

SAN DIEGO Reader

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DECEMBER 6, 2018



*Holiday
Guide*



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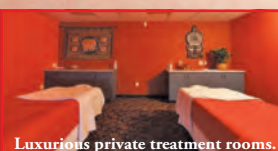


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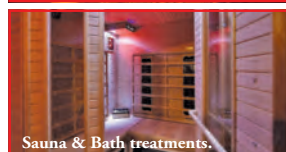
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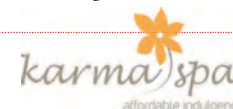
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December 6, 2018



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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Lawbreaking local lawyers lose licenses

Another gets suspended for five DUIs; still another faces prosecution for political push

On November 9, Clayton Marlow Anderson, Jr., a former attorney from La Mesa, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for “defrauding clients and investors,” according to a U.S. Department of Justice press release. In 2014 seven cases were brought against



The Siminou Smackdown- probably not protected political speech.

Anderson by the California Bar for “multiple acts of misconduct. The most severe sanction applicable” related to his misappropriation of clients’ money. He withheld and misused settlement money he won for them. He illegally solicited loans from clients and made false claims about his ability to pay them back. In the worst case, Anderson withheld \$800,000 from a settlement payment owed to his clients Jefferson Pointe Property Owners Association of Murrieta, and used it as an investment. \$748,000 of it was not repaid. “Misappropriation of client funds breaches the high duty of loyalty owed to a client, violates basic notions of honesty, and endangers public confidence in the legal profession. [It] generally warrants disbarment,” stated the California Bar. After being disbarred in 2015 Anderson was prosecuted for his crimes in federal court. “Clayton Anderson put his own financial interests above those of his clients, to whom he owed both legal and ethical duties,” said U.S. Attorney Adam L. Braverman.

On October 19, Michael David Peterson of Pauma Valley (formerly Escondido) was disbarred after being convicted of possession of child pornography, a “crime of moral turpitude.” “The knowing possession of child pornography is ‘a serious breach of the duties of respect and care that all adults owe to all children,’” said the State Bar Court of California.

Also on October 19, Theodore Marshall Smith of San Diego was suspended for a year and put on probation for three years after getting his fifth DUI. This suspension

covered his third, fourth and fifth DUIs. He was previously disciplined for his first and second. The State Bar Court of California considered Smith’s multiple DUIs aggravating circumstances, but considered his good character letters from eight witnesses and his completion of the State Bar Court’s Alternative Discipline Program as mitigating circumstances, and was ultimately moved to recommend a lower level of discipline for him. One condition placed on Smith is that he must not use any alcoholic beverages.

The San Diego City Attorney’s office charged appeals attorney Benjamin Siminou with misdemeanor battery and theft after a three-month review of a protest incident at Waterfront Park on June 30. Siminou was caught on camera pushing 75-year-old Daniel Russell, a Trump supporter and border wall proponent, to the ground and stealing his sign. Deputy sheriffs immediately arrested Siminou and booked him on felony strong-armed robbery. The DA’s office declined to prosecute felony charges against Siminou, but sent the case to the San Diego City Attorney for review, and the criminal division decided to prosecute. Siminou appeared via fax for his arraignment October 25, and pleaded not guilty. His readiness hearing is scheduled for December 12.

Eric Bartl

To put a price on Liberty (Station)

Michigan mogul moneyed up SF’s Mid-Market, what are the odds he’ll cherish chapel?



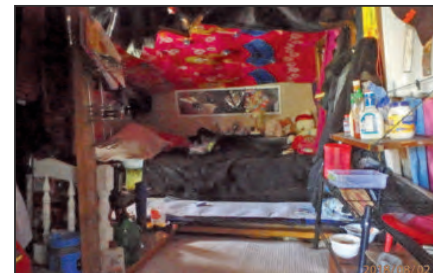
City deputy chief operating officer David Graham, who apparently consented to the sale.

Control of Liberty Station, obtained from the city of San Diego by the Republican megadonor McMillin family during the controversial reign of GOP mayor Susan Golding in 1999, has quietly changed hands for more than \$71 million, with nary a word to the public from mayor Kevin Faulconer or city hall staff.

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“What they do is they build them up underneath the trees,” one Fox Canyon homeowner says of the camouflaged homeless encampments in the canyon below her house.

**Homeless invade, pollute, ignite Fox Canyon**

“There’s drugs going on. There’s prostitution going on.”

By Elizabeth Salaam

A year and a half ago, one of Teri Siciliani’s neighbors called to alert her to a homeless encampment on the back side of Siciliani’s property in the Fox Canyon neighborhood of City Heights. From her house on Auburn Drive, on the east side of the canyon, the neighbor could see the encampment on the opposite bank of the

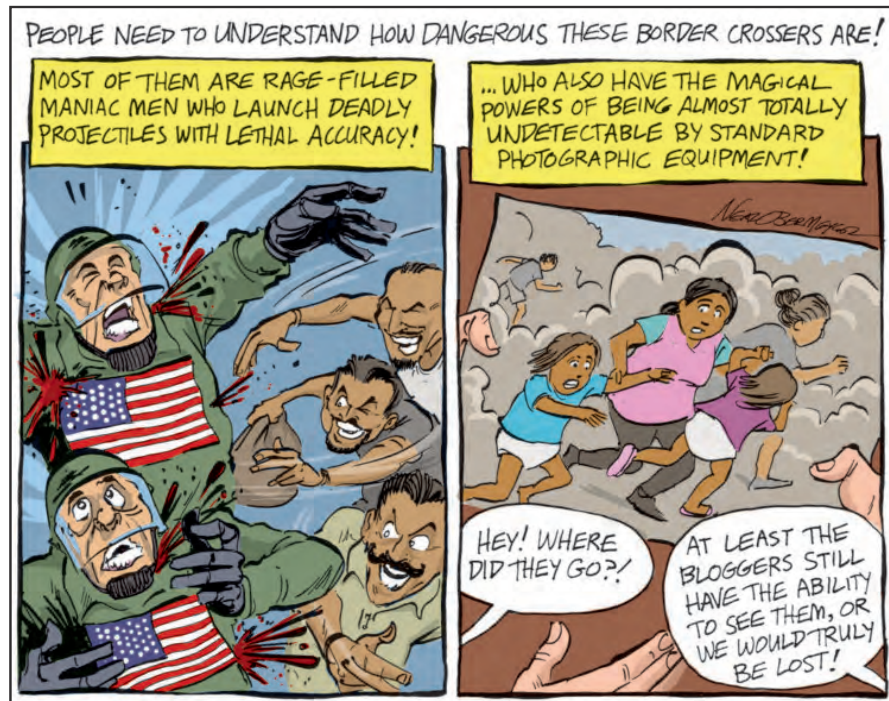
canyon. From her home on Lantana Drive, on the west side of Fox Canyon, Siciliani couldn’t see it.

“What they do is they build them up underneath the trees,” she says of the hidden encampments, pulling up a picture from a thread on *NextDoor.com*. The photo was taken from Auburn Drive and shows small glimpses of junk peek-

ing out from the chaparral beyond the storm drain. “You could see a little bit of the encampment back here, in all that brush. This is stuff we can’t remove. It’s hiding them.”

Open space regulations prohibit Siciliani and her neighbors from building, landscaping, fencing, or removing vegetation on the undeveloped portions of their properties that lead down into Fox Canyon and toward the storm drain on the back side of Auburn Street. Fire safety laws require them to trim back the vegetation within 100 feet of their homes, but that’s all they’re allowed to do on their property extensions.

After contacting Siciliani, the neighbor on Auburn

Neal Obermeyer

Drive called the mayor's office, and because that particular encampment had spilled into the storm drain, Environmental Services came out and cleaned it up.

But other encampments in Fox Canyon remained and continued to grow.

"If there's an encampment, they're going to come back," Siciliani says. "Even if there's not an encampment there, they'll come back and start another one."

Nearby areas such as Manzanita Canyon and Bobbi Canyon, areas that are technically public property, have been able to form neighborhood watch groups who alert the police as soon as they see tents or other signs of people living in the canyons. On public prop-



Teri Siciliani (left) — here on vacation in Morocco — is frustrated with the bureaucratic process required to remove homeless encampments from her canyon property.

homeowners living on Lantana Drive, Isla Vista Drive, and Euclid Avenue.

"We've identified five, and those are only the obvious ones you can see from Auburn," Siciliani says of the homeless encampments. "There's drugs going on.

The screaming woman was not arrested, but the police did arrest two criminals considered armed and dangerous.

Unfortunately for Siciliani and her neighbors, incidents like the one she describes have not lead to clearing the encampments out of the canyon. While the police can come out to address disturbances, they cannot begin the process of disbanding and breaking down the encampments on private property. Doing so requires coordinated effort between Homeless Outreach and Code Enforcement Teams, Environmental Services, and other city agencies.

As months went on and the encampments grew, the residents of Fox Canyon became annoyed by how low their community was on the priority list for city agencies. Through her presence on *NextDoor.com*, Siciliani says she became "a lightning rod" for complaints about the situation.

Wendy Miller, Fox Canyon resident and association co-organizer, says the problem is bigger than the individual homeowners can handle effectively on their own. "I think the city, as they did with the San Diego River, needs to come and do a cleanup of the whole section at the same time," says Miller. "My sense is that

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Wendy Miller, who resides along Fox Canyon, believes "that these folks living down there are so determined and so entrenched that it's going to take years [to remove them] at the rate we're going."

erty, the police code enforcement and homeless outreach teams can take action right away, leaving notice that property left behind will be removed within three days. And then, when the time is up, Environmental Services steps in and arranges the cleanup.

But the particular issue with Fox Canyon is that encampments are spread out on the private property of

There's prostitution going on. You name it. They're sawing down trees, lighting fires for warmth and cooking. Some of them are just crazy. Some of them are dangerous. On Tuesday or Wednesday, some lady came out screaming with her axe. It was probably the same one that screams in the middle of the night. So the police came with two canine units and 10 police cars or something."

UNDER THE RADAR

Rough operators Qualcomm, the home-grown tech giant known locally for take-no-prisoners political plays, is quickly getting a national reputation for dirty tricks. A November 21 report by the *New York Times* outlines Qualcomm's hiring of an opposition research firm run by GOP consultant **Tim Miller**. "Definers quickly found plenty of business, from start-ups like Lyft, Lime and Juul to giants like Facebook and Qualcomm, the influential chip company that was in a nasty legal fight with Apple over royalties, according to five people with direct knowledge of Mr. Miller's work who declined to be named because of confidentiality agreements," the *Times* reports. "While working for Qualcomm, Definers pushed the idea that Apple's chief executive, **Timothy D. Cook**, was a viable presidential candidate in 2020, according to a former Definers employee and digital records. Presumably, it was an attempt to chill the cordial relations that Mr. Cook had cultivated with the Trump administration."

Potholes With budget shortfalls threatening to make the final months of lame-duck San Diego mayor **Kevin Faulconer** less than triumphant, the city is trying to generate some extra cash via its pothole-reporting smartphone app. "The City is looking for a licensing partner to package, market, and service the 311 software owned by the City to other municipalities in exchange for royalty payments to the City. The 311 software, called 'Get It Done San Diego' is the official app for reporting non-emergency problems to the City of San Diego. App users can report problems like potholes and graffiti and connect directly to the City's work tracking systems." Adds an October request for proposals, "The City offers multiple partner benefits, such as promotion of the app on its website and other opportunities. In addition, the City encourages potential partners to suggest additional marketing elements that will achieve marketing goals with the City of San Diego."

Heavy lumber swinging As controversy continues over San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer's plan for a downtown homeless navigation center, the Padres are coming up to bat with a bevy of in-house influence peddlers. On November 21, the team registered with the city clerk's

office to lobby city officials regarding "increased security and community outreach" for the new

facility. Another Faulconer-related concern is the mayor's forthcoming plan to regulate the burgeoning corps of e-scooters, including the team's desires for the imposition of a "speed zone around Petco Park."

Those being deployed, per the filing, are team employees **Diana Puetz**, **Caroline Perry**, and **Erik Greupner**. Puetz's August 2015 wedding to former Faulconer chief of staff **Stephen Puetz** at the bedside mansion of developer and mayoral cam-

paign funder **Morgan Dene Oliver** raised questions for the mayor's office when Faulconer came out in favor of now-defeated SoccerCity being promoted by Oliver. Perry has been a lawyer for the team since April 2011, per her LinkedIn profile. Greupner joined the Padres in December 2010 as senior vice president, general counsel. He is currently chief operating officer for the team. Other special pleaders currently in the navigation center's mix of influencers include Sacramento-based California Strategies, representing downtown developer LMC Properties, which paid \$5000 to the lobbying company during the year's

third quarter seeking "enhanced homeless services, housing, and enforcement of city laws."

Phoned-in freebies

Christopher Woods, chief fiscal advisor to Democratic state senate leader **Toni Atkins**, got a free field club ticket to a San Francisco Giants versus Oakland Athletics game July 14 worth \$165 from AT&T, per an October 31 lobbying disclosure by the cell-phone giant. "He's an

example of an expert behind-the-scenes Capitol player unknown to the public, but who has far-reaching influence on how tax dollars are spent," notes *Capital Weekly*. "Woods makes sure that the spending priorities of the Senate and its leader are given consideration. It's a job that requires more than a green eyeshade."

Matt Cox, senior consultant to GOP senator **Ted Gaines**, got three tickets on the field level for a July 28 Giants versus Milwaukee Brewers game valued at a total of \$342. **Naser Javaid**, district director for Assembly Democrat **Tim Grayson**, and **Dan Okenfuss**, Graysons' communications director, got four tickets valued at a total of \$660 from the favor-seeking telecommu-

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Who do you call when you need to trash an opponent? This guy.



Nobody knows why Kevin Faulconer is still smiling.

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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.

Corky's Frankenstein

As they go off into the sunset with their \$71M, Scott McMillin (son of Corky) remains behind to develop the Liberty Station Arts District's last four undeveloped barracks into a boutique hotel! ("Liberty Station quietly sold for \$71 million", News Ticker, November 29) He was handed this in secret meetings of the NTC Foundation, whose mission was to support the artist district at Liberty Station. No competitive bidding, just a handout: can you say, "welfare for the rich?" BTW, all of the meetings of the Board of Directors of NTC Foundation are secret since they have made it very clear that the public, including "their artists" are not welcomed!

Ron Slayen
Liberty Station Studio

Hipster paper waste

I have been reading your magazine for over 30 years now, I used to even advertise in it before the internet took off. I finished reading Herbert's Neighbors Story (You might not want a neighbor like Herbert, Cover Stories, November 28), and not too many stories get my blood boiling, but wow, who breaks into their neighbor's house, and worse than that, hurts the dogs! I felt so bad for the dogs this guy abused, and made the neighbors move out. Then you get new neighbors and he steals their dog never to be seen again, and Golden Retrievers are such nice pleasant dogs, how could anyone do this to a dog? Said the dog just got in his car, which of course sounds like nonsense to me. This man is a menace to society. Could you imagine if he moved in next door to you and started that

stuff. I know they are waiting for sentencing, but this man is just a nut for doing that to the dogs. if this guy only gets 6 months instead of 16 years, I will be so unhappy. I sure hope the judge reads the *San Diego Reader*; my blood is boiling after reading this story, and it's been one of the better stories I have read, not too many get me wanting to do something. On a side note, I always enjoy Tin Fork with Ed Bedford, the most touching was his story about always bringing Carla food home, and then I was so surprised when he said she passed. I felt so bad after reading that. His stories are good, I like when he talks about how he gets to the places to eat, I rode a bus the first day I got to San Diego for the Navy, and bought a car the 2nd day. So it's like a travel story first, then a eating story, which I do enjoy. The Hipster and the SD on the QT is just a waste of paper, more stories to read would be more enjoyable. You're about the last free magazine about San Diego around; hope you can continue to keep printing. If folks did not get to read that story, please go online and check it out, it will make you sad and angry, it sure did me! Thank you.

Vince Stead
Lakeside

Walking suburbia

The November 29 issue included a letter from "Clairemont Cares," opposing a housing project in Clairemont. The writer states that "dense, crowded, haphazard...describe how Los Angeles has chosen to develop their city." I would argue that the opposite is true: Los Angeles, like San Diego, is the epitome of a sprawling, suburban-style metropolis. LA has a few urban nodes, but the majority of the city, including the San Fernando Valley and most of the south side, is dominated by single-family homes. The reason L.A. has such awful traffic is because so many of its residents work in, say, Long Beach, and can't find an affordable apartment closer than Riverside, so they commute 50

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EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITORS

Matt Potter, Matthew Lickona

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

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

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR

Chris Reed

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Mercia Daughn

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

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

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Jessica Milewski, Allison Ryan, Graeme Storey

MARKETING SPECIALIST

Andy Boyd

AD/MARKETING COORDINATOR

Alyssa Prestidge

DIGITAL AGENCY COORDINATORS

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

ADVERTISING SUPPORT STAFF

Amanda Stevens, Amanda Tascher

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Mike Brown

ART DIRECTOR

Jessica Wentzel

STAFF ACCOUNTANTS

Ruta Stecher, Rosa Villareal

I.T. ENGINEER

Michael Wayne

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Marina Bahena

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

OCEANSIDE

Streiking twaker freaks on film

Perp punches police in slo-mo on Instagram video

A jury trial started on November 26 for a young man who allegedly punched an Oceanside police officer while naked and high on meth. But the attorney for Joshua Adams Lachica, 26, suggested that officers threatened him first on the night of June 7 by displaying a taser and a metal baton while the young man was minding his own business on a seaside sidewalk.



Hey Joshua Lachica, Mark Twain said that “naked people have little or no influence in society” — but they do attract attention.

On the night in question, Lachica allegedly came into the American Deluxe Barbershop on North Coast Highway — not wearing any clothes — seated himself in an empty chair, and began talking to himself. Three Marines who were in the barbershop getting haircuts testified that they noticed the man’s long hair and incoherent conversation; they also remarked on his nakedness. The Marines had intended to eat at Chronic Tacos next door after their haircuts. But the naked man came outside and blocked their path, so they walked around the block. When the Marines got back to the same spot, police were on the scene and trying to converse with Lachica, according to witnesses. A police officer testified that they got there about 8:20 pm, and that the busy farmer’s market (which takes place on Thursday nights in Oceanside) was only a block away. The cop said she expected a lot of foot traffic when it closed at 9 pm, and that she was concerned for everyone’s safety.

A bystander got cell phone video of Lachica charging officers, punching one cop in the head, and kicking another officer after he was taken to the ground, according to prosecutor Joshua Brisbane. A short

video clip, reportedly uploaded to Instagram, has been shown over and over, and in slow motion, for the jury.

Defense attorney Wil Rumble suggested that officers used excessive force. After the confrontation, Lachica was being transported to hospital with bruises and swelling on his legs when he allegedly said that he had taken crank (meth), the prosecutor said.

Lachica denies felony assault on a police officer. He is described as 5 feet 9 inches tall and 192 pounds in Sheriff’s records, and has been held in lieu of \$30,000 bail since the incident. Lachica has a prior arrest for three misdemeanors: vandalism over \$400 in value, obstructing an officer, and public intoxication.

Trial continues this week, before Honorable judge Sim von Kalinowski, in San Diego’s North County Courthouse in Vista.

EVA KNOTT

OCEANSIDE

TE Connectivity disconnects But business still booms

Oceanside’s shady days as a wild jarhead romper room are long gone. Residential land values continue to bound upward. Its commercial profile flourishes, with the soon-to-be-announced specifics of the new “pier hotel” by developer SD Malkin. Hobby Lobby and WinCo picked Oceanside for their two newest stores, and Escondido’s Orfilia Winery is opening an Oceanside outpost. A new whiskey distillery on Coast Highway is under construction where Joe’s Credit Furniture used to be.

But bad news just hit Oceanside in one key sector: industrial production. Oceanside’s second largest private sector employer of full-time workers, TE Connectivity, has notified its 360 employees it is leaving Oceanside and closing its 172,305-square-foot facility, which sits on 31 acres bounded by Highway 76 and the San Luis Rey River. The 50-year-old plant creates parts for the defense, aerospace, and marine industries. It was long a privately-held business known as Deutsch Company before it was taken over by TE in 2012. A TE Connectivity company spokesman passed on a news release: “As a

“This is not all due to Trump, but ...the new tariffs on steel and aluminum did not help this place stay open.”

result of TE Connectivity’s ongoing evaluation of its operations, the company expects to end production at our Oceanside, California facility by September 2020...This is in no way a reflection on the collective performance of our Oceanside employees.” The company says it has 78,000 employees worldwide and a fiscal year 2018 income of \$13.9 billion. Pharmaceutical manufacturer Genentech remains Oceanside’s largest private enterprise



CREDIT: CONNECTIVITY ON CLASSROOM

The guy in the back waving goodbye — how did he know?

employer; the city’s industrial portfolio also includes Nitto Denko, Hydranautics, Gilead Science, Magnaflow, and Coca-Cola.

TE Connectivity employees say they understand that its assembly floor and machinist operations will be moved to the TE Mexican plants in Tecate and Hermasillo. “This is not all due to Trump, but everyone here knows the new tariffs on steel and aluminum did not help this place stay open,” said one employee who did not want to be identified. He said about two-thirds of TE Connectivity employees are factory or warehouse workers. The company said it will provide severance pay and will help employees find new employment. Responded one employee, “Some of us won’t have any trouble finding work, but the older people who have worked on the assembly line for 30 years — what are they going to do?”

are some companies on Industry Street that need a new place to move to. This may help them with that.”

KEN LEIGHTON

CHEROKEE POINT

Scouting hooligans

Two-wheeling teens punch piñatas, plow into pedestrians



Bird brains imperil piñatas.

About two weeks ago, I was driving east-bound on University Avenue in Cherokee Point when I noticed two teens riding Bird scooters on the sidewalk. As they passed Noelia’s Party Boutique by 37th, one teen punched the hanging piñatas, sending one crashing down. “They knock down my piñatas once a week,” Noelia said. “They don’t respect us. About a year ago, they [lit] one of my piñatas on fire and the tortilla guy next door noticed it, dropped the piñatas and [put the fire out].”

Around her area and westbound towards North Park, kids on motorized scooters have reportedly been bullying and taunting the locals. “With these scooters, it’s very dangerous,” she said. “Three people told me they were hit by them, and they are causing accidents on the streets. Since this scooter stuff started, there’s a lot of problems here.

continued on page 8



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When the Bird chargers stop by and they put four-to-five scooters there in front of my store — the kids drive by and [knock] them down when they pass by [riding their own scooters]. I don't understand why the police do not regulate on them." According to the City of San Diego website, kids/adults "may not ride [motorized scooters] on [the] sidewalk" per code 21235(g) CVC" and a "Bicycle helmet [is] required" per code 21235(c) CVC — if under 18 years old.



Word on the street is that some kids are "hacking the scooters."

Noelia's neighbor recalled, "Some young kid, like 14 years old, comes barreling down the wrong way and almost runs into me and yells at me [then] hits my car with his hand. This is not my first or second encounter with a rider operating a scooter illegally — I have no sympathy for anyone hurt on them." Melvin works at the 7-Eleven a couple of blocks west of Noelia's piñata shop. "Last [summer], a guy with a Lime S scooter hit a small girl in front of our shop [on 35th]," he said. "Then she came in, and her face was all bruised up. We put ice on it, and when we walked outside the guy was gone." Melvin's co-worker said that word on the street is that some kids are "hacking the scooters" to get a free ride; other kids are riding by using their parents' credit card and driver's license. Michael lives by the 7-Eleven and says, "Not only do they ride the scooters on the sidewalks and hit innocent [pedestrians], they hog the streets by riding next to one another so that cars cannot pass them. If you try to pass them, they move to the left so you cannot." And someone from Cherokee Point wrote in a NextDoor post, "My house was broken into at about 4:30 to 4:40 pm yesterday. [They] broke in through the back door. I scared them off when I came home so they didn't get as much as they could have. Two Bird scooters were leaning against my retaining wall — still activated, so I'm almost 100 percent certain they rode up on the Birds and left them activated for a quick getaway. The scooters' information was retrieved but they (Bird) will only give that to police."

MIKE MADRIAGA

DEL MAR

From joke to Jeepney Filipino food finds far-flung fans

On November 14, a group of Filipino-American chefs cooked their native dishes for about 130 attendees at the DoubleTree Hotel Del Mar to celebrate the *I Am A Filipino – And This Is How We Cook* book signing-and-dinner event. Nicole Ponseca, formerly of Rancho Bernardo and co-author of the book (with Miguel Trinidad), said at the gathering's Q&A session: "The cookbook is just an excuse. The real event here are the eight different [San Diego County-based] chefs who are cooking Filipino food. Some cook Filipino food on the regular, and some of them don't."

I attended the event with my siblings and our *nanay* (mom), and observed that most of the attendees were Filipino. I was curious to learn how other foodies perceived our cuisine. "My favorite dish was *Ginataang Puso Ng Saging*, banana [heart] salad," said Rachel, a gym manager from downtown. "At first I was intrigued because I didn't know what I was eating — noodles? A vegetable? The coconut in the dish brought a familiarity of some Thai dishes, but the texture and balance in flavor — not too sweet — was so different from anything I've tried. My least favorite dish this night was the *Sinigang Na Hipon* (sour shrimp soup), only because I'm not accustomed to seeing the whole shrimp with head [attached] in



Co-author Nicole Ponseca: "The cookbook is just an excuse" for the chefs to make great Filipino food.

the broth."

Andre from Leucadia enjoyed the shrimp soup cooked by Chef Tara Monsod. "The shrimp were fried when it was not inside



Pansit Bato

the broth, so they still had that crunchiness, and I thought the soup was sweet (with pineapple) rather than the normal sour taste (with tamarind)." Andre's neighbor Randy walked up with a fish and veggie dish. "The *Dampa Fry Na Escabeche* fried fish resembles our Mexican recipe," he said. Andre agreed as he bit into his *Pansit Isabella* (egg noodle in broth with pork and poached eggs). "Having a Filipino food event like this is few-and-far between," Andre said. "The last one we attended was a typhoon benefit for the Philippines. I've been to Nicole-and-Miguel's Jeepney and Maharlika restaurants in New York, and it's a good representation: it's bringing in a whole new demographic to Filipino food."

Our "soul food," as it was described by one of the attendees eating the *Adobo Pula Achuete* (red adobo with lamb shanks) — "wasn't always as popular." "When I was growing up, our food was literally a joke," Ponseca said as part of the introduction for their 353-page book. "Howard Stern notably made fun of Filipinos because of what we ate, and *Fear Factor* had to bribe contestants to eat our *balut* (duck embryo) and *dinuguan* (pork cooked in pig's blood)." But then culinary experts Andrew Zimmern and the late Anthony Bourdain spoke highly of Filipino cuisine. Last year, *Vogue* magazine posted a story titled: "How Filipino Food Is Becoming the Next Great American Cuisine," and last month, the *New York Times* listed *I Am a Filipino – And This Is How We Cook* as one of "The 19 Best Cookbooks of Fall 2018."

Trout Traubman, a mortgage broker from Cardiff, enjoys eating *balut* and *dinuguan* but the two items weren't on the menu Wednesday night. "I'm super-Caucasian," Trout said. "My mom has an Irish background, and dad has a Ukrainian background. But I swear I hit 6000 calories. I had 3-5 servings from every

table." There were about seven tables, with the chefs and their assistants serving dishes; some were served and prepared on banana leaves. Beside the portions were displays explaining the ingredients, the origin of the recipe, and



Pork Adobo

how the dish was cooked. "What's the one dish with the ground shrimp paste on the side and oxtail over rice?" Trout asked.

"Bro, that's *Kare Kare* (peanut sauce stew)," I answered. "It has eggplant, bok choy and peanut butter. The fermented shrimp paste that's salty is called *bagoong* and that's an optional condiment."

"I was mowing that," Trout said.

Neens was the emcee and event organizer; he put together the "sold-out and one-off" event in three weeks. "I sent out a group text to all of the eight chefs," he said, "and all the chefs were like 'We're in.'" The chefs included Eric Manuel, Tara Monsod, Marlaw Seraspi, Mike Arquines, Phillip Esteban, Evan Cruz, Craig Jimenez, Mosaic/Arterra chefs, and Neen's mom. They created the dishes per the cookbook's ingredients and instructions. "There's about 25 of us Filipino-American chefs leading kitchens in San Diego [county]," said Evan Cruz, Dimension Development Hotels area executive chef and host chef for the event. "I went to their Jeepney restaurant in New York last month and I saw about 30 patrons with suits, and most of them were Caucasian. They all ate *kamayan* (by hand)," which is the traditional style. "I was blown away."

continued on page 89

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Dear Hipster:

With the so-called Holiday Season fully upon us, one cannot engage in the world without fielding a barrage of "Happy Holidays!" and other such seasonal well-wishes. As if it weren't enough to be forcibly bombarded with others' good cheer, I also must listen to everyone and his brother complain about how he wishes the sign in the window at Target said "Merry Christmas" instead of "Seasons Greetings," or vice versa, and nobody seems able to leave well enough alone. This year, I've hit on a possible solution. We should invent a new holiday, but it will be the kind of holiday that doesn't really care about other holidays, where everybody can just kind of agree to disagree about the importance of winter holidays generally, and instead of the half dozen (or whatever) other winter holidays, everybody uses this one holiday for a benign stand-in. What do you think? If you were to design a perfect catch-all holiday, what would it look like?

— BURT, CORTEZ HILL

Sometimes, I think I'm the most over-it dude around; but you, sir, and people who share your general saltiness, will always be there to prove me wrong.

That said, maybe you should give Festivus a shot. Most people think *Seinfeld* invented the anti-holiday, with its unadorned aluminum pole and oddball traditions like "the airing of grievances" in lieu of traditional seasonal cheer, but the credit actually lies with former *Reader's Digest* editor Dan O'Keefe, who created the holiday as a private family tradition in the 1960s.



O'Keefe's original anti-holiday embodied the hipster spirit of doing random things for no other reason than that you wanted to do them because they are so random. The *Seinfeld* version maintained the hipster spirit by taking the idea and running with it; in a sense parodying something that was already a parody. Bravo, hipsters.

Many modern Festivus celebrants (Festivants?) fall short of the innovative hipster aspirations of early Festivus practitioners (Festivizers?). Too many Festivus fans (Festivians?) go on Amazon and buy their very own Festivus poles, or perhaps Festivus-themed Ugly Festivus Sweaters for Ugly Festivus Sweater Parties. Lame! The whole point of an anti-holiday celebration is to reject the consumerist trappings of the holiday season, but I guess these wannabe Festivus revelers (Festiv...oh, never mind) didn't get the memo. Thus, I roundly reject any derivative anti-holiday celebrants, Festivus or otherwise.



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On the other hand, if you're getting into the anti-holiday spirit by putting your personal stamp on an alternative celebration, that I can 100 percent get behind. Make up your own un-holiday traditions: eat ice cream and waffles for dinner every night during the last week of December; pull all-nighters on every Thursday between Thanksgiving and MLK day in order to better commune with the long darkness of winter; watch *Die Hard* and take a shot of Jack Daniels every time John McClane does something awesome, which is pretty much constantly, so, if you really want to watch *Die Hard* this last one might not work out so well. It really doesn't matter what you do, so long as it represents a good faith effort to differentiate yourself from the rest of the mundane world.

Maybe someday your very own quirky tradition will spread like wildfire, and then some cheeky future hipster will be chastising future people for unoriginally parroting your ideas. You never know till you give it a whirl.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 4

miles each way. Pushing new housing out into the wildfire zone will only make traffic worse, as those residents will still commute to work within the city. "Clairemont Cares" also addresses the local housing shortage by asserting that the solution is enforcing a requirement for 10% of new units to be "affordable." Trouble is, since the writer only wants low-density housing built in his/her community, this would mean that relatively few new units could get built there. If only a few hundred new units get built in the coming years, that means only a few dozen affordable units, whereas thousands are needed. The writer also expresses concern about "neighborhood character." Here again, concerns over higher-density development are overwrought. The North Park community has welcomed sensible high-density development along transit corridors while preserving its surrounding bungalow districts. As a result, central North Park is thriving and vibrant. No offense to our friends in Clairemont, but that area brings to mind tedious, auto-oriented strip malls, rather than the walkable, interesting neighborhoods that can only be supported by clusters of higher-density housing.

John Morris
Hillcrest

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

**SD on the QT
November 30**

When I first learned of the massive salary increase that was coming for the "Mare" and city clowncil, I was amused to hear their comments. Didn't a single one of those big mouths realize that when they claimed that better-qualified candidates would be attracted, it reflected on their own poor ability? Guess not.

—Visduh

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or recording, caution: enter at your own risk.) Beyond the paper sign, a yellow diamond warns that the path is subject to flooding, and that "contact with this water may cause illness: bacteria levels exceed health standards." At one point, the intrepid hiker must traverse a makeshift walkway — square posts, two-by-fours, rocks, and a patch of plastic fencing that

"If I had known the walk was what the walk was, I would have stayed in the car."

is closed to vehicles. (The paper sign reads, "Friendship Circle will be closed until further notice," referring to the beachside break in the buffer zone between the rust-brown border wall and the taller, tougher stateside version: Friendship Circle & Bi-National Garden, open four hours a week, maximum occupancy 10, area under 24-hour surveillance, no filming

sinks underfoot into the sloshing, fetid puddle it spans — on his journey to, as the man's companion puts it, "see the end of the wall."

He made it: the end is here, extending itself far out into the spumey surf, though the concertina wire lining the top stops at the waterline. The nearer wall ends where the beach begins. From there, rusted eight-foot chain link fence stretches maybe another 50 feet; two of the last sections lack top and middle support bars. More concertina wire weaves into the last section, and then runs in snaky figure eights behind the short iron posts strung with yellow caution tape out toward the water, stopping short of the spot where the tide might carry it away. "Doesn't look like much, does it?" asks the fellow in the 5.11 tactical T-shirt. It doesn't, but it doesn't need to: when a man on the other side gets too close to the water, a border officer leaves his hilltop post and runs his ATV down onto the beach to corral the man back to his fellows.

His fellows are why we're really here, of course. The wall is being tested by the migrant caravan — people whose walk to the wall was considerably longer and more fraught than ours — and barriers are generally weakest at their edges. The ATV chugs back into view when four young black men approach. When I ask one of them why he came, he replies, "Just seeing the sights in San Diego." The camera-on-a-stick he plants in the sand, pointing at the people on the other side — mostly women and children, pressing themselves between the steel staves and waving — says otherwise: he's here to witness something.

I feel rotten being here. I feel like a tourist of suffering. (The beach was empty when I

arrived, but my presence was enough to bring a group to the fence, descending from a larger crowd in the park above.) We regard each other. They call out, but I don't speak their language, and even if I did, I couldn't hear them over the distance and the surf. All I can do is look at them and wave stupidly.

On the long walk back to my car, it's hard not to start assigning significances to things: the migrant children, stopped in their tracks and playing chicken with the surf, a back and forth game that could go on forever. The shorebirds perched atop the wall, indifferent to boundaries. The single orange poppy — California's flower! — pushing up through the brown ground cover beside a discarded plastic bag. The great hush that falls after the four huge helicopters cease their endless circling and come to rest. The city, seen across an endless stretch of empty flatness, making a jagged patch of promise on the horizon.

