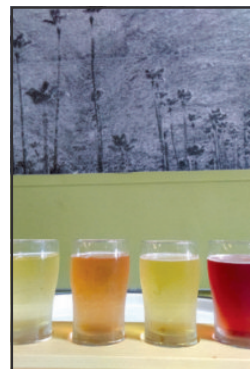


**Happy Hour 3-6pm
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**Half-price wine
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Any bottle of wine, half price ALL DAY! Happy Hour runs M-F, 3pm till 7pm: All Pints (excl. Cask, \$6.00 any-time and Black Velvet's) and bottled beers are \$1 off, Well Liquor \$5.



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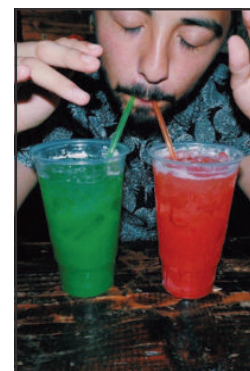


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Brew Pub Plaza
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blurt the inside track

Coffee music “When I saw Starbucks get into music” — selling CD’s in-store and running its own label — “I thought it was a genius idea,” says local coffee entrepreneur Daniel Charlson. “I thought what they were doing represented a change in the music industry. Although they were not successful with it, it caught my attention.”

Charlson took Starbucks’ cue. With the November 9 release of *Wild Young Love* by local hard-edged Americana band Petty Saints, Charlson unveils his all-vinyl Dark Horse Coffee Records, named after his chain of local coffee shops. The 12-inch, six-song Petty Saints discs are available for sale at the band’s shows or at one of the four Dark Horse Coffee houses.

“If you buy it from us, it’s on white vinyl,” says Petty

Saints singer/guitarist Ciaran O’Reilly. “The copies you buy at Dark Horse are Coke bottle green with pink speckle.”



The Petty Saints rockin’ that hard-edged Americana.

O’Reilly moved here from the UK two years ago. “Although I was raised in London, my family was Irish, and we were raised singing Irish songs. The quality of the songs is what always mat-

tered most to me.”

After landing in San Diego he met guitarist Brett Reeves. “I used to be in The Drags,” says Reeves. “We were MC5 wannabes, trashy 60s garage punk.” The two hooked up with drummer Chaz Riley and bassist Dan Rucker, formerly of punk-ish Youth Envy. They spent over a year holed up in their

El Cajon practice studio working on their material that reminds some of the Americana-meets-punk of New Jersey’s The Gaslight Anthem or Pennsylvania’s The Menzingers.

“I guess we do have a similar style to the East Coast side of things,” says Reeves.

A friend of Reeves who works at Dark Horse Coffee shared a clip of Petty Saints music with Dark Horse owner Charlson. Charlson told the band he loved the preliminary tracks that had been recorded at Double Time Studios, and then stepped in to cover the expense for the rest of the recording, mixing, mastering, and the pressing. “We used Pirates Press [in Northern California],” says Charlson. “We got it back in six weeks.”

“I started working with bands as an audio engineer when I was 16,” says Charlson who came to San Diego by way of Nashville, Seattle and Hawaii. “After music I got into marketing, and then coffee.” He says there are currently four local Dark Horse coffeehouses. “We’re opening two more in San Diego and one in Hawaii. My whole deal is I’m treating music as a not-for-profit. I’ve seen how over the years the music



Matt Hall says “being in the Marine Corps Band made me a much more consistent musician.”

industry has changed and how impossible it has gotten for artists.” He says as soon as his expenses are covered, all profit from Dark Horse Coffee record “goes back to the band.”

The Petty Saints appear with Little Heroin December 1 at the Ken Club.

— Ken Leighton

Jazz marine “It’s all because of music, really,” explains trombonist Matt Hall, contemplating the journey that brought him from East Tennessee to San Diego.

Hall has been playing the trombone since he was 10-years old and it might be

(continued on page 52)

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an understatement to call him a prodigy in those days. “I met this local jazz hero named Rick Simerly when I was a kid, and he kind of took me under his wing, where I became a sponge for all things straight-ahead jazz. I loved it and I got more addicted to the horn.”

Before long, his hobby became a profession.

“I started gigging at a very young age. I started leading my own groups and playing around town when I was just 13 years-old. We played all over the area and recorded two albums before I even got out of high school.”

A sense of wanderlust started to set in for the young player. “All these experiences really made me want to travel — to get out of Tennessee — so the idea of the military was always an option. I really wanted to join the Air Force, but that didn’t work out. I was directing a high school jazz ensemble in my hometown when the Marine Corp recruiter came to give his pitch to my students. One thing led to another, and before I knew it, I was in his office enlisting.”

Hall has no regrets.

“Being in the Marine Corps band made me a

much more consistent musician. We were doing 300 performances a year, and you really have to deliver every time, in my opinion. On top of all that, I was trying to gig as much as possible here in San Diego as a jazz player. Sometimes it got exhausting but it was worth it. After four years, it was time to go, even though leaving the security of a steady job and place to sleep was hard.”

Hall received an honorable discharge in 2015 and spent two years in New York earning a bachelor’s degree. Now he’s back in San Diego attending grad school at SDSU. “New York is awesome, but it’s a challenge to live there.”

What’s next?

“I’m recording an album this year with (fellow former Marine) Charlie Arbelaez. I’m performing with New York vocalist Maria Quintanilla at Dizzy’s on November 26.”

— Robert Bush

Double-necked axe

Playing guitar and bass more-or-less at once, in real time, with only two hands, might strike one as a strenuous proposition. But Kristian Dunn, of instrumental duo El Ten Eleven, though, makes it work—with a little help from a local company.

Dunn’s double-necked axe with a guitar high and a bass low, dates from 1977, and “was built by a San Diego

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company called Carvin. [The company later turned into Kiesel Guitars.] I actually

them now.

“Playing it was pretty hard to get together,” contin-

arty, “because I had to come up with my own techniques and tunings for playing both

for me.”

Dunn and Fogarty started out in the SoftLites but left to do the El Ten Eleven thing circa 2002. Dunn grew up in Silicon Valley but came to the San Diego area for college at SDSU. He’s logged time with bands such as Inch and Freak Scene.

He moved back to San Diego in 2010, after a long stretch in Los Angeles; and today makes his home in the Bankers Hill area. Asked about future projects, Dunn affirms that the band wants to do some side projects involving singers, and they have a new El Ten Eleven album containing 23 new instrumentals.

— Andrew Hamlin



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK OWENS

Instrumental duo El Ten Eleven bring their double-necked guitar-bass to the Casbah November 30th.

met the man who made my double-neck. He was very cool and excited it’s getting so much use. I have three of

ues Dunn, who visits the Casbah November 30th and December 1st with his drummer partner Tim Fog-

necks at the same time. I’m not a guitar player, I’m a bass player, so the guitar part has always been awkward

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

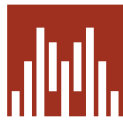
Robert Bush, Chad Deal, Dave Good, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Ken Leighton, Jay Allen Sanford

<p>WEDNESDAY • NOV 21 BOOTY BASSMENT</p> <p>FRIDAY • NOV 23 THE SCHIZOPHONICS THE LOONS THE WIDOWS SALT LICK</p> <p>SATURDAY • NOV 24 MRS. HENRY THE ANODYNES SIGHTS AND SAGES PINK EYE</p> <p>MONDAY • NOV 26 DJ ARTISTIC'S HIP HOP BATTLE BOT</p> <p>TUESDAY • NOV 27 HOW TO DRESS WELL JARA</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • NOV 28 POCKETHOLE DOWNERS • DAYTRIP</p> <p>THURSDAY • NOV 29 SEAN ROWE</p> <p>FRIDAY • NOV 30 SATURDAY • DEC 1 EL TEN ELEVEN</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 2 JUSTIN COURTNEY PIERRE</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 619-232-HELL • casbahmusic.com</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 5 REDD KROSS DALE CROVER BAND</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 6 IRRADIO DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN DEMASIADO MISS NEW BUDDHA</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 7 THE ATARIS</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 8 AUTHOR & PUNISHER</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 9 WAFIA</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 12 BERNHOF AND THE FASHION BRUISES</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 13 THUMPASAURUS</p>	<p>FRIDAY • DEC 14 SATURDAY • DEC 15 FU MANCHU</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 16 JMSN</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 17 THE SOFT MOON</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 19 AVIATOR STASH ARIEL LEVINE THE FRETS</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 20 ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 21 BLACK FRIDAY DJ'S VAUGHN AVAKIAN & MARIO ORDUNO</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 22 DIRTY SWEET</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 23 EL VEZ MERRY MEXMAS</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD</p>
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<p>SAT. NOV. 24</p> <p>UP THE IRONS Anthem, One Night In The City, Sin After Sin</p>	<p>BRICK X BRICK</p>	<p>FRI. DEC. 7</p> <p>ANGEL VIVALDI AND NITA STRAUSS Jacky Vincent</p>
<p>SUN. NOV. 25</p> <p>MUNICIPAL WASTE AND OFF! Toxic Holocaust, Haunt</p>		<p>SAT. DEC. 8</p> <p>SHRED FOR DIME Annual Tribute Show</p>
<p>THU. NOV. 29</p> <p>UNEARTH AND FIT FOR AN AUTOPSY The Agony Scene, I Am, A Hero Within</p>	<p>SUN. DEC. 2</p> <p>THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER Ghoul, Gost, UADA</p>	<p>MON. DEC. 10</p> <p>DOYLE Vuture, Southtowne Sham, Cylon 78</p>
<p>FRI. NOV. 30</p> <p>KOTTONMOUTH KINGS Crazy Town, Izzy Projectz, Syllint, Dread Pirate</p>	<p>MON. DEC. 3</p> <p>NECROT Crematory Stench, Corpsemaker</p>	<p>THU. DEC. 13</p> <p>EYES SET TO KILL Rest Repose, Avoid, Blackcast, Hollow Stage</p>
<p>SAT. DEC. 1</p> <p>GODFLESH Intreptr</p>	<p>THU. DEC. 6</p> <p>PSYCLON NINE MXMS, Guidance, Striplicker</p>	<p>FRI. DEC. 14</p> <p>SCOUR Nukem, Thrown Into Exile, Eukaryst</p>

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**NOV
23**



SATURDAY

**HIRIE
GINGER ROOTS
LOWTOPS**



**NOV
24**



SUNDAY

DANEEN WILBURN



**NOV
25**



FRIDAY

**MARK FARINA
CRIS HERRERA
CHRYSOCOLLA**



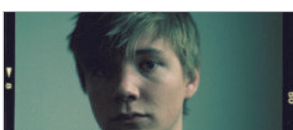
**NOV
30**



SATURDAY

**ASI SUENA PRES. DIMELO URBAN LATIN NIGHTS
SAK NOEL
3BALLMTY
EL CHEVO
MUZIK JUNKIES**

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01**



SUNDAY

**KASBO
VANCOUVER SLEEP CLINIC**

**DEC
02**



FRIDAY

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THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR, CAROLE KING,
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**DEC
09**



THURSDAY

**LA SANTA CECILIA
SM FAMILIA**

**DEC
13**

COMING SOON

12/4 Mac DeMarco (solo) - Sold Out!	12/30 Steely Damned 2 Holiday Show (seated show)	1/21 Parquet Courts w/ Snail Mail
12/9 Rockademy (matinee)	1/22 Emily King	1/22 Ozomatli
12/14 Lyrics Born & Zion I	12/31 BoomBox NYE Show	1/25 Ozomatli
12/16 Anuhea ft. Mahi	1/4 Electric Mud	1/26 Ozokidz feat. Ozomatli (matinee)
12/19 Fishbone: <i>Crazy Glue Xmas</i>	1/5 The Winehouse Experience	2/1 Poncho Sanchez
12/20 A Berkley Hart Christmas (seated show)	1/10 Mimi Zulu	2/2 MadeinTYO
12/21 Betamax 80's Christmas and Ugly Sweater Party	1/12 Tommy Emmanuel feat. John Knowles (seated show)	2/15 Soul Rebels w/ The Routine
12/22 Nicky Genesis <i>Winter Wonderland</i>	1/12 Future Factory pres. Kaleena Zanders and FriendZ (late show)	2/17 Kongos
12/23 Thundercat	1/17 Lost Kings	2/22 Brasstracks w/ special guest DREAM
12/27 Poolside	1/19 Zoso: <i>The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience</i>	3/9 You Me At Six
12/28 An-Ten-Nae	1/20 Tom Gun Live! (seated show)	3/24 Matt Nathanson
		4/4 The Havana Cuba All-Stars
		4/7 Mt. Joy

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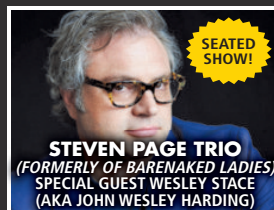
MIKE PINTO
TUNNEL VISION, NEW LEAF
WEDNESDAY 11/21



WAYWARD SONS
LIES N ROSES
FRIDAY 11/23



**CIRCLES AROUND
THE SUN**
MAPACHE
SATURDAY 11/24



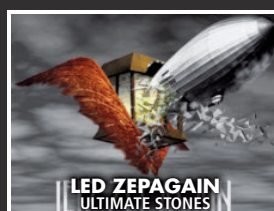
STEVEN PAGE TRIO
(FORMERLY OF BARENAKED LADIES)
SPECIAL GUEST WESLEY STACE
(AKA JOHN WESLEY HARDING)
SUNDAY 11/25



