

SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 50
DECEMBER 13, 2018

Reader

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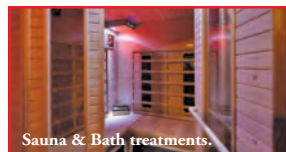
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December 13, 2018



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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

The end of Public Integrity

Lorie-loving League loses, leaves leftovers to Lincoln Club



Call it, Doc: Campbell's on the council despite attack ads.

San Diego's Lincoln Club, which steps forward each election time on behalf of Republican candidates by savaging their opponents with hit pieces, has shut down its latest political committee, called the Public Integrity League Opposed to Jen Campbell for City Council 2018. The anti-Campbell campaign was modeled after the Lincoln Club's successful effort to unseat a Democratic county supervisor two years ago, when it formed the Public Integrity League of San Diego Opposed to the 2016 Re-election of Dave Roberts. During little more than two months of life, the league spent most of the \$353,000 it raised on anti-Campbell mailers, television spots, social media ads, phone calls, and polling in an effort to keep Republican Lorie Zapf on the city council.

To help fund its anti-Campbell drive, the Lincoln Club recruited utility giant Sempra Energy, which kicked in \$7500, Mission Beach amusement park proprietor Pacifica Enterprises, with \$10,250, and the apartment-owning Zygi Wilf family, which rounded up a total of \$52,500. In addition to the Lincoln Club, the other donor to the anti-Campbell fund was the Building Industry Association of San Diego County, a pro-development lobbying organization, with \$45,000.

Expenses, per the erstwhile integrity league's December 4 going-out-of-business filing, included \$21,740 for YouTube advertising, \$5000 for Google ad placements, and \$31,750 for social media advertising paid to Public Dynamics, run by former Lincoln Club executive Ryan Clumpner. AX Media of Kansas City, owned by Axiom Strategies, the largest Republican consulting firm in the country, got \$70,061 for TV buys, the filing shows. Last year Axiom took over San Diego's Revolv, co-founded by Jason Roe and Duane Dichiaro. According to Axiom's website, Dichiaro and Stephen Puetz, former chief of staff to San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer, now work for the firm. In the end, \$18,000 of cash remaining unspent was refunded to the Lincoln Club on November 2, four days before the elec-

tion. Zapf fell to Campbell 56 percent to 44 percent. It seems the aspersions cast by the Republicans against Campbell's reputation were outweighed by a committee named San Diegans Against Hate opposing Lorie Zapf for City Council. That effort was predominantly funded by labor unions, which seized the chance to tip the balance of power at city hall out of the hands of the GOP. Anti-Zapf donors included the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569, the Progressive Labor Alliance, hotel workers union Unite Here!, and the District Council of Iron Workers.

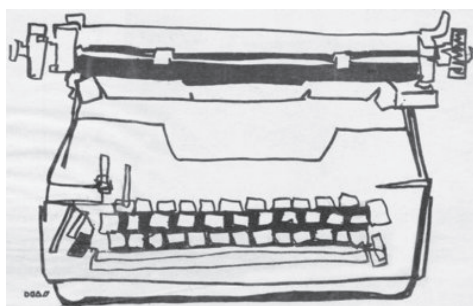
Matt Potter

Bob Dorn: rest in peace

A San Diego journalist's parting shot

Bob Dorn, who died of a heart attack the last week of November, was a writer for the *Evening Tribune*, the *Reader*, *San Diego Magazine*, and most recently for the *San Diego Free Press*. Notable Dorn stories that appeared in the *Reader* included profiles of Spreckels Theater owner Jaquie Littlefield, gadfly attorney Mike Aguirre, FedMart founder Sol Price, and *San Diego Union* cartoonist Steve Kelley. He wrote about leaving daily journalism in a September 27, 1979 *Reader* cover story, "The Last Rewrite," part of which is printed here:

While walking into the *Union-Tribune* building last month on my way to resign from my



For our younger readers: this is a typewriter, sort of an analog laptop.

job as reporter for the *Tribune*, I had to slow down a step or two to allow a mechanic to drive a new staff car into its stall. It was an omen, and in times of stress and confusion, omens are no small comfort. You don't quit after eight years at one place — acquiring friends, a mortgage, strong tastes for good food and drink, and a thin cushion of only a few thousand dollars in savings — without having to confront hard, evil doubts about the wisdom of the act, especially when there's no other reporting job in your near or distant future. That new *Union-Tribune* Pinto didn't push me over the edge, but it brought my decision a measure of certainty. Little more than a

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Nice wetlands. Now drain them. But make new ones

Classic California land use shenanigans

By Marty Graham

More than 17 years ago, land owner Robert Barczewski had a grading crew push a pile of dirt into a dip in a dirt road on his private property in northern Carmel Valley. The dip flooded every rainy season and made the road impassable until it was built

Coastal Commission looked at the one-acre of high quality wetlands, they ordered Barczewskis to drain the accidental pond and then create bigger replacement wetlands elsewhere.

After what appears to be 15 years of not getting the work done, the Barczewskis

State Route 56 via eminent domain in 2004. This time the agency is paying more than a half million dollars per acre for Barczewski's land, Metcalf says. (I told you it was a California story.)

Neither Robert Barczewski, the 82-year-old who bought the 260-acre parcel before 1980 and ran Rancho Del Sol Nurseries, nor his son Chris Barczewski responded to multiple phone messages and emails with questions regarding this matter.

But riches of documents from the State Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Coastal Commission, the



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Though state officials have dubbed this pond on private property in Carmel Valley "high quality wetlands," the Coastal Commission ordered it drained, but insisted the property owner create more wetlands.

up, says Paul Metcalf, a consultant who works for the Barczewski family and its various entities. "When he placed the fill there it was to get from one part of his property to another," Metcalf says.

Because that land is near the McGonigle Creek, that dammed area filled with water and became an accidental pond over time, turning into what state biologists termed "high quality wetlands."

This is California, and this is a California story. So when the city and the

found a new friend to help fund the long-delayed corrective action.

They're selling some of their land that's adjacent to the mitigation wetland to the San Diego Association of Governments, which also has to create and maintain a wetlands to make up for environmental effects of the regional transportation agency's Rose Creek Bikeway.

The last time the San Diego Association of Governments crossed paths with the Barczewski land business, it was taking land for

city's Development Services and its Planning Commission, the community planning group; plus Superior and Appellate Court records tell a convoluted story about arguing, planning, suing, and enforcing — and doing very little for a long time.

In 1983, Robert and Sandra Barczewski decided to try to develop the 260 acres of land they owned just south of where State Route 56 now approaches Interstate 5 — but before 56 was there, at Rancho Santa Fe Farms Road. That's according to the 1989 appellate court deci-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SARGENT

Luxury homes now cover most of Carmel Valley, which used to be home to several large scale nurseries.

sion from the fight among the Barczewskis, the multiple entities the land ownership traveled through, and investment partners Commonwealth Acceptance Corp. The acceptance corporation sank over the \$2.55 million into their joint venture, and, according to the court opinion, “the Barczewskis allegedly diverted and misappropriated the funds for their own personal use; Rancho Del Sol was not developed.”

Apparently, at some point in the fight over the missing money, Sandra Barczewski asked her title company, which was suing her, to pay for her legal defense against itself as required by the title insurance documents.

The Barczewski suit was dismissed in the state court. A later appeal failed, but the justices drafted the unusually detailed statement of the case that made their perspective public and

almost unchallengeable.

In 1984, some of the land was in use as a nursery. Back then, Carmel Valley was full of nurseries including the Evergreen Nurseries motherhood, which now may be the last wholesale plant nursery in the upscale neighborhood of million-dollar homes that lie mostly north of State Route 56.

Big home developers — Lennar, Pardee, and Barratt American among them — were interested in building in the valley and the Barczewskis sold some land and worked with some developers.

In 1987, the coastal commission gave the nod to create 37 lots — including the luxe, gated Caminito Mendiola segment’s 12 houses — and to keep part of the nursery operating downhill from the exclusive street.

“Agricultural use on the lots was generally divided

into two areas: the eastern portions of the lot(s) were developed with greenhouse and storage structures. The western lot(s) were used as a nursery growing ground and included a large stock of container plants such as palm trees and other ornamental plants,” the commission report says.

The neighborhood that sprang up is now called Costa del Sol West. The L-shaped road, Caminito Mendiola, has a dozen properties built on the edge of a ridge between 1991 and 1999. The houses are walled off on the north and south where they, most unfortunately in a \$2.5 million home, overlook a dirt lot with remaining pieces of the nursery, and beyond that, the instant-pond in the valley downhill.

By 1991, the Barczewskis, at least four family members,

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CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

This Coastal Commission exhibit shows the pond which was created when the landowner filled in a low section of a road connecting the two halves of the nursery operation.

UNDER THE RADAR

Chip off the old politico San Diego city councilwoman **Lorie Zapf** lost her Second District seat to **Jen Campbell** after a bitter battle of independent expenditure committees, but Zapf’s daughter Tana kept her job with a high-powered city hall lobbying firm. Such is revealed by an amended third quarter disclosure report filed November 27 by the influence-peddling firm of Southwest Strategies, updated to show the “exact dollar amount paid” the younger Zapf. Tana, the report says, started work at the firm on July 2. “Her compensation for Q3 is \$3225”



Lorie Zapf is smiling, despite losing her council seat, because her daughter retained her job with a city hall lobbying firm.

During the same period, per the filing, three lobbyists employed by Southwest Strategies were in to see Zapf’s mother Lorie regarding the extension of a city lease for De Anza Campland LLC on Mission Bay. The firm was paid \$6000 for the assignment. They also talked to the elder Zapf on behalf of SDSU West, the Qualcomm Stadium takeover project backed by San Diego State University. Zapf endorsed the measure; Southwest Strategies got \$3000. A May 18, 2018 column by the *Union-Tribune*’s **Diane Bell** highlighted Tana, then nineteen, and her sister Myla, 17, as “inventor-entrepreneurs” in the stuffed animal sphere. “With the help of their mom, a publicist by trade, and their dad, Eric, a private real estate businessman, the girls researched popular pets, tested and finetuned their designs, applied for patents, raised more than \$15,000 in a Kickstarter campaign and created a website. They also decided to use a manufacturer in Indonesia, priced their product at about \$20 and, at last, their enterprise was born.”