...and beyond

Back in 2011, a real-estate man named Tony Wells caught the attention of the *LA Weekly* with El Bordello Alexandra, a Venice Beach apartment complex that he'd spent ten years transforming, along with his partner Brittany Stevenson, into the sort of place that's hard to see for all the decoration. They'd heard it had once been a comfort house (hence the name), and the murals out front harkened to that fleshy past. But the rooftop statuary showed where Wells' true love lay: classical myth and gothic architecture. Rearing centaurs, crouching gargoyles, Poseidon and St. Michael. Three years later, the *LA Times* took note, interviewing a resident who called the place "a hallucination materialized. Nothing is really suppressed here."

That was the warmup. In late October, *Frontiera.info* reported on "the Gothic House on the road between Rosarito and Ensenada." "I love old churches, you know, in Europe," Wells told the site, "and I wanted to bring something here to Baja. With the ocean and the mountains, this is the nicest castle I think I've ever seen. I want it to be a museum. I want them to film here. I want to share this with everybody. I want to put Baja on the map."

Nothing is suppressed here, either. Better to say that everything is loosed. A ten-foot relief of Brittany's face adorns the facade, accompanied by a similar relief of Vlad the Impaler. And above it all rises Wells himself, rendered as Pan. Inside and out is a riot of statues: in concrete, in bronze, in plaster and stone. Multiple copies of Botticelli's Venus,

bored Renaissance angels, Gothic gargoyles, modern unicorns, even E.T. An aesthetic riot.

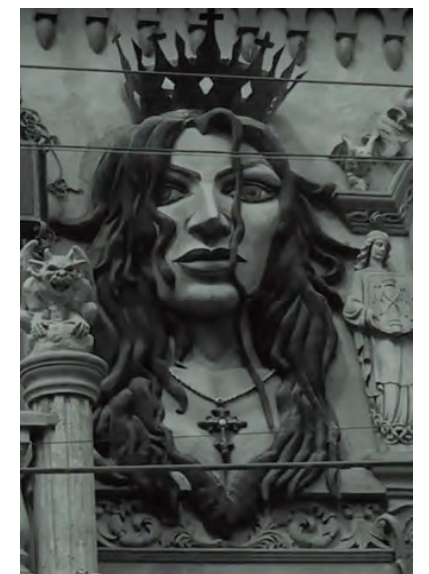
But it wasn't until I saw the mermaids at the base of the building — one of them coyly cupping a single breast — that I realized what Wells hath wrought: Baja's Hearst Castle. It had been 25 years since I'd seen the arching, frolicking mermaids adorning the Neptune Pool in San Simeon's money-mad mishmash and thought, "Ancient Greece by way of *Playboy*." Hearst, too, had a taste for European architecture, and Hearst, too, built a castle that was really a church for his American self.



Pan the Man



St. Michael keeps watch over the Bordello in Venice.



Brittany as Wells' Gothic queen.

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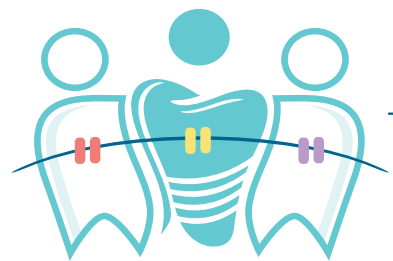
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It's Nutcracker season

There are certain cultural holiday classics that survive the test of time: *Rudolph*, *The Grinch*, *Elf*, *Miracle on 34th Street*. The same goes for classic art performances such as Handel's *Messiah*, and especially *The Nutcracker Ballet*. They enrich the Christmas season. So when December started knocking on the door, Eve here started researching, to see who was offering performances of the classic ballet.

"Can anyone really pick a favorite scene from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*?" asked friend Bernice as we sipped holiday macchiatos. "I mean, really, Eve, how can you choose from the varied moods of that genius ballet?" I shrugged, not wanting to interrupt my pal's poetic effusion. "The peaceful Waltz of the Snowflakes, the exciting Cossack's dance, the eerie Arabian Dance, the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy... that ballet is a like a walk down Mood Lane. And who doesn't love Mother Ginger and her children?"

"I couldn't agree more," I replied, pleased as holiday punch "And to think I never saw a live performance of it until I was in college. I'm going to bring the family again this year. I will get back to you on my favorite scene."

Later, I was surprised to find out that the timeless holiday ballet wasn't always such a success. *The Nutcracker Ballet*, based off Hoffmann's 1800's fairy tale *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, premiered in St Petersburg in December 1892 to mixed reviews. It took to the stage in America in 1944 with a production put on by the San Francisco Ballet. By the 1960's, the ballet began to pick up steam on its way to becoming what it is today: a mainstay of the holiday season. Ballet companies make approximately 40 percent of their revenue from their *Nutcracker* productions. For many, the holiday season hasn't happened without taking in a *Nutcracker*.

That's how I feel about it. Here are some options for taking in Tchaikovsky's masterpiece here in San Diego.

The California Ballet will be performing the classic ballet, along with the San Diego Symphony, at the San Diego Civic Theatre

It's not the Holidays without it

from December 14 through December 23. Tickets start at \$25 for the two-hour production, with a cast of over 150, and guests must be at least age four years old to attend.

The City Ballet of San Diego will be accompanied by The City Ballet Orchestra and Chorus as they dance *The Nutcracker* on the stage of the beautiful 1912 Spreckels Theatre. The show runs from December 7 through December 23 and tickets start at \$25.

San Diego Ballet will be dancing the over 125-year-old ballet with a cast of over 100 dancers on the Copley Symphony Hall stage on December 29 and 30. Tickets start at \$40.

Moscow Ballet's *The Great Russian Nutcracker* first appeared in the United States back in 1993. Now the company offers about 100 performances in the US each season. They will be gracing the stage of the Copley Symphony Hall on December 20. Tickets start at \$28.

West Coast Ballet Theatre will be presenting *The Nutcracker* with a cast of over 200 performers at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido on December 22 and December 23. Music will be performed by the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra. Tickets start at \$21.50.

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet has been offering classical ballet in Balboa Park for over 70 years. This year, they will be dancing the *Nutcracker* at the Casa Del Prado Theatre in Balboa Park from December 8 through December 17. Tickets start at \$12.

Southern California Ballet will be dancing with a cast of nearly 100 on the stage of the Poway Center for the Performing Arts on December 16 and December 17. Tickets start at \$20.

Those looking for something a little different than the classic ballet might enjoy *A Culture Shock Nutcracker*. Running from January 5 through January 7 at The Spreckels Theatre, the modern production combines contemporary music and pop culture references with Mr. Tchaikovsky's music. The show is in its fifth season and tickets start at \$20.



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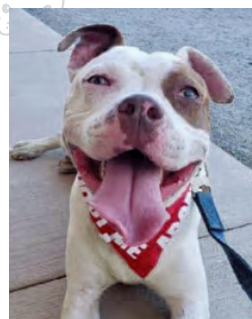
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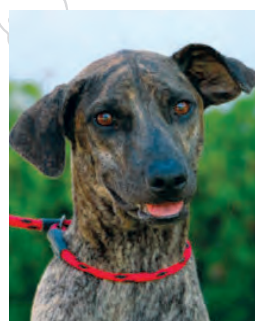
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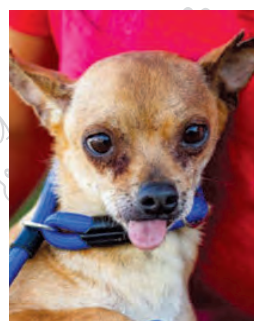
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Reader

From the human misery files

IT WAS ONE WEEK before Thanksgiving in 2013 and Ron felt more alone than usual. He was 51 then, and he was relying on the kindness of friends and relations.

On November 20, 2013, Ron started his day early. It was a Wednesday, and he met one of his cousins at her work at 7 am — that was when her workday finished. Together, they went to Walmart. Since Ron had lost his job and home, this kind woman had bought him a \$40 phone card once a month, for a couple months now. Then they went to her place in Escondido and she cooked up a nice breakfast. Ron enjoyed some pleasant time with her.

Then Ron went to the Human Resources building in Escondido. “I was establishing contact and making an appointment for counseling.” He was there about an hour, filling out paperwork. He was seeking help because he had been feeling so down lately. Monette, another one of his cousins, had recommended that place. “She encouraged me to go.” Monette knew that Ron had lost custody of his grandson, and could not find work, and then lost the trailer he lived in.



Cops were trying to keep Walter outside while paramedics checked Monette

Ron was currently living out of his car.

“Monette... she was my confidante,” he said later. “I was able to get some solid advice from her, she was one of the only people I could be totally honest with, talk to.”

Ron and Monette grew

up in Escondido. They were close as kids, and they stayed in touch. “She was a cousin of mine, a very close cousin.” Monette knew about his troubles. Back in 1979, when Ron was 17 years old, there was a girl the same age. He was accused of rape;

he denied it. Ron went on trial in 1981. He was convicted and sent to prison for four years. He is now a registered sex offender for life in California. Ron does admit his conviction, but he still insists, “I did not commit the crime.”

Late that morning, Ron

went to the home of his cousin Monette. Before he came over, “I would always call.” Monette was 54 then, three years older than Ron. For the last couple months, since Ron had returned to Escondido, Monette had let him use her shower two or three times a week. “We were on good terms, yes.” Ron made an effort not to overwhelm any one friend with all his needs.

Ron had met Monette’s husband. “I think I only met him twice.” He liked Walter fine. “We got along great.” Ron usually visited his cousin Monette during the day while her husband was at work.

Monette’s home was in Escondido near the intersection of the 15 and 78 freeways. That morning, Ron parked his car near the cyclone fencing around her yard. Ron liked his old Mercedes Benz, an early 80s model. It was the only nice thing he owned.

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Ron knocked on the door and Monette yelled at him to come in but the metal screen door was locked. Monette often kept her front door open and the screen door closed because she liked to smoke in the front room. Monette got up out of her favorite chair and opened the screen door. She was on the phone. "I believe she was talking to Erica," Ron remembered. "That's her youngest girlfriend." Erica is married to Monette's oldest son.

Ron came into the living room; it was just he and Monette there. Monette was fond of her new daughter-in-law; she hoped Erica would be a good influence on her son. "She was in a deep conversation with Erica, how she should act and be with her son, cause he was out here making trouble, and you have to

take hold of those reins and pull him in." Ron later remembered more of what he overheard: "Put a little bit more, you know, clamp down on him; you know, don't let him run wild."

Monette plopped back into her big, cushioned, high-backed chair. She almost lived in that comfy chair. Her computer and phone and drink were kept conveniently near, on the coffee table.

Ron went to take his shower. There was only one bathroom in the two-bedroom apartment, so he yelled to the woman in the guest room, asking if she needed to use the restroom before he started his shower. She said no, and he took his shower. Then Ron changed into fresh clothes he had brought.

After she got off the phone, Monette and Ron gossiped about her awful



Photo of Monette taken by her husband and displayed in court

sister, the one who had taken all the inheritance. "There was bad feelings between the sisters," Ron remembered. Monette's mother and father had passed away a year ago, just months apart. That was hard enough, and then one sister took the entire estate for herself, instead of dispersing it among the five siblings, according to Monette.

While they talked, Monette occasionally got



Surveillance video: Asiatæ wore a long coat as she walked to corner stores that morning

out of her chair to tend her chihuahua. She had three of them in the kitchen; they were contained by a child's gate.

Ron said that Monette was her usual self, but then at a certain moment, she changed. "Yeah, when she

came through the door, Asiatæ. Then [Monette] kinda froze up, a whole different side of herself."

Asiatæ was the adult daughter of Monette's husband Walter. She was 35 years old then, in 2013. Asiatæ had been living

in Las Vegas, where her mother lived, but about a month earlier she had returned to Escondido. Asiatæ was born in Escondido, but left when she was very young, when her parents divorced.

Ron had seen Asiatæ previously, "I believe about three times.... Me and Monette were smoking, she walked past and said, 'It is stuffy in here,' and pulled the door open wider." Ron noticed she was wearing a long coat and remarked that it was "kinda warm" for that. Asiatæ did not answer and went out the front door. It was cloudy and gray all that day in San Diego County, muggy and uncomfortable.

Ron said Monette made it clear to him that she did not like Asiatæ staying at her house. And she was going to ask her husband to tell Asiatæ to leave. Why?

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"She was getting bad feelings," Ron said. "She told me a couple times, after naps, she woke up and [Asiatae] was just staring at her." Monette had a habit of napping in her big chair.

"The week prior, it was just a feeling she got from her, when she was around the house, she would ask her questions and she wouldn't answer.... When she was in bed with Walter, she got the impression Asiatae was staring at her."

"She was more or less scared. She was not comfortable with having her in her home, and she wanted her husband to have her leave." Ron confirmed that Monette expressed this to him, "The last couple visits, yes."

Some time later that same day, Asiatae returned. Ron was still there. She came in the front door and went to her room. Then,



Asiatae calmly waited outside

"She came out and did something in the kitchen, maybe she got something to drink." Then Asiatae went outside again; she sat in a chair next to the front door.

Monette and Ron visited a while longer; then Ron decided it was time to go. When he went out the front door Ron saw Asiatae. "She was sitting out there smoking." He said

bye or see you later, but: "I don't remember her saying anything." Ron next went to the home of another friend in Escondido; it was about five minutes away. He remembered arriving about 1 pm.

Ron said Monette was alive when he left.

Walter

That Wednesday was a normal morning for

Walter. "Went to work." He worked at a nearby auto shop. "I'm an automotive technician." He worked the closing shift, which started at 10 am and finished between 6 and 7 pm. He usually took his lunch at 2 o'clock. He remembered when he left that morning, his wife was seated in her favorite chair. "I kissed her and said goodbye." There was "Nothing different" about her, Walter later recalled. She was "her normal self."

Walter and Monette had been married 17 years, and they had one 17-year-old son who lived with them. That son got himself up and caught the bus to school, his regular routine, before his father left for work.

Walter was pleased with his wife Monette. "I had a drama-free wife." And she

was beautiful. His pet name for her was Deva, that was how he ID'd her on his cell phone. She did almost all the cooking. "All I did was cut watermelon," he joked. He was later asked if they kept their knives in a butcher block on the counter, but he said no, their knives were all kept in a drawer in the kitchen.

Walter is 6 foot 3 inches tall and weighs 320 pounds. His wife Monette was 4 feet 11 inches tall. In November 2013, they were both 54 years old.

Walter was 19 years old when his first wife gave him his precious daughter, Asiatae. Walter wanted to be a good husband and father, but divorce came shortly thereafter. "I didn't want it to happen. I was very bitter," he said.

Walter was welcoming and loving to his children. "My daughter always loved

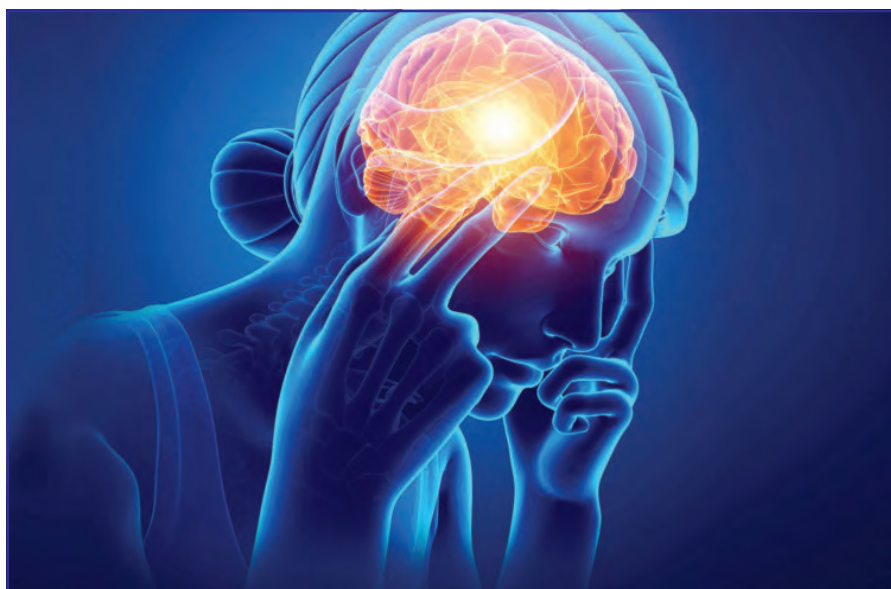
me, my son always loved me, they still do."

Why are you calling

While he was at work that Wednesday five years ago, Walter tried to call his wife. He dialed twice that morning, but Monette never picked up. So at 1:20 pm he was glad to see a call coming into his phone from "Deva." But he was surprised when he heard his daughter's voice. Why was Asiatae calling from his wife's phone? He asked her, "Why are you calling?"

She said, "There is something wrong with Monette." His daughter said she saw Monette in her chair and "she is hurt." Almost exactly a year prior — when Monette's parents passed away — she became depressed. "That was really a big thing to her." He came home one day and found that

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Monette had cut herself. Walter got help for Monette and believed she was back to a safe place, emotionally. “I thought she was doing better.”

So he pressed his daughter Asiatae, “Is she bleeding? What happened?” I asked her, ‘Well, what’s wrong with her?’ I asked her, ‘Is she sleeping or what is she doing?’ She said, ‘She is okay, she is sleeping.’”

That did not sound like an emergency. So Walter got off the phone with his daughter, went back to work, and clocked out for his usual lunch hour at 2 pm.

His work was not far away, so he arrived home a little after 2 pm. “The door was locked. Sometimes she locked it, sometimes she would open it and leave the screen door closed.” He remembered, “I opened the door, the



Asiatae questioned by Escondido police detectives: video shown to jury

strangest thing, the blinds were closed. In the morning, the blinds were open.” Usually, Monette opened up the window coverings to let the sun in. “For herself and for the whole house, she does that all the time.”

Walter could barely see Monette in her chair. “Yeah, I thought she was asleep then. It was real dark in there. It was so dark, I just went to my closet.” He put some clean work clothes in there. “I told her I

was home. Then I hung my clothes up. I said, ‘Wake up.’ I said, ‘I came for a sandwich.’ I said, ‘What’s wrong? Are you tired?’” Things didn’t seem right. “The dogs were all over her. On her lap. Around her. Just sitting around her. On her.” And then he saw the blood. “I called 911.” The police dispatcher picked up at 2:13 pm.

At that time, Escondido police were trying a new thing: chest-worn video



While she was in the witness box, Asiatae demonstrated how she held the knife during the first stabs

cameras or bodycams. Their cameras captured an exact record of what they found.

Paramedics arrived quickly and they first checked Monette’s vital signs. Walter remembered the awful moment. “They told me that they were sorry. I said, ‘Don’t say that! Just keep trying!’”

The cops tried to get Walter to step outside. “I didn’t want to leave. I wanted them to save her.”

Escondido police officer Robert Craig later testified in court, “Mister Walter was visibly shaken and was almost panicking.” Walter is a large man, and it was frightening when he began to wail and pace around. The police bodycams caught both audio and video. The chihuahuas constantly barking in the background added to the manic atmosphere.

The cops were trying to get Walter out of the room. “She’s breathing!” Walter insisted. “I will be right here, I’m not going outside.” While one cop tried to escort him toward the open front door, he said, “That’s my wife man.” The barking chihuahuas were crazy-making. Walter demanded, “What’s going

on? What’s going on? Why aren’t you helping her? No she is not! She is not! Please do something!” He cried out.

“Sir, we need you to come out here please,” one cop pleaded.

The cop who was able to escort Walter outside had a bodycam, and the camera captured Asiatae standing quietly outside. Her calm expression changed when her emotional father joined her; she looked sideways at him with alarm.

A cop testified in court later, “Miss Asiatae had a flat demeanor, she did not react to statement that victim was deceased.”

Deputy medical examiner for San Diego County Dr. Craig Nelson, said that Monette was stabbed dozens of times. “In this case, all of the injuries together were fatal; some might have been survivable, but

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all together it was fatal.” Most of the wounds were on her torso, some were on her hands and arms — a prosecutor described those as “defensive.”

When she returned home, Asiatae told police that she went for a walk around the neighborhood, to several convenience stores nearby, and when she returned home, she found a bloody Monette slumped in her chair.

Asiatae made statements to police suggesting that it must have been that friend of hers, that man who was with her, who had stabbed Monette. Asiatae claimed that while she was in her bedroom, before she came out, she heard Monette make crude sexual suggestions to her cousin Ron.

Later Asiatae complained about one detective, “Just, he was just being rude.” She claimed that while she was

making her handwritten statement, “This detective came into the room, and instantly he accused me of murdering Monette, and me and my father were having an intimate relationship and that’s why we did this to her.... And he was slandering me.”

Asiatae might have become accustomed, over her lifetime, to describing herself as the victim. She testified when she went on trial more than four years later. Asiatae Robinette Bell was accused of first-degree murder in May of 2018.

‘I would hear voices’

While Asiatae was in the witness box, she described a horrific life. She changed homes often, staying with different relatives in different towns and states. She was raped when she was 11 and had an

abortion when she was 12. When she was 16, she had a son, he is now deceased. When she was 18 years old, “I worked at a lounge as a stripper. Cheetahs. In Las Vegas.” She said she was drugged and raped that same year. When she was 22, she had twins, “I had a boy and a girl.” She did not raise any of her own children.

Her father remembered, “When Asiatae first had her twins, they came and stayed with us.” That experiment was brief. “They weren’t getting along, they had an outburst with my son.” Walter and Monette had been married 5 years at that time and their son was 5. Asiatae told her father that her half-brother was stinky. “She tried to drag him into the shower,” Walter recalled later.

When her twins were

delivered by cesarean, Asiatae said the doctor botched the surgery and that was the start of her physical and mental degradation. “I started seeing visions. Like spirits and things like that,” she said. “Not all day long, but time to time I would see something and it would be a spirit.” Asiatae testified, “Well I just coped with it. I never had any kind of mental prognosis or anything like that.” She said, “I just thought it was the result of the surgery.”

Sometimes Asiatae lived with her mom in Las Vegas. “We got along. It’s just, my mom, she likes her own space.” Asiatae went back and forth. “I was homeless at the shelter — I never had to live on the streets — maybe up to three months. And then my mom would let me come back home.” Asiatae explained that the last time she was at the shelter, a man hit her, “He tried to attack me. I went to my mother’s home and asked her if I could stay and she said no, and that I should go back to the shelter. After that I got upset and said, ‘No, I am not going back to the shelter,’ and then I called my dad and he said I could stay.”

Did you have to get Monette’s permission? “She was in the background, on the telephone.”

Walter said that when his daughter Asiatae phoned him, his understanding was, “She was living on the street.” His response was, “What happened? What’s going on?” Asiatae wanted to come to California. “I told her I had to talk to my wife. I did. Monette wanted to know for how long, I said she would stay with Latrice until she could get her own place.”

Asiatae was at her father’s home for just a couple of days, and then her cousin Latrice picked her up. She

Today when I got up I went to the store, Monette and her friend where in the living room I went outside to smoke a cigarette then he came outside and then I walked to the store, after I went to three stores to find a prepaid phone and a bag of chips and get a Dove bar, ice cream, and water I went back home and saw Monette there on the chair, then I called my dad so he could come and call the ambulance we were told to put her on the floor instead we heard a knock at the door it was the ambulance. They asked us questions then took me and my dad to the Police Station. I got home from the store at 1:51pm and have receipts of the food I bought from the store. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Asiatae Bell
Nov 20 2018 1:51pm

Evidence shown to jury: handwritten statement by Asiatae, same day police questioned her

stayed there three weeks. “I got along with Latrice,” Asiatae insisted. “She said that maybe I shouldn’t stay, we had a discrepancy about paying rent, she kept changing it up, we had a difference of agreement about paying rent, and I didn’t do things around the house that she asked, like smoking cigarettes and leaving shoes by the door, stuff like that, so I just said I was going to live with my dad, so.”

Why did you leave Latrice’s? “She was starting to nit pick on little things, like, ‘Leave your shoes at the door,’ and I would forget.” Asiatae giggled at the memory when she spoke from the witness box. “She did say I could stay, and then she said she changed her mind, and I called my dad and I told him I was coming back to the house.”

“How long were you then at your dad’s?”

“A few days, a couple days maybe.”

Asiatae said that during that month or so she was in Escondido, she did not have any visions. “I was just fine. I was just thinking about what I was going to do, like going to school. No voices. I wasn’t really

going through anything. I was with my dad so I wasn’t really feeling depressed, which is when I would hear voices.”

Walter said he gave Asiatae his son’s room. She had that room all to herself, and his son slept in Walter’s bedroom. His wife Monette commonly fell asleep in her favorite chair and then came to sleep with her husband when she wanted.

“I blacked out”

For more than three years, Asiatae stuck to her story that she came home and found Monette bloody in her chair. But in the year 2017, she changed her story to one of self-defense. It was in June 2017 that she first admitted stabbing Monette.

Asiatae said she was still in bed that morning, when “that friend of Monette’s” (Ron) came over. She knew her father had already left for work. “He leaves for work at the crack of dawn,” Asiatae testified during her murder trial. “So I’m laying there and he comes to my bedroom door and he is staring at me with a cold stare.” She said Ron did not

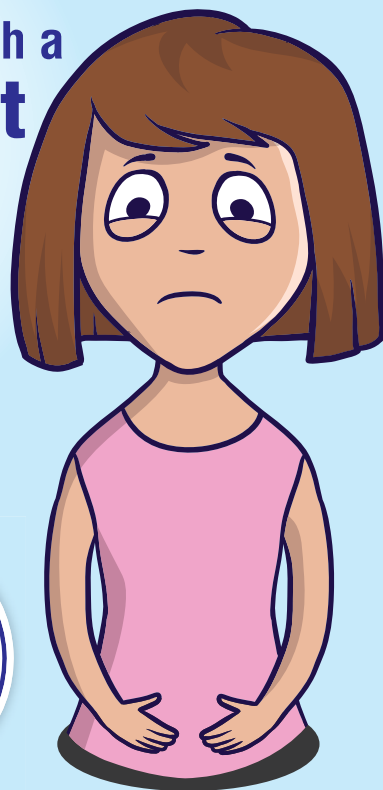
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knock, "He just opens the door. And Monette yells out, 'Rape her!' And he said, 'What about Walter?' And she said, 'Kill him!' And then Ron closed her bedroom door, according to Asiatæ's testimony.

The prosecutor questioned Asiatæ about this exchange on cross-examination; she clarified, "She told Ron, 'Kill them. Kill 'em.' I didn't think it was just about my dad, I thought it was the both of us."

Asiatæ said she was upset and did not have a phone to call her father, so "I got up and got dressed. And went to the store." She said she hoped to buy a cell phone at the corner stores.

Asiatæ said that when she returned home, "He was gone." The prosecutor asked her, "If you felt threatened, why didn't you call police? She answered, "Because none of their business."

Asiatæ said she went to her bedroom "And [Monette] calls me into the living room.... And then she asked me if I heard what she said about my dad. And I told her I didn't know what she was talking about." Asiatæ said she was standing near the chair where Monette was. "She comes at me with a knife." Asiatæ said Monette stabbed at her, but the blade went harmlessly between her fingers.

Asiatæ said she got the knife away from Monette, and she could only remember stabbing her the first two times, "And then after that I blacked out."

Asiatæ denied going into the kitchen to get the second knife, after the first knife broke off in Monette's body.

She did remember that she went into the bathroom to wash her bloody hands. "Yes, 'cause I was a mess."

Cops found her bloody sweater —the sleeves were

still wet — under her coat in her bedroom. "I didn't know there was blood on my face, so I just wanted to wash my hands. My hands, that was the only thing I saw at the time," Asiatæ testified.

The prosecutor wanted to know, "Why didn't you tell your dad when you phoned him, that Monette came at you with a knife?"

"My dad wasn't there. He doesn't know Monette was going through these feelings about us. He was with Monette a really long time. I was really looking for love from my father. I didn't want to do anything to diminish those feelings."

"Why didn't you tell the police or paramedics that she attacked you?"

"Because I was scared to talk to anybody, and my father was really the most important."

Why did you wait more than four years to tell anyone that Monette attacked you first?

"I was feeling like a lot of different feelings. I don't know, I was so aggravated."

During her murder trial, while she was in the witness box telling the jury what she could remember from that day, Asiatæ said, "I couldn't believe I had to go through this."

The prosecutor asked her, "So you are a victim?"

She replied, "That's how I feel, yes."

In his closing statement, prosecutor Matt Greco told the jury, "This was a cold-blooded ambush."

The jury of eight women and four men heard evidence for two weeks, deliberated a full day, and then declared Asiatæ Robinette Bell, 39, guilty of second-degree murder on May 25, 2018. She will be sentenced Aug 20 2018, at 8:30 am by the same judge who heard the trial, Honorable Harry Elias.

— Eva Knott

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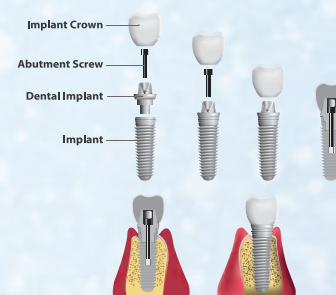
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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

The new owner, according to a grant deed recorded at the San Diego county Recorder's office November 16, is a group of entities tied to Seligman & Associates of Southfield Michigan. Per the company's website, the family-owned firm's related company, Seligman Western Ventures, is based in San Francisco. A "consent to assignments of and estoppel certificate relating to Naval Training Center ground leases" that was recorded with the deed was signed by city deputy chief operating officer David Graham and deputy city attorney Delmar Williams. In connection with the transaction, records show, the group of Seligman-related entities executed a trust deed to JPMorgan Chase Bank, securing a mortgage loan in the amount of \$117 million.

Seligman honcho Scott Seligman, son of company founder Irving R. Seligman and part owner of the San Francisco Giants, is not universally admired in the Bay Area. "Seligman has been singled out as the ugly face of gentrification in San Francisco by non-other than Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the famed poet and owner of City

Lights books," noted Pueblo Lands. "Back in 2001, Seligman was in the process of evicting tenants from a building he controlled in the Mid-Market area (the same part of San Francisco now being colonized by Twitter, thanks to a big tax break the Board of Supervisors gave the company). In a press release, Ferlinghetti lashed out: "A developer from Michigan, Scott Seligman, who runs Sterling Bank and Seligman Western Enterprises, wants to gentrify the Mid-Market zone. Not to make the City a better place, but to make his bank account a little fatter. He wants a better class of tenant. No more photographers or poets or translators or editors or painters. No more small businesses serving the city. No more small nonprofits, like Street-side Stories, which publishes work by 650 middle school kids every year to foster a love of reading and writing."

Seligman and company are likely to face similar resistance here regarding plans to turn the former Navy training station's historic North Chapel into a restaurant venue. "Several members of the community, including Save Our Heritage Organisation, have been in contact with my office

to express their concerns regarding the leasing 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 Democratic congressman Scott Peters in a letter to the mayor and lame-duck GOP councilwoman Lorie Zapf.

Since June 2009, Faulconer has collected a total of \$21,999 in campaign funding from individuals associated with the McMillin family, which was the seller in this month's deal. Zapf accepted \$9000 since March 2010 from the McMillins, records show. Neither politico has appeared interested in pursuing the chapel conversion issue, leaving Democratic La Jolla city councilwoman Barbara Bry — who, along with Peters, has been talked of as a candidate for mayor — to subsequently request the city attorney to look into the case.

As reported November 17 by the *Union-Tribune* — a day after the quiet closing of Seligman's deal to take over the property from McMillin — Faulconer spokeswoman Christina Chadwick released

a statement regarding the calls for an investigation of the chapel matter. "While we appreciate that an investigation could help this effort, the mayor has chosen a more direct approach to address the questions and concerns raised by the community and in the letter. Mayor Faulconer has directed staff to proactively work with the leaseholder to ensure that the chapel remains open to the public for assembly purposes and any future use respects and maintains its historic elements in accordance with the law."

The possibility of McMillin transferring Liberty Station to a new owner was first reported by the *Union-Tribune* in an October 19 dispatch that quoted city spokeswoman Anna Vaccchi as saying, "The city has been asked to review a McMillin proposal to sell their leasehold interest in various properties at NTC." She provided no other details and could not say when a deal would be done, per the paper's report. "Under terms and conditions of the ground lease, the master developer can assign, sell or transfer a ground lease with the consent of the city of San Diego provided that a

certificate of completion has been issued to the city," the spokeswoman added.

Matt Potter

Permit processing project's multiple managers cost city

Plan to boost efficiency now \$7 million over budget and three years late

A sole-source contract touted by development officials for bringing new efficiency to permit processing as it breezed through city council three years ago has come a cropper, according to a November 16 report by interim city auditor Kyle Elser, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in cost overruns and resulting in years of project delays. "We found that [the] Development Services Department and the City of San Diego's management skipped fundamental steps early in the implementation to speed up the process," says the document regarding a data processing contract awarded to government software provider Accela, Inc. of San Ramon. "The new project team has executed nine change orders since the exit of the initial project manager."

As a result, the audit says, the project's "original go-live date of May 2017

was delayed by several years; full implementation is now planned for February 2020, near the end of the initial five-year contract. Additionally, the originally approved \$10.9 million budget for the purchase and implementation of Accela is now projected to reach \$17.7 million."

When, in September 2015, the proposal suddenly materialized before the city council, officials sold it to the public as a quick way to solve the city's chronic processing bottlenecks. "City staffers say the move is so crucial that they are recommending approval without allowing other firms to participate in a traditional competitive bidding process, and without presenting the proposal to any of the council's committees for preliminary discussion," said a September 21, 2015 *Union-Tribune* account. But that haste turned out to be especially costly, per the new audit, when key city workers abruptly left the project years before its completion, and the development process spiraled out of control. "City management skipped fundamental steps early in the implementation to speed up the process, which resulted in an over-reliance

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CITY LIGHTS

on the [Project Tracking] system's architect as the project manager and technical lead and compounded previously identified issues with a poorly documented home-grown system," the document says. "The implementation sustained further delays when the project manager, with the institutional knowledge, retired prior to completing the most complicated portions of the blueprints. Shortly after, the Accela project manager also left the project, further setting it back."

Making matters worse, management problems were found to be rife across the city's entire data processing operation. "We identified weaknesses in the implementation governance that has significantly increased the cost and implementation timeline for replacing the existing system. These weaknesses exist throughout the City's Information System Governance of System." With cash continuing to hemorrhage, the report says that city chief information officer Jonathan Behnke has "agreed to fully implement" the audit's recommendations for improvement, including tougher control policies, more staff training, and establishing a way to "track system information from cradle to grave in a new repository."

Matt Potter

Subpar situation

The audit finds costs for idle subs

The Navy's fleet of 51 attack submarines, a portion of which is based in San Diego, is suffering from a series of "significant maintenance delays and operating and support cost expenditures," that could jeopardize the national defense, according to an audit by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. "Between fiscal year 2008 and 2018, attack submarines have incurred 10,363 days of idle time and maintenance delays as a result of delays in

CITY LIGHTS

getting into and out of the shipyards," says a newly-released public version of the classified November 16 report to Congress. Since 2008, the document adds, the Navy has spent more than \$1.5 billion "to support attack submarines that provide no operational capability — those sitting idle while waiting to enter the shipyards, and those delayed in completing their maintenance at the shipyards."

Some of the hold-up has been caused by the need to comply with additional safety standards required due to risks of undersea operations, the document says. "The Navy will delay deployment dates if necessary to ensure that these standards are met. As a result, deployed readiness is high and attack submarines are in excellent materiel condition as compared with the rest of the Navy fleet."