**AN EVENING WITH
PAT TRAVERS BAND**
TUESDAY 11/27



BRET MICHAELS
THURSDAY 11/29



LED ZEPAGAIN
ULTIMATE STONES
FRIDAY 11/30



THE PETTYBREAKERS
POMPATUS OF LOVE
SATURDAY 12/1



OLD 97'S
HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!
CASEYMAGIC (DIY PUNK
MAGICIAN) & SOLO ACOUSTIC SET
BY RHETT MILLER
SUNDAY 12/2



**AN EVENING WITH
DWEEZIL ZAPPA**
CHOICE CUTS TOUR
MONDAY 12/3



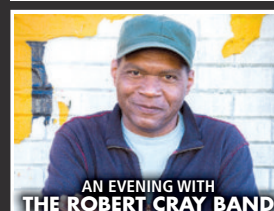
**AN EVENING WITH
SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS**
HOLIDAY CARAVAN
THURSDAY 12/6



TURTLENECK & SWEATER PARTY
THE YOUNG GUNS & DJ HUGH JANUS
SATURDAY 12/8



COLTER WALL
JOSH MORNINGSTAR
WEDNESDAY 12/12



**AN EVENING WITH
THE ROBERT CRAY BAND**
THURSDAY 12/13



EARTHLESS
FEAT. MAD ALCHEMY LIGHT SHOW
VOLCANO
SUNDAY 12/16

JUST ADDED! **The English Beat 1/25 & 1/26**

Upcoming Shows:

11/28 Jake Shimabukuro - Sold Out!	1/5 9th Annual Beat Farmers Hootenanny ft. The Farmers and Friends	2/6 North Mississippi Allstars
12/4 Jonny Lang - Sold Out!	1/6 Leo Kottke (seated show)	2/7 Joan Osborne sings the songs of Bob Dylan
12/5 Atomic Groove's Twilight Christmas Show	1/8 Bill Champlain and WunderGround	2/8 Groundation
12/9 Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn - Sold Out!	1/9 & 10 Eric Burdon & The Animals	2/9 Tainted Love
12/17 The Soft Moon @ Casbah	1/11 Wild Child (The Doors tribute)	2/10 Joshua Radin
12/18 For the Sender Holiday Show (seated show)	1/12 Amen Dunes	2/12 Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra (seated show)
12/19 The Venice Christmas Show	1/14 Paul Thorn	2/15 Dead Man's Party Valentine's Day Show
12/20 Dick Dale	1/15 The Maggie Salute w/ The Stone Foxes	2/17 Los Lonely Boys
12/21 Eric Rachmany - Sold Out!	1/16 Daring Greatly	2/22 The Mother Hips
12/22 Beatles vs Stones Christmas Show	1/17 The Infamous Stringdusters	2/23 Steve Peltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday
12/23 Cash'd Out Christmas	1/18 DSB (Journey tribute)	2/24 Albert Hammond Jr.
12/26 Easy Wind (Grateful Dead tribute)	1/19 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers	2/27 Coco Montoya & Tinsley Ellis
12/27 Karl Denson's Annual Birthday Bash ft. Karl Denson's Tiny Universe and very special guests	1/21 & 22 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue	2/28 & 3/1 The Wood Brothers
12/28 29 Donavon Frankenreiter	1/23 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave - Sold Out!	3/1 Lettuce @ Observatory
12/30 Michael Franti & Spearhead - Sold Out!	1/24 Big Head Todd & The Monsters	3/2 Pine Mountain Logs
12/31-1/1 Michael Franti & Spearhead NYE shows	1/27 Ana Popovic	3/3 The Marshall Tucker Band - Sold Out!
1/4 Queen Nation and Erotic City (Prince tribute)	1/29 Sergio Mendes	3/15 & 16 Super Diamond
	1/30 Tower of Power 50th Anniversary	3/21 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (seated show)
	1/31 Turkuaz	3/28 Galactic ft. Erica Falls
	2/1 Jacob Banks	4/7 Buddy Guy
	2/2 Vaud and the Villains	4/7 Ten Fé @ Casbah
	2/4 & 5 Blackberry Smoke	4/9 Jimmie Vaughn
		5/10 & 11 Jefferson Starship
		5/21 Idles

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JUST ANNOUNCED

The Music Box has been stepping up with contemporary high profile acts this year, and their 2019 schedule continues the trend toward currently charting, buzz-heavy acts, especially light soul and radio pop singers like **Emily King**. It may have been over a decade since her debut *East Side Story* was nominated for a Grammy (Best Contemporary R&B Album), but she continues to occasionally record singles and EPs on her own, as well as touring as an opening act for similar singers such



EMILY KING AT MUSIC BOX ON JANUARY 22

as Erykah Badu, Alicia Keys, and Chaka Khan. She didn't record a sophomore full-length until *The Switch* in 2015, which proved successful enough to spin off a deluxe edition the following year. That apparently sparked a burst of creativity resulting in a third album due next year, *Scenery*, which she'll reportedly be breaking in over the course of a road trip that includes the Music Box on January 27.

The lineup for the next Jazz at the Athenaeum series has been announced, with experimental co-op the **Bad Plus** slated for February 13. The trio's membership has evolved over the 20 or so years since its inception. Bassist Reid Anderson and drummer Dave King were recently joined by new pianist Orrin Evans. Their first full-length with this lineup, *Never*

Stop II, includes all original compositions;

Anderson contributes four, while Evans and King wrote two apiece. Despite their disparate approaches to song-

writing, the result is more cohesive than patchwork, akin to the best collaborative compositions from fully-melded road-tested ensembles like the Band, the Blasters, and NRBQ. At their La Jolla concert, any number of cover tunes are possible, given their penchant for reimagining tracks by such unlikely antecedents as Black Sabbath ("Iron Man"), the Pixies ("Velouria"), Radiohead ("Karma Police"), and Nirvana

("Smells Like Teen Spirit").

Sometimes, it seems as if one-time Ozzy Osbourne guitarist Jake E. Lee used up his lifetime allotment of luck in the first few years of his career, and has been out of luck ever since. The former San Diegan was already playing local stages with bands like Teaser while attending Mar Vista High, later serving a stint with an early version of Ratt before moving to L.A. in 1980. His lucky streak began with meeting Ronnie James Dio's wife, who got him into a band called Rough Cutt and then Ronnie's self-named group Dio. From 1982 through 1987, he backed Ozzy Osbourne, co-writing several tracks on platinum sellers *Bark at the Moon* and *The Ultimate Sin*.

He came out of that gig with a sterling reputation as one of the only players on the planet capable of

stepping in for the late Randy Rhoads, and things were looking bright for his own group Badlands. That's when the luck ran out. Their major label album went over budget, resulting in the band getting dropped and then splintering. Lee essentially retired from the music biz, relocating to Las Vegas in the early 2000s to spend time restoring old cars. His "comeback" kickstarted in 2012 with a surprise appearance on an Enuff Z'Nuff album, which earned enough positive feedback to encourage forming a new band. The comically bumpy road to finding a permanent frontman for **Red Dragon Cartel** saw numerous singers come and go, and sometimes come back again, often in



LADY LAMB AT SODA BAR ON MAY 9

drummer, tearing through numbers from her first two albums, *Ripely Pine* and *After*. Between songs, she's interviewed about her influences (mainly Sufjan Stevens) and her early career as a solo artist. Those one-woman-band days are referenced in song near the end of the video, where she relies on just the alternating power and fragility of her voice to engage with a performance that, if stripped of video and only heard

as audio, would be no less riveting. The next video dates back to when she called herself Lady Lamb the Beekeeper, with a solo outdoor lakeside rendition of "Crane Your Neck" that recalls both Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman in how it crams a notebook full of lyrics into easily consumed folk introspection. It ends on words nearly shouted with the kind of stand-firm resolution that conjures the blues



RED DRAGON CARTEL AT BRICK BY BRICK ON FEBRUARY 26

the middle of tours. Six roster changes were announced over four months in 2015, a year that also saw Lee cancelling dates due to a back injury and replacing the band's Hummer limo after it caught fire near San Jose. He's trying his luck again this month with a new Red Dragon Cartel album called *Patina*, which he'll support with a February 26 appearance at Brick By Brick, where the group played some of its earliest shows in 2013 and 2014. The bill includes local support from Murder of Five and the Taz Taylor Band.

In advance of **Lady Lamb** playing the Soda Bar on May 9, the venue handily loaded its website with four playable videos showcasing her work. The half hour KEXP session features the Maine-born singer-guitarist, born Aly Spaltro, backed by a bassist-keyboardist and

by way of Alabama Shakes. "Billions of Eyes" celebrates the small but comforting things that everyone has in common and that they occasionally get to share with each other, such as "when I barely make the train and the people with a seat smile big at me." The final video on the Soda Bar site (would that all local venues so effectively promoted the acts they pay for) is a solo performance of "Between Two Trees" where her ethereal banjo picking makes for a fever dream soundtrack that comes across as more ad-libbed than rehearsed. The half-hour full-band video is probably most representative of how she'll sound at the Soda Bar, where she'll be backed by La Luz drummer Marian Li Pino, Yellow Ostrich guitarist-keyboardist Alex Schaaf, and Okkervil River bassist-keyboardist Benjamin Lazar Davis.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find JUST ANNOUNCED online at SDReader.com/music

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MUSIC BOX

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

83 Degrees:

Friday, 9pm — DJ Barry Thomas. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — Sully & the Soul-Jahs. Free.

Aztec Brewing Company:

Friday, 8pm — Roger!

Bates Nut Farm:

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 9am — Santa's Arts, Crafts, & Vintage Market. Free.

Beaumont's:

Saturday, 9pm — Part Time Model.

Belly Up Tavern:

Friday, 8pm — Wayward Sons. Saturday, 8pm — Circles Around the Sun. \$18-\$20.

Sunday, 8pm — Steven Page Trio and Wesley Stace. \$25-\$44.

Tuesday, 8pm — Pat Travers Band. \$20-\$35.

Wednesday, 8pm — Jake Shimabukuro. \$50-\$88.

Brick by Brick:

Sunday, 8pm — Municipal Waste.

Casbah:

Friday, 8pm — The Schizophonics and the Loons.

Saturday, 8pm — Mrs. Henry and the Anodynes. \$10.

Tuesday, 8pm — How To Dress Well. \$15.

Wednesday, 8pm — PocketHole, Downers, Daytrip. \$6.

Cheers Bar & Grill:

Saturday, 9pm — Full Circle.

Del Mar Fairgrounds:

Saturday, 5pm — Easton Corbin. Free.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 8pm — Ron & the Reapers.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Monday, 8pm — Renato Diz & Maria Quintanilla. \$20.

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 70:

Monday, 7pm — Acoustic Blues Jam. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, 5:30pm — Charlie Arbelaez Quartet. Free.

House of Blues:

Friday, 8pm — Biz Markie.

Saturday, 6:30pm & 9pm — Christina P. \$22-\$37.

Saturday, 9pm — The Moneymen Band. Free.

Sunday, 7pm — Chad & Rosie. Free.

Tuesday, 7pm — Robin Henkel. Free.

Wednesday, 7pm — Robert Allen Shepherd. Free.

Irenic:

Sunday, 7pm — Ghostemane and Zubin. \$20-\$100.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

Sunday, 8pm — Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band.

Tuesday, 7pm — SD Symphony Well. \$15.

! NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

By the time Chan Marshall reaches San Diego as her alter ego Cat Power, she will have released *Wanderer*, her first album of new music in six years. The reviewers at *Pitchfork* gave it a 7.4, while other critics have called this, her 10th album, a career rebirth. A fitting description, in that, during the creation of *Wanderer*, Marshall became a mother. But prior, she'd considered leaving the grind of performing. She told a reviewer she'd found work bartending in a desert town in Australia, which never happened. Marshall instead moved to Miami, where she made the new record. Guitar, piano, and her voice, pretty much ghostly. As the story goes, her record label said no dice.

Charlyn Marie Marshall was born in Georgia 46 years ago. Her parents' marriage went bust and she was shuttled from relative to relative all over the southern United States. She settled with her blues piano-playing dad and played a little music herself, mostly in friends' bands, and later moved to New York and did more of the same. This was the inauspicious beginning of a career in music that can only be called personal and unplanned. But her music hit home.

Cat Power was the name of an early Marshall band. The group disintegrated, but the name stuck. I came late to the dance and didn't become a Cat Power fan until an equally idiosyncratic musician friend, a singer/songwriter named Itai Faierman, turned me on to her records maybe 12 years ago. Like Faierman's stuff, Cat Power's music presents shifts in scope and reach from album to album. The glue that binds is her voice, her



CAT POWER

timing, and her lyric sense. The uninitiated may hear wisps of Dylan's phrasing, or Tom Waits' fearless bounce. Music that is serious without being serious, both close and distant. I knew it was for me, and maybe even about me, the moment I heard it.

CAT POWER: Saturday, November 24, Observatory North Park, (619) 239-8836, 7 p.m., \$30, all ages, (Arsun also performs)

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

with Matthew Morrison & Kelli O'Hara.

Kraken:

Saturday, 3pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Friday, 6pm — Rick Ross.

Saturday, 8pm — Los Reyes.

Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.

Wednesday, 6pm — Danny Green.

Lestat's Coffee House:

Saturday, 2pm — Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, 8pm — Durell Anthony. Free.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

Tuesday, 8pm — Ellie McPhearson. \$20.

Wednesday, 8pm — Brenna Whitaker. \$25.

Merrow:

Saturday, 8pm — Platypus Egg, Bonehenge, Sluka.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Ocean Natives. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Friday, 8:30pm — Jessica Lerner Band.

Saturday, 4pm — Celeste Barbier.

Saturday, 8:30pm — The Wayfarers.

Music Box:

Friday, 9pm — The Greyboy Allstars. \$28-\$30.