Laying blame Ex-PR man and current San Diego mayor **Kevin Faulconer** has been touting a new \$14.1 million infusion of state taxpayer money to help him deal with the city’s festering homeless problem. “The state funding is the result of efforts by Mayor Faulconer and the other “Big 11” mayors to urge leaders in Sacramento to provide financial help to local governments as they tackle a statewide homeless crisis,” says Faulconer’s December 4 news release. In an effort to shift responsibility for the chronic mess, the mayor is quoted as saying “Homelessness is the issue across our state and cities are bearing much of the burden. Our state legislators have recognized that all levels of government need to work

together to help our most vulnerable residents.”

Left unspoken is that Faulconer’s full-court press serves the purpose of advance damage control, coming two weeks ahead of what some predict will be a damning state audit of his administration’s sluggish response to last year’s hepatitis crisis. Scheduled to drop December 20, the audit of city and county is set to reveal “whether the city’s efforts to identify, contain, and treat the hepatitis A outbreak before the county officially declared a public health emergency in September 2017 were consistent with legal requirements and established protocols for managing an infectious disease outbreak, including the release of location data and communication between the medical directors of local municipalities.”

Per the auditor’s website, the findings are expected to “determine whether the city’s policy for approving public works contracts in response to declared emergencies differs between contracts awarded any other time and whether the city approved contracts related to the hepatitis A emergency in accordance with applicable legal requirements and its own policy.”

Last free meals Defeated by fellow Democrat **Monica Montgomery** in her Fourth District San Diego city council re-election bid last month, **Myrtle Cole** has submitted her leaving office financial disclosure statement, revealing

a host of events she got into for free from friendly special interests during her final year at city hall. Assemblyman **Todd Gloria**, who along with state senate leader **Toni Atkins** backed Cole during a contentious intra-party campaign, furnished admission to two events including January’s Roe v. Wade breakfast along with the Roosevelt Dinner in April, having a total value of \$250. Atkins kicked in a \$50 ticket to the Barrio Station Dinner in March. Another campaign

endorser, the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, gave Cole a \$275 admission to its annual June dinner. Other ticket givers included the Municipal Employees Association, with a \$75 pass to the Las Mañanitas Breakfast; the business lobbying group called the San Diego Taxpayers Association, which contributed an \$81 seat for Cole at its annual Golden Fleece awards dinner in

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Kevin Faulconer is smiling because he thinks the state is going to pay to fix the city’s homeless problem.

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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.

Tearing down the house

I enjoyed reading Elizabeth Salaam's article in City Lights, "Homeless invade, pollute, ignite Fox Canyon" (City Lights, December 5) and do not dispute it whatsoever. It is the job of an editor, not a reporter, to help make sense out of news and provide the surrounding details and possible solutions. San Diego for 30 years and especially the last 20 years followed a path that led directly to its present homeless problem, with 35,000 people without housing and fake counts making their numbers as low as 9,000. The Federal Courts heard three years of testimony from detectives they hired to find the cause of San Diego's homeless problem, and determined the City and County to be 100% at-fault for same, all caused by Redevelopment tearing down 22,000 low-income housing rentals. Not laziness, not mental illness, not alcoholism, and not mental illness. Politics. Most San Diego lawyers can explain all this to you, but I am not an attorney. As a result of San Diego intentionally failing to allow low-income housing, plus tearing down that which existed, the Federal Courts ordered that anyone homeless in San Diego can camp out on any City-owned land, forever, or until San Diego builds a lot more housing for them to rent, which it has not. Our homeless need only jobs that pay enough to rent housing, plus housing that the City never permitted to be constructed, throwing low-cost housing providers out of town regularly. All

of this is a "Right to Life" issue, plus the City of San Diego is responsible for providing housing for its poor, required by the State Constitution. The courts also threw out local laws such as "Must Move Upon Request", "illegal lodging", "cannot return within 48 hours", and all other laws and rules which would interfere with the San Diego homeless and their right to live permanently on City property. Technically, interference could be construed as "Contempt of Court", and there have been several modifications to the Federal Court Order over the years. To comply with lifting the Court Order, San Diego only needs to allow housing developers to create housing that current homeless can afford, nothing else. Our downtown homeless problem is one of transportation, because it is the only place in San Diego with all services within walking distance. Solutions are to use the Amikas.Org "Tiny Houses" program that has been such a success in other cities, or the use of San Diego's \$78 million a year HUD money to actually build housing, or even to hire the homeless so they can pay for housing. As for fires, the past ten-or-so years, nearly every fire in a homeless camp was proven to be arson, caused by a non-homeless person trying to burn the homeless out. The good news is now that the Democrats will be running City Hall, there is a slight chance that something real will be done on the homeless situation, instead of just spending tax money on repeatedly-failed programs that make a lot of money for the friends and families of our politicians. For 20 years, at least 1,000 low-income housing units were torn down in San Diego, without any units built to replace them. That resulted in homeless everywhere, including Fox Canyon.

Dr. John Kitchin
Tijuana

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ESCONDIDO

Thieves target Target, move movies

Cart capter curtailed

A witness identified as Arturo said he was the loss prevention officer for the Target store on Auto Park Way in Escondido on September 16. Arturo said it was before noon that day when he noticed suspicious behavior, which he had learned to recognize during five years of work in security.



Was Crews part of the crew, or was he carting more than he knew?

Arturo said he saw a man select a large quantity of movies on Blu-ray and 4K DVDs. The man put the discs into a lidded, black laundry hamper; the hamper was in a shopping cart along with some new towels and bath mats. The man then wheeled the cart to a second person in the men's department, where the two men exchanged carts. The first man took away an empty cart, while he second man pushed the loaded cart to the front of the store. Then a third man entered and within seconds, took control of the bountiful cart and wheeled it outside.

Escondido police officer Joseph Putulowski said he got a radio call with a description of suspects inside a black Jeep get-away car. Officer Putulowski was patrolling nearby and made a U-turn to get behind a suspect vehicle and confirm the license plates. Michael Anthony Crews Sr., 58, was driving that rented Jeep, according to officer Putulowski's testimony. Crews was identified by a witness as the second man in the loaded-cart-relay scheme.



Ain't no party like a TJ party, 'cause a TJ party don't stop when someone gets killed.

The stolen goods were recovered from the back of the Jeep. The loot value totaled more than \$3,000, according to a Target employee.

Defense attorney Michael Fleming asserted that there was no evidence that defendant Crews ever saw or touched the most valuable items: the movie discs. Therefore, "He may not have known what the other man was up to."

EVA KNOTT

TIJUANA

Sexta and violence

Don't stop the music just 'cause the bodies hit the floor

"That was the scariest part, I walked by and didn't even feel a thing," commented my friend Luisa, after posting that there was a shooting in Calle Sexta in front of a popular bar on Friday night. "Yup, I was there," commented Fernando. "I walked out, checked the scene, went back and ordered another round. About 70 percent of the clientele stayed."

I was there before the shooting and a few minutes after. I was touring the city with two girls, one from San Diego who I met on a dating app, and her cousin who was visiting from San Francisco. We enjoyed tuna tostadas and drinks at the trendy Telefónica Gastro Park before heading to the timeless cantina on Calle Sexta, Dandy del Sur. "We have to take her to the mezcal place," commented my date as we left the bar. It was only around 8 pm, and the back part of La Mezcalera doesn't open until later at night, so I shifted the tour out of Calle Sexta. We wasted time barhopping in Avenida Revolución, stopping for craft beer at Border Psycho and rum *especiales* at Nelson Bar.

After a couple of *especiales*, it was time to revisit Calle Sexta, but it was closed. The street, which got remodeled this year to accommodate tourists and partygoers, was occupied by more than a dozen cops. Numerous police trucks, an ambulance, and impromptu yellow tape blocked the path

where we were drinking moments ago. My date still wanted to go to the mezcal place, though the street had turned into a crime scene.

"I walked out, checked the scene, went back and ordered another round... 70 percent of the clientele stayed"

We went to get cocktails nearby at Cine Tonalá to waste time and hope for it to pass. The rooftop bar greeted us with a relaxing atmosphere filled with tourists, though police lights shined nearby. After cocktails, we went to get street tacos at Las Amigas near Calle Sexta, and the street remained closed. My date insisted again in the mezcal bar, so I obliged and took them through the back entrance, which is situated through a parking lot on Madero Avenue (one down from Revolución).

Despite not being as full as it usually is for a Friday at midnight, the bar was unaffected by the ongoing outside drama. "They killed a guy over at Blanco y Negro," the bartender of La Mezcalera told me as he poured us three shots of mezcal. "*Si no es a un lado, es en frente*" ("If it is not next door, it's right in front"), he told me as he handed me my change.

Just a week before, a man was gunned down at the door of Bar Chips (next to La Mezcalera). "I was sitting down on a bench between Tropics and La Estrella, and I heard people arguing over by Chips," recounts Kevin Hernández, a friend who happened to be in Calle Sexta the week before on a Saturday around 4:35 am. "It was all really fast. I saw him pulling out a gun and I heard four or five gunshots. There was a lady eating a burrito, screaming, getting all hysterical, and people were wondering what was going on. I was the one

that called 911 to ask for an ambulance. A few minutes later, it was as if nothing had happened. Then I saw in the paper that they claimed he was shot inside the bathroom."

I told the girls that someone was killed at the bar where they tried to usher is in a few hours ago. They shrugged it off as we drank the mezcal and went to the patio of the bar to dance (or attempt to). We left the bar at around 3 am, and Calle Sexta looked as if nothing had happened.

The news the next day reported that there were four murders that night in Tijuana. One of them was the one we almost witnessed. It was reported the man was between the ages of 25-30, was not identified, and was shot in the head in front of La Estrella (in front of Blanco y Negro). Another was a 43-year-old man named José Figueroa Pérez, found dead from bullet wounds in the neighborhood of Lomas Verdes, which is the same neighborhood where the two San Diego teens were murdered recently. The other two were: 32-year-old Alejandro Rubalcaba Carmona, found in the neighborhood Villas de Baja California; and 29-year-old

Cruz Ricardo Félix, found in the neighborhood of Camino Verde.