But in the meanwhile, extended repair times have grown ever costlier. "We found that since Fiscal Year 2008, 14 attack submarines have spent a combined 61 months idling while waiting to enter shipyards for maintenance. Idle time incurred while waiting to begin a maintenance period

CITY LIGHTS

is often coupled with maintenance delays while at the shipyards, thus compounding total delays. Operating and support costs include payment of crew salaries, purchasing of spare parts, and conducting of maintenance, among other things, but they do not represent the full operational impact incurred by the Navy from the idle time and maintenance delays."

And the situation isn't improving, auditors say. "While the public shipyards have operated above capacity for the past several years, attack submarine maintenance delays are getting longer and idle time is increasing. The Navy expects the maintenance backlogs at the public shipyards to continue. We estimate that, as a result of these backlogs, the Navy will incur approximately \$266 million in operating and support costs in Fiscal Year 2018 constant dollars for idle submarines from Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023, as well as additional depot maintenance delays."

The audit calls for better sharing of work between the so-called public shipyards — those run by the government — and private contractors. "Although the Navy

CITY LIGHTS

has shifted about 8 million man-hours in attack submarine maintenance to private shipyards over the past 5

continued on page 90

Under the radar

continued from page 3

communications provider. **Willie Guerrero**, principal consultant to the Latino Legislative Caucus, had to settle for five bleacher seats at a September 30 Giants-Dodgers game worth \$195. In addition to distributing freebies to legislative employees, AT&T employs California Strategies & Advocacy, the state influence-peddling behemoth founded by one-time **Pete Wilson** aide **Bob White**. AT&T's filing shows that so far this year the firm has been paid \$58,567. Other beneficiaries of the company's lobbying largesse during the third quarter included the UC San Diego Foundation, which got \$50,000. Democratic political consultant **Steven Maviglio**, who helped mastermind the campaign against pro-rent-control measure Proposition 10, picked up \$7083 from the company.

— 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/.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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Homeless invade

continued from page 3

these folks living down there are so determined and so entrenched that it's going to take years to make that happen at the rate we're going."

"Most of these people believe the city should be cleaning it up," Siciliani says of the cayonside homeowners, "because the push they've done in these visible spaces, East downtown, East Village, Barrio Logan, they've pushed it onto us individual homeowners as a responsibility to take care of it and deal with it."

In April, several news outlets reported that the city sent out 33 letters to private and commercial property owners along the San Diego River, offering assistance in cleaning up their property, including the disbandment of dozens of homeless encampments. One outlet quoted Mayor Falconer saying, "We said the City of San Diego will come out over one time and clean it up entirely for free, but after that we're going to insist that you keep it clean."

Around that time, Siciliani began to push the city toward a solution for her neighborhood, sending email after email in an attempt to get information about which agencies could help do the same for Fox Canyon. Eventually, she real-

ized that she and her neighbors would have to do the coordination themselves.

One of the first steps was getting a letter of agency from the homeowners, giving the police permission to go on their properties without being called to address a specific disturbance. Not all homeowners were willing to sign off. Another challenge was in getting neighbors to agree to participate in cleanup efforts. Some didn't believe it was on their property, and others didn't think it should be their responsibility. So Siciliani had to then pester the city to cite the unwilling property owners for open space code violations.

"The government agencies are waiting on us to get letters of agency from the homeowners for the police department to be walking around back there, but that requires knocking on doors and finding the homeowners to get the letters of agency, which takes a lot of time, and we all work full time," says Miller. "I feel like we need the city to step in and take over. We need a full-time person to take this project on for it to actually get done."

And then there's the issue of who's going to pay for the cleanup if it ever happens. While there may be cheaper routes than hiring a professional cleanup company, they may not be the safe-

est choices.

"This should not be handled by some guys from Home Depot," Siciliani says. "Even if the people aren't there, the site is dangerous. There's issues of Hep A, needles, and that kind of stuff."

In mid-October, Siciliani contacted Urban Corps to come out and assess a single encampment on the property of her neighbor to give an estimate of the cost to clean it up. They determined it would require four 40-foot dumpsters and cost the homeowner \$4080.

According to an email sent to Barbara Lamb by community organizer, Linda Pennington, Sam Lopez of Urban Corps had agreed to clean up the camps on Hodo's property and that SDPD's Sergeant Heller would help out as well.

Forty minutes later, Barbara Lamb of Environmental Services Department responded with an email that said, "All, I am sorry to rain on your parade, but City resources are prohibited from abating on private property. Urban Corps is not available to assist you in this capacity under their contract with [Environmental Services Department]. If anyone wants to hire them under a private arrangement, that is between you and Urban Corps."

It had only been six months since the City of San Diego sent out a trium-

phant official press release on April 10 trumpeting the cleanup initiated by Mayor Falconer's Clean SD that offered cleanup assistance to 33 property owners along the San Diego River.

Siciliani asked if Lamb would at least provide the \$1200 for the dumpsters, and the response was that a curbside pickup was all she would do.

"You know what that means? That the cleanup crew is going to haul the shit up to the street, and then Environmental Services is going to come and clean it up?" Siciliani says. "This is just stupid at this point."

But she pushed on anyway, and continued to send emails and otherwise pester Lamb and other city employees. On Friday, November 9, Eric Young, the City Heights Community representative from Mayor Falconer's office sent an email apologizing for poor communication and promised movement the following week, coordinating between Fox Canyon community leaders, Lopez from Urban Corp, Barbara Lamb, and San Diego Police Lieutenant Corissa Pich.

"Lastly," he wrote, "we will plan a coordinated day of the community's choice that works congruent with city's availability for a curbside cleanup and SDPD."

On Tuesday, November 13, Siciliani responded with an email informing Young,

Pich, Lamb, and Sadler of her tentative appointment with Lopez for the 16th to walk through the canyon to give estimates of the cleanup for all cited properties. She requested police presence.

"Our objective here is to attempt to get all these camps cleared out, the homeless relocated to services, and give owners the opportunity to use the promised curbside cleanup to mitigate some of the costs."

On Thursday, November 15, she had to cancel the appointment with Lopez because she still had not heard back from anyone at Environmental Services.

"Environmental Services is extremely dysfunctional," Siciliani says. "Every time we've tried to make progress, they're the link that doesn't work."

The following morning, however, she did get a call that a representative from Environmental Services would be there. So she sent out an email that the meeting was back on. Code compliance officer Thomas Sadler, Sergeant Heller of neighborhood policing, and Kier Klingenberg from Urban Corps joined community members for a walk-through of the area.

Since then, according to Miller three families whose properties were cited have begun to clean up what they can on their own.

"Meanwhile, the homeless encampment, they had walls and a whole structure back there behind [one of the properties]," Miller says, "they picked up all their generator and walls et cetera, and have moved further down behind Isla Vista Drive now."

Siciliani likens the process to "whack-a-mole," and both women believe the city needs to step in and take the same all-at-once approach that was taken to clean up the San Diego River. And since the November 16th walkthrough, there are some signs that Fox Canyon is now on the radar, and others signs that maybe it's not.

On Tuesday, November 27, Barbara Lamb attended the Mid-City Homeless Coalition meeting for the first time that Miller can recall. But that same day, at the Fox Canyon community meeting, also for the first time, there was no rep from Georgette Gomez's office.

"It's like, 'Yes, we're with you,' and then you don't see them again," Miller says.

On Tuesday, November 27, another fire broke out in the Fox Canyon. There was "Lots of smoke when I called it in at 9:00," one neighbor texted another. "Fire showed up and several police. I hosed down my area while I called it in. Someone from the camp hollered out an apology." ■

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM CARMODY

CAST OF THE YEAR TO COME

in rainbow colors. Between snowfalls, community caroling groups entertain with holiday classics.

WHEN: Sunday, December 9, 4 pm to 6 pm

WHERE: Village Walk, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive, Chula Vista. shopvillagewalk.com

Thursday | 6

THE YEAR TO COME

This world premiere narrows in on a family gathering on New Year's Eve. It seemed normal at the time – politically incorrect banter, splashing each other in the pool. But “relationships grew and fractured in moments that became family legend.” Unfolding backwards from 2017 to 2000, *The Year to Come* shows how the promise of future is shaped by lens of the past.

WHEN: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 8 pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 7:30 pm. Through December 30.

WHERE: Mandell Weiss Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Dr, La Jolla. lajollaplayhouse.org

THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS AT DEL MAR ARENA



THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS

Alt 94.9 Not So Silent Night features a crowded slate of both established and up-n-coming acts at the 3,500 seat Del Mar Arena. LA's Thirty Seconds to Mars recently found time between Jared Leto's film projects to release a new

album, *America*. Bill includes singer-actress Elle King (whose *Shake the Spirit* full-length dropped in October), NYC sibling trio AJR, and German-

Canadian-British singer-songwriter Alice Merton, whose debut album *Mint* is due in January.

WHEN: Sunday, December 9, 4 pm

WHERE: Del Mar Arena, Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. delmarfairgrounds.com

Sunday | 9

GIANT SNOW GLOBE

Free photo and video by professional photographers, inside or outside this giant snow globe. Experience snowfall, accompanied by choreographed music and lights. Children receive free “magic” glasses to watch the snow falling



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11: ALL ABOUT NORMANDY, FRANCE (ABOVE: MONT-SAINT-MICHEL)

at the Ferry Landing in Coronado. Announcers will be located at the Maritime Museum on the Embarcadero and at Coronado Landing.

WHEN: Sunday, December 9, 5 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: Shelter Island Marina, 2051 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. ssdparadeoflights.org

Tuesday | 11

ALL ABOUT NORMANDY, FRANCE

Make a virtual visit to Normandy to learn about famous historical sites, such as Mont-Saint-Michel, the island off the northwestern coast that has held since 8th

century AD. The structural composition of the town exemplifies the feudal society that constructed it: on top, God, abbey, and monastery; below, the great halls; then stores and housing; and at bottom, outside the walls, houses for fishermen and farmers. Learn about the cuisine offered throughout Normandy, and sample complimentary bites.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 11, 6 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue, La Jolla. lajollalibrary.org

PARADE OF LIGHTS ON THE BAY

Participants will decorate their boats to fit this year's theme, “A Tropical Island Christmas.” 100,000 San Diego residents and visitors are expected to watch from the shores of San Diego Bay. The procession includes approximately 80 boats and takes about an hour to pass any given point. Boats start at Shelter Island and proceed to Harbor Island, the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, the Pier at Cesar Chavez Park, and end



ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

BAYSIDE WALKING AND BIRDING TRAIL (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Do this walk seasonally to view different bird populations.

Driving directions: From I-5, take exit 5A toward Palm Avenue/CA-75. Go west onto Palm Avenue for 1.4 miles, then turn right onto 11th Street. In 0.3 mile, turn slightly left onto Cherry Avenue and onto 10th Street. Park in the lot next to the Imperial Beach Public Works Department. **Hiking length:** 0.8 mile out-and-back. Allow one-half to one hour hiking time. **Difficulty:** Easy with little evaluations gain/loss. Use caution crossing the bike path as this is heavily used on weekends.



The trail has many interpretive panels. Inset: Pokeweed is a non-native that has become naturalized in this area

A new birding trail has been opened at the very bottom of San Diego Bay in Imperial Beach within the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. There is a well-marked dirt path stemming from the west end of the parking lot where you will find yourself surrounded by California flat-topped buckwheat. Right outside the western edge of the parking lot is a sign describing a rail line that went from the Hotel Del Coronado looping along the bay into San Diego, known as the Coronado Beltline Railroad.

The new trail extends to the west for 0.4 mile. Plant life on this walk is sparse and stressed from traffic and the weather. The real pay-off here is the birds. This is the western-most flyway in North

America, called the Pacific Flyway. Migrating birds from their spring/summer breeding areas in Canada and South America use this part of San Diego Bay as a stop-over or destination. The largest number and variety of birds are seen in the winter. You can choose to make this a monthly stop and watch as the bird populations change with the seasons. There are two large viewing platforms with benches that provide an unrestricted view. You don't have to do anything but sit and wait for the different varieties of birds to whiz by. It is especially rewarding in late winter/early spring as different varieties of terns use the bay for nesting and breeding. This past April

continued on page 32

Bayside Walking and Birding Trail Imperial Beach



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

Frosty Farm Animal Encounters

This festive event combines hands-on animal encounters with family-friendly activities, you will also get a one hour excursion that is led by a member of our cheerful crew. Saturday, December 8, 9am; Sunday, December 9, 9am; \$10-\$20. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Pet Photos with Santa Bring your furry friends in for a photo with Santa. Sunday, December 9, 5:30pm; **free**. Carlsbad Premium Outlets, 5620 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

ART

Cat Calendar Launch Party Meet artist June Rubin in her studio for your signed copy of the calendar. Rubin's studio will be filled with her original whimsical cat artworks as featured in her calendar. Show runs for the month of December 2018 Friday, December 7, 5pm; **free**. June Rubin Studio/Gallery, 2690 Historic Decatur Road #214. (LIBERTY STATION)

Conception Art Show Come see over 20 of San Diego's best emerging artists display and sell their latest works. We will have painters, photographers, sculptors, and more, including live music from The Heart. Saturday, December 8, 6pm; \$20. Mission Brewery, 1441 L Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

December Artist Reception The public is invited to an artists' reception at the Off Track Gallery featuring the photography of John Tsumas and jewelry by Dolores Renner. Refreshments will be served at the reception. All artwork in the Gallery will be 10% OFF the entire day from 10am to closing. Saturday, December 8, 4pm; **free**. Off Track Gallery, 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, suite C-103. (ENCINITAS)

First Friday Art Walk 4th annual Tree Lighting Ceremony to kick off the holiday season, while illuminating the art community. Guests are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy donation for Camp Pendleton Toys for Tots. Local artists, dancers, live music, Hello Betty's chef and much more. Art Walk is a free, family friendly event. Friday, December 7, 5pm; **free**. Springhill Springs Marriott, 110 N. Myers Street. (OCEANSIDE)

Mindfulness Meditation in the Gallery Bring your mat, clear your mind, and enjoy a peaceful Sunday morning as part of our Rising Tide programming. Admission to the event and the exhibition is compli-

mentary but space is limited. Sunday, December 9, 10:30am; **free**. San Diego Art Institute, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Sissy Alsabrook Opening Reception Sissy Alsabrook, accomplished impressionist oil painter, will be showing in the month of December. Saturday, December 8, 5:30pm; L'Atelier, 2655 Reynard Way. (MISSION HILLS)

The Petite Show These small canvases are masterpieces of color and light, each brush stroke a deliberate expression by the artist. Please join us for an evening of live music, holiday treats, free wine tasting and great art. Saturday, December 8, 5pm; **free**. 21 and up. Erin Hanson Gallery, 9705 Carroll Centre Road. (MIRAMAR)

BEER

First Friday Night Market We'll be featuring vegan food/drink vendors, local vegan-friendly beer in a 21+ beer garden, and music. Friday, December 7, 6pm; **free**. Anthem Vegan, 2611 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

Kegs & Eggs All day brunch specials in addition to regular menu. Brunch Specials will be rotational every weekend, follow @duck-footeastvillage on Instagram to stay updated on rotating specials. Saturdays, 12pm; Sundays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 23, **free**. 21 and up. Duck Foot East Village Taproom & Kitchen, 550 Park BL, Ste 2104. (EAST VILLAGE)

Toast of Gaslamp The Toast of Gaslamp, Saturday, December 8th is pleased to bring you a seasonal self-guided walking tour that will have you tasting, toasting, and shopping with 20 sips, 20 bites, and 20 shopping deals that will leave you rosy and ready to carol from 1pm to 5pm. Saturday, December 8, 1pm; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Jay Paris: Shohei Ohtani Warwick's will host Jay Paris as he discusses and signs his new book, "Shohei Ohtani: The Amazing Story of Baseball's Two-Way Japanese Superstar." Thursday, December 6, 7:30pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Jill G. Hall: The Silver Shoes Historical fiction author Jill G. Hall will be offering a book talk about how photographs have influenced her writing. Her most recent book "The Silver Shoes" is a story that follows two women bound by a pair of vintage dance shoes worn by their original owner, a fallen debutant who tries to save her family from post-stock market crash ruin by becoming a burlesque dancer. Sunday, December 9, 4:30pm; \$5. Women's Museum of California, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16, #103. (LIBERTY STATION)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

All Girls STEM Society Presents

Aerospace Study basic physics as well as real aerospace terminology and concepts used in the industry today. This workshop is recommended for girls in Grades 3-8 (ages 8-14); all are welcome. Sunday, December 9, 1:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Cultured Eggnog Holiday DIY Workshop Join Fermenters Club To Learn how to make eggnog and other dairy based foods even better through fermentation. This holiday themed class will feature (non-alcoholic) eggnog, made with cultured milk (aka kefir). This class will teach you how to turn cow milk into more nutritious and healthy food. The experience includes: - Discussion about food fermentation and its many benefits - Demo and sampling of probiotic-rich dairy foods such as kefir, and of course, eggnog - A take-home bottle of kefir eggnog Non-alcoholic Saturday, December 8, 3pm; \$42-\$45. Holsem Coffee, 2911 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Get Smart with Alexa Amazon's Alexa is the most popular of the wireless smart speakers. Using nothing but the sound of your voice, you can play music, search the web, create shopping lists, shop online, get instant news and weather reports, and even control your smart home! In this class we'll explore some handy tips and tricks available with this cool and very smart device. An Oasis Program Friday, December 7, 10:30am; **free**. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Healthier Living with Chronic Conditions County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) is offering free workshops for individuals dealing with chronic conditions and the symptoms associated with them. Each class is 2.5 hours long with a 20-minute break in the middle. Fridays, 10:30am; through Friday, December 14, **free**. Mental Health Systems, 1701 Mission Ave., Suite 120. (OCEANSIDE)

Holiday Chocolate Workshop Learn from a Chuao's master chocolatier about perfecting the art of working with chocolate to create not only delicious desserts, but also beautifully and skillfully crafted pieces of art with the chocolate. Ticket includes one person for the chocolate class, photo as well as personalized DIY ornament. Saturday, December 8, 10am; \$30. Chuao Chocolatier Boutique & Joy Factory, 2350 Camino Vida Roble. (CARLSBAD)

Holiday Happiness Chocolate Making Class San Diego's colorful chocolate shop Sweet Petite Confections is celebrating the holidays with a chocolate making class. Secure your spot at this reservations-only class to learn the art of making fantastically flavored chocolates and bark over the course of two hours. Saturday, December 8, 12:30pm; \$40. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems by Thomas Wentworth Higginson

The Snowing of the Pines

Softer than silence, stiller than still air,
Float down from high pine boughs the slender leaves.
The forest floor its annual boon receives
That comes like snowfall, tireless, tranquil, fair.
Gently they glide, gently they clothe the bare
Old rocks with grace. Their fall a mantle weaves
Of paler yellow than autumnal sheaves
Or those strange blossoms the witch-hazels wear.
Athwart long aisles the sunbeams pierce their way;
High up, the crows are gathering for the night;
The delicate needles fill the air; the jay
Takes through their golden mist his radiant flight;
They fall and fall, till at November's close
The snow-flakes drop as lightly-snows on snows.

December

The evening sky unseals its quiet fountain,
Hushing the silence to a drowsy rain;
It spreads a web of dimness o'er the plain
And round each meadow tree;
Makes this steep river-bank a dizzy mountain,
And this wide stream a sea.
Stealing from upper headlands of deep mist,
The dark tide bears its icebergs ocean bound,
White shapeless voyagers, by each other kissed,

With rustling, ghostly sound;
The lingering oak-leaves sigh, the birches shiver,
Watching the wrecks of summer far and near,
Where many a dew-drop, frozen on its bier,
Drifts down the dusky river.
I know thee not, thou giant elm, who towerest
With shadowy branches in the murky air;
And this familiar grove, once light and fair,
Frowns, an Enchanted Forest.
Couldst thou not choose some other night to moan,
O hollow-hooting owl?
There needs no spell from thy bewildered soul;
I'm ghost enough alone.



Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911) was an American poet and Unitarian minister. Although he was best known in history as an Abolitionist active in his fight to free slaves prior to the Civil War – and a solidier in that war – he is also remembered as Emily Dickinson's literary mentor. He guided her in her literary pursuits through an ongoing correspondence with the younger poet. After Dickinson's death, he worked with Mabel Loomis Todd, literary editor (and paramour of Dickinson's brother), to publish a volume of Dickinson's verse. Higginson's own poetry, while more conventional than Dickinson's, demonstrated the same eye for poetic detail and literary value that helped introduce the Poet of Amherst to the world.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

LEGO Mindstorms Robotics

Participants will learn the core concepts of robotics and use basic flowchart programming to create autonomous robots, featuring multiple sensors, with the LEGO Mindstorms kit. Advanced registration is required below. Course Level: Middle School (6th-8th Grade) Saturday, December 8, 1:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Outdoor Photography Class (Portraits)

Learn to take advantage of natural light, scout good locations, lock in perfect focus and take advantage of your camera's capabilities. Meet in front of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Old Town. Saturday, December 8, 2pm; \$99. Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant, 2600 Calhoun Street. (OLD TOWN)

Paper Marbling & Book Binding Workshop

Come for two Saturdays and Learn the art of paper marbling; then create a book using the papers you made. Two sheets you make will be used to build a journal as you learn the "perfect binding" method of bookbinding. Ages 16 and up. With Marsha Cook Saturday, December 8, 9am; \$100. 18 and up. Art Center, 1140 Main St., Suite 208. (RAMONA)

Parent & Child Holiday Cooking Workshop

Take a break from the holiday bustle and spend time together learning great holiday recipes from Chef Andrew Polino. Sunday, December 9, 2pm; \$65. Fletcher Cove, Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (SOLANA BEACH)

Santa's Workshop Chocolate Making Class

Secure your spot

at this reservations-only class to learn the art of making fantastically flavored chocolates to give to friends and family over the course of two hours while creating nearly 1.5 pounds of confections. Friday, December 7, 6:30pm; \$40. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

Celebrate the holiday season with a Rain to Roots do-it-yourself succulent arrangement workshop. Learn a new skill set and enjoy your first pint on us at this fun and festive holiday event. Sunday, December 9, 12pm; \$45-\$50. Latitude 33 Brewing Company, 1430 Vantage Court #104. (VISTA)

Lip Sync Battle San Diego's Fav Drag Queen Mariam T is hosting this special Christmas edition of the Lip-Sync Battle. Jesse Suphan and the cast of Who Invited Her join as judges. Saturday, December 8, 10pm; \$15. Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana Street. (NORTH PARK)

Stuart Thompson Stuart Thompson hosts The Late Night podcast. The night will also feature Anna Valenzuela, Robert Bronson, Tati-ana Cwiklinski, Aaron Frescas, and host Brendan Praniewicz. Saturday, December 8, 8:30pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. Bear Roots Brewing Co., 1213 S. Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

DANCE

Celebrating Movement Student Belly Dance Showcase

Come and share in the artistic spirit of local San Diego belly dance instructors and their dedicated students for an end of the year show. Photo booth, vendors and live musicians. Sunday, December 9, 2pm; \$15-\$20. Saville Theatre at San Diego City College, 14th and C Street. (CITY COLLEGE)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Westcoast Podcast Expo 1st

Annual 2018 "Westcoast Podcast Expo" Sponsored by: ChebaHut Community of Online radio station, podcasters & artists from Northern & Southern California. Live artist interviews on location + music + panels & games. 20 Podcasters, 10 Online Radio Stations, 5 Music Studios, Food Vendors, Domino Tournament, Madden Tournament, Sneaker Contest + Live HipHop Performances Saturday, December 8, 12pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

COMEDY

Black Kat's 2018 Year in Review

From natural disasters to hot messes, pardons to panthers... Join us as we cover 2018's newsmakers in one hilarious sketch comedy show. Geared for 18 & up. Thursday, December 6, 7:30pm; Friday, December 7, 8pm; Saturday, December 8, 7:30pm; \$16. 18 and up. Women's Museum of California, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16, #103. (LIBERTY STATION)

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

FOR KIDS

Baby/Toddler Storytime Join us for a fun and interactive storytime that focuses on a new developmental skill every month. Saturdays, 10:30am; through Saturday, December 29, **free**. Paradise Hills Public Library, 5922 Rancho Hills Drive. (PARADISE HILLS)

Christmas Open House The Lemon Grove Historical Society's traditional Christmas Open House in Civic Center Park features tours of the beautiful Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove. Friday, December 7, 5:30pm; **free**. Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, 3185 Olive Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Christmas in the Park Purchase tasty holiday treats, finish your Christmas shopping at the craft boutique, or board the Poway Midland Railroad for a night-time ride around the park. Christmas tree lighting at 5:15 PM, followed by the arrival of Santa at 5:30 PM. Horse-drawn hay and pony rides, petting zoo, and face painting. Saturday, December 8, 3:30pm; **free**. Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road. (POWAY)

Christmas in the Valley Christmas in the Valley is a free event for children in the community and their families. Live music, face painting, Snows Pony rides & petting zoo are among the many free activities that are offered. Friday, December 7, 3pm; Saturday, December 8, 9am; **free**. Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

Coaster Holiday Express Bring your children for a magical round-trip train ride from Oceanside to Solana Beach where you can visit with Santa, his elves, and beautiful princesses! Visit www.GoNCTD.com for more information. Saturday, December 8, 10am; Oceanside Transit Center, 313 South Cleveland Street. (OCEANSIDE)

Dance Pants Party Recommended for toddlers, preschool-

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES

Holiday Flight Tickets On Sale Now!

Sky Sailing offers a variety of breathtaking scenic sailplane rides. The adventure begins as you slip into the sleek sailplane for an experience you will remember forever. You will be treated to a gentle, tranquil ride or a roller-coaster ride whichever you prefer – at no extra charge. All our pilots are FAA-certified commercial pilots. Rides for two start at \$120 per person. If you think that special someone would like to take the controls and handle most of the flight, then an Introductory Lesson (starting at \$155) is just the ticket.

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SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Parkway Hills Church

Contact: 1227 Eastlake Parkway, Chula Vista 619-656-3697 www.phnaz.com

Membership: 150

Pastor: Tim Fillmore

Age: 57

Born: Placerville

Formation: Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, CO; Point Loma Nazarene University

Years Ordained: 19

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

Pastor Tim Fillmore: There's a real lack of spiritual development and discipleship inside the church. If Christians were growing and were properly being made disciples, the church would have a greater impact on those who

weren't inside the church, and therefore the church would become more available and (I use this word cautiously) attractive. It's not about the church being attractive in the sense that we have a nice façade, a nice waterfall, a great band and light show; it's who God is in us through Christ that makes it attractive. My concern is, you could call it, spiritual illiteracy.

SDR: *Why did you become a minister?*

PF: God calls you and you can say no. I tried for a while. I was in business at the time I heard the call, and I sunk down four absolutes to God: "I won't leave the business I own – the house that I built – the town I live in – and

the church I am serving in. Otherwise, you can use me anyway you want." It was a kind of challenge to God; I shook my fist in his face, and he figuratively said, "I'll take you on in that challenge." And one at a time, I sold my business, left my house, left my church, and found myself leaving the town I'd grown up in. At that point, I was 0 for 4 and said, "OK, God you win. What do you want me to do?" ...When I said, "Yes," it became a journey of understanding and discovery, and following God's will. When you walk in the nucleus of God's will, there you find God's blessing and discern his will. That becomes a gigantic "A-ha!" moment.

It's like getting to the center of a jelly-filled donut.

SDR: *What is the mission of your church?*

PF: The mission of our church is to passionately reach, teach, restore and celebrate life in God's family. We do have outreach to families here. We're across the street from a high school, and next door to an elementary school, with apartment complexes around us. Within the distance a decent hit of a nine-iron can cover, there's 3,000, students, another 800 students, 400 families, and another 400 families. The mission field can go all the way to Haiti, Puerto Rico, or you name it, but it's also right next door. We want



Tim Fillmore

to be both local and global in our outreach by meeting the needs: whether literal needs, such as food or shelter, or emotional and spiritual needs, or sometimes a combination of all those things.

SDR: *Where do you go when you die?*

PF: I have a traditional evangelical view of heaven and hell. The Bible teaches both.

Literal descriptions of both are in the Bible. I'm going to be preaching against hell and for heaven, for me and for those who have accepted God through Jesus Christ. Heaven is that place which Jesus talks about in the gospels. But ikf you've not accepted God through Jesus then heaven is not reserved for you. In fact, Jesus talks about it as a matter of being either for him or against him – and if you're for him, heaven is your everlasting life; and if you're against God, then hell is your dwelling place.

– Joseph O'Brien

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

ers, and elementary-school age kids, this simple dance program will feature the Hokey Pokey, the Chicken Dance, and more. Thursday, December 6, 10:30am; **free.** Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Family Holiday Festival The Family Festival features FREE train rides and holiday craft activity for children ages 12 and younger. A special daytime snow will fall at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm during the Festival. Saturday, December 8, 12pm; **free.** Village Walk at East-Lake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Free Haircuts & Washes For Men & Kids Dove Men+Care is spreading #HolidayShear with free washes and haircuts to men

and their kids so they can spend quality time together while also getting fresh seasonal looks. Saturday, December 8, 10am; **free.** Bishop's Cuts/Color, 1080 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach

Gingerbread House Workshop Join us for a memorable holiday event with your child to create a beautiful gingerbread house. Ticket includes one gingerbread house for per child, a custom treat and pictures with your child and memories that last. Saturday, December 8, 10am; \$35. L'Auberge Del Mar, 1540 Camino Del Mar. (DEL MAR)

Rockademy Students of rockademy perform live. Sunday, December 9, 10:30am; \$12. Music Box, 1337 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Salute the Season with Santa & Friends Friends and family are invited to celebrate the holidays and take pictures with Santa. Saturdays, 5pm; through Saturday, December 22, Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade, 2875 Dewey Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Santa at the Brewery Bring the kids and your camera, and have a visit with Santa in our tasting room. You take the photos, and have a beer while you wait for your visit. Sunday, December 9, 12pm; **free**-\$5. Benchmark Brewing Co., 6190 Fairmount Ave., Suite G. (GRANTVILLE)

Smash Saturday Starting December 8, we will be running a bi-weekly Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament. The first

50 contestants will receive a sticker pack, exclusive to this event. Saturday, December 8, 10am; \$10-\$15. GameSync Gaming Center, 7905 Silverton Avenue #104. (MIRA MESA)

LECTURES

Ashley V. Blalock Local Artist Ashley V. Blalock leads an engaging discussion about both her work and artistic process. Talk Listen and engage with Ashley during her Studio Talk. Free for members; \$10 for guests. Friday, December 7, 6pm; **free**-\$10. 18 and up. Lux Art Institute, 1550 S. El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

NATURE

Clean & Green River Cleanup Each year, San Diego River Park Foundation volunteers remove more than 200,000 pounds of trash from our River. YOU can help with this critical work! Closed-toed shoes are required. Sun protection, water and a snack are highly recommended. Community service hours can be verified. RSVPs are required. To RSVP or to learn more, please email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or call (619) 297-7380. Saturday, December 8, 9am; City of Santee Public Works Building, 9534 Via Zapador. (SANTÉE)

Discover Elfin Forest Enhance your nature observation skills in an informative and easy Sunday morning nature walk along the park's lower trails. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve's beautiful creek trail is the perfect place to explore the wonders of nature with experienced guide, Donna Walker. Sunday, December 9, 10am; **free.** Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Discovery Tables: Owl Pellets What is an owl pellet? Where are they found and why? Find out from a trained Mission Trails Trail Guide at this month's Discovery Tables. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, December 8, 10am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Our Winter is Coming Enjoy a Trail Guide led walk at Mission Trails Regional Park and see how the native flora and fauna settles down into our winter. Observe the plants in dormancy, awaiting, and hoping for some much anticipated rain in our rainy season. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, December 8, 9:30am; Sunday, December 9, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

Signs of Our Winter Coming A morning stroll around Kumeyaay Lake and the campground will indicate how our winter is closing in on the natural habitat of Mission Trails Regional Park. It is a nice way to spend a morning in December. Meet at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground flagpoles at the campground entry station. Saturday, December 8, 8:30am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday Night Liberty: Holiday Extravaganza Explore the District decorated in its holiday finest. Sip and stroll while you shop for creative holiday gifts, enjoy lively entertainment, and revel in some of the best food options in the city. Friday, December 7, 5pm; **free.** Arts District Liberty Station, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Holiday Market Holistic Holiday Market features jewelry and yoga gear, to crystals and candles, we've invited our favorite local makers to help fulfill your holiday gifting needs. Sunday, December 9, 1pm; **free.** Sojourn Healing Collective, 2870 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

San Diego Holiday Lights Tour Our tour takes you to the neighborhoods of Chula Vista, Christmas Card Lane and the famous Christmas House. Thursdays, 5:30pm; Saturdays, 5:30pm; Sundays, 5:30pm; through Sunday, December 23, \$18-\$29. Santa Fe Depot, 1050 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

SPOKEN WORD

Open Mic Thursday, December 6, 7pm; **free.** EVE Encinitas, 575 S. Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

San Diego Toastmasters 7 Club Meeting Toastmasters is a place where you develop and grow, both personally and professionally. You join a community of learners and in Toastmasters meetings we learn by doing. Thursdays, 6:30pm; through Thursday, December 13, **free.** 18 and up. Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Boulevard. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

WORSHIP

Sunday Gathering Our friendly and inclusive congregation invites you to visit and find out if the the "Science of Mind and Spirit" is the teaching you've been searching for. 9:30 - 9:50 am Meditation 10:00 - 11:00 am Sunday Service email: truthliving@aol.com www.CSLCarlsbad.org Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 30, **free.** Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street. (CARLSBAD)

ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 30

(2018), there were an estimated 16,000 terns in one area alone. Birds that are resident here are: Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Black-Necked Stilts, Black Skimmers; and let's not forget the terns: Fosters, Elegant, and Caspian terns that come from Canada and South America to winter here. Keep your eyes peeled and you'll pick up an Osprey or a Northern Harrier. A state and federally protected bird that you will find here is Belding's Savannah Sparrow, a rare subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow. If you have binoculars, be sure to bring them!

If you need a plant fix, head back three blocks to 13th Street. Again, go to the north end, where there's plenty of parking at a new commercial area that has been very well done. Between the bike path and the building is an excellent native plant garden where you'll find flat topped buckwheat, Mexican elderberry, bush penstemon, coast paintbrush, spike sedge, and pokeweed. Pokeweed or pokeberry (*Phytolacca americana*) is a non-native, naturalized, poisonous herbaceous perennial that is a grape look-alike. To a child, it looks like a cluster of purple grapes. Beware! Pokeberries have red stems instead of the woody stems of grapes. Although poisonous to humans, birds love them.

You have the option of staying on the south side of the bike trail and enjoying the native garden, or crossing the bike trail (use caution and watch for on-coming bikes) to find another beside viewing area with benches. This will give you an excellent view of the bay looking towards Coronado and the South Bay Salt Works, which has been in continuous operation since 1860! Both of these walks and bird-watching sites make for a nice, easy morning outing.

The San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge has a second distinct area from the walk described above in South San Diego Bay. This second area is the Sweetwater Marsh in Chula Vista where the Living Coast Discovery Center is located (*Reader Roam-O-Rama 8-7-2013*) and where regular bird walks are held. The walks are free and a good way to learn about the birds that frequent this part of the Pacific Flyway. For more information about these walks, check this website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Diego_Bay/visit/visitor_activities.html

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.

MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN PASSES



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

WIN TICKETS



Win a pair of tickets to see The Regrettes at House of Blues.
Deadline to Enter: Thursday, December 13 at 1pm

WIN TICKETS



Win a pair of tickets to see Sublime with Rome at House of Blues.
Deadline to Enter: Thursday, December 27 at 1pm

Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

Volkswagen PRESENTS

WARREN MILLER'S

FACE OF WINTER

ENCINITAS

LA PALOMA THEATRE

FRIDAY, NOV. 30
AND
SATURDAY, DEC. 8
Reader







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<p>Saranya's Thai Café \$1 pancake for every \$10 purchased with coupon</p> 	<p>Passiflora Bakery Every Wednesday and Saturday</p>  <p>in Little Italy</p>	<p>Little Italy</p>  <p>SAN DIEGO</p> <p>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>JR Organics</p>	<p>Green Fix Smoothie</p>  <p>\$1.00 off any quart-Limit 1 per customer www.GreenFixSmoothie.com</p>
<p>\$1 OFF any 2 Paninis At Little Italy Valid through December 13, 2018 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p>  <p>Find us at Little Italy Saturday</p> <p>Seb's Paninis</p>	<p>Salty Lemonade Every Wednesday and Saturday</p>  <p>in Little Italy</p>		 <p>The California Olive At all three markets weekly</p>	 <p>BEEF • PORK GAME • FOWL</p> <p>Available fresh each week. Pasture raised start to finish. Hormone free, free range, humanly raised, no gmo grains.</p>
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WATER FRONT

FISHING STILL GOOD DESPITE INCLEMENT WEATHER AND LOWEST ANGLER COUNT OF THE YEAR – SWORDFISH CAUGHT.

Dock Totals Nov 25 – Dec 1: 830 anglers aboard 46 trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 326 bluefin tuna, 3 yellowfin tuna, 15 skipjack tuna, 333 yellowtail, 150 bonito, 54 calico bass, 36 sand bass, 5 sanddab, 1,486 rockfish, 530 whitefish, 84 sheephead, 10 bocaccio, 1 triggerfish, 1 swordfish, 2 rock crab, and 73 spiny lobster (231 released).



CREDIT AZTEC SPORTFISHING

110 pound bluefin caught aboard the Aztec just before the storm

Saltwater: Tough conditions kept a good part of the fleet inshore or off the water from about mid-week on into this past weekend, and the counts reflect that. Just in front of the weather front, bluefin tuna fishing was very good in numbers, and even though the average size dropped, big fish were caught. On the 26th, Captain Hunter Denette aboard the Poseidon out of H&M Landing called in a report of “epic fishing” during a one and three-quarter day outing to the 976-Tuna radio show, with limits of twenty- to forty-pound bluefin tuna for their light load of seven anglers, along with a few yellowfin tuna to seventy pounds, and a swordfish caught on a flat

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Went over the falls on a 20-foot wave

NAME: FABIANO SARMENTO

AGE: 29

FROM: OCEAN BEACH

LOCATION: OCEAN BEACH

On a cloudy day in Ocean Beach, Fabiano Sarmento was walking to the showers with a neon board. “This board belongs to one of my friends who was a local shaper in Brazil, moved to San Diego, and started a business out here. It didn’t quite pan out, so he left me a couple boards. This one’s a mid-range, old school, single fin, retro style. I have probably about 15 boards in my garage.” Sarmento laughs, “I’m a little addicted, in case you can’t tell.”

The 29-year-old has been surfing for 16 years. It all started with a salvaged board. “I got my first board off of some junk yard. I went out with a friend. Both of us were brand new at it, and we just started figuring stuff out. It was trial and error — lots and lots of error.”

Sarmento’s biggest wipeout happened in Hawaii. “I was at Sunset Beach, Oahu, and I



Fabiano Sarmento - “I have about 15 boards. I’m a little addicted.”

went directly over the falls on a 20-foot wave. The wave cracked on top of me and held me under for about five seconds, but it felt like 20 seconds. I came up and took another one straight on my head. That was one of those moments when I could see the bottom and I was thinking, ‘Huh, I may not be able to make it back to the surface in time for this, alright.’”

New Zealand has been one of his favorite surf spots. “It’s big, open wilderness out there. There was nobody around for miles. You definitely feel like you are more out in nature versus surfing in the city. The water’s cold there, but as long as you enjoy venturing around, it’s worth it.”

— Evelyn Grimm

Just you, the board, and your opponent

“Chess by the Beach” is a monthly gathering of chess players at the Pacific Beach Library for all ages and skill levels.

“Games are played in the library during the dark months,” said Albert Elguira, a library assistant, “and will eventually move outside [closer to the beach] come spring and summer.” The PB library is about four blocks east of the boardwalk. “Playing chess by the beach gives one a sense of peaceful concentration: just you, the board, and your opponent,” Elguira said. “One tends to play better in a serene setting.”

Elguira has been playing chess since he was a child in the Philippines. “Chess improves concentration and focus,” he said. “It inspires self motivation and taking responsibility for one’s actions; optimizes memory, imagination and visualization; improves planning, thinking ahead and choosing between multiple options. These are things needed in today’s environment with kids who are distracted by so



“The beach gives a sense of peaceful concentration.”

many outside stimuli, such as social media and whatnot.”

On November 20, NBC News posted a story headlined: “Fabiano Caruana could be first American world chess champion since 1972.” Caruana is a 26-year-old grandmaster player from New York. “The fact that an

American, Fabiano Caruana, is competing against a Norwegian, Magnus Carlsen, in the World Chess Championship in London on November 28 has definitely boosted the popularity of chess.” Elguira said. “In our club alone, people have been asking for more

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

WATER CONDITIONS

Thursday’s funky weather and high winds will give way to a more settled Friday and weekend featuring a diminishing but clean, long-period chest-high swell with an occasional spritz of rain. After a mostly flat Monday, another long-period swell out of the west looks good for the surf crowd through late Tuesday. With predicted scattered rain, the conditions this week look sketchy for those wishing to explore beneath the surface. 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 **63°F** HIGH **65°F**
VISIBILITY **5'–15'**

HARBOR POLICE REPORT

Surfers in a rip, boat on the rocks, fall on the Pier and a toe avulsion from skateboarding.

Oct 12

10:54 Swimmer: Report of 2 surfers in the rip current off Westbourne Street. Lifeguard responds and makes 2 rescues.

12:38 Boating: South Mission lifeguards report a boat on the rocks at the South Channel Jetty. Lifeguards rescue vessels, jet ski units respond. 1 person on board rescued, vessel sinks next to jetty, is marked with buoys, and the Coast Guard is notified.

13:59 Medical: Medical distress call for a 75 year-old female, fall on Ocean Beach Pier. Lifeguard, fire, and medical units respond. Lifeguard drives patient off the pier to medics at the base of the pier. Medics transport patient to unknown destination.

17:15 Medical: 911 call for an 18 year-old male stingray victim on the beach at Emerald St. Lifeguard transports victim for routine treatment.
17:35 Medical: Ocean Beach lifeguards request medics for a 31 year-old male with an avulsion to the right toe from a skateboarding accident. Medics transport patient to UCSD

Holiday Guide

You don't have to do anything this holiday season. Despite what the song says, you don't have to deck the halls, join the chorus, or don any sort of gay apparel. You don't have to honor old traditions or forge new ones, or feast your eyes, or thrill your ears, or tickle your taste buds, or any of it. You don't have to do a single thing; you can just go about your business and let the time go by until it's all over and every day is just like the next and the next one after that. Or you can get out there and make some meaning, make some memories, and above all, make some merry. From classy to kitschy, from spiritual to sensible, from parades to parties — opportunities abound to close out the year in happy holiday fashion.



Holidays at Legoland

1 Legoland Drive
CARLSBAD

Summer tourists who flock to the amusement resort that plastic bricks built may enjoy warmer weather and its adjacent water park, but they miss out on one of the best times of the year to visit. The festive spirit returns this season with a newly constructed Lego

Holiday Village, housing the park's annual holiday programming, highlighted by appearances of Lego Santa Claus, and the 30-foot tall "world's largest Lego Christmas tree." Admission to the park through December includes musical light shows and special treats, including peppermint crepes and milkshakes. Perhaps the

best part is a seasonal discount: choose your day in advance and reserve special holiday tickets for \$75, a bargain compared to the usual \$98-and-up pricing.

Christmas Candlelight Meditation

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá
10818 San Diego Mission Road
MISSION VALLEY

First of the California missions, founded in 1769, San Diego's namesake celebrates 250 years in 2019. An annual tradition for over 40 years, the mission's Christmas Candlelight Meditation fills the winter night with warm light. Scripture readings and live musical accompaniment in the historic church followed by reception in La Sala. Friday December 15

and Saturday December 16, 7:30 pm.

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration

500 SeaWorld Drive
MISSION BAY

The Nativity Scene comes to life with "O Wondrous Night," a light-hearted musical show featuring over 30 Christmas carols and live

animals (including camels) to help tell the story of Christmas. The entire park will be decked out in sparkling lights. Here you can visit Santa's Christmas Village and meet not only the big guy from the North Pole but also Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Catch story time with Mrs. Claus, and stop by Dolphin Island for a special tropical Christmas performance. Before heading home, be sure to walk by the Christmas tree that can be seen from miles away, 400 feet tall and festooned with lights from top to bottom.

Festival of Christmas

1142 Orange Avenue

CORONADO

For a slightly more theatrical performance of holiday music, head over to Coronado's pre-

mier playhouse, where the Lamb's Players present a musical "tradition that's different every year!" This season's show, dubbed *Reaching for the Stars*, is written and directed by Lamb's resident Kerry Meads. It promises fresh, modern arrangements of traditional Christmas carols, interwoven though a narrative establishing Father Christmas as resident of a hip, urban neighborhood. The roughly two-hour play and sing-along, deemed appropriate for all ages, runs through December, including matinees on weekends and a 4 pm performance on Christmas Eve. Tickets start at \$24 for weeknight shows, and range up to \$78 for prime seating, with discounts available for youth, seniors, veterans, and active military.



California Ballet Company's *The Nutcracker*

Flagship Parade of Lights Cruise

990 North Harbor Drive

BROADWAY PIER

The only thing that could make thousands of sparkling lights more spectacular is seeing their glittering splendor reflected in the Bay. Have a glass

of your own sparkles (champagne) and be transported, literally, for a close-up view of the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights from your front row seat on the Spectator Cruise (a narrated night tour of the harbor and this year's

boats, decorated in a tropical island theme) or the Dinner Cruise, which also includes a three-course meal and live entertainment, as if gazing upon the colorful luster from all those tall masts isn't entertaining enough.

Christmas Circle Community Park

600 Christmas Circle Drive

BORREGO SPRINGS

Tradition says that Christmas Circle Community Park in downtown Borrego Springs was named to honor the birth of Salvador Ignacio Linares on Christmas Eve 1775. Child of a Native American father and an Española mother, Salvador was born during a Spanish settlement expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza. The trek, from Sonora to Monterey, took the homesteaders through the winter wilderness. On a frigid and foggy *Noche Buena*, Salvador's mother María went into labor in the saddle. They stopped for the night in what is now Borrego Springs, where she had a healthy Christmas nativity. Pack a picnic and get literal

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DEC 22

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PHOTOGRAPH BY IRVIN GAVIDOR

Barrio Logan hosts the *Noche Buena* Market

with a visit during the Christmas season — when Borrego Springs is an oasis of calm.

Boat Rides with Santa

256 Harbor Drive South

OCEANSIDE

Santa ditches the sleigh for a luxury catamaran. Cruise around Oceans-

ide Harbor for 20 minutes of sparkling views, spirit-lifting crisp ocean spray, and just enough Santa to satiate the kids and snap some photos. Oceanside Adventures offers this very affordable activity as a fundraiser for Friends of Oceanside Parks. Saturday, December 8, 11

am - 3 pm. \$3 per person, kids 2 and under free. No reservations required. Bonus: free parking through the blue tunnel near Joe's Crab Shack. Make a day of it and visit New England-style Harbor Village for lunch or treats *al fresco*. Look for the letters that spell "Oceans-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Brujixts Del Barrio is a well-curated bonanza of covetable goods

ide" along the east side of the harbor mouth.

Seas 'n' Greetings at Birch Aquarium

2300 Expedition Way

LA JOLLA

Birch Aquarium celebrates the "SEASON" for the entire month of December with holiday-

themed crafts, activities, live music, and even a scuba-diving Santa. Even the jellyfish seem to swim among snowflakes, thanks to the winter-themed decor throughout the space. There will be themed animal encounters, a scavenger hunt, and

unique photo opportunities. At Holiday Night Lights, you'll get to see underwater creatures that glow in the dark, such as bioluminescent sharks. Members who go early enough in the season (Through December 8) get 20 percent off of

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On New Year's Eve, at 9PM 2 winners will take home **\$2,500** Free Play and 1 other gets **\$5,000** Free Play. At 11:30PM, 2 more winners receive **\$2,019** PLUS the Grand Prize Winner will drive away in a new **2019 SS Camaro**.

Earn entry tickets December 1 – 31 with every 100 points.

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

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

The Bill Caballero Sextet will play at the North County Food Bank Gala

ocean-themed holiday decor and more at the gift shop.

Rose Pre-Parade Float Celebration

DEPARTURE POINTS FROM CHULA VISTA TO LAKE FOREST

The Rose Parade floats

are a marvel to behold once they are complete, but the building process is just as astonishing. With this Five Stars Tour, you will visit the construction zones where these floats are being assembled. Two days before the parade,

you will watch as a slew of volunteers and professionals apply “a variety of fruit, seeds, bark, grasses and of course, breathtaking flowers” to each innovative, larger-than-life design in the final moments before they are completed. As

a bonus, head back on January 2 for the Post-Parade Float Tour, where you can step right up to take in the design and workmanship of these floral masterpieces before they are disassembled.

Brunch with Santa

Grand Tradition Estate and Gardens

FALLBROOK

Gingerbread Victorian charm and sweeping gardens make a beautiful backdrop for the annual brunch with Santa at Grand Tradition Estate in Fallbrook. Enjoy holiday festivities for all ages throughout the morning: dancing ballerinas, carolers, crafts, and storytelling. Brunch in the Beverly Mansion Ballroom, overlooking the heart-shaped lake. Saturday, December 15, 10 am to 1 pm. Adults \$59, children 5-10 \$35, 4

and under \$10. Reservations required, call 760-728-6466.

Chinese food and a movie on Christmas

4126 Executive Drive

LA JOLLA

Ever wonder what Jewish people do on Christmas? Go to a movie and eat out Chinese. The Meetup group Jewish Seculars for Food, Film, and Friendship and the Lawrence Family JCC have organized this informal tradition into an annual gathering. This year, *Funny Girl* will show on the big screen at the Garfield Theater, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Barbra Streisand film. Chinese buffet (yes, it's kosher) before the movie. 4:30-10 pm, December 25. \$38 per person or a four-pack for \$100. Reserve by

December 18. For other tasty Chinese food on Christmas, visit Panda Country on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Be prepared to wait in line — the idea is catching on.

Noche Buena Flea Market

BARRIO LOGAN

“We’ll throw in a few jingles, why not?” organizer April Ramirez said of the second annual *Noche Buena* Market. Look for the holiday-themed iteration of the Barrio Logan Flea Market: December 8, 4-9pm on Logan Avenue (during Barrio Art Crawl) and December 22, 12-6pm at Mercado del Barrio on Cesar Chavez Parkway. Up to 30 vendors and artisans from Mexicali, Arizona, Los Angeles, Tijuana and other locales gather for the party. Find a varied menu of

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foods for all palates: deep-fried quesadillas and *elotes*, pizza and vegan pozole, tamales (of course), and more. Shop for colorful gifts, piñatas, tees, and gear (need a Tijuas beanie?), handmade soaps (perhaps a peppermint Christmas edition?), and — for the pickiest tweens — buttons galore. Free admission.

Christmas Messiah Sing-along

6628 Santa Isabel Street

CARLSBAD

Classical music lovers will enjoy this opportunity to join hundreds of voices in belting out Handel's *Messiah*. On Sunday, December 16, at 4 pm, the La Jolla Symphony Chamber Orchestra, led by guest conductor Ruben Valenzuela, will be performing portions of this clas-

sic, along with soloists and the audience. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carlsbad will be the location of this songfest, and tickets are \$18 for general audience, \$10 for students or youth. Scores can be rented for \$5, or bring your own.

Frock The Halls!

4121 Park Boulevard

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Almost-16-year-old Frock You Vintage Clothing is, by itself, a treasure trove of vintage finds for yourself and for outside-of-the-big-box gifts for others. Every few months, though, they invite guest vendors to set up in the tent-covered lot next to their shop to hold what they dub a Huge Frocking Sale. Now in it's 8th year, December's Frock The Halls version not only promises gorgeous vintage fashions, house-



Garden of Lights at the San Diego Botanic Garden

wares, and gifts galore, but the ever-coveted Ugly X-mas Sweaters. Details for this holiday-themed incarnation are: December 7th & 8th from 12 pm to 6 pm and Sunday, December 9th from noon until 3 pm.

Victorian Christmas Tea

2124 3rd Street

JULIAN

The historic King House, built in 1898, home to Julian Tea & Cottage Arts, will be offering a Victorian Christmas tea daily

from December 6 through Sunday December 23. Reservations are required for their seatings, which are offered at 11:30 am, 1:15 pm and 3 pm. All the tea time fixings will be on display in this 24-years-running holiday event,

including scones, jams, finger sandwiches, savories, and desserts. Tickets are \$29.95 for adults, \$12.95 for children.

Brujixs Del Barrio

2185 Logan Ave #18

BARRIO LOGAN

From Combine & Create's one-of-a-kind gemstone-rich jewelry pieces to Open Apothecary's CBD products to local art and t-shirts by Irie Iye to La Flor's ethical smudge sticks, this shop is a well-curated bonanza of covetable goods. A natural apothecary section has an array of homemade tonics, tinctures, potions, and syrups to keep the body and heart healthy and supported. Custom tea blends, sustainable crystals, mystical handmade dolls, and energy candles round out their eclectic offerings. They



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Living Nativity at the Julian Cider Mill

2103 Main Street

JULIAN

This time of year, the chilly mountain town of Julian is the perfect locale for us sun-drenched San Diegans to get in the holiday mood. On December 8, 15 and 22, at 5 pm, church groups will be performing a living nativity scene at the Julian Cider Mill. Arrive a bit early at the Mill and pop in to get some cider, home-

made goodies, or local honey to enjoy while you watch Joseph and Mary welcome the baby Jesus. This free event is sure to bring the imagination right back to Bethlehem 2018 years ago.

Salute the Season Rady Children's Ice Rink

LIBERTY STATION

Lace up your skates and hit the ice as Salute the Season kicks off with Rady Children's Ice Rink at Liberty Station's Central Promenade from now until January 6th, 2019. The ice rink is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas from 10 am and 10 pm and closes at 5 pm on Christmas Eve. All proceeds from the ice rink benefit the Rady Children's Hospital's Peckham Center for Cancer



December Nights in Balboa Park

and Blood Disorders, which has raised more than \$1 million over the past 19 years. Skate as long as you wish, then visit one of Liberty Station's restaurants, breweries or the Liberty Public Market for nearly unlimited food and beverage choices. Tickets are \$13 - \$15

and include skates and helmet rental.

Holiday by the Bay — Hilton San Diego Bayfront

1 Park Boulevard

DOWNTOWN

Holiday by the Bay provides San Diego's ultimate winter adven-

ture through January 5th. Thrill to Reindeer Run, a bone-chilling two-story, 100-foot ice tubing slide, slip and slide in Ice Bumpers, an exhilarating twist on an old fan favorite, gaze at the hourly dynamic light show SHINE featuring a 30-foot Christmas Tree, frolic in spon-

taneous "snow" flurries, decorate gingerbread inside Claus Kitchen, trim stockings at Santa's Workshop, test your skills on The Bucking Reindeer, or sip festive holiday cocktails inside Yule Lodge. General admission is \$15-\$20, Ultimate Cheer admission runs \$33-\$38 and includes seven activity tickets.

North County Food Bank Gala

333 S Twin Oaks Valley Road

SAN MARCOS

North County Food Bank Season of Giving Gala will be held on Saturday, December 15 in the ballroom at Cal State San Marcos. The elegant affair will have a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, and dancing. Live music will be provided by the San Diego Harmony Ringers (a handbell choir group)

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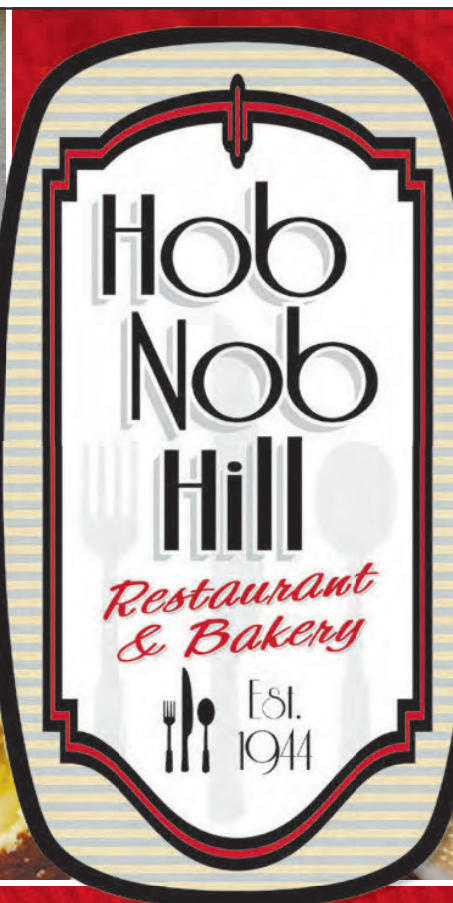
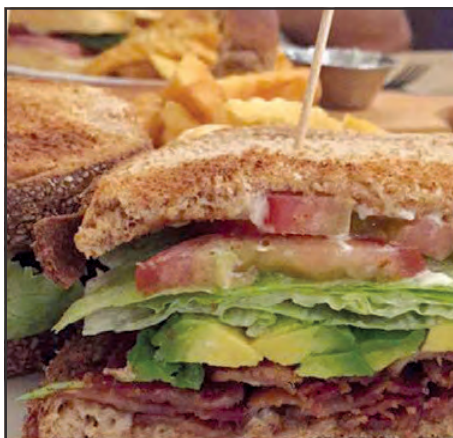
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and the Bill Caballero Sextet, a Latin jazz group. The event will raise funds for the Food Bank. Tickets are \$250.

Nutcracker Tea Party with the San Diego Ballet

2875 Dewey Road,
Building 177

LIBERTY STATION

Treat the whole family to the magic of the holiday season at the inaugural *Nutcracker* Tea Party with Santa on Sunday, December 16th from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. You'll be greeted by the *Nutcracker* characters and shown to a delectable hot chocolate bar to enjoy during the *Nutcracker* performance. The fully immersive, narrated show begins at 4 pm with vignette performances by the San Diego Ballet, who will be interacting directly with the audience to tell

the classic story of *The Nutcracker*. Afterwards, Santa will arrive from the North Pole to take pictures with families and guests. Tickets are \$55.

How the Grinch stole Christmas

1363 Old Globe Way

BALBOA PARK

The Old Globe Theatre once again transforms into a snowy Whoville for the 21st season of Dr. Seuss's classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, now through December 29th. Veteran Broadway actor Edward Watts reprises his role as everyone's favorite holiday grouch, and popular San Diego actor Steve Gunderson will return for his 15th appearance as the show's narrator, Old Max. Tickets start at \$24 for children and \$39 for adults.



San Diego Gay Men's Chorus presents Jingle

Holiday hideaway at Clark Ranch Vineyard

17323 Highway 94

DULZURA

Clark Ranch is a truly historic estate, complete with charming original (1885) farmhouse and descendants of the original family still running the joint. They used to be renowned for their

beef, plus fresh fruit and veggies and specialties like pickled figs. Now they're pioneering grapes, making well-regarded wines. But the jewel in the crown is their guest house. Stay, right in the "spice room" of the pickle house. Up to three people. It has its own kitchen. Bring your own supplies. They also

have a barbecue area. And feel free to pluck away at pomegranates, peaches, plums, or apples in the orchard. Sample the wines. After all the season's festivities, this is the perfect country escape. Bonus: they say Dulzura/Potrero has the cleanest air in the county, if not the country.

Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

401 K Street

GASLAMP QUARTER

Whether your best friends have fur, feathers, or scales, they can show off their sartorial flair at the 11th annual Vet + Pet West Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade on Sunday, December 16th, starting at the corner of Fourth Avenue and K Street at the Gaslamp Hilton Park. Prizes are awarded for the best pet, human, and group costumes in nine categories, and the Best in Show winner is invited to be the grand marshal of the 2019 pet parade. Entrants receive a goodie bag full of fun samples, toys, coupons, and other gifts for your festive fur friends. There's also free live music, a holiday pet market, and a pet expo. View-

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ing stations around the Gaslamp Quarter providing patios to watch the pets on parade, with the best vantage points along 4th & 5th Avenues between E and K Streets. The expo and parade are free to view, pet participation is \$15 per pet in advance, and \$20 the day of.

Vista's Candyland Christmas Parade

VISTA VILLAGE

For 61 years Vista has held a Christmas Parade (note: not a holiday parade) through the downtown area, featuring floats, marching bands, and of course Santa Claus. The parade, which is a daytime thing, is on December 1 and starts at 1 pm and finishes up at 3 pm. The excitement starts off at the Civic Center, winds through Main Street, and ends at the Wave



How the Grinch Stole Christmas at the Old Globe Theater

Waterpark — which sounds like a California Christmas to us. Santa hats, Christmas music and holiday cheer will be in full effect that Saturday afternoon, and in the past, hundreds have lined the streets and to get in the holiday mood

Belardo Lights

5306 Belardo Drive

TIERRASANTA

To enjoy the most spectacular home holiday light show in town, head to Tierrasanta between now and Christmas day. Since 2006, Randy Shimpka and his autistic son Brandon have devised ever more

elaborate displays. They spent all of 2018 planning this year's show, which has grown to include over 100,000 lights, nine miles of wire, and 2500 channels of computer automation. Dancing elves, singing reindeer, and a family of animated snow people are synced to a

short-range broadcast of holiday songs, so drive by after 5:30 pm, tune to 106.1 FM, be mindful respecting the neighbors, and consider a donation. The Shimpka's have raised \$50,000 and counting for autistic charities. This year's show benefits the Stein Education Center in Mission Valley.

Hornblower New Year's Eve Cruise

1800 North Harbor Drive

EMBARCADERO

Ring in 2019 while enjoying spectacular 360-degree views of the San Diego skyline aboard Hornblower's \$25 million party yacht, Inspiration. Start with a champagne toast as you board, then stroll up to one of three dance decks, featuring a hip-hop dance deck, a legendary '80s all-stars cover band, and

smooth tunes on the open air upper deck. A huge variety of gourmet appetizers and twelve open bars ensure that you won't be standing in endless lines for cocktails. Upgrade to VIP status for early boarding and an extra hour of drinking and mingling on the upper deck. Tickets are \$159 for general admission, add \$40 for VIP early admission.

91X presents Wrex the Halls

3500 Sports Arena Boulevard

SPORTS ARENA

On December 14 at 5:30 pm, 91X partners with Valley View Casino Center and the Salvation Army for the 2nd Annual Wrex the Halls concert and toy drive. If you bring a new, unwrapped toy, parking will cost only \$10 (instead of \$20) per car. The headliners for

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the holiday concert are Death Cab for Cutie and Third Eye Blind. Other musicians featured are Billy Eilish, Lord Huron, The Interrupters, and Barns Courtney. Tickets are on sale for \$59 and up. Do a good deed by bringing a Christmas toy to a child and start your holidays cheer off with rock and roll.

Ride the North Pole Limited

State Route 94 and Forrest

Gate Road

CAMPO

Who doesn't love a train ride — especially to

Santa's Workshop? This 90-minute train ride is sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association's volunteers in cooperation with Mountain Empire and Bonita Vista Valley High Schools. Upon your arrival, Santa's elves' will greet you in the train station waiting room and bustle you onto a 1920s restored vintage commuter car — the North Pole Limited. Besides looking out the window at the high desert scenery as the engine chugs along, the elves will pass out cook-

ies, hot chocolate, and read holiday favorites aloud. The train's magical destination will be to Santa's Workshop to pick up Mr. and Mrs. Claus who will ride back with the passengers to discuss wish lists and pose for photos.

The train runs from Friday November 30 through Saturday December 22. Prices vary with dates.

Gypsy Magic

4962 El Cajon Boulevard

CITY HEIGHTS

Owner Janeesa started her responsibly-sourced,

aromatherapy and plant-infused, hemp-derived CBD bath products and topicals company more than two years ago before opening up her storefront on October 27th. Already sold in shops worldwide, these non-psychoactive, handmade, all-natural bath bombs, lip balms and scrubs, healing body oils and body butters, and beauty tonics offer the ultimate in relaxing, nourishing, and therapeutic options outside of the pharmacological sphere. Most prevalent, her bath spheres come

in 13 different varieties to align with possible ailments (pain, eczema, insomnia or others) and desired results (detoxifying, energizing, etc). Also check out the shop's growing collection of jewelry, apparel, home accessories, and art.

Parade of Lights

Oceanside Harbor

OCEANSIDE

On December 8 from 7 to 9 pm, the harbor in Oceanside becomes a sparkling festival of lights when the yachts are adorned with colorful lights for the annual

Parade of Lights, sponsored by the Oceanside Yacht Club. Bundle up in your fleece or flannel to watch the multitude of boats float by, decked out in an array of colors and themes. If you're looking to find Santa, he can usually be found this special night piloting a fishing boat. His helpers will be navigating a kayak, motorboat, or dinghies. Snowmen, penguins, and even flamingos can be seen floating on the calm waters. Get there early to claim a spot on the sidewalk or grab a



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table at one of Oceanside Harbor's restaurants and pubs.

Blind Lady's Craft & Draft Shopping Event

3416 Adams Avenue

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The ultimate gift-buying paradise, Blind Lady Ale House's annual December-time shopping event — cleverly named Craft & Draft — is back for its 7th year. The entire side room is turned into a “crafter's holiday wish list” filled with tables of handmade wares from 12 local vendors. All of these artists offer up unique treasures that are not to be missed. To name a few, expect heavenly soaps and body butters from Soap to Please, Ceramic Heights' lovely pottery, simple and elegantly edgy jewelry from Grey Theory Mill, and Two

Hermanas' laser-cut greeting cards. Also of note are the adorable, whimsically-illustrated onesies, t-shirts, pins, and paper products from illustrator Suzie Ghahremani's brand Boygirlparty. Sunday, December 9th from 11:30 am until 4 pm.

December Nights

BALBOA PARK

December Nights, held on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8, is San Diego's largest holiday festival — last year more than 350,000 people came to the free holiday event — so take an Uber, a bus, or walk. Of course, parades will be featured, but so will food, music, ballet dancers, puppets, clowns, and still scenes from the story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Zumba fitness instructors will per-

form belly dances and the salsa, while the Kaibigan Dance Company will perform Filipino Cultural Dance. All of the museums will be open for free from 5 to 9 pm. Check out the site for parking and transportation ideas so you don't miss this San Diego tradition to kick off your holidays in style.

Jungle Bells at San Diego Zoo

2920 Zoo Drive

BALBOA PARK

The Zoo's annual Jungle Bells celebration, free with admission, transforms its 100 acres into a wild winter wonderland of “twinkling lights, merry-making performances, and festive foods.” Expect “seasonal decorations, animal experiences, costumed characters, lighted displays and

live entertainment — including [their] zany Dr. Zoolittle... and Santa.” A highlight is the interactive Jingle Brass Band on the stage at the front entrance, which is guaranteed to get your young ones, and you, singing and dancing along. Runs Dec. 14, 2018 through Jan. 6, 2019 from 9 am to 8 pm, although the real fun happens after sundown when the colorful lights and animal-shaped light sculptures brighten the zoo grounds. Closes at 5 pm on December 24.

California Ballet Company's The Nutcracker

San Diego Civic Theatre

1100 Third Avenue

DOWNTOWN

So many *Nutcracker* performances to choose from this season, it can be hard to decide



Death Cab for Cutie headline the 2nd Annual Wrex the Halls concert and toy drive

which one to attend. If you need help, California Ballet Company's version of the holiday classic has the most offerings — 12 showings across 7 days — with a cast of over 150 participants. Also, Tchaikovsky's score will be expertly executed by the San Diego Sym-

phony, so there's that added bonus. Show runs December 14th thru the 23rd with tickets starting at \$25. Children 12 and under receive a 25% discount. Must be 4 years old to attend, although there are two toddler-friendly performance dates offered.

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San Diego Vintage Flea Market for the Holidays

2891 University Avenue

NORTH PARK

Promising to be a more intimate, holiday-themed version of their bi-monthly shopping event, San Diego Vintage Flea Market invited more “makers and creatives” to their December incarnation. Usually showcasing hand-picked vendors selling fabulous vintage wares, clothing, furniture, and knick-knacks, this ‘For the Holidays’ market is “especially geared towards gifts and gift ideas.” A few known goodies include holiday treats (like peppermint bark!) from Spoonful, vintage finds from new-to-the-market Brown Bird Co., amazing bath & body creations from Soap to Please, and up to a 100 more vendors sell-

ing their unique goods. Sunday, December 16th from 9 am to 3 pm. Free Admission. Rain or shine. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome.

Fiesta de Reyes

2754 Calhoun Street

OLD TOWN PLAZA

Yes, this is as touristy as you can get, but go with the flow. It turns out the lush garden, surrounded by shops and eateries, is probably just how the original Californios dreamed of a perfect Town Plaza. The best feature? The stage in the middle. It hosts live entertainment: folkloric dancing, a big mariachi band (weekends), historical plays. There’s something every night of the week. Best of all, it’s free. And, touristy or not, it provides really good cultural insights. In the chilly months, garden dining is well-stocked

with heaters. Check website for details.

Winter Solstice from Kumeyaay Observatory

Cowles Mountain trail

SAN CARLOS

Hikers will tell you this is an easy one. It’s also an ancient and awesome one. Kumeyaay have been coming up here to observe the winter solstice (“solstice” means “sun standing still”) for millennia. It’s a 30-40 minute walk up the Cowles Mountain trail, just under a mile, until you hook right off the main track and head for a small flat area on the south ridge of the mountain. Get here around 6:30 am. You won’t be alone. Ask around for where to look and where to stand. If you’re in the right position, the rising sun will be split into two laser beams of light by a

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distant boulder summit. It's an awesome beginning for a new year. Good group to go with: San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneers.

Bernardo Winery

13330 Paseo del Verano Norte

RANCHO BERNARDO

Bernardo claims to be Southern California's oldest operating winery, and they make a big effort for the holiday season. Between December 17-22, they bring in carolers, carriage rides, and craft vendors, plus food trucks and live music. But the most romantic deal is to zero in on their mulled wine. This ancient winter treat (also called was-sail) is hot red wine with spices like nutmeg and cinnamon mixed in with slices of slow-roasted orange, stuck with cloves. Grab a goblet and then hail down a carriage ride to spoon in with your honey. Doesn't matter where you are going. You'll be surrounded by vines, animals, the clip clop of the horse, and the pitty-pat of your heart.