Saturday, 9pm — Hirie and

Ginger Roots. \$22-\$25.

Sunday, 5:30pm — Daneen Wilburn. \$25-\$30.

Navajo Live:

Saturday, 8pm — 8five8.

Wednesday, 8pm — Redemption River and Justin Paul Sanders.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Fortunate Youth.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Cat Power. \$30.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Len Rainey.

Rosati's Pizza & Sports Pub:

Tuesday, 6pm — Julie Albright. Free.

Rosie O'Grady's:

Friday, 10pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

SeaFire:

Saturday, 7pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Seven Grand:

Wednesday, 7:30pm — Mt. Pleasant and Bruin.

Soda Bar:

Friday, 8pm — Beekeeper and

Temblad. \$8.

Saturday, 8pm — Doe Paoro. \$12-\$14.

Sunday, 8pm — Pocket Hole and Shindigs. \$6.

Monday, 8pm — The Natives and Good Time Girl. \$6.

Tuesday, 8pm — Los Romanticos De Zacatecas. \$15.

Wednesday, 8pm — STAL. \$10.

Spacebar Cafe:

Saturday, 6:30pm — Trains Across the Sea.

Town & Country Resort:

Thursday, 6pm, Friday, 10am, Saturday & Sunday, 9am — San Diego Jazz Festival.

Valley View Casino:

Wednesday, 6:30pm — TRES & Debora Galan. Free.

Waterbar:

Thursday, 5pm — Durell Anthony. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:

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

Witch Creek Winery:

Sunday, 3pm — Cowboy Jack. Free.

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WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Saturday, 8pm — Akae Beka and
Spiritual. \$15-\$20.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Auditorium at the Scripps Research Institute:
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Jazz at TSRI:
Luciana Souza. \$32-\$37.

Beaumont's:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Daniel
Cervantes.
Friday, Nov. 30 — dB Jukebox.

Bella Vista Social Club and Caffe:
Friday, Nov. 30 — The
Ingredients. Free.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Bret
Michaels. \$85-\$149.
Friday, Nov. 30 — Led Zepagain.
\$22-\$39.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — The
PettyBreakers. \$17-\$19.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Old 97's
Holiday Extravaganza. \$25-\$44.
Monday, Dec. 3 — Dweezil
Zappa.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 — Jonny Lang.
\$55-\$97.
Thursday, Dec. 6 — Squirrel Nut
Zippers.

Saturday, Dec. 8 — The Young
Guns and DJ Hugh Janus. \$18-
\$20.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Bela Fleck &
Abigail Washburn. \$48-\$84.

Black Cat Bar:
Friday, Dec. 7 — Roger!

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Unearth
and Fit For An Autopsy.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Godflesh.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Angel Vivaldi &
Nita Strauss. \$20-\$25.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Friday, Nov. 30 — The Ten
Tenors.
Tuesday, Dec. 4 — Charlie
Daniels Band.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Carols by
Candlelight Benefit Concert.
\$19-\$87.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Carols by
Candlelight Benefit Concert.
\$19-\$87.

Carlsbad Community Church:
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Coastal
Communities Concert Band.
\$15-\$20.

Casbah:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Sean Rowe
and Girl Blue. \$15.
Friday, Nov. 30 — El Ten Eleven.
\$20.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — El Ten
Eleven. \$20.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Justin
Courtney Pierre and Thin Lips.
\$23-\$25.
Thursday, Dec. 6 — Irradio and
Dewey Defeats Truman. \$10.
Friday, Dec. 7 — The Ataris. \$15.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Vinyl Junkies
Record Swap. \$5.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Author &
Punisher and Lingua Ignota.
\$10-\$12.

Del Mar Arena:
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Thirty Seconds
to Mars and AJR. \$40-\$75.

EVE Encinitas:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Tehila. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, Nov. 30 — Danny Green
Trio. Free.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Sao Cung
Duoc. \$27.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Amy & the
Unknown.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Ron's Garage.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Jerry "Hot
Rod" DeMink. Free.
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Andre
Nickatina.
Friday, Nov. 30 — Groove
International. \$15-\$18.

Irenic:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Lemaitre.
\$18-\$22.
Wednesday, Dec. 5 — Nothing,
Nowhere. \$19-\$22.
Thursday, Dec. 6 — The
Buttertones. \$15.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Pale Waves and
the Candescents.

Kraken:
Thursday, Dec. 6 — Miss
Demeanor. Free.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Sonic Tonic.

La Jolla United Methodist Church:
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Christmas
Concert: I Need a Silent Night.
Free.

La Luz Ultra Lounge:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — J. Stalin.
\$20-\$30.

La Mesa Wine Works:
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Steve Nichols.

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Tue 11/27 The Skatallites

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Lexicons
Saturday 11/24
Anesthesia (Metallica Tribute)
The Black Crowes Revival
"Tuesday Night Live!" 11/27
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Deadline to Enter: Friday, December 7 at 1pm

WIN PASSES



Win a pair of movie passes to see *Bumblebee*.
Deadline to Enter: Monday, December 10 at 1pm

Enter to win at sreader.com/contests

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Thursday November 22:	CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
Friday November 23:	Patti Zlaket & Joe Rathburn 5pm Swinging Johnsons 8:30pm
Saturday November 24: Brunch 10am-3pm	Dave Booda 12pm Russel Ramo 6pm Lost Monarchs 8:30pm
Sunday November 25: Brunch 10am-3pm	Mike Hall 12pm Packers vs Vikings 5:20pm
Monday November 26:	Volorean 7pm Happy Hour All Day!
Tuesday November 27:	Ricky Montijo 7pm



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 SAT, NOV 24	 THU, NOV 29
 FRI, NOV 30	 SAT, DEC 1
 FRI, DEC 7	 SAT, DEC 8

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

12/9 — KURT VILE & THE VIOLATORS	12/17 — THOM YORKE
12/10 — A.F.I.	12/20 — HIPPIE SABOTAGE
12/11 — ANIME	12/21 — BANE'S WORLD
12/12 — KSHMR	12/28 — THE CLAYPOOL LENNON DELIRIUM
12/14 — BIG GIGANTIC	12/29 & 12/30 — X & LOS LOBOS
12/15 — WHITE BUFFALO	1/19 — NAO W/ XAVIER OMAR

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La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, Nov. 30 — Whitney Shay.

Legacy Brewing Co.:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Miss Demeanor. Free.

LifePoint Christian Community:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Chet Cannon's 50th Potluck Birthday Fundraiser.

Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — UC San Diego Gospel Choir. \$15-\$5.

Marriott Vacation Club Pulse:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Durell Anthony. Free.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Tuesday, Dec. 4 — Well-Strung. \$40.
Wednesday, Dec. 5 — Well-Strung. \$40.
Thursday, Dec. 6 — Lee Squared: Liberace & Peggy Lee Tribute. \$25-\$30.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
Friday, Dec. 7 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Merrow:
Friday, Dec. 7 — Har Mar Superstar & Sabrina Ellis. \$15.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ:
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Holiday Art & Craft Sale. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Steal Dawn. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — The Romantic Cowboys.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Daddy-O & Batman.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — The Traumatized.
Thursday, Dec. 6 — Sickstring Outlaws.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Freddie Mercury loved opera

I recently went to see *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the movie about the band Queen. I already knew that lead singer Freddie Mercury was an opera fan, but I was impressed with the way opera was incorporated into the narrative.

There are three arias in the movie which are used as scene music. The first is "Un bel di vedremo" from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. This is not the first time "Un bel di" has been used in a movie. Its most famous previous engagement was in *Fatal Attraction*.

In *Bohemian Rhapsody* "Un bel di" plays as Freddie proposes marriage to Mary Austin. The choice of this

aria makes a lot of sense from the perspective of storytelling. In *Butterfly*, CioCio San sings this aria after she has been married and abandoned by Pinkerton. In *Bohemian Rhapsody* the aria is presented before Mary Austin is abandoned by Freddie. It serves as an effective foreshadowing of Queen's tour to America, during which Freddie is tempted by coy truck-driving bears slipping into darkened doors.

The second moment of opera comes as Queen is pitching their album *A Night at the Opera*. During this scene, the "Habanera" from Bizet's *Carmen* plays as Freddie lays down the law to a record producer.

Again, the music fits the scene well. In that aria, Carmen warns any potential lovers that if you fall in love with her, beware, she will do what she pleases when she pleases and not ask permission. Carmen will not be tamed, but go ahead and fall in love with her if you must. You've been warned. Freddie is giving the same exact speech. Queen will make this album when they like as they like and not ask for any permission from a producer.

The final piece of opera isn't as obvious but is no less effective. In this scene Freddie has purchased Mary an apartment next to his mansion. They (Freddie)



Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury and Lucy Boynton as Mary Austin.

have established a lamp signal where Freddie turns on a lamp by the window and Mary follows suit. During a bout of loneliness Freddie goes to his window lamp as "Signore ascolta" from *Turandot* plays. Freddie lights his end of the signal but Mary's window remains dark.

The text of "Signore

ascolta" is the slave girl Liu's confession of love to her lord. She can no longer bear the suffering of their situation. The aria is the voice of Mary's darkened window.

The intelligent inclusion of opera into the story added a layer of culture and narrative to an enjoyable movie — enjoyable if you like Queen. And I do.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Friday, Dec. 7 — The Jackstones.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Jerome Dawson.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — The Chrome Domes.

Music Box:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Mark Farina. \$20-\$25.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Sak Noel and El Chevo. \$17-\$22.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Kasbo and Vancouver Sleep Clinic. \$20-\$25.
Tuesday, Dec. 4 — Mac DeMarco. \$37-\$39.
Wednesday, Dec. 5 — The Devon Allman Project with Duane Betts. \$25-\$27.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Sammy Johnson

and Etana. \$22-\$24.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Rockademy. \$12.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Mud Slide Slim Holiday Show. \$15-\$25.

Navajo Live:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Tommy Price & the Stilettoes.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Josie Day and the Shot Kings.

Observatory North Park:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Julien Baker and Phoebe Bridgers. \$23-\$25.
Friday, Nov. 30 — Wheeler Walker Jr. \$18.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Tinkersmith. Free.

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church:
Friday, Dec. 2 — The New Covenant Choir. Free.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — The New Covenant Choir. Free.

Pour House:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. \$35-\$65.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, Nov. 30 — 145th Street Band.

Pure Platinum:
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Kung Fu Vampire. \$12-\$15.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Friday, Dec. 7 — Jenn Grinels & Jenn Bostic. \$20-\$25.

Rabbit Hole:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Digital Lizards Of Doom.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Friday, Dec. 7 — Southern Reign and Devon Allman & Duane Betts.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Eyedress. \$12-\$14.
Friday, Nov. 30 — Moon Honey and Hexa. \$8.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Mock Orange. \$15-\$18.
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Tropa Magica (fka Thee Commons). \$10-\$12.
Wednesday, Dec. 5 — Fucked Up. \$15-\$18.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Magic Sword. \$16-\$18.
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Wingtip. \$12-\$14.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Suuns. \$13-\$16.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Jeff Pekarek's Panamerican Shanty. \$15-\$18.

Tin Roof San Diego:
Saturday, Dec. 1 — New Normal. Free.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, Nov. 30 — Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellas and Bayou Brothers.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Nikki Hill & Laura Chavez.

Tower Bar:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — The Interrupters and the Bar Stool Preachers.

Turf Supper Club:
Sunday, Dec. 2 — Leonard Patton & Ed Kornhauser.

UCSD Price Center:
Thursday, Nov. 29 — ArtPower: Orkesta Mendoza. \$30-\$35.
Saturday, Dec. 1 — The Intermission Orchestra. Free.

Valley View Casino Center:
Saturday, Dec. 1 — Brockhampton.

Viejas Arena:
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Fleetwood Mac. \$59-\$159.