Averaging more than half a dozen murders daily, there have been more than 2,176 murders in Tijuana. Violence is everywhere, but the city continues to party.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

SDSU

Thanksgivingtime tacos in Tokyo

Student exchange brings both familiar and strange



Ron, Tyler, Sandra of Scripps Ranch

Scripps Ranch residents Ron and Sandra spent their Thanksgiving eating ramen and dessert at the "underground restaurants" of the Sugamo neighborhood of Tokyo, Japan while waiting for their son Tyler to get out of

continued on page 8

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school. “[I think] they don’t serve turkey here in the city,” Ron said, “mainly pork and fish and they have delicious desserts (kabocha squash pie and Japanese cheesecake). The chef makes the ramen noodles fresh, and your choice of three different bowl sizes.”

Ron, a celebrity photographer by trade, took photos and notes of Japanese culture for his Real Life Media blog. “We are surrounded by high level buildings: there’s a seven-story camera store, which is heaven to me. The temples that I sent you photos of (via Facebook direct messenger) are in regular neighborhoods between small houses.”

The next day, Ron and Sandra got to see their Tyler, 25, who attends Tokyo University under the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) via San Diego State Uni-



Mexico via Tokyo- do you have a reservation?

versity. The family then traveled to Tokyo Disney Resort by train and caught up with one another. “The biggest culture shock would be how responsible and independent kids are compared to back home,” Tyler said. “It is not uncommon to see a kid at the age of five taking the trains and walking home without any adult supervision. As an adult, I still struggle sometimes with the train system and I’ve been here in Japan for three months.” Tyler misses his mom Sandra’s homestuffed turkey and is slated to return to the SDSU campus in January. “I’ve seen him become a more independent and responsible young man in the real world,” Sandra said. “He is able to self-manage, and makes critical decisions that maximize his ability to survive on his own.”

Tyler said that there are four SDSU students at his host college. He’s learned a few words in *nihongo* (Japanese). “Tyler helped us order food at restaurants and get through the subway stations, and interact a bit in public,” Ron said. Ron noticed a restaurant called Casa Tequila Tokyo that reminded him of home. “The taco shop is located across from the JR Shinjuku (railway) Station in Tokyo,” he said. “They have carne asada with other meats that have a mix of their local flavoring that I’m not familiar with. Another thing that’s different than our Roberto’s is that you reserve your time to dine, and since you pay for your time



Ramen and dessert from Sugamo for Thanksgiving.

you can get all you can eat, with five different types of tacos for 4000 yen (about \$40 USD). There’s a sign that reminded us patrons to ‘Be respectful.’”

In 2016-2017, La Mesan Carissa Toro attended Chung-Ang University and Korea University — both in Seoul — under the SDSU Exchange and Approved Independent programs. She graduated with an International Business degree in 2017. For her Thanksgivings, she and her other *waegukin* (foreign) classmates had

a friendsgiving. “I cooked mashed potatoes and gravy and bacon wrapped asparagus — and we picked up a pumpkin pie from the Costco there.”

MIKE MADRIGA

DOWNTOWN

Homeless prepare to occupy urban farm site East Village plot part of Father Joe’s plan to domesticate drifters



Father Joe’s- putting people ahead of produce.

273 affordable housing units are coming to the East Village. Located on the northeast corner on 13th and Broadway, the new homes will take their place amid developments by companies that chose to pay the in-lieu fee instead of providing affordable housing inside their projects. Construction is scheduled for mid-2020 and is expected to be complete by

2022. Adjacent to the site of a new fire station for the neighborhood, the City had already set aside the property for affordable housing.

The new high-rise housing will displace the current tenant, SMARTS Farm. A well-developed plot with a winding path, a solar panel installation, and thriving plants, the



Rendering of new housing at 13th and Broadway.

community garden hosts plots, field trips, and classes. Healthy lemon trees and chile plants line the chain link fence along Broadway.

Father Joe’s Villages partnered with Chelsea Investment Corporation to construct studio and 1-2 bedroom apartment homes especially for those who have experienced homelessness. Father Joe’s will also coordinate onsite supportive services, such as medical care, vocational training, and counseling.

Plans for the new building include underground parking, outdoor barbeque and picnic areas, and a rooftop deck with greenery. On the ground floor, the fourteen-story mixed-use building will house a Head Start center for children up to five years old. Architect Joseph Wong Design Associates, the firm that designed Atmosphere on Fourth, worked on the project.

Father Joe’s Villages plans to break ground on another affordable housing project at 14th and Commercial the same year.

LEORAH GAVIDOR

ESCONDIDO

Blade on belly or belt? Meth-packing miscreant’s Milwaukee was concealed, cops claim

On December 3, Keny Gudino, 23, pleaded not guilty to carrying a concealed knife, possession of meth, and possession of burglary tools at a court hearing. Escondido police officer Joseph Putulowski said it was before midnight on Monday, September 24, when he went to assist another cop who had Gudino at gunpoint. They were in the parking lot of the Pamilla Villas Apartments at 320 East Mission Avenue. The first officer said he witnessed Gudino reach for the knife in his waistband, and that the knife was “in the appendix carry,” that is, in the front and lower right side of his torso. The officer said Gudino pulled out both the knife and sheath and threw them aside. The knife was described as a Milwaukee fixed blade; the blade was silver and eight or nine inches long; the sheath was black metal. Officers also found meth and “shaved keys,” on the person of Gudino, according to testimony.

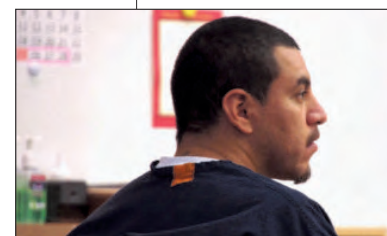
Public defender John Wilschke told the judge that it is legal in California to have a knife on one’s belt, if that knife is exposed to view and not concealed. The attorney suggested that when the cop said he saw Gudino pull up his shirt front and take out the knife and its sheath, Gudino was just moving his shirt to one side, and the knife was not actually in his waistband as the cop believed. And that when Gudino tossed his knife aside when he saw an Escondido policeman, he only did that

to prevent the cop from becoming fearful. Wilschke then asked the judge to reduce the felony knife charge to a misdemeanor, pointing out the tender youthfulness of the offender. His attorney described Gudino as a responsible person who was employed by Mission Pools on weekends, with plans to finish his GED at a school in San Marcos.

Prosecutor Joshua Brisbane told the court that Gudino had been charged with a violent robbery and gang allegations in an earlier case. In that prior matter, Gudino was allegedly with another gang member when he approached the victim and ordered him to empty his pockets. But Gudino made a plea deal, admitting felony grand theft, and was out on probation for that case at the time of the new offenses.

Judge Carlos Armour declined to reduce the felony to a misdemeanor.

EVA KNOTT



No, no, Gudino- a respectable person has no need of shaved keys!

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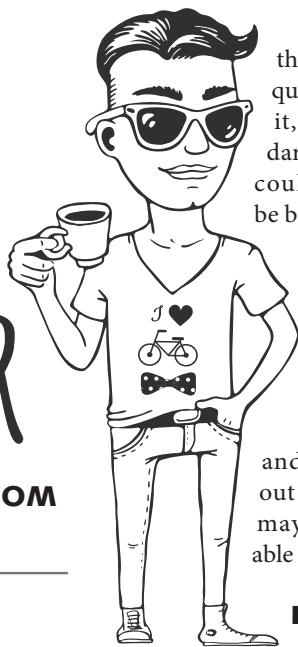
What would you say if you were walking downtown and you saw a pink poster in the window of an apartment complex advertising "Hip Apartments for Lease" alongside another pink poster of a stylized turntable (ostensibly for spinning vintage vinyl in your hip apartment)? What would you say if I told you this was a real poster, spotted the other day in downtown San Diego, and I attached photo confirmation to prove it?

— MATTHEW

I'm going to be level with you. I bet it's a trap, cunningly devised to lure in the unsuspecting hipster. One minute you're asking a receptionist about the cost of a two-bed, two-bath unit. Then, suddenly and without warning, bam! You bought a meat hoodie, or something like that.

I would feel much like someone ought to feel while reading one of those time-share advertisements that promise free island getaways, sports tickets, knockoff iPods, dinners for two, rounds of golf, and all manner of assorted swag if only you'll sit through a short presentation. We promise it will be short. No more than two hours. Maybe three. And there might or might not be a chance for you to come back next month in order to claim your prize, because you wouldn't want to miss out on this opportunity, would you? So, sign here — no obligation, pinky swear — and pay the \$100 deposit. Don't worry, it's 100% refundable sort of."

You know the feeling, like some-



thing's... off, but you can't quite put your finger on it, and everything's so darned sincere, and how could anything sincere be bad?

But you kind of know it is. It's like that sweet van with the "free candy" sign on it, and you want some candy.

Then again, maybe, and I realize I'm going out on a limb here, but, maybe they're fashionable apartments.

Dear Hipster:

What the heck. Why is it so cold outside all of a sudden? I know it's December, and technically "winter," but what the heck? How am I supposed to live like this?

— ANGRY FROZEN PERSON

Worry not, my frozen friend. Hipsters know a thing or two about how to survive in the cold, having spent our collected formative years taking in the best educations small, out-of-the-way liberal arts colleges festooning the parts of this country subjected to a humid continental climate.

When the mercury creeps downwards, experienced hipsters understand their survival, if I may use the term loosely, may very well depend on an ability to generate internal warmth. As a first line of defense, every sensible hipster

should own one of those ironic knit caps with reindeer humping on it. I hear the ones you make yourself keep you five degrees warmer on average, but that might be fake news. Further, I give you permission to bust out that vintage ski sweater you've been hoarding unworn for the past three years, ever since you found it at a random sidewalk sale. If that doesn't work, I recommend any sort of heated rum beverage, such as a Hot Buttered Rum, a Hot Rum Toddy, or (my own invention) the Hot and Stormy, which is nothing more than hot water, honey, lime juice, and dark rum in a coffee cup. If that doesn't work for you, well, then, maybe try Florida?

—DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 4

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

"Can't get the homeless out of Fox Canyon"

Neighborhood News
December 5

The first thing that one needs to find out is why someone is homeless. If mentally ill they should be placed in an institution (of which there are almost none) where they can be medicated and cared for. If they are working, then they should be assisted and their employer outed for supporting poverty. If they are unemployed and want to work then they should be assisted with job placement and training. The rest are druggies and drunks who do not want to work within society norms and should be given nothing. Bums are like stray dogs the more you feed them the more you get.