IFLY San Diego

2385 Camino Del Rio North

MISSION VALLEY

There's no feeling like floating in a wind tunnel. For starters, you don't have to jump out

of a plane. Indoor sky-diving has taken off across the world. As an exclamation point for your celebration, it can't be beat. And even if you're a first-timer, you can fly together with friends or family after you have mastered basic skills. Kids? They take 'em from three years old and can float anybody weighing under 300lbs. Birthday parties can be the funnest to do or watch. Each flight lasts 60 seconds. You get two flights. Basic cost is \$60, but there are lots of group deals. Thing you'll be secretly most proud of: the flight certificate with your name on it.

Holiday in the Village

La Mesa Boulevard

LA MESA VILLAGE

On December 7-8, a few blocks of downtown La Mesa close down for a holiday party straight out of a Hallmark movie. School kids and church groups will perform Christmas songs, while clowns will offer face-painting and carnies provide rides. Although it typically attracts crowds looking for a bit of Americana, this year's party will also give attendees a close-up look at the downtown area, which has been revitalized with

new restaurants and shops in recent months.

Exile On Kettner Boulevard — The Casbah

2501 Kettner Boulevard

MIDDLETOWN

Santa isn't the only person working Christmas Eve — so are some of San Diego's finest musicians. It's "Exile On Kettner Blvd," a two-decade tradition where a host of musicians sing the music of the Rolling Stones. Nationally known singers like Steve Poltz, El Vez, and Cindy Lee Berryhill have been known to jump on stage to get some satisfaction.

Big Night San Diego New Year's Eve Gala

Hilton Bayfront

DOWNTOWN

For those looking to go big on New Year's Eve, Big Night San Diego can't be beat. The event (now celebrating its 15th year) will feature eight dance floors and ten separate "party areas." If you tend to get thirsty, all drinks are included with every ticket purchase. The cheapest entry into the event is (currently) \$89.99 with admittance after 11 pm. On the other end of the spectrum, the "Velvet Rope" option will cost you about \$240 and features "an additional



Holiday hideaway at Clark Ranch Vineyard

1 hour of upscale food & beverage service from 8:00 - 9:00pm." If you are planning on partying into 2019, the Hilton is offering discounted rooms for Big Night guests. All ticket prices will be increasing as the event approaches.

Holiday Bowl

San Diego County Credit

Union Stadium

MISSION VALLEY

If you are looking for a late-afternoon activity to serve as a warm-up on New Year's Eve, consider the 2018 Holiday Bowl. The event, known for its exciting games over the years, will feature the Northwestern Wildcats and the Utah Utes and will take place at the San Diego County Credit Union Stadium. Currently, Field Level

tickets are still available for less than \$200. Nosebleeds are as low as \$40 each.

San Diego Holiday Half-Marathon

RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS

Worried about all those heavy meals between Thanksgiving and Christmas? Burn off some of those celebratory calories at the San Diego Holiday Half Marathon. The race takes place on Saturday, December 15. It begins at the Hotel Karlan on Peñasquitos Drive (near Interstate 15) and finishes at the Torrey Pines beach east parking lot. The course travels east to west, with the majority of the running (nine miles) taking place on the Highway 56 bike path. The course drops

over 700 feet as it heads towards the ocean. As a result, the organizers promote the course as "a potential PR" (personal record) for interested runners. Registration is \$109 and includes pre and post transportation to the start line, a dry-tech running shirt, a finisher's medal and (of course) some sweet race swag.

Jingle

868 Fourth Avenue

GASLAMP QUARTER

This annual performance produced by the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus bills itself as "the holly jolliest holiday show of the year!" The performance at Balboa Theatre features more than 200 singers, dancers, and musicians, including a



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bell choir and children's choir, covering holiday staples such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "O Holy Night," as well as campier modern-day classics including "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." Guaranteed to sell out each year, this season's tickets are already going fast at \$25 to \$70 apiece for shows scheduled on Saturday December 15 at 8pm, and Sunday, December 16 at 3pm.

Knott's Merry Farm

8039 Beach Boulevard

BUENA PARK

Venture a bit outside of San Diego to catch one of seven special shows, from the ice dancing event, "Merry Christmas, Snoopy," to the stage productions, "It's the Merriest Christmas Show Ever, Charlie Brown" and the comedic

Old West revue, "Calico Saloon Christmas Show," which takes place in Ghost Town. Also in Ghost Town each night during the season, the streets are lit and real snow flutters down from the sky. In addition to shows, there are Christmas-themed activities and attractions, such as decorating cookies with Mrs. Claus and visiting Santa's Christmas Cabin, where you can sample sweet treats and sip seasonal craft beers, hot chocolate with marshmallows, or spiced holiday wine.

Irish New Year's Eve

LOCATIONS COUNTY WIDE
If you don't plan to stay up past midnight to ring in the new year, but still want to party, visit a traditional Irish pub during the afternoon of December 31, and

raise a glass to 2019 at midnight Dublin time (that's 4 pm to us). Pubs around the county will be offering the likes of Irish ales, corned beef, and live traditional Irish music. Plan to show up by 1 pm, and make reservations if available, as these events always fill up, whether it's The Field Irish Pub (544 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp), Hooleys Irish Pub (5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa), O'Sullivan's Irish Pub (640 Grand Ave, Carlsbad, or 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido), or The Ould Sod (3373 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights).

Contributors: Eve Kelly, Ian Anderson, Mary Beth Abate, Dryw Keltz, Leorah Gavidor, Patrick Henderson, Barbarella Fokos, Bill Manson, E.V. Hepworth

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In the company of cats

They say purrs lower blood pressure

Autumn in Paris! I'm in a French-feeling patio with about eight wood-slat tables under a big tree. Fall leaves saucer down in the breeze. We're in the Gaslamp's Chinatown area at 3rd and Island.

"The Cat Café," says a sign.

"Time spent with cats is never wasted: Sigmund Freud," says another.

Must be real cats inside.

Another sign says spending time with them costs \$8. But what can a Freud fan do? Inside, I notice a girl talking to a cat through an internal window. She's the café barista, Jackie. I ask if they do lunch.

"We have drinks and some food," she says, tentatively. She leads me round into a small kitchen counter, with a big ol' list of teas and coffees and blends, plus, in a drinks cooler, some sandwiches.

I was really hoping for something hot. But the cat thing's got me curious. So first, a cuppa hot chai. English Breakfast. Two bucks. Then we're looking at, okay, sandwiches. Maui Deli Sandwich, with turkey, ham, muenster cheese, mayo, mustard, in sweet Hawaiian bread (\$6), or a tuna salad sandwich, with albacore tuna, mayo, dill pickles, celery, mustard, carrots, relish, parsley, and muenster cheese on multigrain bread (also \$6).

Then they have smaller items: The "Eggcellent Snack Pack" with two hard-boiled eggs, cheddar cheese, crackers and a small bunch of grapes (\$5), and the "Hummus Snack" with "house-made roasted red pepper hummus," plus raw veggies, and soft pita bread wedges (\$4).

At these prices? Can't lose. I get one of each snack. Plus, the tuna salad sandwich, just in case. And Jackie says yes, I can eat it in the cat lounge. "And seeing you're buying food, you don't have to pay the \$8 entry fee," she says.

I head up the passage and turn right through one door, then another, and into the cat lounge. Talk about security. For the cats, I'm guessing,

"Is this your first time?" asks this guy. Tony Wang, the manager.

"Definitely," I say.

"Well, we ask that you help keep this a calm environment for the cats. Don't pick them up.

Give them space if they become agitated. Pictures are okay, but no flash, and no phones. Oh, and Vicki and Lotus, that black pair? They're blind."

Wow. I go to a table and lay out my plastic containers and tea, then look around. There seem to

be half a dozen cats in nests on the floor or walls around the room. Couple of customers are playing with a cat at their table. One of them says she looks after 20 cats. "It began with two, then they started having babies," she says.

"All of our cats are spayed, and we don't let them out," says Tony.

The two blind little kitties play with each other in and out of a kind of flap box. You'd never know they were blind.

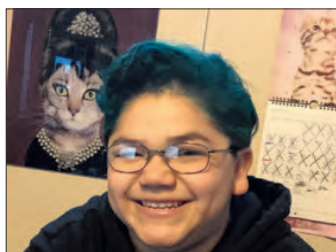
I launch lunch with the cheese-crackers-egg-grapes combo. I splay open the little packs of salt and pepper and

grab the first peeled egg. Mmm. Forgotten how satisfying it is to go chomping through the white to the crumbly yolk, and to dip into salt and pepper. Then I bust open the Tillamook medium cheddar and stick it on the crackers and start rotating bites and finish each rotation with a big red juicy grape.

Now I open up the hummus snack pack and scoop out the red pepper hummus with the soft pita wedges. Delish, plus we have young peas in their pods, mini tomatoes, carrots, and a bud of broccoli. I dip 'em all in the hummus. You forget how filling and fulfilling eating simple can be.

Honestly, by the time I'm halfway through the second egg, I'm just about beat. Beat, but not bloated.

I will get bloated if I start in on the tuna salad sandwich. And meanwhile cats are coming my way. I stroke. They purr. I relax. There's a name for this: "Purr Therapy." Honest. They say purrs come out



Cafe shop manager Jackie (and friend)



Blind Lotus scales palm "tree" while Manager Tony looks on



Yacker Tracker tells you if you're being too loud for the cats

as 40-120 hertz low frequency vibrations. When we humans hear it, it starts to lower our blood pressure. It's ancient. Also, this helps in promoting bone strength, healing muscles, tendons and ligament injuries, stress, and can reduce the risk of heart attack by 40 percent. The power of a cat's purr! I mean, what do I know? But that's what I heard.

Is the cat café idea popular? Oh yes. Hundreds have opened up worldwide since the first one started in Taiwan 20 years ago, with over 150 now in Japan and 72 here in the US. Growth driven by cat-deprived city folks whose landlords say, "No pets!"

By the time I finish off my second egg and even enjoy my broccoli (once I've severely dunked it in hummus), we're all chatting like old friends. The cats seem more relaxed, too. Now Lotus, one of the blind sisters, races up an artificial palm to the ceiling. "She doesn't know



First course: eggs, cheese, crackers, grapes



Second course: red pepper hummus, carrots, peas, broccoli, pita bread



Third course: tuna salad sandwich (with lots of celery)

The Place: The Cat Café, 472 Third Avenue, downtown, 619-839-9568

Hours: 8am - 4pm, daily

Prices: Maui Deli sandwich (turkey, ham, muenster cheese, sweet Hawaiian bread), \$6; tuna salad sandwich (albacore tuna, muenster cheese), \$6; The Eggcellent Snack Pack (two hard-boiled eggs, cheddar cheese, crackers, grapes), \$5; Hummus Snack (red pepper hummus, veggies, pita bread, \$4. Items vary daily

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What's the market price on that fish?

Beerfish, 2933 Adams Avenue, University Heights. I should have been ordering the local catch all along. When North Park's Beerfish first opened a couple years ago, I went for the fish and chips. They were all right. After it retooled a bit under a new executive chef this summer I returned for the same. Again, decent. I'm

wanted them to.

It would sound cooler to say I'm drawn to fish and chips because I lived in London as a child, but I'd be lying if I said it was due to anything other than my being a fried-food-loving American who likes a bargain. I keep going back to fish and chips because they're a low-cost, low-risk order: even at their worst,

FEAST!

fish and chips are usually good enough, even using less desirable species of fish. Here we have an above average example featuring fried haddock, which in my opinion tastes better if you request a dipping sauce of Beerfish's malt vinegar aioli over the default tartar sauce.

Either way, Beerfish serves superior fish; it just took me a while to get around to it. The menu is loaded with the likes of fish tacos, ceviche, and clam chowder, so I've routinely overlooked the grilled local catch plate. Regardless of restaurant, I tend to do that when a price is listed as MKT or MP. Maybe because I assume the market price will be too high, and I'll feel embarrassed if

I ask a server the cost, then order something much cheaper instead.



Why would a place with a setting as informal as that of Beerfish have such a pretentious looking menu?

honestly not sure whether they tasted any different or better than the first, or whether I just



Seared albacore served on a Beerfish grilled sandwich instead of mahi.

Regardless which neurosis is to blame, I finally asked at Beerfish: what kind of fish is available for local catch, and how much was the market price for the grilled local catch plate? The answer included a choice of albacore and yellowtail, at \$18.90, served with roasted vegetables and rice. That was a little more than I wanted to spend on lunch, but I learned something more valuable in the process: I could sub either fish for the mahi mahi served on the \$13.90 grilled fish sandwich, for the same price.

Technically, the price is listed as "13.9" — with no zero. This might be a bigger menu beef for me than market pricing. I'm sure an overly clever graphic designer is to blame, but any time a restaurant leaves off that zero I judge

it as pretentious; especially when it's a casual, counter service seafood joint where most of the seating is outdoor. If minimalism is the point, then leave off the redundant second mahi while you're at it.

Ranting aside, I ordered albacore as a grilled sandwich. I can't be sure how local the catch was — albacore has become a rarity this far south, apparently — but whatever the source it proved a delicious piece of seared fish, served rare, dressed with mixed greens and that vinegar aioli on a fresh brioche. It's a fish sandwich worthy of repeat visits. My friend had similarly positive things to say about his grilled yellowtail sandwich.

I may continue to whine about the finer points of menu design, but I'm going to stop

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being deterred by market price fish. Almost every time, the going rate for local catch will make its fluctuating value at least worth asking the question. All that fried fish is cheaper for a reason.

by Ian Anderson


Valluno picnic in City Heights

Sabores Colombianos, 3695 University Avenue, City Heights. It's a large plate, draped with a plantain leaf, atop which sits a stunning variety of foods. There are rice and stewed pinto beans, and potatoes. The rice is topped with a fried egg, encircled on one side by fried plantain, on the other by pork belly, a half-ring of fat with crispy red morsels of meat protruding like gear spokes. Beside the pork there's fried chicken, beyond that carne asada. There's a charred sausage link, a couple pieces of fried cassava (a.k.a. yucca), a wedge of avocado, and, because this is a Colombian meal, a grilled piece of arepa, the nation's traditional corn flour bread (not to be confused with corn bread), here about the size and consistency of a dense biscuit.

I'm sitting in the welcoming City Heights restaurant Sabores Colombianos, a small, well-lit space, sparsely decorated with Colombian cultural artifacts and photos

of plates featuring traditionally prepared meat, fish, and fowl.

Consulting my Colombian waiter, and those photos, I've gone ahead and ordered the



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7811 Herschel Ave, La Jolla
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Calendar RESTAURANT

restaurant's priciest plate: the 20-dollar Fiambre Valluno (most entrees top out at \$15). I take it this translates to "Valluno picnic," the word Valluno referring to something or someone from the Valle de Cauca, which sits between the Andes and the Pacific on Colombia's southwest coast.

This would make quite a picnic, and makes me wonder if maybe we're not doing it right on this side of the Panama Canal?

A pair of Colombian gentlemen at the next table nod their approval, as they continue their own leisurely meal, comprising seemingly endless small plates, featuring all manner of corn flour-based Colombian *antojitos* and meat items, including that arc of pork, which they



Clockwise from the top left corner- carne asada, fried chicken, crispy pork belly, fried plantain, sausage, and fried cassava. Fried egg, rice, arepa, potatoes, beans, and avocado in the center.

eat one spoke at a time, tearing it off by hand.

It's tasty, of course. Aside from the rice and cassava, every component on my plate is rich with flavor. There's savory saltiness of

the beef, pork, and chicken, which doesn't resemble the Southern, battered and fried chicken I'm accustomed too — this small breast is so thoroughly fried its skin has become crackling, the flesh

within pulling apart into dry yet delicate strands.

That sausage, an earthier Colombian descendant of Spain's *chorizo*, offers a darker and smokier paprika. The *carne asada* — a lean,

seasoned cut of flank steak — had enough salt to make me appreciate the sweet presence of the fried plantain, making this one of those rare occasions I've truly enjoyed the banana relative. Both it and the cassava have an almost pasty dryness, more so than potatoes, but the contrast worked given the amount of meat I was consuming.

The beef's a tad over salted today, and the egg over fried (a runnier yolk would have added something to my gluttony), but I'm otherwise pretty satisfied with my choice of lunch, and the inevitable leftovers. Despite the vast assortment on this platter, I've only scratched the surface of this place, and Colombian cuisine in general. I'll have to return to try the *sobrebarriga* (steamed flank steak), and *bistec a la criolla*, which features South America's answer to *pico de gallo*.

by Ian Anderson

Dessert for your camera

They've been labeled a "viral food," and "cult dessert," and been likened to silicone breast implants. The Japanese call them *mizu shingen mochi*, but the internet really fell in love with them in 2016, when they showed up in New York under a compelling English name: raindrop cakes. I found raindrop cakes offered by a booth at the weekly Lane Field Park Market, a newish outdoor street food gathering across from downtown's waterfront. They were being served by PoPo Bros, a pop up food vendor that otherwise specializes in butterfly pea tea and straight-out-of-the-coconut juice.

Cake is a misnomer. There's nothing whatsoever cakey about the translucent, gelatinous orbs. They do, however, look exactly like water droplets. That plus a



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Café by the Bay

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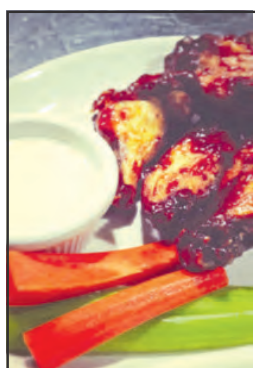


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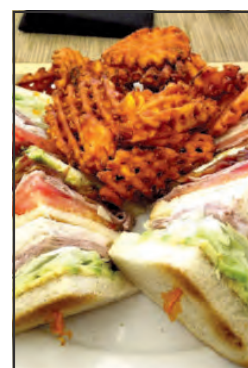


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930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101

Calendar RESTAURANT

“no calorie” designation conspired to make the photogenic dessert a sensation.

That’s no calories if you eat them on their own, which wouldn’t be super rewarding because they’re essentially flavorless Jello, made in a round mold. Except, unlike Jello, which is made from gelatin derived from animal bones, raindrop cakes are free of animal byproduct. They’re made using agar, a byproduct of seaweed.

The flavor of raindrop cakes depends on how you serve it, and PoPo Bros does so with fresh fruit and sweet syrup, along with a dusting of roasted soybean powder and matcha, a powdered form of green tea. Large blobs for \$7, small for \$5. Either due to miscommunication or straight generosity, I wound



A New York trend in 2016, so-called raindrop cakes now turn up at San Diego food markets.

up with plenty of blobs of both sizes. Sorry, cakes.

I don’t have any idea what the caloric impact of strawberries and blueberries might be, nor the added syrup and powders, but I wager the des-

sert’s about as diet-friendly as it is fun to photograph. Don’t linger too long over those aperture settings, though, I’ve read these things tend to start dissolving when not eaten right away. For a water-

clear image, your best bet is a white background, so my shots against PoPo’s cardboard containers appear more opaque in photos than they do IRL.

Oh, and eating raindrop

cakes proved pretty fun too. The caramelized sweetness of the black syrup, combined with scattered umami hits of soy and green tea, do just enough to keep the whole thing from feeling like a bizarre deconstruction of a Jello salad. The edible flowers added to the visual appeal more than the taste, but paired well in photos with that Lane Field grass.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK

Afternoon Tea Dammann Freres is the largest and oldest tea company in France and the exclusive tea for THE MED’s afternoon tea. these flavorful teas are complimented with the perfect petite sandwiches and sweets. Reservations at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Saturday, December 8, 2pm; Sunday, December 9, 2pm; La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Brunch With Santa Kids of all ages can visit with Santa at Decoy during brunch. \$49 for adults with champagne and \$19 for kids under

12. Reservations Strongly Recommended Sunday, December 9, 9am; \$19-\$49. Decoy Dockside Dining, 1035 La Bonita Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

Family Friendly Christmas Nights The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa and Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa are bringing the holiday cheer this year! Join us for three family friendly nights of holiday events! Letters to Santa, S’mores Roasting, Face Painting Elves - Holly Trolley Rides, Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights Thursday, December 13th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Letters to Santa - S’mores Roasting - Face Painting Elves - Holly Trolley Rides - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights Thursday, December 13th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Christmas Movie - S’mores Roasting - Christmas Karaoke - Holly Trolley Rides - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights - Ugly Sweater Contest Thursday, December 20th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Photos with Santa - S’mores Roasting - Cookie Decorating - Christmas Scavenger Hunt - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights - Holly Trolley Rides Thursday, December 6, 5pm; Sher-



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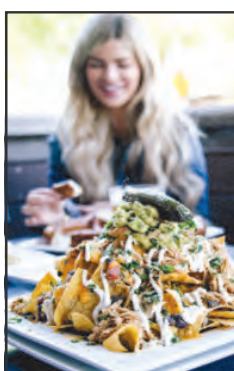


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Calendar RESTAURANT

aton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Family Friendly Christmas Nights The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa and Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa are bringing the holiday cheer this year! Join us for three family friendly nights of holiday events! Letters to Santa, S'mores Roasting, Face Painting Elves, Cookie Decorating, Holly Trolley Rides, Spiked Hot

Chocolate Flights for Mom and Dad, Food & Family Activities for All Ages! Thursday, December 6th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Letters to Santa - S'mores Roasting - Face Painting Elves - Holly Trolley Rides - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights Thursday, December 13th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Christmas Movie - S'mores Roasting - Christmas Karaoke - Holly Trolley Rides - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights - Ugly Sweater Contest Thursday, December 20th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm - Photos with Santa - S'mores Roasting - Cookie

Decorating - Christmas Scavenger Hunt - Spiked and Traditional Hot Cocoa Flights - Holly Trolley Rides Thursday, December 6, 5pm; Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific. (CARLSBAD)

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)

Holiday Open House Celebrate the season and National Pastry Day with Chef Melanie Dunn at a holiday open house. Delight your taste buds with her hand-crafted viennoiseries, confections and preserves, and shop for unique housewares and gifts for the Francophile on your shopping list. You can also place orders for her award-winning pastries or custom-designed cakes to serve on your holiday table. The current selection of seasonal offerings includes pumpkin spice and apple cider macarons, pistachio croissants, chocolate and lemon tarts, caramels and assorted cookies. Saturday, December 8, 8am; **free**. Patisserie Melanie, 3788 Park Bl., Suite 4. (HILLCREST)

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)

Parade of Lights Dinner This holiday season, the Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa hosts a dazzling, one-of-a-kind dinner on their private pier for one of San Diego's most time-honored holiday traditions, the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights. This special Holiday of Lights viewing dinner provides the best seat in the city to view the parade. The Parade of Lights Dinner buffet includes: Maple rubbed prime rib, bourbon jus, and horseradish cream Roasted duck, citrus sauce Ricotta and mozzarella lasagna Creamed Kale Roasted fingerling potato hash Seasonal local vegetables Roasted beets, avocado, and vadouvan granola salad Classic Caesar salad Roasted cauliflower, farro, dried fruits, nuts, and lemon

dressings salad, a holiday dessert display, and more. Sunday, December 9, 5:30pm; \$35-\$70. Coronado Island Marriott Resort, 2000 Second Street. (CORONADO)

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)

Ramona Valley Holiday Wine Trail Ramona Valley Vineyard Association Presents the 2018 Holiday Wine Trail. Three weekends of Holiday Adventures in the San Diego Countryside Ramona 2018: Come experience the magic of the holidays. Delve into the festive spirit of the holidays by exploring 18 different wineries throughout Ramona. Each winery has created its own enchanting atmosphere filled with holiday music, special wine tastings, and unique handicrafts designed by local artists. The Ramona Holiday Wine Trail will occur over three weekends: December 1/2, 8/9 and 15/16. Purchase a passport for \$10.00 and receive

a keepsake wine glass as well as enjoy discounted winetastings at each of the 18 participating wineries for \$6.00. Travel throughout the Ramona wine region and enjoy a backcountry adventure. For a detailed schedule of each weekend's events and to purchase passports, visit: www.ramonavalleyvineyards.com Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 16, \$10. 18 and up. Casa Rustica, 316 Main Street. (RAMONA)

Ugly Sweater Party *It's the most wonderful time for a beer!* Come on over to Deft Brewing for beer, listen to live music by Charissa Roberts, and wear your ugliest sweater. There will be prizes. Dogs and kids welcome. Saturday, December 8, 6:30pm; **free**. Deft Brewing, 5328 Banks St., Suite A. (LINDA VISTA)

Wine Tasting & Hayride Tours Join us for a wine tasting and a hayride tour through the vineyards and groves of our historic California ranch. Located three miles East of the Safari Park in San Pasqual Valley. We are kid and dog-friendly. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 30, **free**-\$15. Rancho Guejito Vineyard, 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)



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

Not valid events or holidays.
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Centifonti's
Bar & Restaurant

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Buy a Taco Get a Free Quesadilla!

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Limit 1 per person.

TNT TORTILLA N TACO FACTORY

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619-938-2211
www.tortillantacofactory.com



Free Gyro Salad

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

Gus's Subs & Pizza

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La Mesa, 91942
619-462-4877



Dinner for 4 only \$19.99

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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.

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On Third

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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.

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On Third

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619-623-3553



GET A FREE CAULIFLOWER TOSTADA

Free Veggie Tostada!

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

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HAPPY HOUR

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

207 Nightclub: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$5 beers, \$7 well drinks, house wine, \$8 Belvedere martinis, specialty cocktails. 30% off all menu items.

Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$5 domestic beers, \$7 premium wells. Half-off artisan flatbreads.

Analog: Thursday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$5 drafts, wells, house red & white wine, \$2-\$9 appetizers including \$2 burger sliders, \$7 calamari, and \$9 jalapeño mac & cheese.

Asti Ristorante: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic beers, \$5 imported beers, \$6 house wine, martinis, cocktails, pizza \$9.

Henry's Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 drafts, wines, and wells. Sunday, \$12 bottomless mimosa until 1pm.

The Hopping Pig: Daily, 11am-7pm: \$4.50 select pints and wells, \$1 off all craft drafts. \$3 tacos or sliders.

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

Knotty Barrel: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off craft beer, house wine, and well drinks. Appetizer specials.

Lou and Mickey's: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$4.50 select 16 oz. beer, \$7.50 select wines, \$8.50 select cocktails, appetizers \$2-\$9.

Maryjane's: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3-6pm: \$6 well drinks, beer, and wine, \$3 fish taco, \$4 shrimp cocktail, \$5 chorizo sliders.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant: Daily, 3-7pm: \$5 - \$12 wines by the glass, \$6 premium spirits and local craft beer, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$3 spiced nuts, \$7 Baja fish tacos, \$9 ahi poke bowl.

The Melting Pot Gaslamp: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$7 select cocktails and martinis, \$6 featured cocktails and martinis, \$6 select wines, \$8 featured martini flights, half-price cheese and chocolate selections. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30am-2pm, 4:30-6:30pm: \$7 select cocktails and martinis, \$6 featured cocktails and martinis, \$6 select wines,

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Funky La Mesa

Since the day it opened in 2015, **Helix Brewing Co.** (8101 Commercial Street, La Mesa) has offered one of the county's most appealing places to hang out and drink beer. Though right in the thick of La Mesa's industrial zone, red brick walls lent its tasting room a warmer atmosphere than most warehouses can muster. Behind it, design-savvy landscaping transformed an enclosed courtyard into a comfortable beer garden.

Things have only improved with age. Three years on, creeping vines have started to spread across the bricks framing the courtyard, food trucks show up most evenings, and musicians

perform every weekend. If a community-oriented brewery like this were to offer mixed fermentation sour ales, it might be said to have it all.

Enter **Sourworx**. Early this year, Helix took over a second brick warehouse next door and loaded it with oak barrels filled with beers. In October, it debuted those beers by the name Sourworx, which operates as a separate tasting room, serving a separate menu of all sour beers. However, it opens onto the same courtyard, effectively expanding the palette of beer appreciation going down. For example, I spotted a couple drinking together: she with a flight of fresh beers, he tasting sours. Nearby, a family hanging out with their dogs ordered by round: first pints of the flavorful yet sessionable clean ales offered by Helix, then moving on to 10-ounce funky sours to pair with food from the truck parked out front.

Inside Sourworx, the décor is consistent with that of Helix, except racks of barrels replace stainless steel tanks. The triple-headed menu is split by color, offering golden sours, red sours, and dark sours. It doesn't serve flights, but five-ounce pours go \$4 apiece, so I started with one of each style.

Each menu item features tasting notes, as well as a list of the microbes involved in fermentation.

For example, the Scream With Me dark sour was made with wild ale yeast *brettanomyces*, plus the bacteria *lactococcus* and *pediococcus*.

I couldn't pass on the chance to try Betting on Stars, a spontaneous sour, meaning brewed with



A red, golden (orange), and dark sour at Helix Brewing's new tasting room, Sourworx

airborne microorganisms rather than controlled addition of yeast. In effect, it's a beer with Sourworx terroir, as fermented within a port barrel. Dark like cold brew coffee, it offered mellow acidity and delivered on promised hints of maple, with dark fruit notes likely attributed to the port.

A raspberry jam aroma was more distinct in a red sour selection, Two Emotions. The fruit addition proved far more subdued when drinking the maraschino cherry-colored beer, which drank rather dry and only mildly sour.

My favorite was the golden sour, Walking Through Windows, which showed peachy orange in the glass. The oldest of the beers on the board, the non-fruit ale aged in the oak for 34 months, and its relative maturity showed in a much deeper complexity, with maple aromas that gave way to notes of canned peach and oaky wine on the palate, with a sharper yet not overblown pucker.

This beer's been hanging around Helix almost since it opened, likewise improving with age. I take it as a good sign that La Mesa's future looks funky.

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

EAST VILLAGE

Monkey Paw: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off wine, \$2 off Monkey Paw drafts and appetizers.

Nectar Room at Hive Sushi Lounge: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm, 10pm-midnight: \$1 off all drafts and specialty cocktails, \$1-\$6 sushi. Sunday, All day: \$1 off all drafts and specialty cocktails, \$1-\$6 sushi.

Neighborhood: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one local beers.

KEARNY MESA

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

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm, 9pm-close: \$1 off all draft beer, wine, and cocktails, \$4 well cocktails, \$5 craft beers, \$3 off appetizer menu, \$1 off a la carte tacos. Friday-Saturday, 3-6pm, 10pm-close: \$1 off all draft beer, wine, and cocktails, \$4 well cock-

tails, \$5 craft beers, \$3 off appetizer menu, \$1 off a la carte tacos.

Jolt'n Joe's La Mesa: Tuesday, 4-7pm: \$3 well drinks. Wednesday, 7-11pm: \$3 you call it.

Narumi Sushi: Daily, 5-7pm: 99 cents select appetizers with purchase of large beer or sake.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6pm, 9-11pm: \$1 off all beers and mixed drinks, \$6 Mules and Art Snob. Friday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$1 off all beers and mixed drinks, \$6 Mules and Art Snob.

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.

Queenstown Public House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$9 beer, wine, and sangria flights. \$4 sliders, including Meso Tasty (grilled chicken, pineapple), Kivilango (beef jalapeño mini burger), Bare Lil Lamb (blue cheese, mint), and Cluck 'N' Squeal (grilled chicken, bacon, avocado).

MIDWAY DISTRICT

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

MISSION BEACH

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

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

Saska's & Saska Sushi: Monday-Friday, 3pm-5pm: \$4 all draught beer, \$5 house wine, \$6 signature cocktails.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

NORTH PARK

The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-9pm: \$2 off draft beer, \$1 off specialty drinks.

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

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

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: Monday-Friday, 11am-7:30pm: \$1 off everything. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-7:30pm: \$1 off liquor.

Seven Grand: Monday-Saturday, 4-8pm: \$5 beers, \$6 select house cocktails.

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

U-31: Monday, \$2 wells, \$5 Jameson and Kettle One

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.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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

Madison: Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$7 signature cocktails, red or white wine by the glass. Appetizers \$6-\$10, \$11 skirt steak, \$12 burger and beer.

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

2 Draft Beers for \$6 Valid Monday to Friday

One coupon per person
Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount



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1/2 off bottles of wine

Wednesday only.
Wine bottles \$80 and below.



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Happy Hour

(Sun-Thurs, 8-10pm. Fri-Sat, 4-6pm)

\$7.50+ Draft & 2 Tacos:
\$3 Cheese Quesadillas,
\$4 Bacon Dog & French Fries,
\$5 Half Order Nachos



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



50% off wine tasting

Sundays from 11am-2pm, enjoy \$5 wine tastings (4x1 oz. tastings) and a complimentary hayride tour of a historic California ranch.



Rancho Guejito Vineyard

17224 San Pasqual Valley Rd.
Escondido, CA 92027
Must present ad.



\$3 Beer

\$3 beer with purchase of cubano and fries or tostones. Cannot be combined with other offer. Limit 1 per person. Cannot be applied to other items.



Caribbean Escape

3231 Mission Blvd, Pacific Beach
858-999-0419



50% Off Wine

Select Wines are 50% Off.
45% OFF Well Drinks
30% OFF Stella Artois Draft
30% Off All Appetizers

Served at the bar area only
Mon-Sat 4:30 - 7:30 pm & all day Sunday



2060 India St, San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 234-4900



1/2 Off Drink Menu Cocktails

Power Hour 9-10pm



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Buy One Drink, Get One On Us!

Daily from 4pm-8pm
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\$1 Well Cocktails and Select Beer 5-6pm on Tuesdays!

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



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\$4 Mimosa

6 flavors to choose from, with purchase of breakfast empanadas. Cannot combine with other offers. Limit 1 per person. Cannot be applied to any other item.



Caribbean Escape

3231 Mission Blvd, Pacific Beach
858-999-0419



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from 2-6pm Monday-Thursday



Duck Foot Brewing Company

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(619) 550-1970 • duckfootbeer.com



\$6 house wine & \$5 draft beers

Farm to bar. Happy hour starts at
4:30-6:30pm & 8pm-close.



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Guthrie CiderWorks
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San Diego, CA 92121



\$8 Flights

Weekend Happy Hour!
\$8 flights (4 different ciders) on
Saturdays and Sundays, 12-2 pm



Guthrie CiderWorks

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San Diego, CA 92121



Happy Hour: Mon-Fri, 3-6pm

\$5 Beers, Wines, & Wells
and 1/2 OFF WINGS



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DAY! Happy Hour runs M-F, 3pm till
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beers are \$1 off, Well Liquor \$5.



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(619) 299-0230



\$10 Domestic Pitchers \$20 Craft / Premium Pitchers Sunday 1pm-close



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(619) 444-0949



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Not valid during events
or holidays.



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



Happy Hour 3-6pm Tuesday & Thursday \$1 Off All Wells, Domestic Bottles & ALL Drafts

Birthday Karaoke: Super sized drinks for
Birthday Boy / Girl
\$10 Off tabs for groups under 10 people
\$20 Off tabs for groups of over 20 people



351 W Main St, El Cajon, CA 92020
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Karaoke on weekends.



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Enjoy Mamut beer for only \$2.50,
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Tap Tuesday all day craft beer only \$2.25!



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Calle Tercera and Calle Sexta,
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Happy Hour - Dollar Beers!

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Find us inside Plaza Fiesta -
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Wednesday 2 x 1 Pizzas!