Vigilucci's Cucina Italiana:
Saturday, Dec. 8 — Julie Albright. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:
Monday, Dec. 3 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

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Sat 11/24	Gozadera Bachata & Salsa
Mon 11/26	Salsa
Tue 11/27	The Jazz Pockets
Wed 11/28	Jazz w/ Leonard Patton & Jux Trio
Thu 11/29	Liz Grace & The Swing Things
Fri 11/30	Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellas, Dave Gleason, The Bayou Brothers & The Jazz Pockets
Sat 12/1	Full Strength Funk Band

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The Cat Chasers

THU, 11/29
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SAT, 12/1
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Gross Polluter • The Widows
Killing California
Slaughter Boys

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Thieves Like Us - The New Order Experience

Sun, Nov. 25, Free!
PANTS KARAOKE

Sat, Dec. 1
HELLFIRE
Take - Great Electric Quest
Monarch - Tzimani

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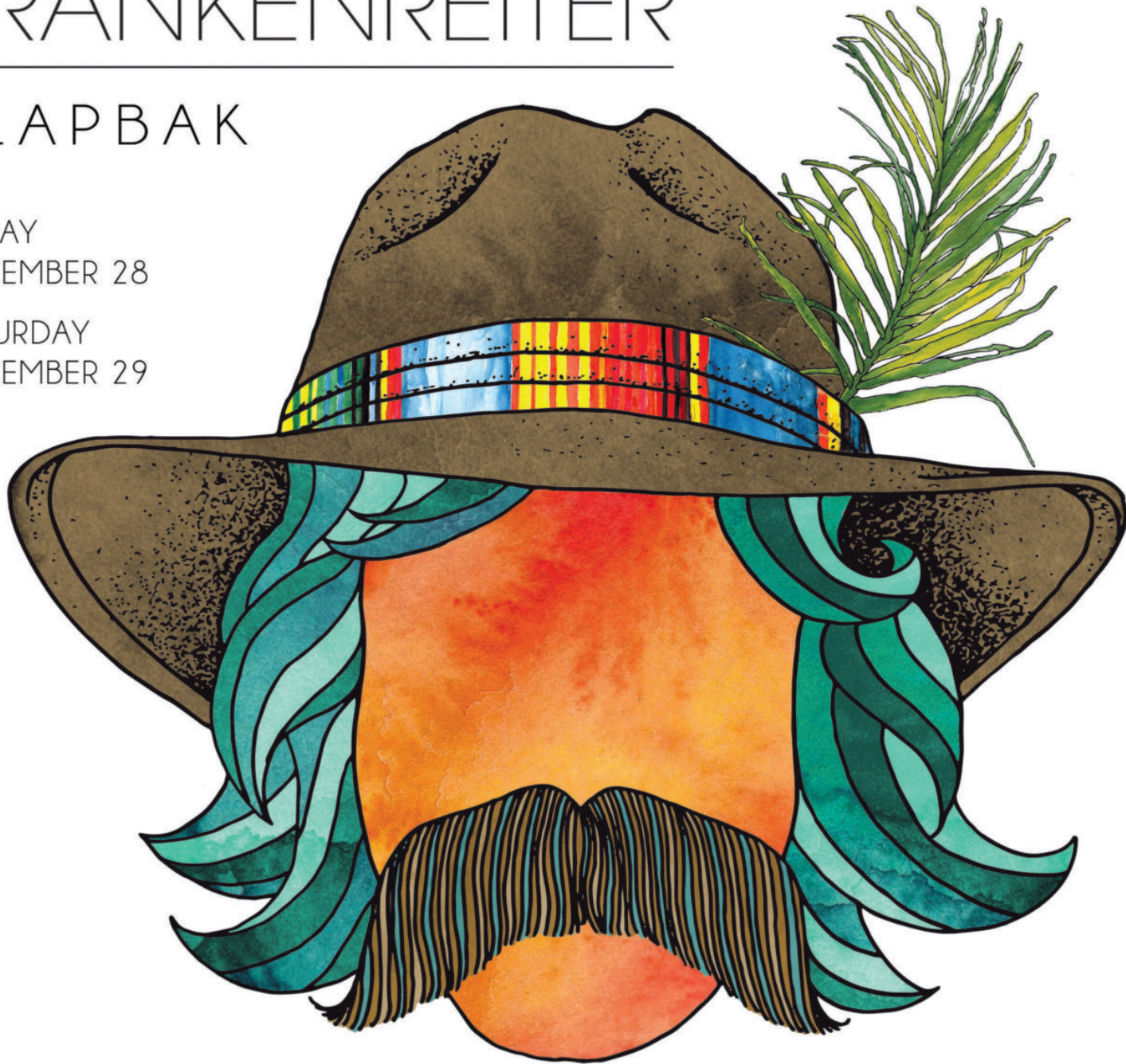
BELLY UP
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SLAPBAK

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 28

SATURDAY
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Local boy makes good

Ralph Breaks the Internet, Disney's sequel to *Wreck-It Ralph*, is superior to its predecessor in several ways. Character Designer Jeff Merghart, a La Mesa native who attended Helix High and Grossmont College before heading to Burbank to seek his fortune, didn't sign on until the second installment.

Coincidence?

Matthew Lickona:

When did you decide that you wanted to be a Disney artist?

Jeff Merghart: I had this plan when I was in kindergarten. I think I was two years old, and I remember my mom taking me to the theater to watch *The Jungle Book*, and I could not get it out of my mind. And then when *Robin Hood* came out in 1973, I remember seeing a poster of the main character and looking at it so long that I could see it in my head. And then I realized that if I could see it in my head, I could copy it. After that, I started researching who the artists were, who the animators were. We went to the library in La Mesa and got *The Art of Disney*. I studied *Wonderful World of Disney* when it showed on Sunday evenings. And then when *The Illusion of Life: Disney Animation* came out, I got that. I applied to Disney when I was still in high school, and I got the coolest rejection letter — with Snow White and the dwarves on the letterhead. I have it framed in my room at home. They sent me a pamphlet for Cal Arts, their animation training school, but that was a pipe dream. I decided to go to Grossmont College to get my AA and then go up and see if Don Bluth would hire me. He had left Disney and started his own little place, and he was working on *An American Tail* at the time.

ML: So you just headed up and knocked on the door, and he took you in?

JM: He took me in. I did an animation test and they hired me the same day. I thought I was special until I noticed later in the week that they were hiring pretty much anybody off the street. But it was great training. You learn from everybody around you, and you get slapped down a lot, and you learn a lot of stuff the hard way. But I'm glad I did it. I see students today with huge debt from art school — and all they learned was how to use a software program. They still can't draw. I stayed there until they moved to Ireland — that's where their investment partners were

from. I said, "There's no beaches there," and I came back to San Diego.

ML: So how did you finally wind up at Disney?

JM: In the summer of 2016, I got a call from a recruiter who was referred to me by one of Disney's lead artists, a friend of mine named Corey Loftis.

When he left the video game makers Carbine Studios in Aliso Viejo, I came in and filled his spot. And he was a fan of a game I used to do for the first PlayStation, *The Mark of Kri*. We both went from making video games to making a movie about video games.

ML: Do you have advice for someone who sees *Ralph Breaks the Internet* and decides they want to be a Disney artist?

JM: I tell students that their own art is never wrong as long as they're happy with the outcome, but if you want to be a professional, you have to be able to do what other people want. A good style of your own can get you in the door, but you need to be able to adapt and evolve. If you can't, you're not going to last.

ML: Favorite Disney films from a visual perspective?

JM: *Jungle Book*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Pinochhio*. From the new era, *Moana* and *Zootopia*. And of course, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*.

ML: The film's final boss-type character is one of more unsettling things I can recall seeing in a Disney film in some time.

JM: Ha! Yeah, you're welcome.

ML: How do you walk the line on that sort of thing when you're making a film that children will see?

JM: I know there were discussions, but Corey kept us protected from the gory details. He would come say, "Try to do the most so-and-so thing you can, and we'll see if we can get it approved." Apparently, it worked. We definitely had a sense of humor on this team.

ML: I know that design is a collaborative process, but was there a particular character you did a lot of work on, development-wise?

JM: Yes, Spamley.

ML: Who hawks internet spam.

JM: He was cool. We played with different attitudes. We thought about a used car salesman, or Bob Odenkirk's character from *Breaking Bad*. Someone's who's annoying but lovable at the same time. I think Corey put the newsboy cap on him. Some suggestions for voice actors were pitched to



Jeff Merghart: When you wish upon a star (and also practice super hard...)

us, and we kind of based our designs on how he'd look if this actor or that actor voiced him.

— Matthew Lickona

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unrereviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

Alanis — A young prostitute (with child in tow) is bounced from her "house" by the same law enforcement officers sworn to help keep her off the streets. In this case, writer-director Anahi Berneri's fly on the wall technique frequently translates into long takes from a fixed camera giving ample time, if not space, to observe our lead character. Other than its naturalistic presentation, the film doesn't offer much in the way of drama. Whatever preconceived notions about sex industry workers that accompany you into the theatre are bound to be shattered thanks in large part to Ms. Gala's frank and tender performance. There are explicit scenes, but given the self-conscious, downright clinical presentation of the sex acts, don't expect anything that could possibly be construed as pornographic. And with more images of breastfeeding than one would find on a pregnancy website, the repeated shots of Alanis suckling her baby while on the run eventually bring a smile to one's face much in the manner of a running joke. 2017. — S.M. ★★☆☆ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

At Eternity's Gate — *Lust for Life* reimaged by Julian Schnabel and starring Willem Dafoe as Vincent Van Gogh and Oscar Isaac as Paul Gauguin. 2018. (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Backyard Wilderness 3D — In this latest domed-IMAX release, humans peaceably coexist with critters commonly found in the garden. 2018. (SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM)

Beautiful Boy — The story of a college kid hooked on drugs as told by a director who's addicted to closeups. (He has a macro lens on his back.) As the lad's dad, Steve Carell is aiming at the rafters (and an Oscar), while his young supporting player — and last year's Academy darling, Timothee Chalamet — adds depth to his characterization by wisely playing Nic as an addictive personality trying to act "normal" around his family so that they will continue to enable him. He's a winsome lad, a chatty good-natured kid who could talk his AA sponsor into joining him for a couple of cocktails after the meeting. Like any good TV movie, as presented, Nic's swearing off meth is no worse than kicking a two-pack-a-day cigarette habit. Those looking for a feel-good message will discover that, other than a pair of actors hucking for an award, nothing about this *Boy* is even remotely inspiring. 2018. — S.M. ★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST; READING CINEMAS TOWN SQUARE; REGAL RANCHO DEL REY)

Bohemian Rhapsody — Substantive biopic, or little silhouette of a docudrama sporting performances by a Queen tribute band? As frontman Freddie Mercury, Rami Malek's ability to outdistance the *Nutty Professor* bucks and *Planet of the Apes* shag is a testament to his charisma. Alas, almost from the start the project seemed ill-omened. It's not every day when a director, in this case *X-Men* mimeographer Bryan Singer, is let go part way through production due to chronic tardiness. (He was replaced by HBO veteran Dexter Fletcher, who shot for 16 days, oversaw post-production, and failed to receive a co-directing credit). Then there's screenwriter Anthony McCarten, working overtime to run the more sordid aspects of the Mercury's life through a PG-13 denaturizer. (Kindly check the camera at the door once Mercury has followed the burly trucker into the gas station lavatory.) And I don't care if Mike Myers was half of *Wayne's World*: bang the "Gong!" for yet another latexed takeoff on a British showbiz sycophant. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Border (Gräns) — Answers the question, "What if *X-Men*'s story of Xavier and Magneto — mutant Others with

remarkable powers trying to decide how to live in a normie world that hates and/or fears them — was played out, not between handsome youngsters (McEvoy and Fassbender) or dignified oldsters (Stewart and McKellan), but a pair of middle-aged genuine oddballs with highly unusual facial features, ungainly physiques, and the cramped social sensibilities that come from a life spent as a genuine outcast?" Also drags the resultant struggle from the realm of CGI supergestures into far more personal territory, such as when the wickedly grinning Vore invites the horrified-but-fascinated Tina to join him in his woosy maggot snacking. Or when he tells her that her "deformed" genitalia is, in fact, perfect. Or when his revelations force her to reassess the fundamental relationships that have thus far given her meaning and stability. Director and co-writer Ali Abbasi's film is a murky, unsettling watch — but however unsettling, it remains gripping and affecting, its viscerality covering for its occasional elisions. 2018. — M.L. ★★☆☆ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Boy Erased — As if one feature per lifetime on the dodo-headed topic of conversion therapy weren't enough, make room for 2018's second big screen crusade to make bank off of public-spirited homophobe Mike Pence's pet project. The first thing the viewer notices is an overall aversion on the part of the characters to pay a light bill. It's 10 o'clock on a Sunday morning, and the family kitchen is darker than Don Corleone's study on Connie's wedding day. At least the narratively miseducational Cameron Post had a few unintentional laughs to help pass the time. Writer/director/co-star Joel Edgerton refuses to allow one contrary ray of sunshine to cloud his seemingly well-meant vision. Or is this less about compassion, human rights, and storytelling than it is down with actors looking to win prizes? If you know someone who is thinking of putting their kid though one of these programs, buy them a ticket. If not, what's the point? Review filed; *Boy Erased* degaussed for good. With Lucas Hedges, Russell Crowe, and Nicole Kidman. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Can You Ever Forgive Me? — Melissa McCarthy's bid for dramatic cred is just nasty enough to be enjoyable, thanks hugely to Richard E. Grant's gleeful turn as a dimwitted but high-spirited end-of-the-line party boy who befriends our heroine just as she touches bottom. (Financially speaking, anyway; she's still got a ways to go morally.) McCarthy plays Lee Israel, a failed biographer who insists on writing about Fanny Brice even though nobody cares about Fanny Brice. Well, that's not quite true. Someone cares enough to pay for a personal (though typewritten) letter from the once-famous comedienne, because it turns out that celebrity knick-knacks are the modern saints' relics. Some of the glamour may linger, and the faithful are only too willing to believe and buy — especially after Israel juices the missive with a snappy PS. She quickly turns suckering the literati into a cottage industry, marshalling Grant and an army of vintage typewriters to her cause. Oh, how the film would have benefited from some illustration of how she found all those typewriters, one for each impersonated author. Instead, it spends too much time trying to humanize Israel via her relationships with a sweet bookseller, a former lover, and her cat. (How else will we know that McCarthy is a serious actress?) As it is, it benefits from cinematographer Brandon Trost's grey-brown depiction of New York City, and director Marielle Heller's (*Diary of a Teenage Girl*) matter-of-fact tone. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Colette — Once again, Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer, the writing/directing team that brought us *The Last of Robin Hood*, find delight in giving audiences a biographical glimpse into the lives of a publicly scandalous pair — in this case, ghostwriter, androgynous fashion plate, and all-around feminist icon Colette (Keira Knightley) and her willfully puffed up husband Willy (Dominic West). To paraphrase the arrogant blighter, “Bad cinema is like dentistry; you have to stay in your seat until the damn thing is over.” Happily, there's no pain to be gained from watching this sumptuously designed and mounted romance. Cinematographer Giles Nuttgens' use of highly-reflective surfaces is a revelation, and Thomas Adès' lush score hits a melodramatic high note. The level of wit being what it is, an accidental fart in front of his bride gets punctuated by Willy's declaration, “Intimacy in all its savage abandon, my darling!” Look upon this as a reward to those who suffered through *The Wife*. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Creed II — A pleasant crowd-pleaser. Ryan Coogler, having gone on to bigger and bigger things with *Black Panther*, steps aside and lets relative newcomer Steven Caple, Jr. do the job of mixing the beats of *Rocky III* — losing your edge and finding it again — and *Rocky IV* — facing the deadly Russian menace — into a smooth groove for the son of Apollo Creed (Michael B. Jordan). (His mom may call him a grown man now and again, but this is very much a story about growing up: facing fears, taking responsibility, quitting the grandiose narcissism of youth, etc.) The result is better than might be expected, still heavy on the Instagram aphorisms (right down to a marriage pro-posal that includes the line “You're the only person that I want to share my moments with”) and lacking something of the original's innovative in-fight camerawork, but still managing to keep its pace and stick its moments. The Eye of the Tiger gets replaced by the Voice of the Tigress (sound, the dropping away of it, is a big theme here) as champ Creed