—AlexClarke

"Liberty Station quietly sold for \$71 million"

News Ticker
December 5

Maybe it wasn't a smart move to sell this prime real estate at a low price back in 1999. But it was done. The article tries to imply that the COO did something shady by signing some assignment consent in the resale, but I doubt it was very important...the buyer & seller probably could have easily worked around it (or simply lived without it) if the city petulantly refused to sign any requested consents to assign any rights to a new buyer. Less convenient, but not a showstopper. And depending on the details, such a refusal could potentially even bounce back and cause the city some liability. Basically, if you are expecting the city to leverage some weak & insignificant control over assignment consent to magically reverse a deal it made 20 years ago, I don't think that is a reasonable expectation.

—MarkMark

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Chicanx / Latinx Resource Guide



Gonzalez: "I don't know why they call Spanish a Romance language. There's nothing 'romantic' about cultural imperialism and racial genocide, which is the legacy of the people who brought it to the New World."

Vivx Lx Razz

UCSD tells Latinx/Chicanx students they must abandon their "hopelessly gendered language"

"When the Spanish came to the Americas," says UCSD's Dean of Re-education Manuela Gonzalez, "they were not content to bring a nightmare of slaughter, disease, pillage, and exploitation. They went further, imposing upon the people a language that was itself intrinsically imposing, assigning 'genders' to the things it named. 'La rosa' — rose — is female, while 'el teatro' — theater — is male. We know now that these

imposed notions of gender are violent and unacceptable, and that things must be allowed to determine their own identity. Therefore, starting today, we are calling for the elimination of Spanish language use on campus. We realize that this may prove difficult and even upsetting for some of our Latinx students, but every glorious revolution must involve some amount of personal sacrifice."

Mission Accomplished

Migrant caravan prepares to return home after successful 3700km fundraising walk

THE BORDER — "Well, we did it," said *Caminar Por La Cura* migrant caravan organizer Susan K. Roamin. "We walked all the way from Honduras to the border between Mexico and the United States, and in so doing, raised both awareness



Tired but exultant migrants celebrate the completion of their walk at the finish-line tent, where they were given bread, water, and sweet swag like t-shirts and headbands.

of the violence and poverty in our native country and millions of dollars to help alleviate those problems. Now we can return to our homes, secure in the knowledge that we can achieve any goal we put our minds to, and hopeful for a brighter tomorrow. Thanks

to everyone who did so much to spread the word about our important mission, especially President Donald Trump, who kept us in the forefront of everyone's mind during a tumultuous election that threatened to prove a serious distraction."

Moved by Movies

Cinephiles hope to spark sympathy for stranded migrants through the power of sepia-tinted film

"Has America ever seen *Casablanca*?" asks local film lover Roberto Azul. "Here you have a movie that is generally regarded as the second-greatest film of all time — right after *Citizen Kane*, which is, coincidentally, about a guy who inherits wealth, becomes a powerful media figure, goes into politics, and winds up as a miserable, morally bankrupt monster — and what's it about? Migrants, driven from their homeland by violence and oppression, stuck in a rotten town at the edge of a continent and scrambling to find their way to America. Their situation makes them desperate, desperate enough to do terrible, foolish things. In the film, a young wife contemplates cheating on her husband in order to sway an official. In Tijuana, a bunch of moms took their kids on a border dash amid rounds of



"Never mind *The Scarlet and the Black*, we've got the orange and the brown."

tear gas. Americans love this story, and it's happening right on their doorstep."

To help drive the point home, Azul has spent the past couple of weeks producing a new version of the 1942 clas-

sic. "Well, not new, exactly. I tinted the image so that everyone looks brown instead of gray, and got a bunch of my friends to dub in Spanish dialogue. We'll have English in subtitles, and we're hoping

that this new take on an old film will give people a fresh perspective on the brave, desperate souls hoping for passage to America. Who knows? It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

WHO PLAYS WHO

CREEPY SEX EDITION



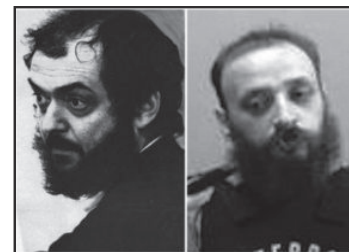
Hollywood monster designer **H.R. Giger** once built a creepy miniature train ride for visitors.

The *U-7* listed a miniature train ride on a property housing a sex offender on its Things To Do page.



Actor **W.C. Fields** once said, "I never met a kid I liked."

Ramona train man **Russell Green** didn't think it was relevant to mention his son's sex-offender status.



Director **Stanley Kubrick** explored the banality of exotic sexuality in his film *Eyes Wide Shut*.

Ariel Boiteux pleaded guilty in San Diego court to extorting people who performed ritual sex acts on video.

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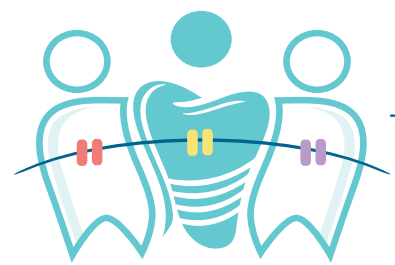
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Detritus from a rain-soaked night

We'll help Trump build the wall

"The Hondurans aren't bad, but their effect is ba-ad," says Jorge. He's driving me in his taxi from downtown Tijuana to the caravan's rained-out encampment. "Now, I wait two hours for a job. It used to be 30 minutes. No one comes down anymore, to the dentist, the doctor. They're afraid the authorities will close the border again."

He leaves me in the Zona Norte, near "Sport Unit Benito Juarez," which sits just yards from the actual US wall. This day, drifting crowds of Hondurans still crowd the street outside and muddy spaces inside. "Take care of the green areas," says a sign forlornly tacked to a tree. All around, the grassy areas are crammed and crushed with wet bedding, blankets, clothes, cans of *frijoles*, boots, polystyrene cups, plastic



Olvin Cruz and friend point to the wall. "After coming all this way, give us our chance."



Jose, Norma, and their boys, Enbri, 4, and Jose, 5

bottles, and hundreds of tissues, lifting and dropping in the breeze. Tijuana police cluster in masks and gloves. The fear of disease is high since the rains.

"Why are we here?" says Jose Reiner Castellanos Benabides. I have lucked out in finding him in the crowds. I can see he is respected, a natural leader these situations often throw up.

His wife Norma answers. "The second of October, when we left Honduras, my father had been shot in the head. Robbers. We are from San Pedro Sula, the murder capital of the world. That is life in Honduras."

Jose and Norma's kid — Jose, 5, and Enbri, 4 — are playing round a circle of men juggling a soccer ball with their feet.

I have to ask: What makes you think you can just charge through the back door of another country?

"The press makes us look evil, criminals," says Jose. "But we come in peace. Even despite the suffering our president Orlando has brought down on us. The US has sent aid, but we never see it! People think we're part of a conspiracy? Nobody paid us to come. I am a house painter. My friends here are mechanics, builders, plumbers. We can be useful. We came up to be useful! I hear you need workers for the jobs you don't want to do. We'll do them. Mr. Trump wants a bigger wall? We'll build him a bigger wall! One so tall, no helicopters will be able to fly over it!"

Beyond the mess and the mud, the setting sun shines on the tantalizing border fence, 200 yards away. A bus taking people to drier quarters fills up and crawls off through the crowds.

Olvin Cruz, 27, brings out a note of Honduran currency, a Lempira, worth about 4 cents. On one side is Lempira himself, a war chieftan of the Lencas in the 1530s. "We are from this people," Cruz says. He turns the note. It shows ancient Copan, with its pyramids and ball courts. "We were a great people. We ruled, we built. We had science, art. It is not good that we have come to this."

Yards away, Susana Solis is reporting

for Chiapas television. Patricia Espinosa is videoing her on her iPhone. "They are like our cousins," says Susana. "We worry about them."

Theater of war

I spot him walking his bike along the avenue, downtown Coronado, Sunday morning. Blue and white Hawaiian shirt, jeans, spikey gray hair, Beach Cruiser bike, heading for a coffee at Café 1134. I'd asked to meet him after my

in an icebreaker that was almost lost in a storm on its way back from Antarctica. He joined the Underwater Demolition Teams and helped form the SEALs. From then on, the action never stopped. He's no way a boastful man, but he grips you with his stories like Coleridge's Ancient Mariner.

"We were in Cambodia, trying to snatch a cadre, when suddenly, Tet (the 1968 Communist assault on South Vietnam) broke out. There were attacks everywhere, so we didn't

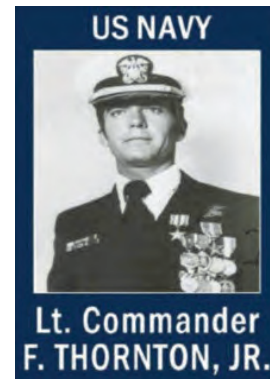
"For me, it was all a great adventure. It was like being a pianist, playing a concert. A performance."

buddy Eric had pointed him out the night before at a bar. "There," he said, "goes a certified hero."

We set down at an outside table and start to talk.

And wow. Frank Thornton, Navy Seal, is about as bona fide a hero as you could get. Silver Star, Bronze Star with combat V five times, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V twice, Purple Heart twice, on and on. His

have any helicopters or PBRs [riverboats] to get us out of there. All we could do was head back into Vietnam and the city of Chau Doc. But between us and Chau Doc was the Bassac river. And when we stopped to sit and listen, we heard, then saw, these columns going by. Pith helmets! North Vietnamese. My buddy Harry Humphries and I were sitting back-to-back in the tall grass, waiting to be discovered. We couldn't use our radios. But in my earpiece



Frank Thornton wearing his full set of decorations.



Frank Thornton

1969 Silver Star citation describes one of his hundreds of patrols in wartime Vietnam. "As patrol leader of an eight-man combat patrol which was taken under heavy fire, Thornton risked his life while leaping in front of a seriously wounded man and killing the Viet Cong directly in front of him. While still under heavy fire, he carried the injured man to an open area for evacuation. Again hit by heavy automatic weapons fire from an enemy bunker, he unhesitatingly assaulted the bunker with small arms and hand grenades, resulting in three Viet Cong dead and one captured."