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Brew Pub Plaza
Erasmus Castellanos, 94440, Tijuana



Fridays 2 x 1 Liter Drinks!

Enjoy two mixed liter drinks like
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Liquid every Friday until 9 pm!



Inside Plaza Fiesta,
Zona Rio - Tijuana



Paloma (tequila) 2 x 1!

The famed classic Tijuana cantina invites
you to enjoy our daily promos.

Try two Palomas
(tequila, squirt, and lime) for **only \$3!**



Find us on Calle Sexta between
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2 for 1 Margaritas

3 for 2 Beer • Red Wine \$2.50
Combo beer + tequila \$5.00
Tuesday-Sunday from 5 to 7 pm



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between 6th and 7th Streets
Downtown Tijuana • tj.cinetonalá.mx

the inside track blurt

Dewey Defeats Truman, again For a decade bassist/singer James Reader and drummer Scott Frazier were in two different "Casbah bands" that went on to get national buzz: Red Dye No. 5 and, later,

us play at a private showcase at Dream Street in OB. IRS and Giant Records were looking at us. That's when other San Diego bands we used to play with like Inch and No Knife were really going off."

"I had a falling out with [Bizkit frontman] Fred Durst. He is a scumbag.... We were railroaded by the label into attending a show where they were opening for Korn." Without going into detail, Reader says there was a tour bus confrontation. "The chemistry between us and the label was never the same after that. Durst is a two-faced snake."

Red Dye recorded an album with producer Tim O'Heir "The day we delivered the record our manager quit," says Reader. "The label president said 'I just spent \$40,000 on a record, what am I supposed to do now? I told him we didn't need a manager right then. He tried to set us up with someone we didn't

know. We got into a raging argument. I told him he could shove the record up his ass. I knew the record wouldn't come out after that."

Red Dye No. 5 broke up in 2000. But two years ago Reader says he was contacted by a for-

mer Flip label staffer who found the original recording and gave it to the band who in turn gave it to Silver Girl, the small local label that had released the first single two decades earlier. Silver Girl released *The Fort Apache Sessions* album on red vinyl which then led to speculation that Red Dye No. 5 might reunite. Reader says it didn't happen for the same reason the band broke up 18 years ago: disharmony among bandmates.

When Red Dye fell apart, "Scott and I knew Mark from a band called Luper," says Reader. "We formed DDT [Dewey Defeats Truman]." He says that band toured the country — they played South by Southwest in Austin and the CMJ showcase in New York City — and recorded without any of the drama and inner turmoil that plagued Red Dye. But somewhere along the way, "We were soured on the whole major label thing. We had so many dinners with label execs and lawyers. It turned into a nightmare. For Dewey we just had independent labels release our stuff."

But Dewey Defeats Truman got worn down by constant

touring and dealing with vans that broke down in the middle of Nebraska. "We were physically exhausted," says Reader. "We were deflated as a band. We told ourselves we'd just take three months to regroup. Then it became five months. We kept paying for our rehearsal space for a year but never used it. At that point we unceremoniously broke up. But we always remained friends."

After 15 years on hiatus, Reader, Frazier, and singer/guitarist Mark MacBride are reuniting Dewey Defeats Truman. "Now we are playing music without the pressure to get to the next level. We realize how fun it is to play music again."

The three are reuniting at the Casbah at the request of the 91X Loudspeaker show which is holding a year-long series of shows featuring local bands that were part of its 30-year history. In preparation for the reunion show, Frazier has been flying down from Sacramento where he works as an industrial project manager to practice with his longtime Dewey bandmates. MacBride works for Sony as a video game sound designer, and

Reader is a locksmith.

Dewey Defeats Truman and Irradio (playing their first show in 10 years) reunite Thursday, December 6 at the Casbah. Demasiado and Miss New Buddha also perform. The first 100 people through the door get a free blue-vinyl Dewey Defeats Truman 7-inch single courtesy of Silver Girl Records.

Can you go back? "Who knows how our songs will translate. We're about to find out. I was a scenester back in the day. If I wasn't playing there I would be at the Casbah two or three times a week. Who knows what's next? Maybe we'll climb back in the van again. It feels like a new beginning."

— Ken Leighton

Compared to Rush

Castle's video for "Deal Thy Fate," title tune of their new album, shows them mostly romping under Mojave heat near the band's pad in Joshua Tree; but it throws in some eerie things materializing out of the (relative) darkness of a full moon.

"Luckily the full moon (continued on page 68)



Dewey Defeats Truman (from left, James Reader, Mark MacBride and Scott Frazier) will reunite after a 15-year hiatus, Thursday, December 6 at the Casbah.

Dewey Defeats Truman.

The 1995 Red Dye single "Head Phuck" sparked national interest in the three-man, one-woman band. "We did a private showcase for [Atlantic Records vice president] Jason Flom who flew in from New York to see

Red Dye No. 5 signed with New York-based Flip Records. Reader says the band/label relationship was hampered following an ugly confrontation between Reader and a member of another band on the Flip label, Limp Bizkit.

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR



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<p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: green;">SMOKIN' HAPPY HOUR</p> <p style="color: green;">\$6 Delicious Starters 4-6pm Daily</p>			
<p>5 BLUES Jam Night 7pm</p> <p>Special Guest Janet Hammer</p>	<p>6 THROWBACK THURSDAY</p> <p>TomCat Courtney</p> <p>\$5 Drafts 1/2 PRICE BOTTLES OF WINE</p>	<p>7 </p> <p>Missy Andersen</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>Charles Burton</p>
<p>12 </p> <p>Guest Artist John Cary</p>	<p>13 </p> <p>TomCat Courtney</p> <p>6PM TO 9PM</p>	<p>14 </p> <p>Bill Maggee</p>	<p>15 </p> <p>Billy Watson</p>
<p>19 BLUES Jam Night 7pm</p> <p>Special Guest Christine Gillard</p>	<p>20 THROWBACK THURSDAY</p> <p>TomCat Courtney</p> <p>\$5 Drafts 1/2 PRICE BOTTLES OF WINE</p>	<p>21 </p> <p>Bayou Brothers</p>	<p>22 </p> <p>Sue Palmer</p>
<p>26 BLUES Jam Night 7pm</p> <p>Special Guest Steve Pandis</p>	<p>27 </p> <p>TomCat Courtney</p> <p>6PM TO 9PM</p>	<p>28 </p> <p>Chris Fast Band</p>	<p>29 </p> <p>Michele Lundeen</p>

MUSIC BOX



FRIDAY

SAMMY JOHNSON
SLEEPWALKER WINTER TOUR
ETANA
NOMAD, SWELLS

DEC
07



SUNDAY

MUD SLIDE SLIM
HOLIDAY SHOW

THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR, CAROLE KING,
CARLY SIMON & JONI MITCHELL

SEATED
SHOW!

DEC
09



THURSDAY

LA SANTA CECILIA
SM FAMILIA

DEC
13



FRIDAY

LYRICS BORN
ZION I
T-CHRONIC
MICHAEL GABRIEL

DEC
14



SATURDAY 9AM

DAYBREAKER
MORNING YOGA + DJ PARTY!

DEC
15



SUNDAY

ANUHEA
ALL IS BRIGHT TOUR
FT. MAHI
ALEX SPARROW, JUSTIN YOUNG

DEC
16



WEDNESDAY

FISHBONE
CRAZY GLUE X-MAS
VOKAB KOMPANY

DEC
19



THURSDAY

A BERKLEY HART CHRISTMAS
SUZANNE HARPER
PONY DEATH RIDE, CICI PORTER
STEPH JOHNSON AND THE VOICES OF OUR CITY CHOIR

SEATED
SHOW!

DEC
20



FRIDAY

BETAMAXX
80'S CHRISTMAS AND UGLY SWEATER PARTY
RADIO THIEVES

DEC
21

JUST ADDED

Dirtwire 1/11 • Rob Garza DJ Set (of Thievery Corporation) 1/18
Katchafire 2/8 • The PettyBreakers and Desperado 2/9
Somebody To Love: A Ballet To The Music Of Queen 2/14
Justin Nozuka (seated show) 2/20

COMING SOON

12/9 Rockademy (matinee)	1/12 Tommy Emmanuel feat. John Knowles (seated show)	2/1 Poncho Sanchez
12/22 Nicky Genesis Winter Wonderland	1/12 Kaleena Zanders and FriendZ (late show)	2/2 MadeinTYO
12/23 Thundercat	1/17 Lost Kings	2/15 The Soul Rebels w/ The Routine
12/27 Poolside	1/19 Zoso: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience	2/17 Kongos
12/28 An-Ten-Nae	1/20 Tom Gun Live! (seated show)	2/22 Brasstracks
12/29 La Empresa Tour ft. Grupo Corrupta, Estevan Plazola	1/21 Parquet Courts w/ Snail Mail	2/27 Darlingside w/ special guest River Whyless (seated show)
12/30 Steely Damned 2 Holiday Show (seated show)	1/22 Emily King	3/9 You Me At Six w/ special guest DREAMERS
12/31 BoomBox NYE Show	1/25 Ozomatli	3/14 Yung Gravy
1/4 Electric Mud	1/26 Ozokidz feat. Ozomatli (matinee)	3/24 Matt Nathanson
1/5 The Winehouse Experience	1/26 Johnny Clarke, Tabby Diamond, and Ken Bob	4/4 The Havana Cuba All-Stars
1/10 Mimi Zulu		4/7 Mt. Joy
		4/11 Space Jesus

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AN EVENING WITH
THE ROBERT CRAY BAND
THURSDAY 12/13



AN EVENING WITH
THE VENICE CHRISTMAS SHOW
WEDNESDAY 12/19



CASH'D OUT CHRISTMAS
GRACEBAND
SUNDAY 12/23

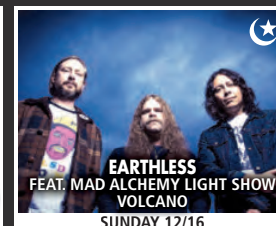


DONAVON FRANKENREITER
SLAPBAK
FRIDAY 12/28 & SATURDAY 12/29

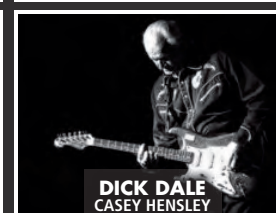
TWO
NIGHTS!



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



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



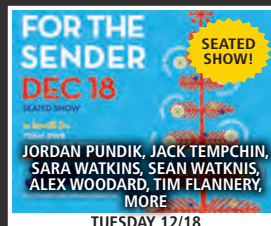
DICK DALE
CASEY HENSLEY
THURSDAY 12/20



EASY WIND
(GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
SONGS FROM THE CLOSING OF
WINTERLAND 40TH ANNIVERSARY
WEDNESDAY 12/26



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



FOR THE SENDER
DEC 18
JORDAN PUNDIK, JACK TEMPCHIN,
SARA WATKINS, SEAN WATKINS,
ALEX WOODARD, TIM FLANNERY,
MORE
TUESDAY 12/18



BEATLES VS STONES
CHRISTMAS SHOW
SATURDAY 12/22



KARL DENSON'S ANNUAL
BIRTHDAY BASH FT.
KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE
SPECIAL GUEST Z-TRIP
THURSDAY 12/27



MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD
VICTORIA CANAL
12/30 & 12/31 SOLD OUT! • TUE 1/1

Mark Hummel's Golden State & Lone Star Blues Revue (seated show) 2/19
Donna Missal @ Casbah 3/30 • Black Moth Super Rainbow 3/31
Al Stewart (seated show) 4/3 - pre-sale 12/5
Wayward Sons 5/4 • Snarky Puppy @ House of Blues 6/1

Upcoming Shows:

12/9 Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn - Sold Out!	1/17 The Infamous Stringdusters	2/15 Dead Man's Party Valentine's Weekend Show
12/12 Colter Wall - Sold Out!	1/18 D58 (Journey tribute)	2/16 ALO
12/17 The Soft Moon @ Casbah	1/19 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers	2/17 Los Lonely Boys
12/21 Eric Rachmany - Sold Out!	1/21 & 22 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue - Sold Out!	2/22 The Mother Hips
1/3 Aviator Stash, Imagery Machine, Belladonna	1/23 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave - Sold Out!	2/23 Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday
1/4 Queen Nation and Erotic City (Prince tribute) - Sold Out!	1/24 Big Head Todd & The Monsters	2/24 Albert Hammond Jr.
1/5 Beat Farmers Hootenanny ft. The Farmers, Jesse Hughes of Eagles of Death Metal, Mike Watt of Minutemen	1/25 & 26 The English Beat	2/27 Coco Montoya & Tinsley Ellis
1/6 Leo Kottke (seated show)	1/27 Ana Popovic	2/28 & 3/1 The Wood Brothers
1/8 Bill Champlain and WunderGround (seated show)	1/29 Sergio Mendes	3/1 Lettuce @ Observatory
1/9 & 10 Eric Burdon & The Animals	1/30 Tower of Power 50th Anniversary	3/2 Pine Mountain Logs
1/11 Wild Child (The Doors tribute)	1/31 Turkuaz	3/3 The Marshall Tucker Band - Sold Out!
1/12 Amen Dunes	2/1 Jacob Banks	3/5 Twiddle w/ special guest Iya Terra
1/14 Paul Thorn	2/2 Vaud and the Villains	3/15 & 16 Super Diamond
1/15 The Maggie Salute w/ special guest The Stone Foxes	2/4 & 5 Blackberry Smoke	3/21 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (seated show)
1/16 Daring Greatly	2/6 North Mississippi Allstars	3/22 The Spazmatics
	2/7 Joan Osborne sings the songs of Bob Dylan	3/28 Galactic ft. Erica Falls
	2/8 Groundation	4/7 Buddy Guy
	2/9 Tainted Love	4/7 Ten Fé @ Casbah
	2/10 Joshua Radin	4/9 Jimmie Vaughan
	2/12 Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra (seated show)	4/28 White Denim
		5/10 & 11 Jefferson Starship
		5/21 Idles

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started in the early evening,” remarked bassist/singer Elizabeth Blackwell, and since it was still summer we had plenty of light. We had not filmed in the night before but we were able to do it this way since we were doing it from home and not on location.”

Saturated with such lines as “Unleash the fire/Draw the circle grave/Iron in my heart/True as steel...long live the

sometimes from people that see us live and it always bowls me over. We have a prog element that is subtle, and I think the way we approach playing live as a three-piece is more raw and stripped down, maybe that harkens back to early Rush.”

Asked about musical influences, Blackwell harkens anew to Rush, for starters. “Geddy is one of my favorite bass players. For vocals, Rob Halford of Judas Priest. As for song writing that’s trickier. Obviously we’re influenced by a lot of classic metal but at this point, on our 5th album with “Deal Thy Fate,”



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT HAINES

Castle — a two-person band with enough hair for five.

loud,” the lyrics indicate doom metal cred. But “I wouldn’t call what we are doing strictly doom,” allows Blackwell, “but I was struck by metal and knew that it was something that I wanted to play and listen to for the rest of my life.”

Blackwell’s impassioned singing bears a distinct resemblance to Geddy Lee, and that’s fine by her. “Mat and I are huge Rush fans, so that’s a big compliment. We get that comparison

the songs end up going through the Castle filter. It’s our way of arranging and layering the music that creates this original approach we’ve been honing for almost 10 years now.”

The bassist, who hails from the mountains of Northern California, is happy to be visiting the other end of her home state, with minor reservations.

“We’ve played San Diego a bunch,” she says, “and the biggest temptation is eating a

California burrito before a gig. It usually ends badly.”

— Andrew Hamlin

Aboriginal Beatle Puppies

Klezmer musicologist Yale Strom has a new album with his Broken Consort, Shimmering Lights, featuring traditional Yiddish, Ladino, and Hebrew Khanike songs inspired by the sounds of Morocco, Poland, Spain, and elsewhere.

Mount Pleasant is re-releases their debut EP at the Soda Bar on December 11, with extras such as a remix of “Trees” by Keith Milgaten (aka Keith Sweaty) and Lorna Dune. The bill includes Beck guitarist Cecilia Della Peruti and her band Gothic Tropic, on the road promoting their newest, *Fast or Feast*.

Milgaten also worked on the newest release from Bruin, back in the recording studio after a forced hiatus caused by their drummer being injured

in a basketball accident. “The nine tracks that we worked on over the year that I flew out to Portland to finish with Keith Milgaten are being mastered right now,” says Dominic Fawcett. “One of the singles is up on Spotify and Apple music and Bandcamp, it’s called ‘It’s Not You, It’s We,’ which is also the name of the EP. We’re gonna slow release it as a four-track EP on cassette tapes with a download card. The other tracks, we’re saving to be on split seven-inches with our friends Well Well Well and another band called Nicely.”

Former Mick Jagger guitarist Stevie Salas is in Australia producing a new album with Yothu Yindi, a group with Aboriginal and balanda (non-Aboriginal) members. Salas also has a new band featuring frequent Rolling

Stones collaborator Bernard Fowler, bassist Doug Wimbish (Living Colour), and drummer Brian Tichy (Ozzy Osbourne, Billy Idol).

“I’m completing my three-song *White Album* tribute



A basketball injury sidelined Bruin for a while.

before end of the year,” says former Puppies singer-guitarist Richard Filaccio. “It coincides with new remixed Beatles release.” He recently issued his second single after a long break from the music biz. “I’ve played a few solo gigs down in San Diego over the past couple

years, getting back on stage after decades away.” He credits his return in part to Jimmy Fallon spotlighting the Puppies on a *Tonight Show* Do Not Play segment that featured their song “Cat Food.” “The Fallon thing

was such an out of the blue thing, we all loved it. And he was kind to us, where he usually makes fun of these one offs. And having the Roots do a piece of it was thrilling.”

Customers who order the new Low Volts CD *Roam With You* receive a handwritten thank you note, stickers, and

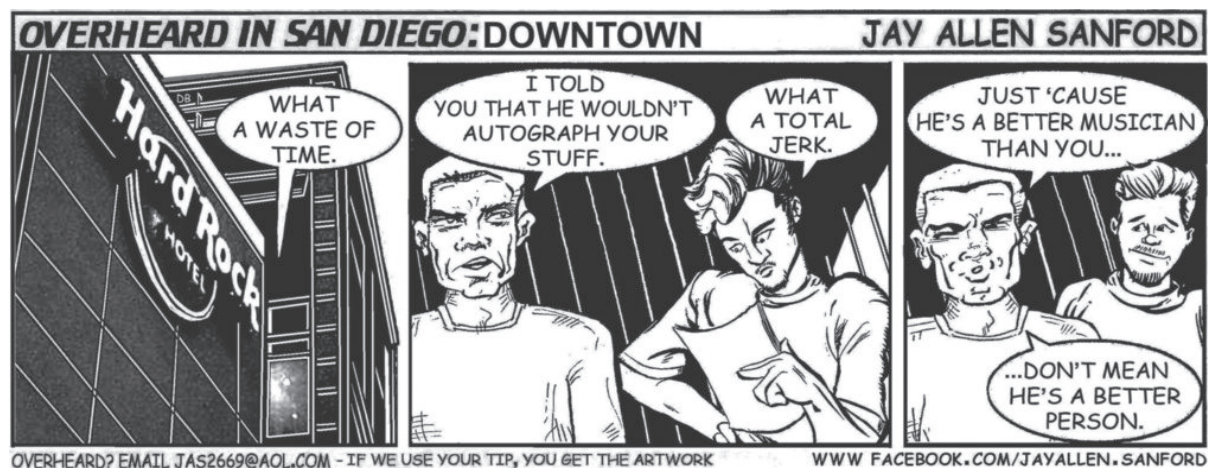
a bonus holographic guitar pick that reads “Property of Low Volts.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



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<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 • MAINLAND WANTED NOISE</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 8 AUTHOR & PUNISHER LINGUA IGNOTA STREET SECTS • OTHERR NEW CRIMES</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 9 WAFIA</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 10 MAINLAND AVENUE ARMY • TEAZED</p> <p>TUESDAY • DEC 11 CALL OF THE WILD HOCUS • SPACE FARCE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 12 BERNHOF AND THE FASHION BRUISES MOOREA MASA AND THE MOOD</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 13 THUMPASAURUS</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 14 FU MANCHU • BOSSWITCH</p> <p>casbahmusic.com</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 619-232-HELL • casbahmusic.com</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 15 FU MANCHU • -(16)- JMSN</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 17 THE SOFT MOON</p> <p>TUESDAY • DEC 18 BULLFIGHTERS PUSHIN' ROPE IRISH EYES</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 19 AVIATOR STASH ARIEL LEVINE THE FRETS HEADPHONE</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 20 ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS ELECTRIC WARRIOR DJ CAMILLA ROBINA</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 21 BLACK FRIDAY DJ'S VAUGHN AVAKIAN & MARIO ORDUNO</p> <p>facebook.com/CasbahMusic</p>	<p>SATURDAY • DEC 22 DIRTY SWEET BAND OF GRINGOS ALVINO AND THE DWELLS</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 23 EL VEZ MERRY MEXMAS</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 26 DJ ARTISTIC'S HIP HOP BATTLE BOT</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 28 THE PALADINS BIG SANDY & HIS FLYRITE BOYS THE TIGHTEN UPS</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 29 GET BACK LORETTA THE HEAVY GUILT SHANE HALL NENA ANDERSON</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 30 LOUDSPEAKER 30 PRESENTS THE GREAT ELECTRIC QUEST THE BASSICS THE PETTY SAINTS THE OXEN</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 31 THE SCHIZOPHONICS THE CREEPY CREEPS THE WIDOWS SCARY PIERRE</p> <p>instagram.com/casbahsandiego</p>
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<p>THU. DEC. 6 PSYCLON NINE MXMS, Guidance, Striplicker</p>	<p>BRICK X BRICK</p>	<p>FRI. JAN. 4 INSANE CLOWN POSSE'S VIOLENT J AND ESHAM Izzy Projectz, Sylint</p>
<p>FRI. DEC. 7 ANGEL VIVALDI AND NITA STRAUSS Jacky Vincent</p>		<p>FRI. JAN. 18 JUDAS PRIESTESS Cowgirls From Hell, 2 Hot 2 Handle</p>
<p>SAT. DEC. 8 SHRED FOR DIME Annual Tribute Show</p>	<p>THU. DEC. 13 EYES SET TO KILL Rest Repose, Avoid, Blackcast, Hollow Stage</p>	<p>SAT. JAN. 19 SUMAC Divide And Dissolve, Tashi Dorji</p>
<p>SUN. DEC. 9 ROCK GODDESS BENEFIT SHOW Celebrating San Diego's Women in Music</p>	<p>FRI. DEC. 14 SCOUR Nukem, Thrown Into Exile, Eukaryst</p>	<p>SUN. JAN. 20 REAGAN YOUTH Midnight Track, D.V.T., VFMS</p>
<p>MON. DEC. 10 DOYLE Society 1, Vuture, SouthTowne Sham, Cylon 78</p>	<p>FRI. DEC. 21 ADELITAS WAY Approaching Fiction, Thread The Lariat</p>	<p>WED. JAN. 23 MARTY FRIEDMAN Immortal Guardian + Special Guests</p>

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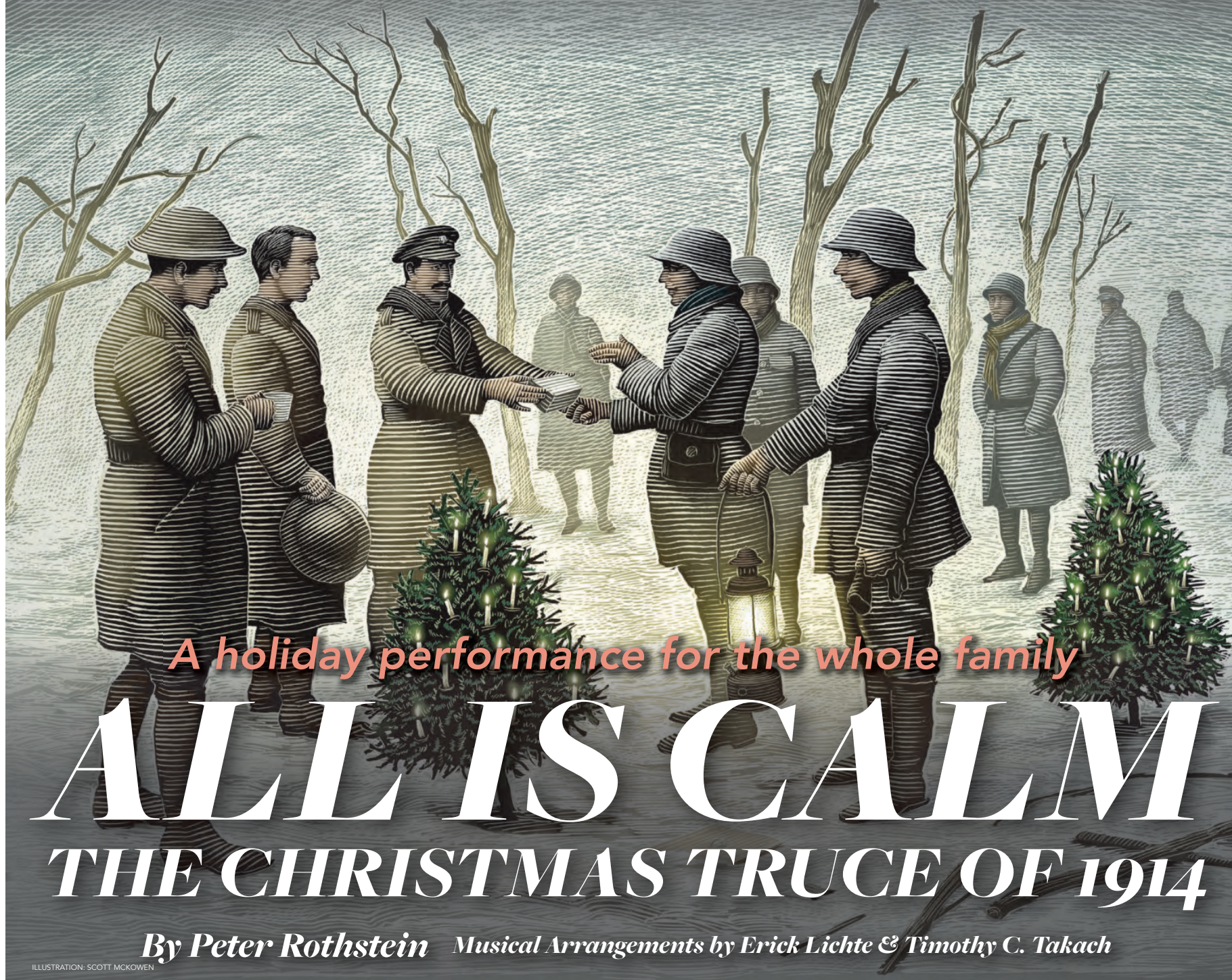
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THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

By Peter Rothstein Musical Arrangements by Erick Lichte & Timothy C. Takach

ILLUSTRATION: SCOTT MCKOWEN

JUST ANNOUNCED



MAE AT THE IRENIC ON JANUARY 19

Formed in Norfolk, Virginia in the early 2000s, underground-experimental rock trio **Mae** named their just-released album, somewhat

haughtily, *Multi-sensory Aesthetic Experience*. That might lead one to expect a noisy and probably pretentious band, perhaps playing industrial steeped math rock with the furrowed brows and serious expressions of scientists. In actuality, they could more accurately be compared with fun and freeform virtual groups like Gorillaz and, believe it or not, Metalocalypse.

If the Banana Splits had Kraftwerk's keyboards, that'd be Mae. *Singularity*, their first new full-length since their major label breakthrough in 2007, is chock full of Zen-sounding lyrics and flashcard-ready artwork sure to inspire an all-new round of devotional tattoos from their many ink-heavy fans, some of them known to stage independent Mae listening parties at tattoo shops. There's a somewhat newfound funky edge and dance groove to the 11 new tracks that should serve the band well when it comes to getting the usually sedate Irenic crowd on their feet on January 19, where they've promised a "fully immersive virtual reality experience" in keeping with the one-foot-in-the-future sounds and themes of *Singularity*.

Some bands, you can pretty

much tell what to expect just from the name. Such is the case with Miami's **Magic City Hippies**. If you like spinning and singing along to jam bands like Phish, or boogieing to the pure funk of groups like G Love & Special Sauce, then by all means bring those Birkenstocks and dungarees to the Soda Bar on February 2, where the trio will bring the same groovy vibes and endless solos they've served up on festival stages from Bonnaroo to Electric Forest and Sunfest. It's not strictly for Deadheads, however, as there's a level of musical proficiency and almost jazz-worthy experimentation that can sometimes enliven even the most meandering solos. Think genuinely jazz-inspired LA groups like Spirit or Love, who may fit in the "jam band" category, but mainly only by virtue of their opening acts and accidental audience overlaps. If you like that sort of thing, this is that sort of thing.



FUTURE GENERATIONS AT SODA BAR ON FEBRUARY 2

The Magic City Hippies bill includes Brooklyn-based pop gypsies **Future Generations**, who just dropped their sophomore full-length, *Landscape*, produced by Justin Gerrish (who's done wonders bringing droney bands like



MAGIC CITY HIPPIES AT SODA BAR ON FEBRUARY 2



WHITE DENIM AT THE BELLY UP ON APRIL 28

Vampire Weekend into the mainstream). It's a fine bit of throwback dream pop recalling the paisley 80s dayz of bands like Big Star and even a bit of Paul McCartney, at least in the meticulous attention to layered songcraft and irresistible hooks that would be garish in their audacity if not so damned soft on the ears. By way of example, one track is built from a sampling of random drum circle recordings, drenched in vintage synthesizer whooshes courtesy of a steampunkish old piece of keyboard tech dubbed the Fun Machine. A video for *Landscape*'s title track is streaming online.

Why is **Justin Timberlake** dressed like an Appalachian Trail hiker in the poster for his upcoming *Man of the Woods* tour? Well, we're supposed to believe he's a man who hangs out in the woods, I guess. Which seems unlikely for a guy who just turned up on a Pollstar list of top ten grossing touring performers of the past year, having performed for over a million and a half people. He's hoping around 16,000 more will turn out for his February 21 appearance at the former Sports Arena, aka Valley View Casino Center, where advance press promises a "360-degree multistage layout featuring an extensive winding walkway simulating a path in the woods, which allows Timberlake and his dancers to get closer to fans on all sides of the arenas." Yeah, that's right, dancers in the woods. That, and "cutting edge lasers and 3D projections to bring to life the setlist filled with fresh takes on his slew of hit songs." Yep, they said "slew." And a walk in the woods. Could we be looking at an upcoming all-country album?

When I saw that **White Denim** has a new 45-minute live set featured on the PBS series *Echo Sessions*, my plan was to just skip over it just enough to get a

feel for their new album, *Performance*, recently released via City Slang Records. I ended up playing the entire performance, captivated by the Austin band's ability to convey so many pop culture references amidst such an instrumentally dense backdrop of rock and roll brouhaha. They're spending around two months on the road promoting the new album, which is already racking up top shelf reviews at *Pitchfork*, *Relix*, and *Mojo*. It also earned them another slot on Conan O'Brien's show, where they practically have cots backstage with the band's names on them, they're spending so much time in that studio lately. The April 28 date at the Belly Up in Solana Beach is pretty much the final show of the current tour, though they



JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE AT VALLEY VIEW CASINO CENTER ON FEBRUARY 21

do have one summer festival booked at Red Rocks in Colorado. The bill include Oakland-based Once and Future Band, a 70s prog throwback evoking the best of Krautrock and space travelling acid rockers like Nektar, Tangerine Dream, Amon Duul II, and Focus.

— Jay Allen Sanford

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AIR SUPPLY

Friday, February 15



PENN & TELLER

Friday, February 22



CHRIS D'ELIA: FOLLOW THE LEADER TOUR

Saturday, March 9



RINGO STARR & HIS ALL STARR BAND

Thursday, March 21

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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

Bancroft:

Sunday, 8pm — This White Light.

Bates Nut Farm:

Friday, 3:30pm, Saturday, 2pm — Christmas Voice Singing Contest.

Beach House Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Celebrate San Diego. Free.

Beaumont's:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Joanna Gerolaga.
Friday, 9pm — Fish & the Seaweeds.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Squirrel Nut Zippers.
Saturday, 8pm — The Young Guns and DJ Hugh Janus. \$18-\$20.
Sunday, 8pm — Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn. \$48-\$84.
Wednesday, 8pm — Colter Wall.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:

Saturday, 10am — Robin Henkel.

Black Cat Bar:

Friday, 8pm — Roger!

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 8pm — MXMS.
Friday, 7:30pm — Angel Vivaldi & Nita Strauss. \$20-\$25.
Monday, 8pm — Doyle. \$20-\$50.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Carols by Candlelight Benefit Concert. \$19-\$87.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Irradio and Dewey Defeats Truman. \$10.
Friday, 8pm — The Ataris. \$15.
Saturday, 8pm — Author & Punisher and Lingua Ignota. \$10-\$12.
Saturday, 11am — Vinyl Junkies Record Swap. \$5.
Sunday, 8pm — Wafia.
Tuesday, 8pm — Call of the Wild and Hocus. \$6.
Wednesday, 8pm — Bernhoft & The Fashion Bruises. \$18-\$20.

Cheers:

Saturday, 9pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Club M:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Dueling Pianos Festive Sing-along. \$10.

Congregational Church of La Jolla:

Saturday, 2pm — Holiday Tales V: Traditions Of The Season. \$10-\$12.

Deft Brewing:

Saturday, 6:30pm — Ugly Sweater Party. Free.

Del Mar Arena:

Sunday, 4pm — Thirty Seconds to Mars and AJR. \$40-\$75.

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 70:

Monday, 7pm — Open Mic Night. Free.

Goodbar:

Saturday, 8pm — BlackSky Nectar.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Chris Robinson is long of beard and graying, but still in possession of the skills that pushed his old band the Black Crowes to another level entirely. Back then, in front of the Crowes, Robinson was lightning in a bottle. These days, he's tethered to the stage by a guitar, a surprise to those of us diehard Crowes fans who thought he could play nothing more complex than a cowbell. I never thought of the Crowes as just another in a long list of rock bands, or celebrities with loud amplifiers. They were the real deal, the rock and roll band that other bands claimed they wanted to be. The Crowes performed R&B-ish rock ginned up with drugs and Chris and brother

Rich's sibling hostility. It came as no surprise when the Black Crowes finally imploded and called it quits.

And that's when Chris Robinson, now 51, stepped out as the more creative of the two brothers. Rich Robinson, the principal songwriter, would go on to run a Crowes tribute band called Maggie Salute. Meanwhile, Chris and a couple of ex-Crowes launched an original solo project called New Earth Mud, a band that felt right but that unexpectedly ended for reasons never explained. There followed a couple of Crowes reunions, and then in 2011 came the Chris Robinson Brotherhood.

There's a local connection: George Sluppick was the group's founding drummer. He's since been replaced by Tony Leone, but when Sluppick lived in San Diego, he gigged with such roots performers as Robin Henkel and Billy Watson. A word of caution: don't go to a Brotherhood show looking for Crowes songs.



CHRIS ROBINSON BAND

Not happening. This is a jam band with the Grateful Dead's fingerprints all over it. You want 1960s San Francisco? This band has that, along with an audience that is willing to follow Chris Robinson away from the music and the fury that first endeared him to them.