Ralph Breaks the Internet: Spamley (who Merghart helped design) lands a couple of customers

gets drawn into a blood feud with the son of the guy who killed his dad. That guy is of course Dolph Lundgren, making the absolute most of his turn as a weather-beaten warrior who never recovered from his Big Loss. With Tessa Thompson and Sylvester Stallone. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald — J.K. Rowling goes full Dickens (or at least Dickensian) in an absolute dreary slog of a story full of mysterious bloodlines, secret and/or forbidden and/or frustrated love affairs, unfeeling social mores, class struggle, wretched bureaucracy, fractured families, and awkward allegories. Oh, and a big, weird speech from Johnny Depp as the titular criminal about how wizards have to rule the world in order to save humanity from themselves, as if being magical necessarily had anything to do with being good. Along the way, there are some nifty bits of CGI — black silken sheets rippling through the Parisian cityscape were very nice, and Eddie Redmayne's fantastic animal-lover gets a fun sequence where

he uses flashback magic to play fellow social misfit Sherlock Holmes. But dash it all, even the devoted will likely struggle with the reams of expository talk and gobs of unearned feeling and scads of largely pointless beasties, plus some just plain lazy visuals (looking at you, magic cats). Director David Yates does what he can to provide motion and mood, but gets bogged down in the narrative and dramatic muddle. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald The IMAX 2D Experience — J.K. Rowling goes full Dickens (or at least Dickensian) in an absolute dreary slog of a story full of mysterious bloodlines, secret and/or forbidden and/or frustrated love affairs, unfeeling social mores, class struggle, wretched bureaucracy, fractured families, and awkward allegories. Oh, and a big, weird speech from Johnny Depp as the titular criminal about how wizards have to rule the world in order to save humanity from themselves, as if being magical necessarily had anything to do with being

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The Front Runner — The lighter-than-air unbroken take that opens the picture is director Jason Reitman's way of demonstrating that he's inventive enough to do something with his camera other than dangling it before his cast's faces, which is precisely and unfortunately the main mode of expression he leans on through the rest of the picture. People answer in punchlines here, and leave it to Reitman

to always lead with irony. Not one cigarette is smoked in *Thank You For Smoking*, and here, the most damning piece of evidence hurled against Gary Hart — the *National Enquirer* cover with Donna Rice parked on his lap — is nowhere in sight. What's the takeaway? Had we heeded the wisdom of an erudite womanizer, there'd have been no Trump? And all this talk of the real Gary Hart's plush follicles is moot when all Hugh Jackman has to show for himself is a shaggy sheitel. With Vera Farmiga, wasted in the role of little woman, and J.K. Simmons turning base metal dialogue into gold. 2018. — S.M. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; EDWARDS MIRA MESA; REGAL SAN MARCOS)

The Girl in the Spider's Web — The child in the curtailed rape scene that opens the picture matures into the woman with the Moe Howard haircut (Claire Foy), a torture artist whose idea of revenge amounts to little more than sticking out a hand and demanding that her aggressors “Pick two!” A few moments of tense action — a motorcycle getaway on thin ice had me going — are done in by wanton coincidence and/or dunder-headed character motivation: would the young boy — who just moments before witnessed his father's murder — have the wherewithal to tell his abductor which of the cars in the parking garage would make the coolest getaway vehicle? It would probably be more fun to watch were the entire premise not predicated on incest and child abuse. Spoiler alert: for a picture ostensibly about female empowerment, why is the day saved by the equivalent of a fat guy seated before a computer in his mom's basement? Fede Alvarez (*Evil Dead, Don't Breathe*) directs. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Green Book — Peter Farrelly (*There's Something About Mary, Dumb and Dumber*) puts on his big boy pants with this biographical dramedy about a working-class Italian-American bouncer (Viggo Mortensen) who becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist (Mahershala Ali) on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. 2018. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The House That Jack Built — The latest from Lars Von Trier stars Matt Dillon as Jack, a brainy serial killer who, over the course of 12 years, masters his craft. 2018.

FILM FESTIVALS

Back to the Future (1985)

While going through his father's yearbook, co-screenwriter Bob Gale began wondering if he and his old man would have hung out together in high school. Why didn't we think of that? Had that simple thought passed through one of our heads, we would be parked atop one of Hollywood's biggest and most beloved franchises. I've yet to find a man, woman, or child who was not enthralled by Marty McFly's delightfully vulgar (as in Frank Tashlin) experiments in time-travel. Universal Studios honcho Sid Sheinberg saw no future in a picture with the word “future” in its title. In the depths of his ignorance, Sheinberg contacted director Robert Zemeckis, insisting there was more money to be made from something titled *Spaceman From Pluto*. Producer Steven Spielberg wrote back, congratulating Shienberg on his hilarious “joke memo.” Embarrassed to admit he wasn't kidding, the title stood. Be sure and call friends back east and rub in that you're poolside in November, watching a movie. Any movie!

THE PEARL HOTEL DIVE-IN THEATRE:
November 21 at 8 pm

Love, Actually (2003)

It's rare to find me purposely avoiding a picture on its initial run, but one look at the trailer and an insulin shot seemed in order. But in time, some films have a way of catching up with you, and this was a lot less painless than originally feared. First off, the welcome number of family-unfriendly laughs this R-rated holiday comedy brought forth were surpassed only by the superabundance of familiar faces from British cinema's royal guard who signed on to do this

script: Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Keira Knightley, and most of all, Alan Rickman and Bill Nighy, the latter's aging rock star garnering the lion's share of the laughs. This was the directorial debut of screenwriter Richard Curtis, whose *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Bridget Jones's Diary* have also purposely escaped my gaze. Gotta save something for the deathbed. Not coincidentally, the film screens approximately five weeks before Christmas, the same time that the movie commences.

ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA: November 26 at 7:30 pm

The Stranger (1946)

Orson Welles called it the least-loved of all the pictures he signed, and was said to have accepted the gig only to show the world that he was capable of producing a proper Hollywood narrative. (As if the greatest genius ever to stand behind a camera had anything to prove to anybody.) The joke is, this is the only one of the films Welles directed to turn a profit. Edward G. Robinson stars as an FBI agent who tracks fugitive Holocaust architect Franz Kindler (Welles) to a small Connecticut town, where he has assumed the identity of a happily married school teacher. The Welles touch is felt most during the film's stunning climax in a church belfry.

Historical footnote: this was the first mainstream release to include footage of Hitler's concentration camps. Ralph DeLauro will be on hand to introduce the film and conduct a post-show discussion.

THE CHULA VISTA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY FILM FORUM: November 28 at 6 pm

—Scott Marks



Edward G. Robinson, Loretta Young, and Orson Welles form a totem pole of terror in *The Stranger*.

Calendar

MOVIES

(ANGELIKA FILM CENTER & CAFÉ)

Instant Family — Instant sitcom with Marky Mark and Rose Byrne. Sean Anders (*That's My Boy*, *Daddy's Home*) directs? 2018. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Jurassic Park — Spielberg. Dinosaurs. What more need be said? You get what you expect. Or in blurb-ese: "It delivers the goods." But it nowhere exceeds or confounds expectations. The premise, from the Michael Crichton novel, is essentially that of Crichton's *Westworld* with dinosaurs in lieu of robots: amusement park gone haywire. And the *kind* of sensation peddled in it, like the kind in the same director's *Jaws*, is the rudimentary fear of sharp objects. Or more accurately, graphically, and literal-mindedly, fear of being punctured, severed, minced by same: *My, what big teeth you have, Grandma!* (Fear of blunt objects, or fear of being swiped, stomped, scrunched by same, hardly enters into it.) It is a sensation long on bodily discomfort, short on wonder — a questionable balance in a movie that bridges the sixty-five-million-year gap between man and dinosaur. With Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, and Richard Attenborough. 1993. — S.M. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Love Actually — A five-week countdown to Christmas Eve, plenty of time and the proper occasion to show how love makes the world go round, or anyhow makes Jolly Old England go round. The writing and directing debut of Richard Curtis, writer only on *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (he herein reminds us by staging, in short order, one wedding and a funeral), it boasts a good-looking image as long as you like your people to look like dolls, a soundtrack chockablock with popular love songs, and a host of rolling-off-a-log performances by such smoothies as Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Colin Firth, Liam Neeson, Martine McCutcheon, Keira Knightley, Laura Linney, Bill Nighy, and, in a cameo as an exasperatingly punctilious store clerk, Rowan Atkinson. Grant stands out, not as a performance but as a figure of fantasy and even of fairy tale, an informal, unstuffy, lighter-than-Blair Prime Minister who falls for an overweight comonomer (at any rate the script says she's overweight), and who dances solo to a Pointer Sisters toe-tapper when he thinks he's alone (surefire laugh: he's alone but for a prim, middle-aged secretary), and who stands up to the bullying United States President (a sanded and shellacked Billy Bob Thornton) at a televised press conference. There's a fantasy there for almost everyone. But Curtis, upping the ante on the multi-character *Four Weddings*, is juggling too many balls this time. Or more to the point, dropping too many. The particular balls of a couple of porn actors (pun intended) tend to exclude the kiddies from this Christmas party. And possibly their grannies and grampies as well. 2003. — D.S. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Monrovia, Indiana — Welcome to Monrovia, a town that voted overwhelmingly in favor of Trump. A town where Sunoco 260 gasoline is spoken of in the same revered tones one would summon when speaking of a de-ceased parent. Unlike 99% of Americans, Frederick Wiseman resists mixing business with politics, treating such hot-button issues as a visit to a gun shop and the validity of CBD oil with the same gravity he would



Happy Thanksgiving! What do you call it when a duck eats a turkey? Delicious!

afford buying a park bench for the town library. At a church wedding, a rhapsodic rendition of "Always" stops the show. It took a moment to get past the beauty of the soloist's voice and realize that it was originating from one of the only, if not the only, person of color Wiseman's camera captures. The red state further shows its true colors during a brief layover at the County Fair where t-shirts alternately degrade women and proudly point out the State's number of legal conceal and carry permits. This is Wiseman at his clear-cut best. Stop reading and run to the theatre. 2018. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington — Frank Capra's take on American politics, starring Jimmy Stewart. 1939. (VIN-TAGE VILLAGE THEATRE)

Nobody's Fool — Tyler Perry's first R-rated comedy stars Tika Sumpter, Tiffany Haddish, and Whoopi Goldberg. 2018. (REGAL ESCONDIDO; REGAL RANCHO SAN DIEGO; REGAL RANCHO DEL REY)

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms — How do you know it's a Disney picture even if you've missed the magic castle logo? The protagonist's mother is dead before the opening credits roll and a mouse shall lead them. Make that King Mouse, a creature made whole only when hundreds of Mickeys stand on each other's shoulders to form a lean, mean, vermin machine. Morgan Freeman and Helen Mirren bring little more than marquee value to justify their paychecks, and it would have been hard to find someone less emotive and more void of humor than star Mackenzie Foy. And yet, maybe see it anyway, for the effects work and production design, both of which are nothing short of spectacular. Lasse Hallstrom (*My Life as a Dog*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*), Disney's first choice for director, was unavailable when it came time to return for the additional CGI work needed to complete the film. So visual effects doyen Joe Johnston (*Honey, I Shrank the Kids*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*) was contracted for 32 days of reshoots. My biggest regret is not having seen it in 3D. With equal tributes to Leopold Stokowski and Dave Edmunds. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Overlord — A WWII zombie film.