See his official US Navy picture and the left side of his chest is weighed down with an astonishing array of medals.

It turns out Lieutenant Commander Frank Thornton has been a SEAL since before there were SEALs. He started off in the Coast Guard,

I could hear an incredulous voice counting 'another 20, another 30, another 20!' until he stopped counting."

They finally got a Navy PBR boat to snatch them away, and spent the next few days hiding inside the captured city, making forays to rescue trapped Americans, Filipino workers, USAID nurses.

"For me, it was all a great adventure. It was like being a pianist, playing a concert. A performance. I love Vietnam. I love the food, I love the French flavor. My sympathies are for the people. They were stuck between a rock and a hard place."

I have one question.

"How come they've never made a movie about you?"

"Guess I haven't been at the right place at the right time."

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

This week we visit a “forgotten historic Coronado home” that’s been “brought back to life!” The 2400-square-foot craftsman at 1302 8th Street in Coronado was originally constructed in 1901 but has undergone extensive renovation since it last sold in late 2015.

“This studs-out remodel means new plumbing, new electrical, new roof, new windows, new garage with dedicated electric car hook-ups and gorgeous outdoor shower,” pro-



Empty your coffers and become the owner of this sweet coffered ceiling.

claims the listing. “Every wall has been insulated for sound and energy efficiency, including the interior walls.”

The remodeling was

done with an eye toward retaining the home’s historic character, and it still sports original features including the hardwood floors (which have been

refinished), “salvaged millwork pocket doors and hardware, a sweeping banister staircase, and breakfast nook with hand-carved trims.”

The chef’s kitchen features “custom cabinets with textured counters, a generous island with soapstone top and farmhouse sink,” Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, and a modern-yet-vintage-seeming La Cornue stove that retails for \$10,000 before adding the “custom hood, copper backsplash, and pot filler.”

Other luxury appointments include “beautifully stained 10-inch baseboards, rich wainscoting, custom crown molding and a coffered ceiling in the dining room,” along with “hand cut tiles and polished nickel fixtures.” Upstairs, the “beamed and breadboard ceilings reach 10 feet high,” while the master suite “has a spa-like feel” with its own fireplace, built-in window carved-wood window seat, an oversized

two-person shower and a claw-foot tub.

The laundry room has been moved upstairs and equipped with new machines, a sink, and more custom cabinetry, and the house has been wired with smart home technology, including an “expandable security system, dual-zone heat with Nest thermostats, whole-house Sonos speaker system throughout, all WiFi controlled and accessible from your mobile device.”

Outside, the compact 4000-square-foot lot is fully landscaped and includes more than 1000 feet of finished patio space for outdoor living, with a Restoration Hardware-sourced gas fire pit.

The home on 8th Street last sold for \$1.5 million in 2015; at the time it was advertised

continued on page 66

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San Diego Reader December 13, 2018 15

Teddy Bear won't back down

A father of two former Lincoln High School students says San Diego Unified School District filed false criminal charges against him after he started speaking out against the district for their failures to protect children in schools. He says he wants San Diegans to know the true nature of the people overseeing their children's education. But he withholds his full name because he and his family have been through a nightmare they don't wish to relive.

"Call me SD," he says.

Bullies vs. brothers

On September 28, 2017 SD Harris and T Daniels were at home with their old-

est son, a 16-year-old junior at Lincoln High School, who was browsing videos on Snapchat.

Meanwhile, at Lincoln High School, the bell rang and their younger son, a 15-year-old honor roll student, walked down the hallways of education, eager to learn about the world and his place in it. But he didn't make it to his next class. He was jumped by a group of bullies, one of whom stood by and recorded the attack. The video was uploaded to the internet and went viral.


As the eldest son browsed the video sharing site at home, he saw the fight. Then he noticed the face of the victim — it was his younger brother.

Terrified, he ran to tell his parents.

Harris and Daniels rushed down Imperial Avenue to Lincoln. On their way, they tried calling the office repeatedly. Nobody answered. Nobody called back. When they arrived to evac their younger son, the office staff was clueless about the fight.

Harris and Daniels say the video shows security guards standing idly by during the attack. The principal was nowhere to be found. They were assured he would call them. He never did.

Over the next couple of months, both brothers were repeatedly harassed and threatened by the same group of bullies.



Marlea Dell'Anno, Harris, Daniels. Says Daniels of Lincoln, "They punish the victims and let the perpetrators go free."

Builders and bulldozers

In the past, Lincoln staff members have suffered the wrath of principal Jose Soto Ramos and vice principal Myeshia Whigham when they spoke out about problems that needed to be solved. A few have joined Harris and Daniels to expose what has been happening at the school, but they ask for anonymity. “Whigham and Soto don’t do anything without each other. It’s really bizarre,” says one. Another says that while Whigham projects strict authority, Soto lets people do whatever they want, except speak out about problems at Lincoln.

They all agree that for the better part of a year, the two top Lincoln administrators allowed a gang of bullies to rampage across campus, seemingly with impunity. Multiple victims were left in their wake. Incident after incident followed the attack on Harris’ and Daniel’s son. Some Lincoln insiders say the main bully was especially hostile toward the two brothers while enjoying special protection from Whigham.

On December 11, Harris and Daniels arrived to pick up their children as school let out. Whigham was present and witnessed the main bully make death threats against the family and vandalize their car.

Instead of disciplining the assailant, she had stay away orders issued to the parents and gave suspensions to the brothers.

Daniels explains, “The pattern is, they punish the victims and let the perpetrators go free.”

She adds, “Whigham favored the main bully and always protected him. During football games, she would ride around with him on her cart.”

(Staff and students together on carts has become symbolic of Lincoln’s problems. A male security guard was known for riding around with female students in his cart. In February, Earnie Dorn Campbell came under investigation for making sexual advances toward underage girls. On August 22, the city attorney charged him with two counts of molestation. More recently, on October 10, a male teacher at Lincoln was placed on leave after allegations of inappropriate behavior with female students were made.)

For Daniels’ children, the worst was yet to come.

On January 3, 2018, the younger son walked into the school office to report that the main bully spit on his head. Instead of getting sympathy, Daniels says, he was told Whigham planned to expel him and his brother.

The next day, he



Elijah and Harris spoke out against the school district’s failure to protect children at the May 29 board meeting

walked into the locker room to get ready for P.E. Ten students wearing gloves came out of the shadows and approached him. The doors were all locked. Again, the onslaught was recorded and posted online, where it went viral. Again, nobody from the school informed the parents. No police report was filed. No medical attention was given. The parents found out about the attack through Snapchat. Harris and Daniels rushed to school, trying to call the office but got no answer. They found their son with bruises all over his head and neck.

After Daniels reported Whigham’s cover-ups to the school district office that day, the bullies started making online death threats against her kids while brandishing guns in their social media profile pictures. “My younger child

was spit at on a Wednesday, got jumped on a Thursday, and on Friday Eileen Sofa said, ‘Let’s meet. We got to talk to Sofa,’” says Daniels.

Sofa was featured in media reports during the last school year — including a March 28, 2018 *San Diego Reader* story by H.G. Reza — about her non-verbal, severely disabled son, who she

believes was sodomized in a Lincoln restroom. She spoke out against Lincoln staff, including Whigham, for covering up the assault. (Whigham documented the incident as an obscene act instead of a sexual assault.)

As detailed in the *Reader* story, the incident was covered up by the student’s teacher, school and district administrators, school police, and the San Diego Police Department. Sofa wrote to a friend, “At the end of the day, their secret was more important than my son’s well-being.” (Sadly, Sofa passed away April 14, 2018.)

On January 5, 2018, Daniels and Sofa went to see Principal Soto Ramos. “Right when we walked in,” recalls Daniels, “the main bully was there, taunting us like he had free rein to do whatever

he wanted. When we questioned Soto about it he just brushed it off like it was nothing.” The trauma her kids were suffering was also brushed off, she says.

On January 10, the brothers were threatened again. Before Harris arrived to pick them up, the oldest son got a broken arm when a teacher slammed a door on it. That was the last straw. Harris withdrew his kids from Lincoln and they never returned.

They gave a knife to the attacker

Thirteen days later, a fight broke out on campus between two special ed students. One took out a knife and stabbed the other in the neck. *Voice of San Diego* reported the victim stumbled from classroom to classroom dripping blood in each

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room, and when a teacher's aide ran to the office to get help, she found it locked with nobody in sight. A source says the office doors were not supposed to be locked just after 2 pm and administrators were supposed to be available.

Another says that two weeks before the stabbing, the perpetrator was caught with a knife at school, but the school district forced administrators to return it to him.

Trickle down cronyism

Led by President Kevin Beiser, the San Diego Unified school board has become infamous for its unanimous votes, a solid block of five trustees who stick together on the most controversial issues, even when a majority of their constituents are opposed to their decisions.



Lynn Ryan

Earlier in 2018, a community survey revealed 60 percent of their constituents wanted to obtain more local representation and accountability from board members by having sub-district elections. The board chose not to act on their wishes, and the district is now being sued for it.

The board also ignored the 77 percent who wanted to limit a trustee's time in office to

8 years or less. Instead they sided with the 12 percent who wanted to give each trustee 12 years in office.

Elizabeth Gekakis spent the last 10 years of her 28-year teaching career working at Lincoln. She believes the cronyism within the district has produced inexperienced administrators not up to the task of running schools such as Lincoln.

"I have been on a few interview panels within

the district," she says, "and from my experience they are not democratic, when it comes to a final decision about who to hire. They could use more safeguards to ensure that the input of the constituents is followed. We feel the impact of inexperience in our schools."

In the case of Cindy Marten, she says it's not helpful or appropriate to hire someone with no high school experience to be the superintendent of a district with both high schools and elementary schools. She looks back on 2012 as Lincoln's turning point for the worse, when a new principal took over.

The four-small-schools model Lincoln's new campus was designed around was eliminated. No more Center for Social Justice, Center for the Arts, Center for Sci-

ence and Engineering, or Center for Public Safety. Just one large school.

She says there was an immediate drop in student enrollment and a spike in teacher turnover.

This past year, Gekakis wrote letter after letter to board members to warn them of the hostile work environment that has continued under Lincoln's current administration. Stress leaves and teacher turnovers are very high in special education.