CHRIS ROBINSON BROTHERHOOD: Friday, December 7, Observatory North Park, 619-239-8836, 7 p.m., \$25/\$249, all ages

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Grand Ole BBQ y Asado:

Thursday, 6pm — Laura Gibson. Free.

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Friday, 5:30pm — Lillian Palmer, Ed Kornhauser & Doug Walker. Free.

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Saturday, 8pm — The Blues Brothers. \$69.

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Friday, 9pm — Tony Cummins.

Saturday, 9pm — King Taylor Project. Free.

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Friday, 8pm — The Emergency Exit. Free.
Saturday, 8pm — Jimmy Lewis.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm — The Slackers and the Aggrolites. \$17-\$45.
Friday & Sunday, 6:30pm — Beach Fossils & Waves. \$25-\$50.
Friday, 7pm — Koo Koo Kanga Roo.
Saturday, 8pm — Allison and Buen Viaje. \$27.
Saturday, 6:30pm — Whitechapel and Chelsea Grin. \$20-\$45.
Sunday, 7pm — Cayucas. \$14-\$16.
Tuesday, 8pm — Little Steven & the Disciples of Soul.
Tuesday, 7pm — Robin Henkel. Free.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Atreyu.
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Indian Joe Brewing:

Saturday, 5:15pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

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Thursday, 7pm — The Buttertones. \$15.
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Kraken:

Thursday, 8pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.
Saturday, 3pm — Sonic Tonic.

La Jolla United Methodist Church:

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La Paloma:

Tuesday, 7pm — Keith Harkin and Jack Tempchin.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Friday & Saturday, 6pm — Los Reyes.
Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, 6pm — Bobby Wade.
Wednesday, 6pm — David Owen.

Landing:

Saturday, 3pm — Brown Sugar.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

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Wednesday, 8pm — The Skivvies. \$30.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:

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Marrow:

Friday, 8pm — Har Mar Superstar & Sabrina Ellis. \$15.

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Saloon:
Friday, 9pm — Cheap Date. Free.

Saturday, 9pm — Steelehorse. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Sickstring Outlaws.
Friday, 8:30pm — The Jackstones.
Saturday, 4pm — Jerome Dawson.
Saturday, 8:30pm — The Chrome Domes.

Music Box:

Friday, 8pm — Sammy Johnson and Etana. \$22-\$24.
Sunday, 7pm — Mud Slide Slim Holiday Show. \$15-\$25.
Sunday, 10:30am — Rockademy. \$12.

Nate's Garden Grill:

Saturday, 6pm — Robin Henkel.

Observatory North Park:

Saturday, 8pm — Neko Case and Destroyer.
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Friday, 9pm — Teach Me Equals and Joey Sprinkles. Free.

Tio Leo's:
Sunday, 8pm — Nikki Hill & Laura Chavez.

Tipsy Crow:
Tuesday, 7pm — Fox and Bones.

University of San Diego:
Saturday, 7:30pm, Sunday, 2pm — Lessons and Carols. Free.

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Viejas Arena:
Saturday, 7pm — Fleetwood Mac. \$59-\$159.

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Saturday, 11:30am — Julie Albright. Free.

Village Faire Shopping Center:
Wednesday, 12pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

WildWood Restaurant & Bar:
Saturday, 8pm — West of 5. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Altai Kai. \$20.

Zel's Del Mar:
Thursday, 7pm — Robin Henkel.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Dec. 13 — Robert Cray. \$42-\$74.
Sunday, Dec. 16 — Earthless. \$20-\$24.
Monday, Dec. 17 — The Soft Moon and Hide. \$15-\$27.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 — For the Sender Holiday Show. \$18-\$32.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Venice Christmas Show.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, Dec. 14 — Scour and Nukem.

Casbah:
Thursday, Dec. 13 — Thumpasaurus. \$10-\$12.
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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

I teared up at Kelli O'Hara

I had heard the name Kelli O'Hara but I had never heard the Tony Award-Winner sing until Tuesday, November 27, at Symphony Hall. About 30 seconds in, my eyes were tearing up.

Her first song was "Getting to Know You" from *The King and I* by Rodgers and Hammerstein. O'Hara established a connection with the audience by having us sing along with her on the chorus. Very few things will bring a group of people together faster or better than having them sing with each other.

By the time she started her second song, "A Wonderful Guy" from *South Pacific*, I was in love with a wonderful singer. Her intonation was spotless. Her vowel production was consistent. Her registration, while not seamless, was well

coordinated. Her legato was flawless. Her breath was engaged, and her heart was in the text.

That first set of songs, which also included "So in Love" from *Kiss me Kate* by Cole Porter, was the high watermark of the concert for me. Matthew Morrison joined O'Hara for the duet "People Will Say We're in Love" from *Oklahoma!* which concluded the first section of the concert.

Morrison then sang his own set of songs which included "The Lady is a Tramp" from *Babes in Arms* and a medley from *South Pacific*, amongst others. O'Hara came out to join him in the duet "I Have Dreamed" from *The King and I* and we were already at the intermission.

My concertmate and I gushed about O'Hara's sing-

ing. We talked about how she must have trained classically and how she had performed the role of Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Metropolitan Opera.

That's when I realized O'Hara is the perfect musical theater singer. She can sing opera, but the roles which would suit her best are the secondary roles, such as Despina. There is no way on earth O'Hara could handle the role of Fiordiligi, one of the lead roles in *Così*. Few singers who have ever lived can sing that role. O'Hara can sing opera, but she isn't an opera singer as such. That makes her perfect for musical theater.

I hope that's not coming off as a slight to her performance or abilities. You'll recall I had tears in my eyes inside of a minute. It felt so



Kelli O'Hara, Matthew Morrison. Her legato was flawless, her breath was engaged, and her heart was in the text.

good to hear those songs performed that perfectly with a 70-piece orchestra backing them up.

I've not said much about Matthew Morrison. He is a seasoned Broadway star who became famous as the teacher of the glee club in Fox's hit TV show *Glee*. Morrison can clearly sing, but it was his self-imposed choreography which stood out. His movement was full of glamorous masculinity. It invoked the glory of

Gene Kelly.

The one criticism I can offer regarding this concert is the inclusion of music from *A Light in the Piazza* as the meat of the "second act." I understand why it's there. Morrison and O'Hara were the leads in the show when it opened on Broadway (Lincoln Center) in 2005. However, the style of the music doesn't fit with the rest of the concert. In my opinion it needs to be in the first half of the show.

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Sunday, Dec. 16 — JMSN.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Ariel Levine and Aviator Stash.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — Ziggy Shuffledust and Electric Warrior. \$12.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Black Friday. \$8-\$10.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Dirty Sweet and Band of Gringos. \$15.
Sunday, Dec. 23 — El Vez: Merry Mexmas. \$25.
Monday, Dec. 24 — Exile on Kettner Blvd. Free.
Thursday, Dec. 27 — Hail Hail and Razor Nights. \$6.
Friday, Dec. 28 — The Paladins and Big Sandy & His Flyrite Boys. \$20.
Saturday, Dec. 29 — Get Back Loretta and the Heavy Guilt. \$12.
Friday, Jan. 4 — Hot Snakes. \$30.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — Chinchilla and Uncle Joe's Big Ol' Driver. \$15.
Sunday, Jan. 6 — T.S.O.L. \$20.
Wednesday, Jan. 9 — Melvins and Dale Crover Band. \$25.
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Friday, Jan. 11 — The Dragons and Drip Tank. \$16-\$18.

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Saturday, Dec. 22 — Heart Band.
Friday, Dec. 28 — Raney/Butler.
Saturday, Dec. 29 — The Jamacha Project. Free.
Monday, Dec. 31 — The Farmers.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — King Taylor Project. Free.

House of Blues:

Thursday, Dec. 13 — Robert Allen Shepard. Free.

Friday, Dec. 14 — Mac Powell & the Family Reunion. \$35-\$100.
Saturday, Dec. 15 — Graham Gillot Duo. Free.
Sunday, Dec. 16 — Gospel Brunch. \$22-\$44.
Sunday, Dec. 16 — The Regrettes and Welles.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Robin Henkel. Free.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Ministry.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — Robert

Allen Shepard Band. Free.

Friday, Dec. 21 — Strangeglove and Temptation. \$19-\$40.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — The Cured and Still Ill. \$19-\$40.
Sunday, Dec. 23 — Chad & Rosie. Free.
Wednesday, Dec. 26 — Robert Allen Shepard. Free.
Thursday, Dec. 27 — Who's Bad. \$19-\$40.
Thursday, Dec. 27 — Michael

Head & the Moneymen. Free.

Friday, Dec. 28 — Jerry "Hot Rod" DeMink. Free.
Saturday, Dec. 29 — Sublime With Rome and Katastro. \$35-\$75.
Sunday, Dec. 30 — Sublime With Rome and Pacific Dub. \$35-\$75.
Sunday, Dec. 30 — Chad & Rosie. Free.
Monday, Dec. 31 — Miles Medina & Friends. \$30-\$50.
Thursday, Jan. 3 — Vincente Fernandez. \$15-\$30.
Friday, Jan. 4 — The Dan Band. \$20-\$55.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — Calpurnia. \$25-\$40.
Saturday, Jan. 12 — Randy Rogers. \$25-\$50.
Sunday, Jan. 13 — Young Dolph. \$35-\$60.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Friday, Dec. 14 — Y3K Happy Hour. Free.

Music Box:

Thursday, Dec. 13 — La Santa Cecilia. \$25-\$30.
Friday, Dec. 14 — Lyrics Born and Zion I. \$20-\$22.
Saturday, Dec. 15 — Daybreaker. \$35.
Sunday, Dec. 16 — Anuha. \$25-\$27.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Fishbone: Crazy Glue Xmas. \$25.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — A Berkley Hart Christmas. \$30-\$35.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Betamaxx. \$16-\$18.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Nicky Genesis. \$13-\$15.
Sunday, Dec. 23 — Thundercat. \$32-\$34.
Sunday, Dec. 23 — Thundercat and Zack Fox. \$32-\$34.
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\$17-\$20.

Saturday, Dec. 29 — Grupo Corrupta and Estevan Plazola. \$27-\$42.
Sunday, Dec. 30 — The Steely Damned 2 Holiday Show. \$24-\$72.
Monday, Dec. 31 — BoomBox. \$45.
Friday, Jan. 4 — Electric Mud. \$7-\$10.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — The Winehouse Experience. \$22-\$47.
Thursday, Jan. 10 — Mimi Zulu, Kiyoshi, The Anodynes. \$12-\$14.
Friday, Jan. 11 — Dirtwire. \$15-\$17.
Saturday, Jan. 12 — Tommy Emmanuel & John Knowles. \$67.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Hippie Sabotage.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Bane's World. \$20.
Friday, Dec. 28 — The Claypool Lennon Delirium and L.A. Witch.
Saturday, Dec. 29 — X and Los Lobos. \$35.
Sunday, Dec. 30 — X and Los Lobos. \$35.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:

Saturday, Dec. 15 — Heal Your Soul. \$10-\$40.

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Soda Bar:

Thursday, Dec. 13 — Middle Kids and the Shacks. \$15.
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Sunday, Dec. 16 — Roosevelt. \$17-\$20.
Monday, Dec. 17 — Void Vator,

Mezzoa, Amigo. \$7.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Vera Sola. \$10-\$12.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Pulley and Versus the World. \$15-\$20.
Thursday, Dec. 27 — Sol Orchid and the Values. \$6.
Friday, Dec. 28 — Hideout and Heavy Hawaii. \$10.
Saturday, Dec. 29 — Keepers and Sixes. \$5.
Monday, Dec. 31 — Weatherbox and Pistolita. \$15-\$20.
Friday, Jan. 11 — The Undercover Dream Lovers and Boyo. \$10-\$12.

Soma:

Saturday, Dec. 15 — Queen Naija. \$18.

Tio Leo's:

Saturday, Dec. 15 — Crown City Bombers and Hot Rod Lincoln.

Tower Bar:

Monday, Dec. 31 — Hey Chels and Civil War Rust.

Turf Supper Club:

Sunday, Jan. 6 — Leonard Patton & Ed Kornhauser.

Viejas Arena:

Thursday, Dec. 13 — Barry Manilow.

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Saturday, Dec. 15 — King Taylor Project. Free.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — King Taylor Project. Free.

Westgate Hotel:

Monday, Dec. 31 — Julio De La Huerta & Band. \$129.

Winstons Beach Club:

Monday, Dec. 17 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

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The Favourite: Pretty ugly people

At the outset of *The Favourite*, director Yorgos Lanthimos' scabrous and nihilistic romp amid the English royals, Emma Stone — playing Abigail, a clever girl from a fallen family — faces an unpleasant choice: either tolerate the wretched sexual attentions of a man (in this case, a wanking carriage-

mate, though she has already suffered for years in a thoroughly loveless marriage) or be cast out (in this case, face first into a muddy road that seems to double as a sewage ditch). She opts for the latter, and so arrives at the palace of Queen Anne (played with ruined majesty by Olivia Colman) to beg employment from her cousin Lady Sarah (a fearsome Rachel Weisz) stinking without but with her dignity intact.

Once inside, her great goal is to scrub from herself every putrid particle of her impoverished past, and she isn't particularly particular about how she manages it, even if it means biting the well manicured hand that fed her. (In

this world virtue is a luxury of the rich, one for which they have precious little use. When a fellow pays an uninvited visit to her quarters, she asks him, "Are you here to seduce me or rape me?" "Madam, I am a gentleman!" he replies in shocked tones. "Oh, rape then," she fires back.)

Abigail is a woman, you see, doomed by the unfeeling dictates of a man's world to either peddle her ass in the street (a crude expression, but one put considerably more crudely in the film, which delights in high-born vulgarity almost as much as it delights in the bulgy warp of fisheye lenses) or manipulate it into an advantageous marital match. Her efforts in this regard provide the film with one of its more recognizably human dynamics: she may kick her suitor in the crotch during a sylvan rendezvous, but it's a *flirtatious* kick in the crotch, its brutal ache eased by a sweet smile and perhaps just a hint of feeling. As opposed to the blows she reserves for

MOVIES



The Favourite: Emma Stone, gunning for the top spot.

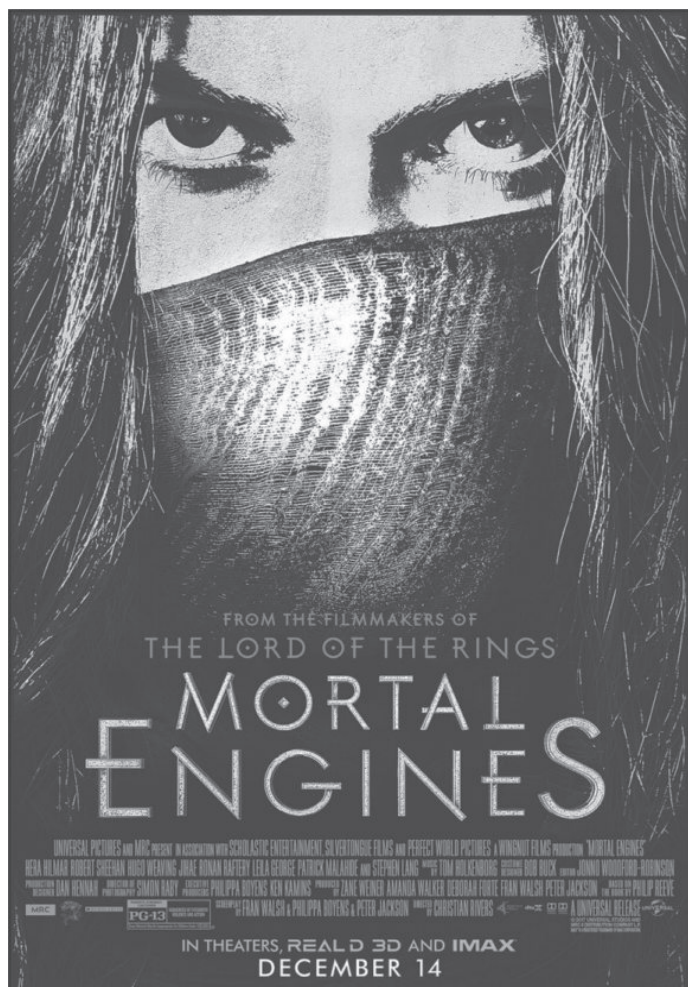
Lady Sarah, whose *noblesse oblige* and familial loyalty are both useful and appreciated — up to a point. Sarah is, after all, the dotty Queen's favourite, and therefore, ultimately, an obstacle to Abigail's rise.

There are no heroes in *The Favourite*; there is not even the possibility of a hero. There are only sad creatures driven by their various needs. The Queen needs comfort: she mourns her

17 failed pregnancies, writhes under her gout, and longs for affectionate attention (offered to her in intimate fashion by both Abigail and Sarah). Abigail needs security, and a return to the life taken from her by her father's stupidity. And Sarah needs her husband safely off at war, so that she might tend to her one true love in the royal bedchamber. There are some men with needs as well, but they are merely tools

to be manipulated or problems to be solved. What was that about this being a man's world?

There is, however, a morbid morality to the proceedings, one in which decadence is its own punishment, and the surest sign of keeping your dignity intact — remember Abigail at the outset? — is to get as far away from the levers of power as possible. It turns out there are worse things than smell-



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Calendar MOVIES

ing like the sewer. Lanthimos' latest is mordant, gorgeous, witty, bawdy, bruising, depressing, and disheartening. I thought I had a taste for such things. But by the crushing final scene, I wasn't so sure.

—Matthew Lickona

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

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* mimographer 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)

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 through 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



Celebrate Woody Allen's 83rd birthday with a trio of early, funny movies

— Scott Marks

WHAT'S UP, TIGER LILY? (1966)

My first Woody. At fourteen, a sickbed viewing induced enough laughter to swat the flu bug right out of me. American International Pictures president Henry G. Saperstein owned the rights to the Japanese action flick *Key of Keys*. He came up with the concept of redubbing the otherwise unfathomable foreign fare and turning it into a comedy. Allen, making his directorial debut of sorts, devised the spy spoof angle, in which rival agents vie for an egg salad recipe that's to die for. The voiceovers by Allen & Co. — the second Mrs. Allen, Louise Lasser, Mickey Rose, Len Maxwell with the weather, etc. — bring to mind the slapdash fervor of a Looney Tune. In need of padding for the scant running time, Allen filmed four additional sequences. Not satisfied, the studio brought in *The Lovin' Spoonful* to add a few musical numbers. Allen threatened to sue just long enough to learn that

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 benefitted 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 (York of a *Teenage Girl*) matter-of-fact tone. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST; VINTAGE VILLAGE THEATRE)

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN (1968)

The month after *Tiger Lily* worked its healing magic on me saw a revival of this early effort. It was my first theatrical Woody, and ever since, I've seen all of his films — in a theater — on or before opening day. Woody's expose of the life of bumbling



"We like your movies, particularly the early, funny ones."

criminal Virgil Starkwell has been called the first mockumentary. Jerry Lewis declined Allen's offer to direct, citing prior commitments. A shoddily assembled joke machine, one can only imagine how much better it would have been with Lewis at the helm. Legend has it that the film's true auteur was editor Ralph Rosenbloom, who restructured the film and also convinced the fledgling director to record scene-bridging voiceovers and excise the

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bloodbath that originally closed the picture. This is a film to be judged, not on its formal finesse, but on the number of laughs produced during its mixmaster approach to storytelling. On that level, it's a pretty damn funny success.

PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM (1972)

Woody stars as a neurotic film critic whose obsession with *Casablanca* has him regularly conversing with the ghost of Humphrey Bogart. Conceived for the stage, Woody dedicated a year of his life to performing the play on Broadway. When it came time for the big-screen bump-up, he adapted the play, but, not wanting to simply re-trace his most recent success, handed the director's reins to Herbert Ross. According to *Cinema Magazine*, Woody aimed for "a nice, solid, funny commercial picture [that would] hopefully entice a broader audience for me than I get with my own films." He got what he asked for in terms of both box office success and artistic control. His first of eight collaborations with Diane Keaton — and his one and only picture for Paramount — *Sam* established Woody's reputation as both movie star and sex symbol.

better than might be expected, still heavy on the Instagram aphorisms (right down to a marriage proposal 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 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)

Divide and Conquer: the Story of Roger Ailes — A fair and balanced overview of the wonderful, horrible life of Roger Ailes: Republican kingmaker, architect of Fox News, and bullying pimp to woman in his employ. (His pickup line of choice: "If you want to play with

the big boys, you have to lay with the big boys.") Early in his career, PR man Ailes segued from propping up one stiff — cue card dependent talk show host/automaton Mike Douglas — to energizing the lastingly unrelaxed Richard Nixon. It was Ailes' expertise as a media-masseuse that ultimately helped pave the way for Tricky Dick's second term in office. A hemophiliac, Ailes' Fox News continues to bleed watered-down facts for it's dumbed-down-as-it-is throngs. Never having spent more time on the network than the second it takes to channel-surf past it, many of the participants and informational tidbits imparted were new to me. Ailes was never so much as a blip on my radar, and if nothing else, Alexis Bloom's debut documentary clued me in as to why. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (LAND-MARK KEN)

El Angel — Glamorizing biopic of baby-faced thrill-killer Carlos Robledo Puch (Lorenzo Ferro) whom, after spending more than forty-six years in jail, is the longest-serving prisoner in the history of Argentina. His life in crime began as a "house cat," a burglar without a gun. You're heard of a meet cute? Director Luis Ortega hits us with a meet brute: in shop class, an acetylene torch-welding Carlos mockingly sings the hairs on the nape of classmate Ramón's (Chino Darín) neck. In no time, Carlos is flaunting a broken beak and Ramón and his parents are encouraging our gossamer-curved cherub to mas-termind a series of fortuitously executed robberies. "The world belongs to outlaws and artists," observes his partner in crime, Ramón. Carlos qualifies as both. While others say, "Fuck you!" Ferro embodies it. Add to it the kind of smoldering pucker that makes Angelina Jolie's or Mick Jagger's kissers look like line drawings. Ferro's assured debut performance is a calling card one won't soon forget. One burning question remained: how did the cops not check the piano? 2018. — S.M. ★★★★★ (DIGITAL GYM)

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 gobbs 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)

The Favourite — Reviewed this issue. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (LAND-MARK HILLCREST)

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. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Green Book — To pick up some side money, a raffish Copacabana bouncer agrees to chauffeur and an African-American jazz musician on a concert tour through the deep South. Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali's deeply engaging performances are the best Christmas present moviegoers will open this year. It's when the two finally find themselves on even footing that the picture goes beyond a standard lecture on the evils of racism. Directed by one half of the Farrelly Brothers, *Green Book* isn't content to simply smell like a *Driving Miss Daisy*. Surprisingly, the messages are not imparted with a wagging finger, but smuggled in as a shared experience. Is it a feel-good charmer poised to rake in greenbacks and Oscar gold? You bet! But don't let that keep you away from this overall well balanced (and timed) look forward from the safe distance of America's motley past. 2018. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Old Man and the Gun — If Clint Eastwood's barely reformed killer was *Unforgiven*, Robert Redford is unrepentant in this love letter to...Robert Redford. He plays a friendly old-timer who's just a lovable rascal at heart, a man serenely happy in his work — which happens to be bank robbing — and supremely gifted at slipping away from the consequences of his choices, criminal and otherwise. Pity the poor schlub of a

cop (Casey Affleck) who gets put on his tail: despite the loving wife and adorable kid, his law and order lifestyle will never compare to the devil-may-care joyride his nemesis makes of life, even as the shadows begin to lengthen and the law starts to close in. As his partners in crime, Tom Waits and Danny Glover don't do much in the way of advancing the story, illuminating Redford's character, or even helping to pull off his capers (he mostly seems to work alone). But they're still delightful to be around, and they seem to be having a good time, which is more than can be said for Sissy Spacek, who gets the thankless job of standing in for the audience and falling in love with a man who is busy being pleased with himself. 2018. — M.L. ★ (LA PALOMA)

The Polar Express — Neither an "instant classic" nor the polar opposite, but a middling addition to the holiday repertoire: computerized illustrations of the Chris Van Allsburg children's book about a little boy already too old to believe in Santa ("This is your crucial year"), snatched out of his bed on Christmas Eve for a faith-restoring train trip to the North Pole. Is seeing believing? — or vice versa? (The answer to the explicit question, "Could this be nothing but a dream?" is a firm "No!") The fundamental animation technique of drawing on top of live-action figures — as in Ralph Bakshi's version of *The Lord of the Rings*, for example — is nothing new, but it has never looked quite like this: a mobile billboard or magazine ad airbrushed to the thickness of cake frosting, giving the image a velvety, mossy, furry, peach-fuzzy feel. Filmmaker Robert Zemeckis, who really did foment a revolution in animation in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, does not now appear likely to repeat the feat. But only time will tell. (Maybe when computer-generated touch-ups have become as commonplace in Hollywood as cosmetic surgery, we'll look back on *The Polar Express* as the breakthrough.) There are some marvelous sights on parade — the ghostly first appearance of the choo-choo out of a clearing cloud of steam and swirling snow; the wind-borne ticket that returns to its holder via a relay network of a pack of wolves, an eagle, a rolling snow-

ball, etc.; the perilous slog over the top of the railcars against a relentless salvo of blinding snowflakes; the train snaking across an ice-covered track; the red-brick Victorian architecture of the Pole — but these, without exception, are significantly liberated from the live actors. They are free-hand animation. The recognizable face of Tom Hanks, behind a walrus mustache and half-moon glasses, in the part of the train conductor and chief proselytizer for childlike credulity, is something of a distraction — a disruption in the cartoon universe — in the same way that an overly recognizable voice can be a distraction (Robin Williams in *Aladdin*, Eddie Murphy in *Shrek*, Albert Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres in *Finding Nemo* — name your own). But Hanks's voice, in a handful of other roles besides that of the conductor, almost as though he alone were reading the Van Allsburg text for audiotope, has been sufficiently disguised or electronically altered to be no more than a minimal distraction. 2004. — D.S. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Ralph Breaks the Internet — A welcome improvement over the original's *Wreck-It Ralph*'s tale of a good guy (voiced to sweetly earnest perfection by John C. Reilly) who can't seem to shake his onscreen character's nasty rep when he's off duty with his fellow video-game actors. (What part of show business don't they understand?) In that story, he sets off on a hero's quest to prove his goodness, and ends up with the prize he desired all along: a friend (Sarah Silverman as the glitchy Princess Vanellope). In this one, he sets off — after an unusually slow, clunky opening — on another, this time to save Vanellope's race-car video game from the scrap heap. But the journey takes the two of them out of the arcade's old-school confines and into the dizzying variety and scope of online life, and it isn't long before lil' V finds the dream world she didn't even know she was dreaming of in the online video game *Slaughter Race*. That's when things get both personal and interesting, as directors Rich Moore and Phil Johnston artfully explore the promise, the horror, and the heartbreak of the internet's infinite possibility. (There's only so far a family movie can go in showing a

world where everyone can be just as awful as they want to be without consequence, which makes their achievement here all the more impressive: what it does to Ralph is deeply unsettling but not quite terrifying.) Best of all, they don't shy away from the ending their story demands. Second-best of all, they go goofily meta in a scene where Vanellope meets her fellow Disney princesses, but have the good sense to know when it's time to get back to the straight story. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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)

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 sails, 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)

FILM FESTIVALS



Miracle on 34th Street: Gimbel's vs Macy's: the Meltdown in Midtown

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
A severely deluded mental patient with whiskers to spare (Edmund Gwenn) escapes from an old people's home and proceeds to convince the world that he's none other than Kris Kringle — never mind his "latent maniacal tendencies" and penchant for wielding a cane. First off, if this really is Santa Claus, shouldn't he be at the North Pole and not New York City during this, his busiest time of the year? The film's alleged good intentions and altruistic slams against crass consumerism are easily shot down by the words of R.H. Macy (Harry Antrim): "(We're) the store that places public service ahead of profit... and consequently

we'll make more profits than ever before." That goes double for little Natalie Wood, who only expresses a belief in Santa when there's a home in the suburbs in it for her. That said, any film that positions William Frawley as "the highest authority available" is worth at least a couple of viewings. **ANGELIKA FILM CENTER: Monday, December 10 at 7 pm.**

It's a Wonderful Life (1948)
If the Grinch in you has difficulty getting past the saccharine silliness of *Miracle on 34th Street*, how about a Christmas film that opens with an alcoholic druggist bringing his fist so hard against his delivery boy's head that blood flows from the lad's ear? And for a beloved yuletide classic, the film's ending is anything but happy. The further Clarence's revisionist dream recedes into the background, the sooner George Bailey will once again long to kick the crummy dust of Bedford Falls off his shoes. How Frank Capra's dark slice of Americana survived its initial box office drubbing to become a part of the annual Christmas celebration is anyone's guess. For years in the public domain, the picture once played regularly year-round. It's a long story, but in 1994, NBC was granted the exclusive rights to broadcast the film at Christmastime.

Here's is your chance to see it on the big screen as it was intended. **ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA: Monday, December 10 at 7:30 pm.**

Schindler's List (1993)
Oskar Schindler and the Temple of Doom returns for one night only. According to the 25th anniversary reissue trailer, *Schindler's List* is a "timeless masterpiece that the world needs now more than ever." If that's true, it's another reason to hate Trump. The structure of the film is such that whenever the action in this Universal Theme Park ride grinds to a halt, all Steven Spielberg has to do is direct a Nazi to pull out a Luger and pop another Jew in the head. Steve's idea of getting a character to stand out in a 195-minute black-and-white movie is by tinting her dress red. And all that stuff about, "If only I had sold my car I could have saved more lives" is pure Hollywood bullshit. Instead of this fictional and overly-sentimentalized tripe, I suggest you track down a copy of Alain Resnais' monumental documentary short *Night and Fog* (1956). All other films on the subject pale in comparison. **IN WIDE RELEASE: Thursday, December 6 at 7 pm.**

OLIVIA COLMAN EMMA STONE RACHEL WEISZ

T H E

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San Diego Reader December 6, 2018 79

Shock space

Nora and Torvald end up on the bare wooden floor.

Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2* begins where Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece *A Doll's House* ends. After 15 years on her own in the world, Nora Helmer returns to the door she slammed on her way out — and needs a little help from her X.

Ibsen chose the title of the 1879 drama with his customary precision. Nora Helmer lives for her husband's approval. Torvald only loves an image of what a wife should be: a subservient plaything, a house pet, a manipulated doll.

She's so boxed in she can't even eat her favorite confection. Macaroons are too extravagant for her, says Torvald, and too expensive. They've never had a single serious discussion in eight years of marriage.

When the family runs into financial trouble, Nora takes out a loan and, since he would never accept a handout, violates his iron-clad control. She repays in secret installments. She's so afraid he'll find one in the mailbox, she considers herself already dead, drowned in "icy black water." When he does find out, he declares her unfit to bring up his three children. She can remain in the household, but not be a part of it.

In turn, Nora sees through smothering Torvald. She wants an equal marriage. Since theirs isn't, she will shed her toy-wife cocoon, learn about the world outside, and become a woman. She leaves,

slamming the door with all her pent-up might.

Nora's rejection of traditional values shocked Ibsen's audience. When the play was produced in Germany, his agent made him write an alternate ending: before she's about to leave, Nora sees her three children and faints dead away. Curtain. Ibsen called the revision a "barbaric outrage."

So what happened to Nora? Could she make it in a lock-down, male-dominated system? The answer, on the streets and in several sequels, depended on the bias of the perceiver. Most saw her as evil. She abandoned her husband and children. She's doomed.

Hnath says otherwise. His Nora is a fully liberated woman. She writes successful feminist novels. One is pure autobiography: a suffocating, bourgeois wife breaks free. To evict male voices in her head and find her own, she lives in silence for two years (of course, to encourage sales, such an intimidating heroine had to die, of consumption in this case).

The real Nora still can't escape the male grasp: a judge creates legal issues. Torvald, it turns out, never divorced her. She's back for official closure.

At the San Diego Rep, Sean Fanning's scenic design makes one wonder how long before Broadway steals this gifted artist away. Two grayish-white walls angle back to the famous door. Beyond three tall windows, thanks to Alan Burrett's precise light-



A Doll's House, Part 2: "Nora's apparel shouts, 'Here I am!' She is liberated."

A Doll's House, Part 2. By Lucas Hnath.

San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown.

Directed by Sam Woodhouse; cast: Linda Libby, Sofia Jean Gomez, Rene Thornton, Jr., Danny Brown; scenic design, Sean Fanning, costumes, Jennifer Brawn Gittings, lighting, Alan Burrett, sound, Matthew Lescault-Wood.

Playing through December 16; Sunday and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

ing, lurks a Norwegian winter. The set has the makings for a play by Ibsen. But the stage is mostly bare and, since Torvald dumped all traces of Nora, lacks what some might call "a female touch." A steep rake all but spills into the audience. You'd swear only ghosts could inhabit such a shadowy interior.

When Nora makes her entrance in a backlit haze, worries arise that Broadway will steal away costume designer Jennifer Brawn Gittings as well. Nora's silhouette suggests stately Victorian proportions, if you don't count those peacock feathers stretching from her hat. As she comes downstage to meet Anne Marie (Linda Libby as the serio-comical housemaid), Nora's outfit transforms from repression to release. It's an assertive red, with brocade in shades of black and olive/gold. And it's a three — make that four — piece suit; the dress opens to skintight pants. Nora's apparel shouts, "Here I am!" She is liberated.

She brings an armada of arguments against marriage: "most people would be more fulfilled without it;" it's an "idea etched into our skulls;" "the ache" for freedom "is in the core of who we are." The playwright calls the scenes that follow "boxing matches." The "matches" about the virtues of marriage are deliberately inflammatory. But instead of cold, rhetorical position papers, they are character-driven, and often funny.

Proud Nora has come to beg. Instead she has tough, toe-to-toe debates with Anne Marie, with daughter Emmy (lively young Danny Brown, as stubborn as her mother), and finally with Torvald (an outstanding Rene Thornton, Jr., who does an emotional 180, and makes Ibsen's troglodyte sympathetic). Nora and Torvald end up on the bare wooden floor, both stripped down to shirtsleeves, and may be equals at last.

Sofia Jean Gomez's Nora is a hellion for the play's 85 minutes. She battles, cajoles, contracts, and detonates. In an unexpected touch, she adopts her

opponents' characteristics — in effect combating them with their styles.

Someone asked the director Anne Bogart if she liked political plays with a definite point of view. Oh no, she said, she always looks for "friction." The truth, she says, "mostly exists in the space between opposites. It exists in the disagreement of ideas or in imagery." Bogart loves to create "shock spaces" on a stage, where contradictions clash and break up "the cushion of definitions." Director Sam Woodhouse and the first-rate cast and designers have turned the Rep's main stage into that shock space. ■

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.

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. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Christmas Story

Community Actors Theatre Children/Youth Drama Department stages a popular holiday tale, performed by a cast ranging in age from six to sixteen. Kimberly

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The San Diego Union-Tribune

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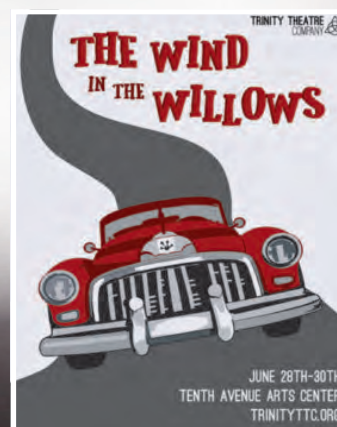
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7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

A Doll's House, Part 2
Reviewed 12/5. **Critic's Pick.**
SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79
HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DI-
EGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS,
FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM
SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Very Merry Musical Monday
For its next Musical Monday, Cygnet Theatre Company gets into the spirit “with songs from your favorite holi-day shows and beloved childhood specials. No bah humbugs here!”: CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM MON-
DAY, DEC. 10.