Really? Aren't Nazis frightening enough that you don't need to add more monsters? 2018. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Pandas — In the mountains of Sichuan, China, a researcher forms a bond with Qian Qian, a panda who is about to experience nature for the first time. See it in IMAX! 2018. (FLEET SCIENCE CENTER)

Robin Hood — Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx, and star in the umpteenth retelling of the legend of Sir Robin of Loxley. They should have quit with Errol Flynn. Otto Bathurst directs. 2018. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Scrooged — Dickens's *Christmas Carol* recast as a comic vehicle for Bill Murray: about the most depressing evidence yet available for the fate of the sentimental vein in fiction, with tons of "production values" to supply the crushing *coup de grâce*. Such is the depth of Murray's insincerity — his remoteness from his role and his shin-rubbing coziness with his audience — that he can manage to be no more convincing as the misanthrope at the start than as the philanthrope at the end. And there are no intermediate stages. With Karen Allen and Bobcat Goldthwait; directed by Richard Donner. 1988. — D.S. ● (CINÉPOLIS DEL MAR; CINÉPOLIS LA COSTA; CINÉPOLIS VISTA)

A Star is Born — Actor Bradley Cooper puts on the hats of writer, director, and soulful, drunken country rocker for the latest version of this oft-told tale of lovers whose stars are crossing (hers ascending, his crashing to earth). In this case, the "her" is known pop-star quantity Lady Gaga, a singer whose work has often displayed the kind of knowing theatricality that shows up here. She oozes swoon-worthy confidence onscreen, even when she's playing unconfident and shy, and the appeal of it will surely be enough to carry some folks through the, um, generous runtime. But if 2011's *The Artist* was an homage, this is more of a burlesque, a hot mess of a movie that takes its dramatic cues from the camp excesses of the drag queens among whom our hammered hero finds the lucky Lady. (She performs "La Vie en Rose" while extracting actual roses from her dress, and from this, he guesses she's a songwriter, one with something to say and a way to say it.) The movie is about the bitch goddess fame — YouTube views, record deals, TV appearances,

industry awards. But Cooper seems to be chasing something more exalted: a personal drama broadcast via pop songs. As a result, there's a lot of talk about artistic integrity — but there's not nearly enough genuine drama or artistry on display to justify all the *sturm und drang*. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Studio 54 — Read the book. Early on in Matt Tyrnauer's documentary about the famous/infamous New York City discotheque, co-founder (and chief talking head) Ian Schrager is shown the galleys for a mammoth, photo-rich book about the place he just calls "Studio." And the best things about the film are the black and white stills that undoubtedly live between its covers. It's almost strange: motionless, they crackle with more energy than the many clips of folks dancing druggily with themselves; monochromatic, they burn with the color of the crazy times. The movie tries hard to make the story of the club's rise and fall emblematic of an era, but in the end, it's about a couple of old friends from the neighborhood who got lucky, got greedy, and got caught. After that, one got sick and the other got rich. 2018. — M.L. ★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Superman — Out of a desire to be definitive, this lavish Superman adventure allows itself to become bogged in biography. It presumes a familiarity with Superman mythology, and often plays on that familiarity, but it is still willing to bore the audience with elementary information about life on Krypton (where the culture is proven to be advanced by having the inhabitants speak in British accents) and about Superman's rural upbringing on Earth. After an hour or so, the movie finally arrives in Metropolis (an uncamouflaged New York City, the Statue of Liberty and all, fills the bill) and introduces Christopher Reeve (forceful as the Caped Wonder, but rather lame as newsmen Clark Kent, speaking in a gosh-darn-golly Andy Hardy idiom). And the rest of the movie recalls the *Batman* television show in the late 1960s, with its vaudeville villainy, facetious flag-waving, and Boy Scout morality. Gene Hackman, Marlon Brando, Margot Kidder, and Valerie Perrine; directed by Richard Donner. 1978. — D.S. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Venom — Director Ruben Fleischer can't be blamed for making a movie that tracks so closely with one released just a few

weeks earlier (the equally clumsy *Predator* remake from Shane Black): once again, we have an alien invader who decides, for whatever reason, to aid humanity in thwarting a full-scale invasion by his fellow aliens. But he can probably be blamed for the clumsiness — the vacillating tone that pings between lowbrow slapstick and sci-fi horror; the slippery, slip-shod nature of the relationship between the black-goo alien and his host, disgraced reporter Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy, acting like a live-action cartoon); the hacky dialogue, which sports clichés like "You look like shit" and "You and I are not so different;" and the dim, deadly visuals. The *Venom* symbiote requires a perfect match to bond with its host; otherwise, the host is doomed. The *Venom* movie plays like a midnight horror feature that has invaded a superhero movie, and while there are some laffs to be had — Hardy's delivery is excellent, and his discussions with the growly alien voice in his head are suitably zany — it's far from a perfect match. 2018. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Widows — A group of gangster widows, led with tigerish confidence by Viola Davis, find their husbands' blueprint for a heist and decide to try their hands at robbery. *Widows* peaks when focusing on the crime at hand. Basing his story on a pair of six-part Thames Television mini-series from the 80's, director Steve McQueen has a tough job of holding together all of the plot strings without overlapping into coincidence. (Fortunately for Elizabeth Debicki, the trio's first meeting is being held on the same night that she decides to test the waters as a high-price call girl. That way, if she bails, it's just a short cab ride across town and out of the plot contrivance.) The worse the bad guy, the better the picture. We could have used more of Daniel Kaluuya's flagrant nastiness — his "rapping dumpster" shootings help to compensate for Robert Duvall's moth-eaten performance as a racist politician. It could be the most thinly-sketched character ever presented him. Still, there's enough quality action and surprises to keep it interesting. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Wildlife — Actor Paul Dano's move into directing, co-writing, and co-producing for *Wildlife* probably won't attract anything like the attention that Bradley Cooper's similar turn for *A Star is Born* has, and it's a pity, because it's a strong (if awfully sad, though not self-pityingly so) debut and a better film, built around a remarkably similar theme: simultaneous (and related) male collapse and female empowerment in the midst of a marriage. The big difference here, storywise, is that there's a kid around to catch the fallout. Carey Mulligan opens the proceedings seemingly content to pour her strength and genius into the project of supporting restless husband Jake Gyllenhaal and teenage son Ed Oxenbould, but when Jake makes it clear that he's looking for meaning and purpose outside the home — in this case, fighting a wildfire up in the mountains above their small Montana town — she finds she can't help but reassess. Mulligan is compelling and convincing as a woman becoming who she may have been all along, but the film doesn't pretend that the end result is glorious, or that the emergence isn't painful for all concerned. Throughout the process, Mulligan trembles like a soufflé on the verge of collapse, and her unfortunate son can do little but watch and listen and do his best to grow up much too fast. Truth be told, it's his story — but it's Mulligan's movie. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Pessimistic, paralyzed, and sexy

By comparison, happiness looks like a sweaty pig.

Act one, scene two, of *Hamlet* begins with jubilation. King Claudius and Queen Gertrude celebrate their marriage. Rhinish wine spills from gleaming goblets. Bright colors swirl around the stage. Over in a corner — usually downstage right — a black smudge darkens the scene. It's Prince Hamlet, staring at the floor with a “drooping eye.”

The scene ends with gloom. Alone, Hamlet speaks: “How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of the world... ’Tis an unweeded garden that grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature/Possess it merely.” Whether Hamlet is sane or mad as Max is open to interpretation. One thing is certain: he is melancholic.

In Shakespeare's day, melancholy was a malaise beyond sadness. Excessive black bile secretions from the spleen dried one up and resulted, according to Robert Burton — whose *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621) is a thousand-page treatise on the subject — in “a pessimistic sense of inadequacy.” The poet John Keats called it the “wakeful anguish of the soul.” Although it could lead to near paralysis, some found the despondent condition appealing; one saw through the illusions of the world. In her *The Melancholy Play*, Sarah Ruhl finds it sexy.

The passing of the torch. The late Maria Irene Fornes — she died October 30, age 88 — was one of the great playwrights of her era. She taught Paula Vogel (*How I Learned to Drive*), who said, “In the work of every American playwright at the end of the 20th century, there are only two stages: before she has read Maria Irene Fornes and after.” Vogel, in turn, taught Sarah Ruhl at Brown University. San Diego has embraced Ruhl, with stagings of *The Clean House*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*, and others. *The Melancholy Play* was one of her earliest efforts (2002), which she revised in 2012. But even in the original version, you can see the influences of Fornes and Vogel, along with a seriously impish urge to take theater beyond comfortable limits. Even the unappealing title takes a chance: prepare for gloom, all you ticket buyers. But the play is funny, witty,

and as absurd as Ionesco.

Tilly, a bank teller, is melancholic. She sees the end in a beginning. To her, spring flowers are sad because their beauty will fade and they will die. She can find poetry in an empty room and a virtue in bad teeth (“You look old before you're old”). Since melancholia is a dry condition, her mouth feels like she just ate an almond — and she never feels full.

For this and other reasons, to Tilly, “cheerful people are the worst sort.” They're so full of themselves they drive her nuts. They question nothing; their positive attitude won't let them. If they saw *Star Wars* they couldn't accept the Dark Side of the Force. It doesn't equate with their chipper picture.

Happy people, however, find Tilly appealing beyond measure. Lorenzo, a flamboyant psychiatrist, is convinced he's a master of “unfeeling.” When they first meet, he says she's proud of her melancholy, “a little vain, even.” Not long after, he falls topsy-turvy in love. Tilly's melancholia also nabs hairdresser Frances and nurse Joan, a heretofore allegedly gleeful couple. Throw in Frank, a tailor, and the play becomes *Invasion of the Happy-Snatchers*.

Why? Tilly thinks she suffers “so well and so often,” that “when a stranger sees me cry they see a river they haven't swum in.” Or maybe a melancholic allows an ego to feel superior: to “love someone and also pity them”? Or, it could just be that, by comparison, happiness, as one says, looks like a “sweaty pig”?

But just when the play looks like it has hit a cul-de-sac, Ruhl makes the kind of move Fornes and Vogel would commend: Tilly falls bonkers in love with Frank. She has such a joy-attack that the others think she's a “monster.”

Ruhl makes a second leap late in the play that recalls Eugene Ionesco's absurdist antics. Frances becomes such a dry melancholic she turns into an almond. Can they save her? The ending's a mite silly, but by then, Inner Mission Productions' work carries the day.

Ruhl subtitled *Melancholy* “a contemporary farce.” Expect frantic movement and seven slam-

THEATER

JEFF SMITH



The Melancholy Play: “Prepare for gloom, all you ticket buyers.”

The Melancholy Play, by Sarah Ruhl

Inner Mission Productions, Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Boulevard, University Heights
Directed by Carla Nell; cast: Patrick Mayuyu, Cristyn Chandler, Scott Striegel, Hannah Logan, Vanessa Dinning; scenic design, Ron Logan, costumes, Kym Pappas, lighting, Robert Malave, sound, Carla Nell, musical direction, Vanessa Dinning

Playing through November 24; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 pm

ming doors, right? But Ruhl has a note for actors: “Don't be afraid of sincere melodrama.” Okay, so a “melancholic farce.” But that's an oxymoron. How does one stage this brand new genre?

For an answer, see InnerMission's fun show. Instead of doors, designer Ron Logan hangs white,

empty picture frames in front of soft pastel pink and green walls. When not performing, the actors pose behind them. Energy's more in the mind than the body. Mood-swings rule the piece: the happy's giddy, the melancholics cobalt blue.

Director Carla Nell deserves credit for staging

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CLINT BLACK'S
LOOKING
FOR
CHRISTMAS

A NEW MUSICAL

Music and lyrics by Clint Black
Book by James D. Sasser with Clint Black
Directed by Kent Nicholson

Now playing through December 31

THE OLD GLOBE (619) 23-GLOBE TheOldGlobe.org

The cast of Clint Black's Looking for Christmas, 2018. Photo by Ken Howard.

Calendar THEATER

such an unprecedented genre. As does her game, committed cast for performing in uncharted territory as if they had an atlas. Hannah Logan does stellar work as bipolar Tilly. Patrick Mayuyu, Scott Striegel, Vanessa Dinning (also plays cello), and Cristyn Chandler (a new, welcome face) do standout work as well.

The show must close this weekend. See it, and you might leave the theater humming, "Come to me, my melancholy baby." ■

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 Christmas Carol

PowPAC stages a new version of the Dickens' classic. "On Christmas Eve, in 1843, friends and family gathered at Dickens' home ask him to tell a story. But he refuses to work on Christmas Eve. If there is going to be a story, then each must take a part in its telling." Anette Alliano directs. POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The Old Globe Theatre presents its traditional holiday show, in which the Green Meanie once again tries to ruin Christmas for Whoville. He has yet to succeed. Will he this time? James Vasquez directs. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Elf Jr. the Musical

The Ocean Beach Playhouse presents the story of Buddy, a young orphan, who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. "The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth." OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 6PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 6PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)

Patio Playhouse Community and Youth Theater presents this holiday musical-piece about a trio of performers determined to do something

other than the traditional A Christmas Carol. So they scroll through abridged versions of every yuletide tale they can recall, with help from the audience.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 E. GRAND AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

HIR

Cygnnet Theatre has an impressive reputation for high quality shows. This isn't one. Taylor Mac's "black comedy" says important things about the transgender and other spectrums (each character also has a place on the cruelty spectrum). It's more a scene piece than a play, since most of the time people hurl insults at each other, along with violent slapstick antics. Deanna Driscoll gives a truly fine performance as Paige, New Age/slasher-mom, and Sean Fanning delivers another detail-perfect set. Although he has done good work before, director Rob Lutfy hasn't a clue and has settled for one loud, two-hour scream out with little respite or nuance.

CYGNNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 8PM SATURDAYS.

Heathers: The Musical

The new Off-Broadway Theatre Company presents a "pre-professional" staging of the musical, based on the 1989 film. Three Heathers rule Westerberg High, "the hottest and cruelest girls in all of Ohio. But misfit Veronica Sawyer's new boyfriend, the dark and sexy stranger J.D., plans to put the Heathers in their place. — six feet under." Kyle Hawk directs.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical retells the biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers, and a coat of many colors by blending pop,

country, and rock. Jason R. Bailly directs. Favorite songs include: "Those Canaan Days," "Any Dream Will Do," and "Close Every Door." CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Looking for Christmas: The New Clint Black Musical

The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of a musical "about family, loyalty, and the magic of Christmas," based on country music legend Clint Black's 1995 chart-topping holiday album. When Staff Sergeant Mike Randolph returns from Afghanistan, "he must let go the ghosts of the battlefield." Kent Nicholson directs.

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Mamma Mia!