On April 24, 2018, Gekakis spoke to the school board about the "four non re-elects, which are supposed to be rare." In a letter to the board she wrote, "I have never heard of so many teachers being herded out of one department in such a short period of time."

Despite a shortage of special education teachers,

Lincoln has been issuing new teachers non-relects before they reach their two year tenure. When that happens, the teacher can never be hired by any San Diego Unified district school again. It is among the harshest of punishments a new teacher can be given.

There is little accountability for the administrator who gives it, and no defense for the teacher who gets it. It can be given for any reason. Gekakis knew each of the teachers non-relected and says they did not deserve to be fired, and that the actions were either retaliatory, frivolous, or done to show "who's boss."

One former special education teacher planned to leave at the end of the '16-17 school year and was encouraged by other staff to do so because of

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the hostility of Whigham, who oversees special education. That teacher had initiated grievance proceedings against Lincoln's administration at the end of the year. But Whigham, sources close to the school say, put on a nice smile and promised the staff member nice things to stay another year. After being convinced to stay, Whigham turned around and non-reelected the person, a move that could have been career-ending.

One nightmare is one too many

There are staff who do their best for their students, and there are students who try and succeed, but for many parents and staff, Lincoln became the place where their worst nightmare came true. For each of them, that nightmare is



Lincoln High School

one too many.

In February 2016, school police officer Bashir Abdi was attacked at Lincoln by a mob of students and was hospitalized. He was knocked unconscious at one point

and suffered a concussion. Though no students were expelled, three pleaded guilty to criminal charges.

That same month, a Lincoln staff member was put on leave when a mother discovered inap-

propriate text messages from him on her daughter's cell phone. According to a lawsuit San Diego Unified settled for \$400,000, soccer coach Said Omar Cajica was able to groom the female student in the

fall of 2015, tutor her, make her his assistant for the soccer team, and meet her off-campus. The claim states he gave her alcohol and sexually assaulted her. He has not been criminally prosecuted.

The next school year, a student attacked a substitute teacher but was not expelled. *Voice of San Diego* reported the student later tried to stab a classmate. That 2016-2017 school year was the year that started under the cloud of the sexual assault of Eileen Sofa's son. The higher-functioning perpetrator was allowed to go into the restroom with him unsupervised.

Four days before she died, Sofa spoke to Mike Slater on his San Diego radio show. She said that at the time of the incident, her son's teacher told her he was in the bathroom

with another student with their pants down, but nothing happened. She didn't hear the truth about what the teacher's assistant saw or what the perpetrator confessed to until a year later.

She also said the teacher gave the perpetrator the bathroom keys and allowed him to take her son to the restroom. A source from Lincoln says that was a regular occurrence.

The teacher, Jamie Guevarra, spoke at the April 24 board meeting and said the media reports about her were lies, but she didn't offer any specific clarification. She didn't respond to my request for comment.

In some cases, the effects of poor administration have been lethal, and in others they have been life-shattering.

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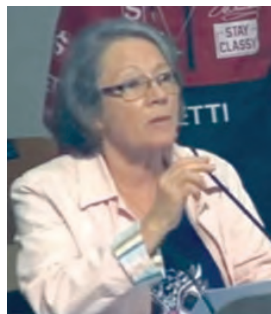
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Former Lincoln special ed teacher Nathan Page was featured with Eileen Sofa in the March 28, 2018 *Reader*. For over a year, he tried unsuccessfully to get Lincoln administration to stop covering up the restroom assault and take better care of special education students.

Lincoln staff describe how vicious Whigham was with Page when he spoke out against her failure to protect their students. He went to the police, but they disregarded his pleas. He went to the media, but it wasn't until after he committed suicide in September 2017 that the media began reporting on the sexual assault, starting the process of granting his final wish — justice for the victim. But the perpetrator still has not been charged with a crime.

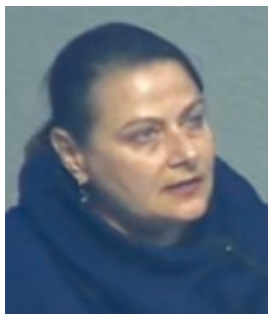
Former NBC 7



Elizabeth Gekakis

reporter Wendy Fry exposed a rant Principal Soto Ramos delivered in April 2018 at a Lincoln staff meeting. He lashed out at staff who leaked the information that exposed the cover-up, and he accused the media of spreading lies. Someone from Lincoln responded by leaking an audio recording of his speech.

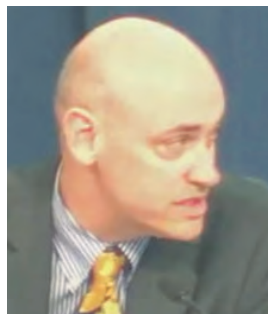
Soto Ramos spoke to his staff about how he defended some of them even though they were not committed and not



Jamie Guevarra

willing to work, and he expected them to return the favor and not go to the media behind his back. And he threatened his staff. "I can definitely throw people under the bus, because I am privy to a lot of information."

The Lincoln principal said the report that Sofa's son was sexually assaulted was not true. He said the truth was that "both students were caught in the restroom with their pants down," implying the victim shared blame with



Kevin Beiser

the perpetrator. He added the severely disabled student "was non-verbal and could not express what had happened."

Before she died, Sofa stated that when she asked her son what the boy did to him, he looked away from her and pointed to his rectal area. The family's attorney, Marlea Dell'Anno, says Soto Ramos's claim contradicts a staff member's eyewitness testimony and two confessions from the perpetrator. The lawsuit filed on behalf of the

victim alleges the staff member walked into the restroom and saw the perpetrator was erect and making flesh to flesh contact behind the victim. When the staff member's presence became known, the higher functioning perpetrator jumped away but the severely disabled victim remained standing in the same place.

"Mr. Soto is like a corrupt politician who is all about covering up misconduct and maligning the reputation of anyone, living or dead, who tries to do the right thing," says Dell'Anno.

Soto Ramos told his staff the January stabbing victim's injury was not life threatening, and that he returned to school the next day. However, eyewitnesses at a July 16 court hearing say the perpetrator pleaded guilty to

attempted murder. And a source from Lincoln says the victim returned to school weeks later, not the next day. Soto reportedly misinformed staff on other items as well.

The attempt to control damage has continued this school year. On September 24, 2018, a brawl broke out on campus. Video shows at least ten students involved. Soto Ramos whitewashed the incident in an email to staff, mentioning only that two students who had trouble getting along were involved in an altercation.

"He's ok with not being transparent with us and putting us in danger," says a Lincoln employee.

A concerned father SD Harris removed his kids from Lincoln in January 2018, but his battle was far from over.

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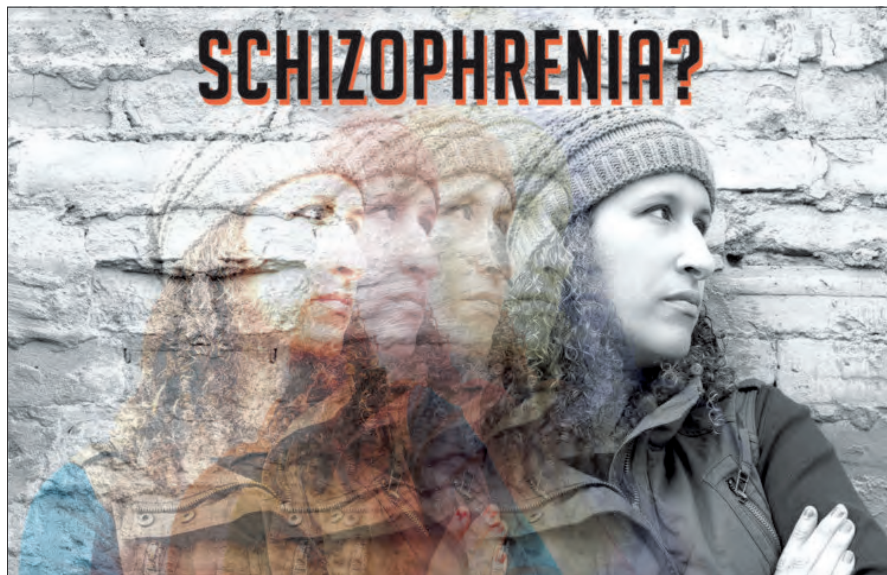
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He wanted answers and he wanted accountability. The main bully who harassed his kids was finally expelled in March after attacking one of Whigham's fellow vice principals. Some of the other bullies went to jail.

But Harris remains outraged that the school officials who allowed the bullies' "reign of terror" for so long still have their jobs.

Soon after leaving Lincoln, Harris, and Daniels found out the school was marking their sons absent and giving them Fs, despite their new arrangement for a home study program. They complained, but it didn't stop. Complaints to Lincoln administration, school police, and the school district all seemed futile. "They were all in cahoots, covering it up from the jump," Harris says.

They started going to board meetings to complain.

His quest became theirs

At the May 29, 2018 board meeting, most of the audience gave a standing ovation when Harris, along with Jacqueline Elijah, spoke out against the school district's failure to protect children. Harris gave an impassioned plea against the bully administration at Lincoln and the inaction of the school district and board, calling out Kevin Beiser and Cindy Marten by name.

As with Fleece, the black man in Herman Melville's classic whale hunt story who preached a sermon to the sharks surrounding his ship, Harris felt his words were falling on deaf ears.

"Are you there?" he asked the board. "You keep



Daniels and Judy Fernandez

talking and talking, but what are you gonna do?"

But others heard what he had to say, and his quest to protect children from the Moby Dick of systemic corruption became theirs.

The next day, Beiser texted Harris asking who his lawyer was. The day after that, Lynn Ryan of the district's Quality Assurance Office had Harris and Daniels come in to the office to clarify

some details about their complaints. The following day, June 1, Daniels got a call from the school district, stating their application for home instruction for their younger son was denied. She found it odd that after waiting so long, all these things were happening right after Harris spoke out at the board meeting and after he began building a rapport with other school district

critics. They would soon find out stranger things were at work.

A sneaky little wolf

May 31 was the fateful day Harris and Daniels went to the Quality Assurance Office at school district headquarters for an appointment with Lynn Ryan, the district's Title IX coordinator and Uniform Complaint Compliance Officer.

They were surprised by the presence of an attorney named Jose Gonzalez, who said the district's legal office asked him to be there to investigate their complaint. "They've been telling us they've been investigating for months, and now all of a sudden you pop up here?" Harris said to him.