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 a make a wish that comes true” in spite of unexpected consequences. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

City Ballet of San Diego: The Nutcracker
Voted San Diego's Best Nutcracker production by the “Tommy Awards”, this elaborate and elegant production, with exquisite costumes and scenery, will take you on Clara's magical journey from her fun filled family Christmas party where toy soldiers and mice become life sized, to the enchanted Snow Forest and on to the Land of Sweets where she is welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier

ANTI-REVIEW ANNE WENTWORTH

Christmas remains irony-proof

They can't completely ruin Christmas — the commercializa-tion, the gaudy lights, the atro-cious, omnipresent, fake-happy “holiday” music that is the very antithesis of holy (it's just “day” music if you think about it). Then the constant pressure to buy, buy, buy, and want, want, want. The ads would lead us to believe that twin new cars are a normal Christmas gift for spouses.

Then we have all the help-ful holiday advice from the media. Since the election of the orange-haired guy, the media tells us that every family has at least one “toxic” member, so civil family gatherings are no longer possible without their “expert” help, offered in long, folksy articles that sow suspicion and fuel prejudices. Without their totally unbiased help, you might remain com-pletely unaware that your uncle or cousin is definitely a Nazi, and that the rest of your fam-ily is decidedly un-woke and therefore has nothing useful to contribute to society, let alone dinner-table conversation.

Yep. The onslaught of crass-

ness, exploitation, and greed is relentless. It has pretty well denuded of any meaning the civil holidays like Memorial Day and Independence Day. It



Really not such a bad little tree.

almost took out Veteran's Day, but being at constant war for two generations has breathed new life into it, courtesy of dead and wounded warriors and their fam-ilies. Easter is now just baskets and bunnies to all but the most devout. And yet it hasn't ruined Christmas (although it's a little tattered around the edges).

(Halloween survives, and

grows in popularity each year. It's easy to see why. It's the anti-Christmas. It's the one day of the year when you can acknowledge and even cel-ebrate the darker urges openly and safely.)

But Christmas somehow laughs off the onslaught's attempts to co-opt it. It suc-ceeds in giving people a few weeks each year to be joyful, generous, sentimental, and child-like rather than cynical and worldly. Nobody's going to mock you for watching *It's a Wonderful Life* or *Charlie Brown Christmas* for the 84th time, and if they do, you can call them Grinch or Scrooge and the joke's on them. Christ-mas remains irony-proof.

So, every year we get new attempts at Christmas entertain-ment. *Miss Bennet* is one of those: a sentimental look at Mary, the sister who is the quintessential forgotten middle child from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. This production gives Mary her day in the sun, though it's England, so probably no actual sun. It runs through Dec. 23rd at New Village Arts theater in Carlsbad.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRAMIELEON/FLOCCOR

and magical performances from dancers throughout the world. Accompanied by the City Ballet Orchestra and Chorus, this heart-warming production is the perfect way for families to immerse them-selves in the holiday spirit, year after year. Following each matinee performances, members of the cast will be in the lobby to greet audi-

ence members and pose for photos. SPRECKELS THEATRE, 121 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-9500. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY.

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.

Elf Jr. the Musical
The Ocean Beach Playhouse pres-ents 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 sand Youth Theater presents this holiday musical-piece about a trio of per-formers determined to do something other than the traditional A Christ-mas 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 FRI-DAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2:30PM SUNDAYS.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
The Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical retells the biblical story of Joseph, his eleven broth-ers, 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.

Letters from the North Pole
Strings & Things Puppet Theatre delivers holiday cheer at the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. “Letters from the North Pole” is a yuletide story told through shadow puppetry. MARIE HITCHCOCK PUPPET THEATRE, 2130 PAN AMERICAN ROAD WEST, BALBOA PARK. 619-544-9203. 10AM & 11:30AM WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12.

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.

Mark Twain's A Christmas Carol
The North County Players pres-ents Mark Twain's version of the Dickens classic. “Only this time it's set in the American South in the period following the Civil War and narrated in person by Mark Twain himself. The play conveys powerful messages about love of family, faith, and redemption.” CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 7PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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 Gunder-son 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.

Mr. Dickens' Christmas Carol Dessert Theatre
For one evening only, Canyon Com-munity Church hosts a one-man version of the classic tale. Charles Dickens “has gathered an audience of friends (including you) as he pres-ents his newest work, acting out all of the parts himself. Appropriate for ages 8 and up. Free childcare pro-vided for infants-age three.” CANYON COMMUNITY CHURCH, 610 PASEO DEL REY, CHULA VISTA. 619-421-6263. 7PM SATURDAY.

Scrooge in Rouge
Ocean Beach Playhouse stages “this quick-change, cross-dressing” ver-sion 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. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS.

September and Her Sisters
As part of its Naked Plays Series, Ion Theatre presents a staged reading of Jennifer Lane's piece about Septem-ber, a spoken word poet, and how she and her sisters declipher what she's going through via her poetry. Yolanda Franklin directs. ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL & EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2728 SIXTH AVE., BANKERS HILL. 619-298-7261. 6:30PM MONDAY, DEC. 10.

This Beautiful City
Diversionsary Theatre presents the San Diego premiere of the *Civilians'* drama, based on interviews with citizens of Colorado Springs, “the capital of the Evangelical move-ment.” 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.

The Year to Come
Every New Year's Eve a family gath-ers in their Florida backyard to ring in the coming year. In between dips in the pool, politically incorrect ban-ter and a highly-anticipated onion dip, their relationships grow and fracture in moments that become family legend. Unfolding back-wards from 2017 to 2000, The Year to Come shows how the promise of our future is shaped by the lens of our past. MANDELL WEISS THEATRE 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR, LA JOLLA, CA 92037. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

The Year to Come
La Jolla Playhouse stages the world premiere of Lindsey Ferren-tino's “portrait of contemporary America through the lense of one diverse family.” At a New Year's Eve gathering, “relationships grow and fracture.” Anne Kaufman directs the piece, which unfolds backward in time. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUES-DAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

By Arthur Miller.

“It is rare for people to be asked the question which puts them squarely in front of themselves.”

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An Oasis of calm and spiritual well-being. Euphoric sensations. Be dazzled with private matters. Experience balance, nourishment in earth's element. Sublime delight! Blends of styles- Waves of melodies flow through you. Pleasures of warmth, alluring therapies, fingertips massage and holistic spa treatments. Seven days of unending bliss. In/ out calls. Hotel visits. (HHP-0075/ CMT-4327). 619-298-6661.

MASSAGE: MISS KIM
Wonderfully relaxing Full body massage. Spotless studio in Carlsbad. Experienced CMT Hot shower, Deluxe Pro table. Credit accepted. I have A/C! By appointment Misskim/ 760-688-2017 Kerry/858-371-2883 for more info: killermassagebymisskim.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES,
Health and Tranquility. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

LEGAL SERVICES

CONFIDENTIAL RECOVERY

Free Gift For Yourself
Give yourself the Gift of Sobriety this holiday season. www.confidentialrecovery.com or Call 619.452.1200

RENTALS

Need an Apartment Short Term?

CALL NOW & GET \$200 OFF EVERY MONTH



Call for Daily Specials
Up to 15% OFF Daily Rates
Call Now



Weekly Available
Call for Discounted Price

California Suites Hotel
Apartment prices with hotel perks
www.californiasuiteshotel.com

Sorry we do not accept pets.
Monthly rental maximum 2 people including children.
*Some hotel amenities included.
Please call for details.

Free Continental Breakfast

- Free maid & linen service • Free utilities
- Heated pool & spa • Laundry facilities
- Free parking • Microwave • Refrigerator
- Easy freeway access • Centrally located
- High speed internet services

5415 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(just west of the 805) San Diego, CA 92117
(858) 799-0219



SERVICES



Call Today for a Free Estimate:
619.535.0914

Home Remodeling So You Can Age In Place

Why pay for expensive assisted living when you can stay in your home?
Trust Safe Access Home Remodeling to make your home beautiful and functional for your lifestyle.

- Grab bar installation
- Wheelchair accessible showers
- Accessible kitchen remodels
- Entryways & exterior ramps
- Granny flats
- Full custom home remodels

Safe Access HOME REMODELING
The Aging in Place Company

safeaccesshomeremodeling.com
CGC 564809

GRAND *Opening*

FULL BODY MASSAGE

10% OFF

*Table Shower &
Hot Stone Available*

Offer Expires 1/1/2019



Unicorn Spa

325 Robinson Ave., #100

Open 10am-10pm

619-559-8161

Asian Pearl Spa

7739 Othello Ave.

Open 9:30am-10:30pm

619-288-2968

Asiana Beauty Spa

Lic. B2016009958

4488 Convoy St. Suite B • Open 10am-11pm • **858-277-2585**



Special Offer!

**1 HOUR
BODY MASSAGE
\$35**

**90 MINUTES
MASSAGE
\$50**

(Just mention this ad. Not to be combined with other offers)

i Massage

3555 Rosecrans St., #106

San Diego 92110

619-222-9888

Lic#B2015048862

5208 Jackson Dr., # 112

La Mesa, CA 91941

619-929-5258

imassagesd.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



\$35

1-Hour

**FREE TABLE SHOWER
With Full Body Massage**

Leisure Spa

7878 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. • San Diego, CA 92111

Free Validated Parking

(858) 505-8626

Lic. B2018006449

Queen Spa

7408 University Ave. • La Mesa, CA 91942

(619) 319-4739

5 Star Body & Foot Massage

2615 Sweetwater Springs Blvd. • Spring Valley, CA 91978

(619) 724-6628

HAPPY FOOT SPA

\$10 OFF 1-Hour Combo Massage
(Reg. \$35)

**Foot
Massage
\$15⁹⁹/hr**

Monday - Friday
before 1 PM

**Gift Card
Buy 6 time
get 1 Free**

**Full Body
Massage
\$35/hr**

6956 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego 92115 • 619-724-6464



Blue Sky Spa

**\$10 OFF
1-Hour Combo Massage**
(Reg. \$35)

**Full Body Massage
\$35/hr**
Before 1 PM

**Foot Massage
\$15⁹⁹/hr**

Monday - Friday before 1 PM

6506 El Cajon Blvd. #A
San Diego 92115, (College Area)
619-888-3999



Cajon Massage

**Body Massage
\$35/hr**
Only September

**Foot Massage
\$20/hr**

**Couple massage
\$70/hr**

1246 East Main St #102
El Cajon 92021
619-588-8888



Downtown • Hillcrest • Mission Valley • North Park

Relax, Recharge, Reflect

\$30

60 min. Asian Full Body Massage
with Oil and Hot Stones
With this ad. Expires 12/20/2018

\$35

60 min. Swedish or
Deep Tissue Massage
With this ad. Expires 12/20/2018

\$55

60 min. Couples Asian Massage
With this ad. Expires 12/20/2018



LUCKY FOOT MASSAGE

3505 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103
www.sdluckyfootspa.com • 619.299.5555



FREE HOT STONE MASSAGE

Alexa Spa Studio

Best Massage in
Clairemont &
Kearny Mesa!

\$20 OFF

Christmas Special
Offer Expires
12/26/18

Full Body Massage

\$20 1/2 Hour (Reg \$40)

\$40 1 Hour (Reg \$60)

SWEDISH,
SPORT, ASIAN,
LAVENDER ESSENTIAL

7297 RONSON ROAD SUITE #J • (858) 943-6329

Unique Foot Spa
Grand Opening
Specials

\$10 off

Full Body and
Combo Massage



Full Body Massage

\$40/hr (Reg. \$50)

Combo Massage

\$60/90 Minutes (Reg. \$70)

Offers Expire 12/20/18

6610 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115 • Tel: (619) 286-2000



Jjim-jil-bang

Korean-Style

Sauna

- Red Clay Sauna
- Himalayan Salt Sauna
- Ice Room
- Dry & Steam Saunas
- Hot & Cold Tubs
- Body Scrub
- Massage
- Yoni Steam

New
Restaurant!



3927 Convoy St, San Diego, CA 92111 • 858.987.0476 • YuSpaSD.com

Lic#B2017009411

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

**Professional
Touch for your
BODY and MIND!**

Experienced,
Professional
Masseuse

FeelSide Spa
(858) 275-4817

3865 Clairemont Drive
(at Balboa Ave)
Lic.B2017018549

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: 1/27/2019, 2/27/2019, 3/27/2019, 4/24/2019 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Intuitive Program graduates. 4455 Morena Blvd, Suite 108. 858-509-7582

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.

Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OASandiego.org.

STOP SUFFERING ALONE

Are you dealing with the side effects of menopause? Are you looking for relief that doesn't require drugs? Call 619-782-5025

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:

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, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

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.

STEREO GEAR/ LP RECORDS.

Cash paid! Vintage/ newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables. McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Prerecorded reel tapes, jazz/ rock records. John, 619-889-5237.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

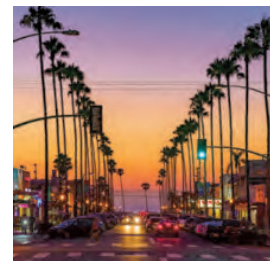
Rock & Roll I buy 1950's-1980's Concert Posters, Flyers, Handbills, Used-Unused Tickets, Programs. Pls Call (619)522-0283 Private Party.

APPLIANCES

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR

20.5 cu ft., Bisque on Bisque, Top

PHOTO



FINE ART PRINTS

Beautiful Landscape and Sunset prints of San Diego and surrounding areas by McClean Photography. mcleanphotog@gmail.com

MASSAGE

1 Hour **\$60** • 1/2 Hour **\$40**

Asian Massage

3045 Rosecrans St #305
San Diego 92110
858-568-2810

7677 Ronson Rd #110
San Diego 92111
858-231-0523

10054 Mesa Ridge Count #102
San Diego 92121
858-250-9066



\$10 OFF

**1-Hour
Massage**

With Ad - Expires December 20, 2018

Deep Tissue • Swedish
Hot Stone

Sunny Spa (858) 616-7656

4865 Convoy St., San Diego (block south of Clmt. Mesa Bl.)

Lic. # B2017018823



Freezer, for sale for \$100. I just purchased a new one. Contact samanat@san.rr.com.

ELECTRONICS

500MW GREEN LASER
Battery operated. In new condition. Ideal uses for photographic, holographic and astronomy applications. Asking \$200.00. 619-282-3657- leave message- will respond back.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLOTHING FOR SALE
Selling new boutique clothing. Have limited styles and sizes. Please call 619-599-5504

FOR SALE
Denon Amp \$30 no speakers or remote. 100 Watt Subwoofer \$50. 619-448-1910

EVENT LISTINGS

KEGS & EGGS
All day brunch specials in addition to regular menu. Brunch Specials will be rotational every weekend, follow @duckfooteastvillage on Instagram. Saturdays, 12pm; Sundays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 23, free. 21 and up. Duck Foot East Village Taproom & Kitchen, 550 Park Bl., Ste 2104.

PETS

FREE PET ADS:
Selling a pet for under \$200? Email your word-ing & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

ALL OTHER ADS:
Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.



FORD
Ford is a 4 year old, neutered, 65 pound, Pit Bull. Most recently, he came in as a stray on September 2nd from the Bonita area. He has been here twice before in the past, but unfortunately this time his owner has not come to claim him. He has been dog tested with a few other dogs and does

well, but prefers calmer females. He had a dental on 10/1/18 and he is healthy and all ready to go. He is a staff and volunteer favorite and is currently available on a first come, first serve basis. Please come meet him to see if he would be a good addition to your family. Animal ID: A1694269 San Diego County Animal Shelter, 5821 Sweetwater Rd. Bonita, CA 91902 Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Adoption fee: \$69 (covers neuter,

microchip, and all vaccinations). For more info please call 619-498-2311 or visit our website at www.sddac.com.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

Smog Check \$36⁷⁵

+ \$8.25 Certificate of Compliance (most cars). Bring DMV Notice.
Model years 1976-1995 \$10 extra for Evap Test. RV's: call for details

Oil Change Special \$18⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes new oil filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil. 6-cyl. & 8-cyl. extra, some oil filters extra.

A/C Service \$25

Includes performance test on compressor, visual inspection for leaks and damaged components and recharge (freon EXTRA.)

Check Engine light and Smog Failure Diagnostics \$60.00*
(FREE if repairs are performed on site).

Fuel Injection Service

3-Step - \$109⁹⁵

60K/90K/120K Services

4-cyl. from \$149⁹⁵
6-cyl. and 8-cyl. extra. Platinum plugs extra. Call for details.

Chris's
Auto Smog & Repair Center

2920 Damon Ave. #C & D
(Behind In-N-Out Burger)
Pacific Beach 92109
858-270.1888



Want to de-clutter?

Sell your belongings using a free classified ad!

Just e-mail us at freeads@sandiegoreader.com with your ad of 25 words or less.

Reader

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 3:30PM Monday.

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

DOGWALKER/DOGSITTER
(aka:The Dog Woman) Love all breeds, professional, responsible, caring, experienced farm girl. Contact: (619-380-4861)

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK \$11⁷⁵
Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up. + \$8.25 Cert.

BRAKES from \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor

OIL CHANGE & FILTER \$13⁹⁵
Up to 5 qts., new filter, 10 point check-out. + \$1.00 Waste Fee.

TIMING BELT \$75
Starting price. Labor + Parts.

COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS \$30
Most vehicles & light trucks. Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery...

AXLE SPECIAL \$99
Includes Parts & Labor

MUFFLER From \$29
+ labor

PREMIUM SHOCKS \$70
From Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

PREMIUM STRUTS \$130
From Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR \$95
From + Labor

*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto
6670 Miramar Rd. # C
San Diego, CA 92121-2559
858-452-9999

OIL CHANGE

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

\$14⁹⁵

SMOG CHECK

Sedan only. SUV and Trucks extra. NON STAR CERTIFIED SMOG INSPECTION ONLY. Smog only for 2000 and newer vehicle. + \$8²⁵ cert + \$1⁰⁰ DMV transfer fee

\$11⁷⁵

BRAKES

Front or rear

*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.

From **\$49**

most cars

30K 60K 90K

Scheduled Services

*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

\$65

most cars

RADIATOR

or Transmission Services

*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

\$45

most cars

4 cyl.

TIMING BELT

Parts & Labor

*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

\$75

most cars

4 cyl.

STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS

Plus labor.

\$95

most cars. 4 cyl.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

96 and up.

We'll beat any written estimate!

DENTS, DINGS, SCRATCHES?
Now offering bodywork.



B.T. Auto Wrench

Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!

8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C • 1-858-565-4634

AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST

WE DO ALL TYPES OF AUTO GLASS INSTALLATION

\$149⁹⁵ WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT

(Most cars, some restrictions apply. Mobile Service Available)



(619) 430-4922

5803 El Cajon Blvd., SD (Near SDSU)

wcautoglass.com

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

Smog Test or **STAR Certified** All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 31, 2019.

+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER from **\$24⁹⁵**
Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (both locations)

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (Cliff Brown location)

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN **\$69⁹⁵**
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from **\$179⁹⁵** 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up
Oil and filter change • Lube chassis
Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE from **\$159⁹⁵**
Parts & Labor

TIMING BELT SPECIAL **\$50 off quoted price**
Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

SAN DIEGO SMOG & AUTO REPAIR CENTER
4664 Park Blvd. (at Adams Ave.)
619-543-4828 • Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 8 am-3:30 pm
www.sdsmogandrepair.com

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE
4491 Park Blvd. (Park & Monroe)
619-297-4204 • Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm
www.cliffbrownautomotive.com

Coupons must be presented prior to service. Senior discounts available.

SMOG CHECK \$19⁹⁵

With coupon only. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

BRAKE & LAMP INSPECTION \$99⁹⁵

plus cert. \$3.50 each. Most 4-cyl. Cars

SMOG CHECK \$29⁹⁵

with coupon. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest Free when repair done on site. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

ALIGNMENT \$39⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. Cars

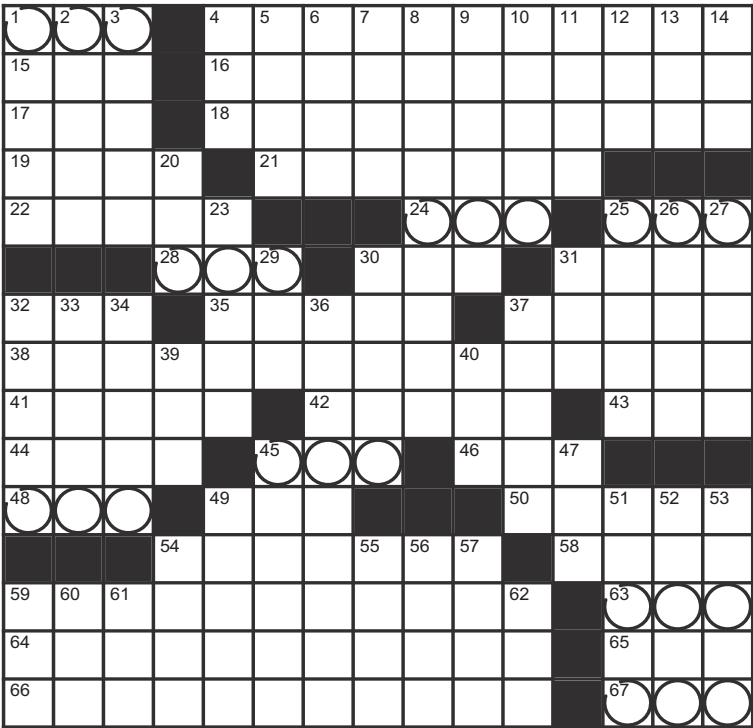
TRANSMISSION SERVICE \$89⁹⁵

Most 4-cyl. Cars

CALIFORNIA MOTOR WORKS & TIRES
WELCOME ALL FLEET ACCOUNTS • AAA APPROVED
Se habla español
8025 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92111 • (858) 560-1245
M-F 8am-6pm • Sat 8am-3pm • All Coupons Expire 12/20/18

CROSSWORD “Crunches”

© 2018 DAVID LEVINSON WILK



RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to *SDReader.com/puzzle*. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
- 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader Puzzle*, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 2) Late entries will not be considered.
- 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle winners.
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- 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

H	O	W	D	O	P	E	A	C	E	M	B	A		
B	R	E	A	K	I	N	C	A	N	E	O	S		
O	B	A	M	A	P	E	E	R	S	L	O	T		
		K	E	Y	U	P		Y	O	U	L	I	K	E
M	S	N		M	I	B		U	E	C	K	E	R	
T	H	E	M	A	P	P	L	E	S	D	E	R	N	
A	E	S	O	P		O	V	E	R					
		S	I	P	H	O	N	E	D	O	F	F		
			L	E	W	D		T	O	I	L	S		
I	P	A	S		A	L	I	M	A	C	G	R	A	W
M	R	T	O	A	D		E	T	D		E	W	E	
H	E	L	I	P	A	D		D	O	G	I	T		
U	S	A		A	C	E	L	A		I	N	R	E	D
R	T	S		R	H	E	I	N		B	R	A	G	A
T	O	T		T	E	S	L	A		B	I	P	O	D

Across

- 1. Beer belly
- 4. Picnic side dishes
- 15. Ear: Prefix
- 16. Like a propaganda war
- 17. Nickname for a cowboy
- 18. With self-assurance
- 19. Activist Brockovich
- 21. Getting a sense for
- 22. Rapper with the double-platinum album “The Pinkprint”
- 24. Home made of mud and thatch
- 25. Big success
- 28. Squirreled away
- 30. Lip
- 31. A pop
- 32. Sternward
- 35. Mandel of “America’s Got Talent”
- 37. Cosmetician Lauder
- 38. These will help transform a 1-Across into 67-Across (a transformation evidenced by this puzzle’s word ladder)
- 41. Prodded with a finger
- 42. ____-de-boeuf (oval windows)
- 43. Enzyme suffix
- 44. Rep on the street
- 45. Earthquake relief, e.g.
- 46. Ice cream container
- 48. Interject
- 49. Twombly and Young
- 50. Wipe the board clean

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.

- 54. 1971 R&B collection “ ____ Greatest Hits”
- 58. Locale of both the 2018 and 2020 Olympics
- 59. Colorful tops often worn with a lei
- 63. What free apps often come with
- 64. Socialite whose great-grandfather was married to Zsa Zsa Gabor
- 65. Laura Bush ____ Welch
- 66. “How cheap!”
- 67. “Six-pack”

Down

- 1. Capturer’s triumphant words
- 2. Wombs
- 3. Cause of a bee sting’s sting
- 4. Instagram upload, for short
- 5. “My Life as ____” (1985 film)
- 6. Director Dominic of “Gone in 60 Seconds”
- 7. Stir-fry staple
- 8. “Divine Comedy” poet Dante
- 9. The “Na” in NaCl
- 10. James Bond, e.g.
- 11. Suffix with duck
- 12. Make a scene?
- 13. The Mavericks, on scoreboards
- 14. Devious

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.

👉 **Andrew Williams, San Diego, 20.**

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

					7	3	6	
6			8		1			
				2				1
	1	5					7	
			2		4			
	9					4	8	
7				8				
			9		5			6
	8	2	1					

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Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

4	5	6	9	8	2	1	3	7
1	7	8	5	6	3	4	9	2
9	2	3	1	4	7	6	8	5
3	8	5	4	2	1	9	7	6
7	6	9	3	5	8	2	1	4
2	4	1	6	7	9	3	5	8
6	1	2	8	9	5	7	4	3
8	9	4	7	3	6	5	2	1
5	3	7	2	1	4	8	6	9

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👉 **Jon Hutchens, Cardiff, 13.**

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

Ponesca moved from San Diego to New York in 1998 to pursue a career in advertising. She worked her way up in the food industry and, together with Chef Miguel Trinidad of Dominican descent, opened Maharlika in 2011 and Jeepney a year later. After dinner, a line of about 60 formed to meet with the two authors. They signed my book and inscribed “*Maraming Salamat*” (Thank You) on the inside cover.

MIKE MADRIAGA

DEL MAR

Gentrification, North County style

Mobile homes to replace RVs?

Will Del Mar horse groomers and fairground carnies be the next group to get squeezed out in the ongoing housing shakedown? Those groups of temporary Del Mar fairground employees may eventually feel the pain, due to a state law that mandates more affordable housing for permanent residents.

Del Mar Mayor Dwight Worden says that his town, the most expensive city in the county, needs to open up and welcome in some more downscale neighbors. “Diversity is healthy,” he says, for his tiny city of 1.8-square miles — where some beachfront homes are listed for \$12 million. “We shouldn’t just be a place for old rich retired people. The person who cuts your hair should have an opportunity to live here as well.” The thought seems absurd in a town where the average household income is \$157,446 — compared to Solana Beach (\$91,139) or Coronado (\$85,985). But Worden is dead serious. He points to the fact that the state housing law (called Regional Housing Needs Assessment) actually spells



In Del Mar, even the RVs have white picket fences.

out how many affordable units each city has to come up with. Worden says Del Mar was given five years to find 22 units, and has so far has only set two into the planning process. If Del Mar does not show that it is making progress, Worden says his town could be liable for a developer to successfully sue and take over the process.

One big problem is Del Mar is built out. “We have almost no vacant land,” says Worden. The issue came to light at the November 14 meeting of the board that oversees the Del Mar Fairgrounds, officially called the 22nd District Agricultural Association. That is when board member David Watson told the meeting that Mayor Worden was asking the Del Mar Fair board to consider working with the city of Del Mar to solve its housing needs. Watson said that Worden, a lawyer, informed him in a memo that a statute existed in state law that would allow the city of Del Mar to solve its state mandated housing requirements by allowing Del Mar to take over the Surf & Turf RV Park, which sits just east of the fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Boulevard, so that it could build mobile homes to house new, permanent Del Mar residents.

Adjacent to the Del Mar Hilton, the Surf & Turf RV Park has 65 spaces, used primarily by racetrack fans or temporary employees of Del Mar Fair or racetrack. Surf & Turf RV is closed in May, and tenants can stay only 8-1/2 months at a time. The Surf & Turf proposal would not only need to be approved by

but that it but happened two years ago when 110 acres were transferred from San Diego to Santee to facilitate the Castle Rock housing development.

Mayor Worden admits the city of San Diego could prove to be “a small fly in the ointment” with the plan to convert Surf & Turf RV into mobile homes. He says another plan could be to convert the so-called “barns” — housing used by temporary racetrack employees, including jockeys, hot walkers, groomers, and stall muckers — into apartments. That area of the fairgrounds sits on Del Mar property, says Worden, and would not have to involve San Diego.

Worden says he understands that the Del Mar Fairgrounds board would only accept a plan if the arrangement would be financially beneficial to the district. Del Mar City manager Scott Huth said the process to annex property is “very viable,” and that he and his staff are “just starting” to roll out the options. After being told the concept of affordable Del Mar housing seemed silly, he responded: “It may be laughable,

“The person who cuts your hair should have an opportunity to live here as well.”

the Del Mar Fair board but also by the city of San Diego as well, because the Del Mar Fairgrounds is actually a so-called overlay district that sits on land that is part of either Del Mar or San Diego. Del Mar would have to annex the Surf & Turf RV property from San Diego so that the redeveloped mobile home park would count towards Del Mar’s housing census. Any change in city boundaries would have to go through the Local Agency Formation Commission. Robert Barry, chief analyst with the commission, says such a process, called disincorporation, is complicated, due to all the tax districts. He says it is rare,

but it’s the law.” He said Del Mar won’t be putting “all its eggs in one basket,” and will continue to look into granny flats and “tiny houses” as other options. Huth said what’s important is that Del Mar can show it is making a good faith effort to the state of California.

Analyst Barry says Encinitas appears to be in deeper trouble than Del Mar when it comes to complying California housing law. “Encinitas is the only city in the County without a housing element plan. They keep putting [plans] before the voters, but the voters keep turning [them] down.”

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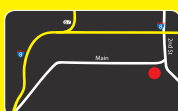
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CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 27
years, it has done so sporadically, having decided to do so in some cases only after experiencing lengthy periods of idle time. According to private shipyard officials, the sporadic shifts in workload have resulted in repair workload gaps that have disrupted private shipyard workforce, performance, and capital investment — creat-

CITY LIGHTS

ing costs that are ultimately borne in part by the Navy.”
In its November 14 response, the Pentagon agreed to improve the way it allocated business between government shipyards and private contractors. “The Department of Defense concurs with this recommendation and has taken the first steps to take a more holistic view of submarine maintenance

CITY LIGHTS

requirements and impacts across both the public and private shipyard.”
Per the audit, “attack submarines are homeported at bases in the United States: in New London, Connecticut; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Norfolk, Virginia; San Diego, California; and Bangor, Washington; 4 are homeported overseas, in the U.S. territory of Guam.”

Matt Potter

WATERFRONT

continued from page 34



Winter games are played in the library.

than one day a week of chess.”

There are about 15 “Chess by the Beach” players at the PB Library. The next meeting will be on December 4, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Elguira also runs the “Downtown Chess” group, which plays at the San Diego Central Library and draws around 50 people every Friday from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

— *Mike Madriaga*

FISH REPORT cont.

fall jig.
Thursday brought inclement weather and no boats made it out, but two did return from the grounds offshore in the morning: 26 anglers aboard the Aztec out of Seaforth Landing found a few fish willing to bite on a one and three-quarter day run to the Cortez/Tanner area, reporting 19 bluefin tuna at 25 to 60 pounds and one fish weighing 110 pounds, while the New Lo-An had better results on a 3-day run, scoring 84 bluefin tuna for the 22 anglers aboard. As the fronts this time of year tend to generate in the northern Pacific and move south and east, the

long range vessels going out to Guadalupe Island, relatively close to home at 260 miles south of Point Loma and 150 miles off the Baja coast, did very well in mostly good weather through the week. As the winter long range season is just gearing-up for 7 to 16 day trips down into tropical waters, the fishing in the northern reaches closer to home has been better than usual, which might speak well for the bluefin fishing hanging in there after this first real winter-like front passes.
The inshore fishing for the local ½ and ¾ day boats resumed after the storm, with good success on calico bass, rockfish, and whitefish. The Dolphin ran both ½ day runs

on Saturday and reported a total of 87 calicos caught, of which 26 were kept and 61 were released. The Premier called in with 49 rockfish and a handful of sand bass, while the Alicia also had some success hooping inside, reporting 47 lobster released, and 18 lobster and 1 rock crab kept for the ten hoopnetters aboard their twilight run. All in all, and despite a bit of weather causing rough conditions and the lowest weekly angler total of the year, this was another good fishing week for the San Diego landings.

**Fish Plants: 12/10,
Jennings, trout (1,500)**

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The world is changing at an unprecedented rate. We live in an age of dizzying possibility, of constant transformation and reinvention. The old rules don't seem to apply anymore, but is anyone sure what the new rules are?

Musicians, and other artists, can have an uncanny ability to sense what's just around the corner, or to make sense of a transformation that's underway in our world. *Hearing the Future*, curated by composer-conductor and 2018 MacArthur Fellow and "Genius Grant" Award Recipient **MATTHEW AUCOIN**, explores and celebrates the power of music and art to give voice to the evolution and revolutions in the world at large.

The festival will shine a spotlight on the music being made today - from composers and performers who are still in high school, to a 90-year-old jazz master. The festival will also explore the way music from the past, from Haydn, Beethoven and Berlioz to the creators of African-American spirituals, engaged with the most urgent issues of their time. We also feature events presented by our partners at San Diego museums, theaters and dance companies.

DON'T MISS OUR FIRST CONCERTS WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE RAFAEL PAYARE!



JAN 10, 8PM

Payare Conducts Mozart and Tchaikovsky

Don't miss Rafael Payare's momentous inaugural concert as San Diego Symphony's Music Director Designate. This program features the tone poem **Don Juan**, composed by a 24-year-old Richard Strauss, and Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* (written in that composer's 35th year) in its well-known orchestration by Maurice Ravel. The concert opens with the dramatic overture to Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, which he debuted at age 31, and also features cellist Alisa Weilerstein in Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. **All funds from this concert will go to support the San Diego Symphony's Learning and Community Engagement programs.**

JAN 11, 8PM | JAN 12, 8PM | JAN 13, 2PM

Payare and Weilerstein

Music Director Designate Rafael Payare leads this program with acclaimed cellist Alisa Weilerstein and the San Diego Symphony Orchestra's first-ever performance of Benjamin Britten's Symphony for Cello and Orchestra. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 was performed months after the death of Stalin, and is a self-reflective composition containing embedded messages of personal identity.



JAN 13, 6PM

Were You There

JAN 19, 8PM

Beyond the Score®: *Symphonie fantastique*

JAN 15, 7:30PM

A Brief History of "New Music"

JAN 24, 6:30PM | JAN 25, 8PM
JAN 27, 2PM

Matt's Playlist: Echoes of the Future

JAN 18, 8PM | JAN 20, 2PM

The Young Romantics

JAN 26, 8PM

Generation Next: Hearing the Future of Jazz

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Programs and artists subject to change. All sales final.