The musical celebrating the songs of ABBA is vibrantly being performed at the recently re-opened Welk Resort Theatre. This lighthearted, romantic romp through over 25 songs of the 70's musical team has a slight story line with some heartfelt moments. Directed with verve by Larry Raben and inventively choreographed by Karl Warden, it's a lively, entertaining show. Unfortunately, too much emphasis on props to animate the songs makes some numbers fall flat, such as "Chiquita" and "Dancing Queen." There are also minor cases of miscasting in the male ensemble. Jennifer Edwards lighting does much to create the mood and feel of a Greek island. Impressive performances by Misty Cotton, Barbara Schoenhofer, and Olivia Hodson. *Worth a try.* Review by Larry Steckling. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS.

Melancholy Play

InnerMission Productions offers the San Diego premiere of Sarah Ruhl's mystical comedy about Tilly's melancholy. It's so exquisite, so sexy, every singer she meets falls in love with her. Then one day, inexplicably, she becomes happy. Carla Nell directs.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS.

Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play

San Diego Musical Theatre stages Lance Arthur Smith's musical adaptation of the popular movie as performed on the 1947 Lux Radio Hour show. When a department store Santa claims he's the real Kris Kringle, his case goes all the way to the Supreme Court. "Staged with live Foley effects and a score of favorite holiday tunes."

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS.

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly

New Village Arts presents the San Diego premiere of Lauren Gundersen and Margot Melcon's holiday sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Two years after the novel ends, Mary is bored with her status as the forgotten middle sister. An unexpected guest at the family gathering may catch her eye. Kristianne Kurner directs.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Dickens for a Day. Charles Dickens didn't finish his 15th novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. So Rupert Holmes wrote a musical in which the audience chooses the murderer of young Edwin. Was it dastardly John Jasper, hot tempered Neville

Landless, or seven others? Holmes set the piece in a bawdy London music hall. OnStage Playhouse and Turning Tydes' co-production had some opening night glitches, probably overcome by now, but was entertaining nonetheless. *Worth a try.*

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Please Pass the Gravy

In the spirit of the season, Clairemont's community theater, Clairemont Act One, presents a very special production of eight short plays chosen from over 140 submissions from playwrights across the country. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Suggested for ages 12 and up.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 4324 CLAIREMONT MESA BL., CLAIREMONT. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

She Loves Me

The insouciant charm and effervescent spirit of the Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick musical has now taken residence at Scripps Ranch Theatre. The flimsy but surprisingly sturdy story of two people who fall in love, without knowing each is the other, has been adapted over and over. Ted Leib directs the highly charged, fast moving musical. N. Dixon Fish's ingenious set's like a complicated puzzle that turns, slips, and slides into place, showing the outside and inside of the Perfume Shop, a Hungarian street, an elegant restaurant, and more. Period wigs and hairstyles are the fine work of Kat Senior-Scott. Music director Terry O'Donnell on keyboard and Grant Clarkson on bass provide strong backup work, though being onstage is most disconcerting. Taylor Magee sings with a rare purity as unabashed Amalia. Luke Monday is charming as Georg and proves to be a strong musical comedy performer. *Worth a try.* Review by Larry Steckling.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

This Beautiful City

Diversions Theatre presents the San Diego premiere of the Civilians' drama, based on interviews with citizens of Colorado Springs, "the capital of the Evangelical movement." The piece "explores faith and the organized resistance against gay rights." Matt M. Morrow directs.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Waitress

Broadway/San Diego hosts a touring production of the musical, based on Adrienne Shelley's movie, about Jenna. She's a waitress and expert pie maker stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage. Could winning a baking contest change her life? SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7PM TUESDAY, NOV. 27 & WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28.

Who Dunnit? Seaport Village

Who Dunnit? Seaport Village hosts a scavenger hunt style Murder Mystery Adventure that lasts approximately 2 hours. The "interactive, self-guided tour" has check-



InnerMission Productions at Diversionsary

FINAL TWO SHOWS

"balm for the anxiety of life at its most hectic" Citybeat

"quirky and delightful" Uptown News

"crisp and often witty performances" Union Tribune

Melancholy Play by Sarah Ruhl

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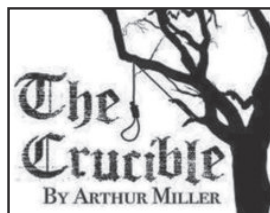
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By Lillian Hellman. In 1934 Massachusetts, two teachers, Martha and Karen, establish a successful private school for young women only to be confronted by a community that punishes the innocent with rumor and innuendo.

Palomar College

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Fri, Sat, Nov. 30 and Dec 1,
Dec. 7 and 8, 7 pm; Sun. Dec 2
and 9 2 pm; Thur, Dec 6, 4 pm.

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.

UPCOMING SHOWS

A Charlie Brown Christmas

The Village Church Community Theater presents “an event to celebrate the anticipation of Christmas and the real meaning of the season!” In Charles M. Schulz’s play, based upon his Peanuts television special, Charlie Brown is sad about the commercialization of Christmas. THE VILLAGE CHURCH, 6225 PASEO DELICIAS, RANCHO SANTA FE. NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 2.

A Christmas Carol

Cygnets Theatre stages its popular rendition, by artistic director Sean Murray, of Dickens’ holiday tale of extreme transformation. The piece includes puppets, a new musical sequence, and Tom Stephenson as one of San Diego’s finest Scrooges ever. Murray directs. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. DEC. 1 THROUGH DEC. 30.

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Lamplighters presents a celebration of Christmas set in 1980’s Julian. “Senior living at the local retirement center leaves it’s residents longing for an old-fashioned Christmas, like the ones they remember from their

childhood. They gather together to make a wish that comes true” in spite of unexpected consequences. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 16.

First Night

The Point Loma Playhouse stages Jack Neary’s “warm comedy” about Danny Flemming. He’s convinced that his dreams are just that. In walks his eighth-grade flame, Meredith O’Connor “only now she’s Sister Meredith Louise.” Jerry Pilato directs.

POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 16.

Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play

San Diego Musical Theatre stages Lance Arthur Smith’s musical adaptation of the popular movie as performed on the 1947 Lux Radio Hour show. When a department store Santa claims he’s the real Kris Kringle, his case goes all the way to the Supreme Court. “Staged with live Foley effects and a score of favorite holiday tunes.”

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. NOV. 29 THROUGH DEC. 23.

Scrooge in Rouge

Ocean Beach Playhouse stages “this quick-change, cross-dressing” version of the Charles Dickens classic, set in a Victorian music hall, where “a widespread case of food poisoning leaves only three surviving members to soldier on through a performance of *A Christmas Carol*.”

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 16.

She Kills Monsters

The Grossmont College Theatre Arts Department stages Qui Nguyen’s comedy about Agnes. After her sister Tilly’s death, Agnes stumbles upon her Dungeons and Dragons notebook. To search deeper into her sister’s identity, Agnes plays the game and “slays more than her own demons...because there’s also a Dragon.” Jason Heil directs. GROSSMONT COLLEGE, 8800 GROSSMONT COLLEGE DR., EL CAJON. 619-644-7000. NOV. 29 THROUGH DEC. 8.

Waitress

Broadway/San Diego hosts a touring production of the musical, based on Adrienne Shelley’s movie, about Jenna. She’s a waitress and expert pie maker stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage. Could winning a baking contest change her life?

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. NOV. 29 THROUGH DEC. 2.

Welk Illusions

Welk Illusions returns for a 14th season to the Welk Resort Theatre, starring Anthony Hernandez, who has been performing magic throughout Southern California for the past three decades. Hernandez made his name in local amusement parks, where he was voted as a Top Five Best Performer by IAAPA representing over 4500 amusement parks in 90 countries. Anthony and his partner, Dawn, can be heard on their own Sirius XM Radio Show, *The Magic Word*.

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. DEC. 5.

ANTI-REVIEW MICHA BARNES

The art of (avoiding) audience participation

IN THEATER’S EARLY DAYS, did a budding playwright sit through a performance, hoping and praying the actors might suddenly pause in their dialogue, turn toward the audience, and specifically include him or her as part of the action? Did that person go on to invent interactive theater? And was he subsequently beaten by a mob of introverts?

I supposed there must be an art to audience participation. I know there’s an art to avoiding it. Once a performer has committed to putting you in the spotlight, politely declining won’t always work. Not only will other stage actors apply social pressure for you to stop being so uptight and go along with it, the rest of the audience will expect you to as well. At that point, even if you avoid the trap of participating, the back and forth will net you just as much unwanted attention.

When the audience participation portion of a show begins, avoid making eye contact with the actors; that goes without saying. And if performers seem determined to single you out,

pretend to read the printed program so intently that you appear entirely oblivious to their requests.

Everyone will know you’re

dark bit.

Obviously, introverts aren’t the only people who attend theater. Probably most people enjoy being put on the spot, and actually have a lot of fun participating in the show. So it follows there must be a technique to letting an interactive cast member know that you’re game to participate.

It’s probably a subtle thing. Think of it like an audition. If you sit there raising your hand and wiggling in your seat like you’ve got a dozen hilarious jokes to shout out, they won’t see you as convincing. Better to seem coy about it, pliable. Catch someone’s eye, then look away shyly. Smile and, if you can, blush. Presume all actors are sadists seeking to torture introverts, and when you catch their eye again, don’t be afraid to show a little fear. They always seem to respond to that.

If you’re an extrovert, OnStage Playhouse will be staging musical comedy *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* until November 30. The cast lets the audience choose the ending to the mystery.



The Mystery of Edwin Drood

ignoring them, yes, but nobody will be able to prove it, and that illusion is usually enough in theatrical circles. At some point it becomes more embarrassing for them to keep insisting than for you to keep pretending, and the cast will be obliged to comply with “show must go on” statutes, and move along to somebody else.

This approach won’t win you any friends in the cast, but deep down, I like to think they secretly admire my commitment to the reading-a-program-in-the-

WATERFRONT continued from page 37

you’ll usually only see advanced and expert-level riders riding in boots.”

Larsen’s favorite air trick is an



“Boots enable me to practice aggressive tricks.”

inverted front roll with a boned-out tail grab. “To do this trick, you go as fast as you can, and load as much against the kite as you can before jumping,

to maximize your height,” he said. “On the way up, you throw your body over your front shoulder to initiate a front roll and at the same time bring your feet high above your head to get completely, vertically upside down — at that point you can grab your board, wave, or throw a shaka to the crowd.”

He remembers a recent injury during a “gnarly yard sale” (wipeout): “I blew the handle pass at the end of an s-bend and got yanked hard backwards as my kite crashed, causing my harness to ride up my ribs — which was enough to send me to urgent care for x-rays. I didn’t crack them, but was beached for about five weeks while they healed.”

Larsen has travelled for kiteboard-



“I’m most proud of my third-place finish in the men’s freestyle at the Maui Kite Fest in June.”

ing competitions. “I’m most proud of my third place finish in men’s freestyle at the Maui Kite Fest in June,” he said. “My age was the same as the sum of the first, second, and fourth place competitors combined. It was truly a bucket list moment to jump up on the podium at Maui, where kiteboarding was pioneered.”

— Mike Madriaga

FISH REPORT cont.

of yellowfin.

Unlike most fish, bluefin tuna are endothermic and can elevate their core temperature up to thirty-eight degrees above that of the water around them, which is why they will still be around some seasons when all the other pelagic species of summer have skeddaddled. They may be warm-blooded, but they are truly cold-hearted. Unlike most animals on the planet, the bluefin’s meat will be warm, yet the heart can drop drastically in temperature without stopping. This happens when they dive deep into the cooler water below: blood flows through the gills directly to the heart which mirrors the water temperature in spite of body temperature. Bluefin can dive to three thousand feet below the surface and their hearts can endure a twenty-seven degree change in temperature in a few minutes. This also accounts for their strength in battle when hooked, as well as their wide-ranging migrations.

Getting back to the cold-blooded fishes in the sea, sand bass continue to bite well on the flats off

Point Loma and Imperial Beach, while a few halibut have been reported caught on the trips targeting the same areas. The spotted bay bass bite has slowed in San Diego Bay, though some sand bass are being caught in the deeper parts of the channel. Bonito and mackerel are popping up on bait occasionally in the south bay, though that action is slowing down to mostly mackerel, and the schools are more infrequent than in previous weeks. Those fishing large baits on the bottom near the landings and piers in the bay are catching mostly bat rays with a few shovelnose mixed in.

A great season continues for the hoopnetters as they are doing very well on lobster and rock crab along the jetties and along the coast, especially near the reefs just outside of the reserves off La Jolla and Birdrock. Though the keeper to short ratio has dropped to about 1 in 5, there are still a few limits of seven being reported by kayakers and private boaters.

Fish Plants: 11/26, Jennings, trout (1,500)

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Come see what Yu Spa has to offer: Red clay sauna, Himalayan salt sauna, ice room, dry and steam saunas, hot and cold tubs, body scrub, massage, restaurant. 3927 Convoy Street, San Diego, 92111. 858-987-0476. YuSpaSD.com.

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**Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

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OIL CHANGE \$14⁹⁵
Additional \$5 cartridge fee. Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl. most cars

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Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes new oil filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil. 6-cyl. & 8-cyl. extra, some oil filters extra.

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Chris's
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858-270.1888

Oil Change Service from \$15⁹⁵

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*Vehicles requiring 5w20 or 5w30 are \$20.95

*canister filters and synthetic oil @ additional cost.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK STATION

Smog Check \$10 Off

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10% Off

Any repair over \$200
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*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.

Brake Service \$30 Off
per axle.

*Life time Brakes Available

*We do not advertise brake coupon prices because every vehicles requirements are vehicle specific.

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*includes toe adjustment of the front axle *4 wheel alignment \$20.00 additional cost, includes toe adjustment of front and rear axles.

*camber, caster adjustment at additional cost. See consultant for details.