It was a red flag for Daniels as well. "I had a gut feeling I had to record

this. As soon as he mentioned he was a lawyer, I thought, 'We have to protect ourselves.'" She began an audio recording with her phone.

"We're talking to a wall. You don't have no compassion and none of you feels," Harris said.

When Gonzalez smirked about their sons' injuries, Harris asked him what was funny and called him a "sneaky little wolf." Tempers rose, yelling and cursing started, and the meeting was ended.

The only definitive action San Diego Unified took in response to his complaints was filing a petition for a workplace violence restraining order for SD Harris on June 5. Then they filed felony criminal charges against him on June 18.

Five district employees signed affidavits accus-

RESEARCH STUDIES

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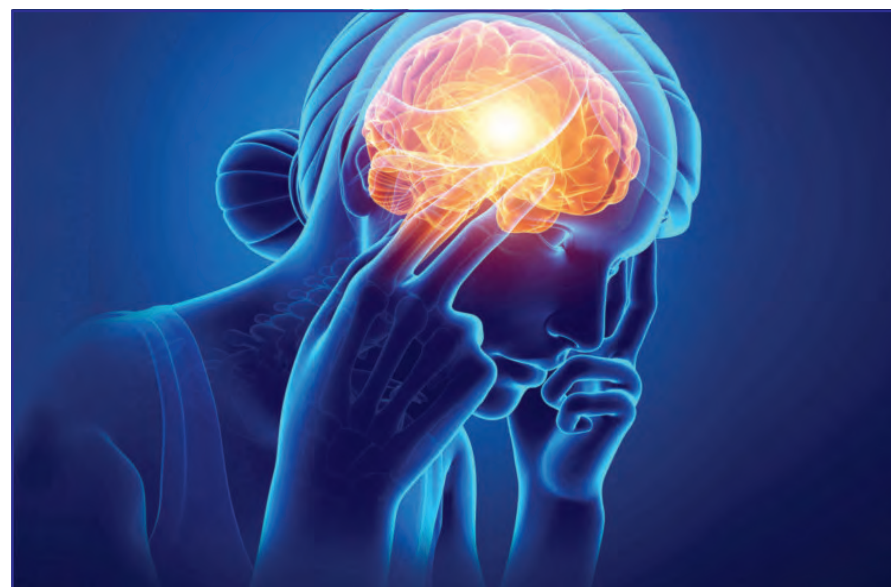


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ing Harris of threatening their lives at the May 31 meeting. Unaware of the accusations, Harris and Daniels attended a civil trial on June 13 for the lawsuit former San Diego Unified Investigator Michael Gurrieri filed against the district. (He alleges he was fired because he refused to ignore incidents of abuse and wouldn't comply with the district's request to bury them.)

Harris sympathizes with Gurrieri, as he feels his own complaints have been buried and his own kids were thrown to the wolves. During Trustee Marten's testimony, Harris noticed her lean over and whisper something to the judge.

The court reporter's transcripts reveal Judge Kenneth Medel stating, "There is an African-

American gentleman and an African-American lady in our audience. [Marten] told me there is an active restraining order... she feels very threatened."

A short while later the judge asked, "Is there a[n] [SD] Harris in the courtroom?"

According to court transcripts Harris responded, "What have I done? I'm here."

The judge said he was informed of a restraining order against him. "Not to my knowledge," he replied.

Daniels spoke out, "She's mad because of the board meeting. We spoke up against her."

Harris added, "Cindy Marten's been covering up for years. She should be walking away in cuffs, playing with kids like that." He did not realize at the time the significance of his statement about walking

away in cuffs.

Judge Medel asked Carmina Duran, executive director of the district's Quality Assurance Office, to explain what was going on. (She had just gone to the witness stand.) She said Harris threatened to assassinate everyone in her office and that she was uncomfortable with him sitting in the courtroom.

Harris spoke out, "I never met you a day in my life." Medel gave Harris the floor and he continued, "If I did all that, I would have the whole SWAT team come. That's crazy [for] a parent to say some silly stuff like that."

Five days later (June 18), the school district sent school police officer Chris Padilla to press criminal charges against Harris for the alleged assassination comment.

Along with Deputy DA Vanessa DuVall, he filed a declaration in support of arrest warrant. Judge David Oberholtzer signed off.

Nobody from the school district, DA's office, or sheriff's department informed Harris or his attorney about the arrest warrant. On June 26, Harris marched into the Hall of Justice with a pile of documents in his hands, his attorney Marlea Dell'Anno at his side, and a squad of supporters at his back for his hearing on the restraining order. He was happy to have his day in court, and ready to defend himself against accusations of threats he says he never made.

But he didn't make it to his courtroom that day.

He got off the elevator at the fifth floor, turned the corner, and

as he walked through the hallway of justice, he was surrounded by five deputy sheriffs.

"Are you [SD] Harris?" he heard. "We have a warrant for your arrest."

He immediately put his hands up. He says he was escorted into a nearby room and handcuffed.

Dell'Anno expressed outrage at this "sneak attack," as Harris describes it. "You can't do this to my client!" she said, stepping two feet away from them.

They responded by detaining her and seizing her briefcase. Harris says he stayed calm. "I'm not gonna do nothing. I know it's wrong. It's fake. But take me where you're going to take me," he says he told the deputies. He was done.

When asked why Dell'Anno was not informed of the warrant,

why she was not given an opportunity to arrange surrender, and why Harris was arrested just before his hearing instead of after it or at another time, a sheriff's department spokesperson did not explain, except to say the courthouse is a safe place for an arrest.

Before she was allowed back in the courthouse, Dell'Anno asked one of the top deputies if someone from the school district contacted them to arrange for Harris to be arrested on his way to court. She says he responded yes.

Harris was taken to jail, where he stayed for two days.

Daniels had an audio recording of the entire May 31 meeting when the death threats were allegedly made. They planned to use it to defend Harris

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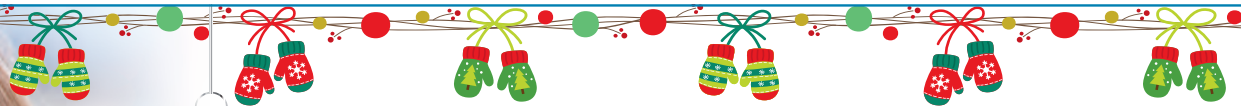
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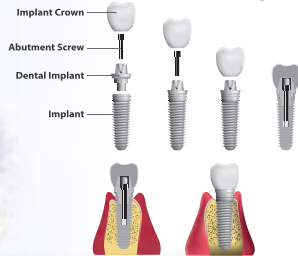
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against the restraining order petition, but now needed it to get him out of jail.

Dell'Anno brought the evidence to the DA's office and the information went all the way up to DA Summer Stephan.

The next day Harris pleaded not guilty to making a felony criminal threat. In light of the evidence that was provided, bail was dropped and Judge Maureen Hallahan released Harris on his own recognizance.

The DA filed a

motion to dismiss the criminal charges against Harris. Judge Timothy Walsh granted it August 8.

Harris still had to fight the civil restraining order.

After their attempt to send Harris to prison didn't work, the school district offered to drop the restraining order against him if he agreed to sign an injunction that would have prevented him from speaking out at board meetings and going near any San Diego Unified property, includ-

ing every public school in San Diego, for three years. He refused to be bullied into submission.

Harris and Daniels' friend Judy Neufeld-Fernandez, a child advocate who has helped them live through their nightmare, says the district tried to paint SD as a thug. "He's just a big teddy bear who won't back down," she says. "He's all heart."

Harris vindicated

On September 28, 2018, Judge Katherine Bacal ruled against the school

district and in favor of Harris. "The petitioners have not met, by clear and convincing evidence, that there was a credible threat of violence."

Judge Bacal cited cell phone recordings of the May 32, 2018 school board meeting which showed that Harris made no threats against school district employees. And she pointed out the "numerous conflicts in the testimony" of school district employees as part of the reason for her finding. "Animation, and even anger, is not enough for there to be a credible threat of violence."

Harris was on crutches that day. As he hobbled out of the courtroom, the disposition on his face was noticeably different. He said, "I got a fractured ankle. But I don't feel pain no more."

Will the Lincoln nightmare ever end?

Some wonder whether filing their complaints, talking to the media, and fighting for the kids has had any results. "Nathan Page is still dead, and [the administration] are still working there," says one concerned party.

The sprawling

24-acre Lincoln High campus, stretching nearly a half mile along Imperial Avenue just east of Interstate 805, is the most expensive school facility San Diego Unified ever built — \$129 million — but it has presented its most challenging problems. Some blame it's huge size — a capacity of 2700 students. Education advocate and attorney John Stump says, "Lincoln was designed to fail. Bigger is not better in education."

Solutions proposed in the past have included turning it into a charter school or splitting the campus and letting multiple schools share it.

Stump introduced a proposal to the San Diego city council this past summer to break up the San Diego Unified school district into separate elementary and high school districts and to reduce the number of people each board member represents. They ignored him.

Harris says the entire school board and Lincoln administration needs to be voted out or fired.

District employees and officials, including Cindy Marten, Kevin Beiser, Jose Soto Ramos,

and Myeshia Whigham, did not respond to a request for comment.

Post Lincoln

Harris and Daniels are happy to be finished with Lincoln. The two brothers were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress, but are in a better place at a private school. Daniels says, "They're now in a welcoming and nurturing environment. They really keep their eyes on those kids and make sure nothing happens to them."

Harris adds, "And they email you every step of the way to tell you what's going on with your kids. They don't wait until your kids are failing to call you."

Daniels believes the help turning things in a better direction came from above. "Only God could have brought us the help we received from so many different people, many complete strangers, people we would have never expected to help us."

She sees their experience summed up in Psalm 37. "Do not fret when people carry out their wicked schemes. He will make your vindication like the noonday sun."

—Eric Bartl

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Nice wetlands

continued from page 3

and a half dozen trusts and entities were passing parcels of Carmel Valley land around among themselves, buying a bit and selling more. They were engaged in deals with Pardee Homes, Lennar, Barratt American and a half dozen other groups. It's important to note that it's quite common for land developers to place project land into limited purpose entities for legal and financial reasons.