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Most 4-cyl. Cars

\$99⁹⁵

ALIGNMENT

\$39⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. Cars

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

\$89⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. Cars

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Email: freeads@sandiegoreader.com
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Roommate, rental, and other business related ads are not free. Free ads placed in the order received and are not guaranteed to run in the paper. Free ads must be received at the Reader office by 5PM Monday.

SAN DIEGO Reader

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By appt only, Plus \$8.25 certificate, Year 2000 and newer. 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.

\$16⁹⁵ +tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

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Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

\$149

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Most cars, freon extra

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- New spark plugs
- Visual inspection
- 4-cyl. Most cars

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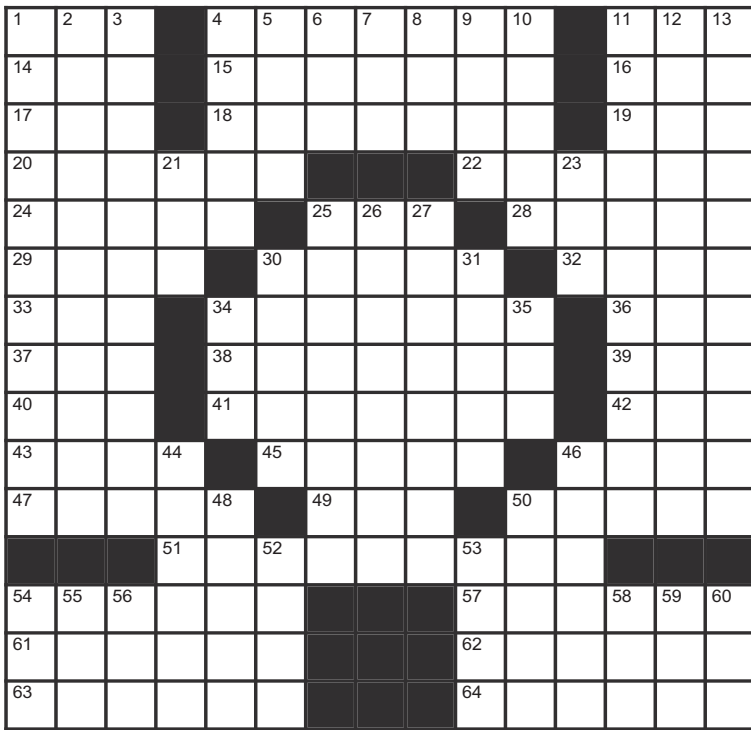
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RULES OF THE GAME

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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.

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

A	N	N	A	G	E	E	I	T	S	B	A	D
V	I	T	O	L	D	D	E	M	I	L	O	
I	N	K	Y	M	I	M	E	O	N	A	L	O
A	T	K	A	N	O	T	A	C	L	U	E	
S	H	I	N	D	I	G	R	O	C	K		
			G	A	N	D	H	I	O	R	D	E
A	B	S	N	O	A	A	E	A	T	M	E	
L	O	O	M	W	Y	T	H	E	B	O	S	S
E	N	L	A	I	H	A	S	P	N	O	S	
C	O	O	K	C	A	L	A	M	A	R	I	
			E	E	L	Y	M	U	U	M	U	S
S	C	A	B	B	L	E	D	U	M	N	O	
C	A	B	A	L	S	M	O	M	S	P	A	C
A	V	E	N	U	E	V	I	A	L	M	A	T
B	A	S	K	E	T	S	L	A	Y	I	P	O

Across

- Many promgoers: Abbr. (3)
- "South Pacific" song (7)
- _____ smear (3)
- Prefix meaning "same" (3)
- Not-so-great poker holding (7)
- _____ Khan (Islamic title) (3)
- Org. for docs (3)
- Fictional country in "Black Panther" (7)
- Gym unit (3)
- Purity units (6)
- Like an ass (6)
- How some hearts are broken (5)
- Navy rank below capt. (3)
- Brass or woodwind: Abbr. (5)
- Guitar part (4)
- Butterlike spreads (5)
- Grub (4)
- "Today" rival, in brief (3)
- Subtle differences (7)
- Land west of Eng. (3)
- Computer addresses, for short (3)
- Backhand and forehand, e.g. (7)
- My _____, Vietnam (3)
- English war god (3)
- Simultaneously (7)
- 1987-94 "Star Trek" series, briefly (3)
- _____ Mountains (range east of Moscow) (4)

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 WINNER:

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.

Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 18.

Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

45. Put up with (5)

- Vincent van _____ (4)
- Attacks from a snow fort, say (5)
- Lennon's love (3)
- Words to live by (5)
- Item suggested visually by the black squares in this puzzle's grid (9)
- Common word in insurance company names (6)
- Peter (out) (6)
- Bad way to be caught (6)
- Unencumbered by (6)
- Halloween personae (6)
- Promo team (6)

Down

- Using, as most kids do, a 52-Down (11)
- Edward Gibbon's subject (11)
- Dress code for some workplaces (11)
- Greet with humility (5)
- Actresses Gasteyer and Ortiz (4)
- Albanian currency (3)
- Brewpub offering, for short (3)
- Ben Solo's father (3)
- Many a staffer (4)
- Neighbor of a Syrian (5)
- Socialite with a perfume named "Heiress" (11)

- Weapon used in the Vietnam War (11)
- 52-Down's function, to some (11)
- Parrot's cry (3)
- Cuz's father (3)
- She became the "It" girl after starring in the 1927 movie "It" (8)
- Meaning (8)
- Many a Rolling Stone cover subject (8)
- "Straight _____ Compton" (5)
- Dreaded classroom note (5)
- "Snowden" org. (3)
- NNW's opposite (3)
- Shipmate of Capt. Kirk and Mr. Spock (6)
- Old, crotchety guy (6)
- Symbol of slowness (5)
- Car in the Beach Boys "Fun, Fun, Fun" (5)
- Cheers for toreadors (4)
- Like water _____ duck's back (4)
- Cold War flier (3)
- Durham sch. (3)
- Eastern "way" (3)
- The Hudson's Tappan _____ Bridge (3)
- Chop (off) (3)
- Fluffy trio? (3)

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

	1			6	4		
7	3		8	2			
5		2	4				
				8			2
		6			8		
2			1				
				4	1		7
			7	3		4	8
		9	6			3	

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Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

6	4	7	8	5	3	1	9	2
3	5	1	2	9	6	4	7	8
8	2	9	1	4	7	3	5	6
5	6	2	4	3	9	7	8	1
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	2	4
1	8	4	5	7	2	6	3	9
9	3	6	7	2	1	8	4	5
2	1	5	3	8	4	9	6	7
4	7	8	9	6	5	2	1	3

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

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Susan Hunt Williams, San Diego, 29.

Wait, What?

— Visitors to Merlion Park in Singapore on June 8 were startled to see Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump enjoying a casual walk-about, hand-in-hand. On closer inspection, however, they would have seen the two men were Howard X, a Kim impersonator, and Dennis Alan, a Trump impersonator, who traveled to Singapore in advance of the June 12 summit meeting between the two real leaders. Janette Warokka of Indonesia was fooled: "It's so shocking for me. I don't know why those two famous guys come here," she told the Associated Press. Airport officials were less amused when Kim's doppelganger, whose real name is Lee Howard Ho Wun, arrived at Changi Airport. Wun said police officers searched his bags and detained him for two hours before releasing him with stern warnings to stay away from the summit. Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said Wun was interviewed for about 45 minutes.

Crime Report

— Patrick Gillis, 18, a senior at Highlands High School and a volunteer firefighter for the Pioneer Hose Fire Department in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, told police he "just wanted to respond to a fire" on May 21, when he was arrested for starting a blaze in a vacant duplex where he used to live. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that witnesses told investigators Gillis was seen at the home before the fire started, then returned as a firefighter to help put it out. He admitted to setting a piece of paper on fire

and putting it in the microwave, then leaving. The Allegheny County Fire Marshal's Office estimated damage at \$150,000, and Gillis was charged with arson.

Bright Ideas

— A senior prank went unexpectedly wrong for high school student Kylan Scheele, 18, of Independence, Missouri, when he was slapped with a three-day suspension on May 23 and barred from participating in graduation after putting his high school up for sale on Craigslist. Scheele said it was meant to be a joke. "Other people were going to release live mice ... I thought, let's do something more laid back," he told Fox 4. The ad for Truman High School listed attractive amenities such as newly built athletic fields, lots of parking and a "bigger than normal dining room." A lawsuit filed against the school district by the ACLU of Missouri failed to reduce the punishment.

The Litigious Society

— If you've ordered a Quarter Pounder recently and specified "no cheese," you may be interested in a \$5 million class-action lawsuit brought against McDonald's on May 8 by Cynthia Kissner of Broward County, Florida, and Leonard Werner of Miami-Dade. According to the *Miami Herald*, the two are angry that they've been paying for cheese even though they ordered their sandwiches without it. The lawsuit contends "customers ... continue to be overcharged for these products, by being forced to pay for two slices of cheese, which they do

not want, order or receive." Also, Kissner and Werner "have suffered injury as a result of their purchases because they were overcharged" and "McDonald's is being unjustly enriched by these practices." While attorney Andrew Lavin admits the mobile app ordering option does offer a Quarter Pounder without cheese, he notes in-store customers have no such choice.

Irony

— Charlotte Fox, 61, an accomplished mountain climber who summited Mount Everest in 1996, met an unlikely death May 24 when she fell down the hardwood stairs at her home in Telluride, Colorado. Fox was part of the infamous 1996 Mount Everest expedition chronicled in "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer, when eight climbers died. Friends called her fall "shocking," according to *The Aspen Times*. Climbing partner Andrea Cutter said of the news, "It made me think, 'Jeez, it's just so wrong.'" San Miguel County Coroner Emil Sante said officials "have no reason to believe that it was suspicious at all."

Armed and Clumsy

— Things got wild on June 2 at Mile High Spirits and Distillery in Denver when an unnamed off-duty FBI agent accidentally shot patron Tom Reddington, 24, in the lower leg. According to the Denver Post, the agent was dancing and did a backflip, which caused his firearm to come out of its holster and fall to the floor. When he bent to pick up the gun, it discharged.

"I heard a loud bang," Reddington said, "and I thought some idiot set off a firecracker. All of a sudden, from the knee down became completely red, and that's when it clicked in my head, 'Oh, I've been shot.'" A man at the bar applied a tourniquet to Reddington's leg. The FBI agent was taken to Denver police headquarters and released to an FBI supervisor. Mile High Spirits has promised "complimentary drinks forever" to Reddington.

Sweet Revenge

— In a bid to unseat his boss, Bon Homme County, South Dakota, Deputy Sheriff Mark Maggs thrashed Sheriff Lenny Gramkow in the June 5 Republican primary by a vote of 878 to 331. So Sheriff Gramkow didn't waste any time: Less than a minute after the polls closed, he fired Maggs, the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* reported. "As of this moment you are no longer an employee of Bon Homme County," Maggs' termination notice read. Maggs, a 31-year-old father of four, will not become sheriff until January, but he is confident the county commission "will stand with my family ... and insure that my family will not be left hanging without an income or insurance," Maggs said. "We're going to be fine."

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

HEALTH & FITNESS

KEN COHEN -
Tea Tasting and Appreciation, November 27, December 4 and 11. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES,
Health and Tranquility. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

LEGAL SERVICES

DUI Out of control

Confidential Recovery...quiet, personal, confidential drug/alcohol treatment in highly confidential setting. Call 619.452.1200

NOTICES

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT
(Association Cannabis Therapeutics) Seeks part-time assistants. Free Grow Classes/ seeks. Two tents available. No Blunt, Dirty concentrates! Opioids Meth kill. Info (619)528-0907. Meth/Opioids Kill!

COUNCIL NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRESS INC.
Nonprofit seeks Native and non-native councils, businesses, organizations, to end homelessness/hopelessness. Synergy Art Foundation assists artists. Donate/Support them! 1-619-528-0907

CUBENSIS PATIENT ACT.
Association Cubensis Therapeutics. Seeks doctors psychotherapists researchers, persons interested. Forming discussion groups/ effectiveness of cubensis therapy for depression and PTSD? 619-528-0907

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES & KITTENS

Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING/LECTURE CLINIC
Free Readings for new visitors. 7:30pm last Wednesdays: 11/28/2018, 1/27/2019, 2/27/2019, 3/27/2019 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Intuitive Program graduates. 4455 Morena Blvd, Suite 108. 858-509-7582

HOMELESS MINSTREL
Will work/barter for working/donated van, truck/ small R.V.. Seeks someone/organization to match artist grant. 50's, Male, disabled, talented. Call 619-361-5131.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.
Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

SPORTS

SURFBOARDS FOR SALE
6-foot fish and 7-foot thruster, both in excellent condition. Call (619) 296-4065 for details.

WANTED/TRADE

WANTED:
Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 1(619)-303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

WANTED.
CASH for Walt Disney autographs, items, paper, original animation art, old Disneyland items, any type comics all before 1970. No Prints or videos. 619-465-3090.

WANTED:
Indian arrowheads / artifacts wanted for my private collection. Must be authentic and legally collected. No interest in modern reproductions. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

VINTAGE FISHING TACKLE
Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, & Misc. by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespear, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

*******WANTED*******
CASH PAID FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. LOCAL CASH PICK-UP. UNOPENED/ UNEXPIRED BOXES ONLY. CALL OR TEXT FOR DETAILS 951-400-5202

PETS

FREE PET ADS:
Selling a pet for under \$200? Email your wording & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

ALL OTHER ADS:
Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.



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STIIZY STARTER KIT + 1G VAPE \$70
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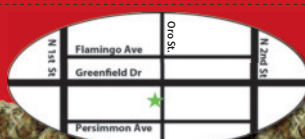
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