There are more than a dozen lawsuits among the Barczewskis and companies and people they did business with in the late 1990s and early aughts, until 2002, when the city and state of California together went after Pardee, the Barczewskis, and their various entities. That action was over the bermed road and accidental pond, at the south-of-Highway-56 property, which had been approved for development by the city council in February 2001.

Court and city documents say that Pardee sued the Barczewskis in 2003 over flooding from that illegal grading that allegedly damaged Pardee's projects in Pacific Highlands Ranch. Pardee and the Barczewski entities settled the matter.

In the settlement a year later, the Barczewskis committed to showing the city their plan to undo and

remediate for the berm and pond, which they did in June 2008. Through various fits and starts, the project remains incomplete.

In June 2004, SANDAG was buying up land to build the State Route 56 freeway between Interstates 5 and 15. San Diego City Council minutes discuss the eminent domain cases used to get land for Highway 56. Among the more than two dozen parties whose land was taken — with compensation — is some kind of partnership between developer Barratt American and the Barczewski entities. The eminent domain actions — at the time budgeted for \$73.5 million — were all being led by the San Diego Association of Governments, which sought money from the city.

By 2008, the Water Quality Control Board and the city were working on a settlement for the illegal grading, detailed briefly in plans before the Carmel Valley Planning Group, the city's development services processes, the city council, and eventually the California Coastal Commission.

In any event, the 900 to 1200 cubic yards of soil positioned in 2001 to stabilize the dirt road that also blocked drainage, remained in place. It's still there, coastal commission documents show.

"Since 2000, the ponded area has matured and become a high-quality wet-

land, potentially suitable for nesting of (the endangered bird) Least Bell's Vireo. However, as a result of a stipulated judgement and a restoration order, the pond must be drained and the tributary restored. It is estimated that the draining of the pond will result in the loss of the entire 1.05-acre pond and 0.69-acres of riparian vegetation surrounding the pond," the coastal commission documents say. "The pond currently supports a number of biological resources including open water, southern riparian scrub, and emergent freshwater marsh, and is classified as both State and Federal wetlands."

The current Barczewski plan involves creating about 14.3 acres of wetland and riparian habitat, but didn't take into account that the .37 acre illegal dirt road had somehow become a resource as well as a forbidden obstacle, so the coastal commission reworked the number of acres required to mitigate for draining the pond and added the dry land affected by removing the soil.

"As only 6.39 acres of mitigation is required to mitigate for the impacts associated with the project, excess habitat created by the applicant may in the future be utilized for other habitat-dependent purposes as consistent with the certified City of San Diego Local Coastal Plan," the commission decided.

That will leave just under

eight acres to sell as mitigation credits. But getting the land into mitigation banking isn't a sure thing, the coastal commission report notes.

Metcalf downplayed the idea that remaining acres would be sold as mitigation land, noting it has to be a functioning wetland with the approval of a multitude of government agencies before it's useful. "It's costly and time consuming," Metcalf said.

Michael McCollum, who runs a statewide mitigation bank, estimates the value of a functioning acre of wetlands at more than \$500,000. He noted that it will take no less than five years for the land to be restored and approved by the half dozen agencies that sign off on such projects.

That the San Diego Association of Governments is claiming it doesn't surprise him. "SANDAG needs a lot of wetlands, and they're glomming onto any (mitiga-

tion) project they can find," he says. "Wetlands in San Diego County tend to be a lot more expensive because there's so little water."

He noted that, while mitigation bank land held by the established land banks is frequently audited, mitigation land banked by individuals is rarely inspected simply because of low agency staffing. The projects still have to get a permit for the mitigation bank from the city of San Diego, but that shouldn't be too difficult. Though the development permit first funded in 2008 expired in May 2018, the department of development services has granted the Barczewskis an extension until December 2020 to finish.

In the meantime, though Robert and Sandra Barczewski still own about 30 acres in Carmel Valley, they moved to the Austin, Texas area Metcalf said. "They've

spent a lot of money doing mea culpas for what they thought was a reasonable thing to do on their own property," Metcalf said. ■

Under the radar

continued from page 3

May; the Building Industry Association, providing admission to its November 15 Leaders Reception; and the United Domestic Workers of America, which coughed up tickets for Cole to February's Voice & Viewpoint Gala, along with the All Peoples Celebration in January, worth a total of \$160. Aside from the freebies, Cole's December 4 filing disclosed no other assets or benefits.

— 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/.

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as featured on:

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

week before it'd arrived in the lot, I'd been enraged when a guard told me that advertising clerks were using cars assigned to the reporters' pool when their own supply of cars had been exhausted, a fact that was significant to me because reporters had never been able to fall back on the use of advertising cars. I'd missed one interview and been late to others because of that policy during the numerous times my own car had been in the shop for repairs. So I'd written a letter to general manager Alex DeBakcsy, arguing that the priorities were reversed. After all, I said, the ultimate business of a newspaper is the gathering of news. DeBakcsy called a day and a half after I'd dropped the letter in his interoffice mail and said he was putting his next-in-command on the problem and that they'd "give it our best shot." Taking my last step into the building a week after that call, what I saw was a new staff car, Nu-Prep sticker still in the left rear window, that was marked Advertisers' Service.

There were other ironies on my last day. I've kept a page from *Tribune* editor Fred Kinne's memo pad on which he scribbled the name Bob Carney and the words *Sacramento Union*. If I should want to continue in journalism, Kinne told me, I

should consider working for this newspaper, which the Copley Press owned until the middle of the decade and which was subsequently sold by Copley to a man the South African government says bought it with South African government money, money that country shelled out in order to better plead its case before the American public. Kinne might as well have leaned across his desk and said he had one piece of advice for me: "Plastics."

In the eight years I worked at the *Evening Tribune*, the most common public complaint I heard concerned the paper's political bias. For years, both local Copley papers were edited and supervised by men like Lt. General V.H. "Brute" Krulak and Captain "Andy" Anderson, fussy retired Marine and Navy brass who were capable of issuing orders that stories on anti-war protests refer to the people in the streets as "hooligans," not demonstrators. It was bias of that sort that prompted reporters to tell me things were better now than in the old days, before I joined. However, it is inaccurate to conclude, and certainly foolish to assume, that the *Tribune's* politics are ordained in the La Jolla headquarters of Copley Press, or even that they are handed down directly from the fifth-floor administrative suite in Mission Valley, where Helen

Copley's and the late Jim Copley's names shimmer in brass welcome. Life and the *Evening Tribune* are not so simple as that. For one thing, as nearly as I could determine while I was there, Mrs. Copley is seldom at the newspaper, and if there ever had been a monolith of political attitudes, the *Union* has gone a long way toward bringing it down, with recent specials on boodling Jaycees, official violence in the jail, private-industry lien-sharks, and especially, Alex Drehsler's excellent reporting from Nicaragua that was clearly sympathetic to the Sandinistas and in an area of the world where the Somozas and Pinochets have historically been Copley favorites. So some realities previously untouched by Copley newspapers are now being reported. But not nearly so many of them are being reported in the *Tribune* as in the *Union*. (It used to be the other way around.) When C. Arnholt Smith fell under federal indictment and lost his U.S. National Bank, the *Union* ran the story on its second-section page under a headline that merely said the bank was being sold. The *Tribune* ran a more candid story on its front page, where the nation's record-breaking bank failure belonged.

The failure of the *Tribune* these days to report the news clearly and aggressively can only partially be explained by outside political pres-

sure; sometimes stories of no threat to the established body politic of San Diego have been held back. Within the last year, a reporter at the *Tribune* was tipped to and wrote an article about San Diego Gas and Electric Company's systematic and massive overcharging of North County homeowners. The story sat a week before the reporter's source grew frustrated and called the *Los Angeles Times*. After the story appeared there, the *Tribune* published a rewritten version of its own reporter's article that was less clear and tough than his week-old original.

Other factors have also contributed to blunting the collective senses of the *Tribune*. For one thing, the paper is now a bureaucracy, choked by a managerial obsession for procedures and supervision. Inferior managers everywhere are inclined to add administrators below them who can insulate the top from the heat of the daily struggle. Gone are the days when the *Tribune's* newsroom was a freak show reminiscent of *The Front Page* — a collection of psyches unraveling under the pressures of deadlines, callers complaining of poor coverage and flying saucers in their neighborhoods, and the manic desires of reporters to produce a story that could establish them as stars in the (old) *Tribune's* firmament. The pallid quality of the newsroom today is symptom-

atic of the ennui that permeates any tired bureaucracy, be it the postal service, a bank, or the Bureau of Land Management. It is not order and quiet efficiency that characterize the newsroom now; it is simply the silence and boredom of people who are awaiting orders.

Like any bureaucracy, the *Tribune* responds to pressure from the front office and from large, well-organized interest groups outside the company. It often has been difficult to distinguish one from the other. Until a few years ago, Helen Copley was a board member of Wells Fargo Bank, the California Chamber of Commerce, and Dart Industries. Mrs. Copley ended her service on those outside boards, saying she would have to concentrate her energies on the running of her newspaper chain, but her key executives have maintained their high civic profiles. Before he left to join the Knight-Ridder newspaper chain a few months ago, Copley Press vice president Richard Capen was president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. General manager Alex DeBakcsy has chaired the campaign for the United Way and continues his involvement with that organization. *Union-Tribune* executives and lawyers sit on a blue-chip advisory board to UCSD. With so many direct and high-level ties to the official institutions and agencies

of this city, the newspaper's editors and reporters begin to look over their shoulders before settling down to work. In any number of individual cases, reporters and editors begin to measure success in the same terms as the front office — by how well they're mingling. The city's press club was organized by public-relations people, most of them corporate, and it was *Tribune* reporters and editors who provided the bulk of the club's active, working-journalist members and officers. Radio and television newspeople and, so far, staff members of the *Los Angeles Times's* San Diego edition have stayed away. Far from licking the flaks who bomb the paper with news releases, staffers have taken to joining them. In recent years, the *Tribune's* business writer left to start his own public-relations agency, a real estate writer joined another public-relations agency, a politics writer has become an aide to a state senator, and another former reporter has been successively an aide to a councilman and a member of the former business writer's agency. Such professional intimacy between reporters, former reporters-turned-boosters, and the city's major institutions probably goes a long way toward explaining the prevailing sunny view of San Diego visible in the paper's

continued on page 74

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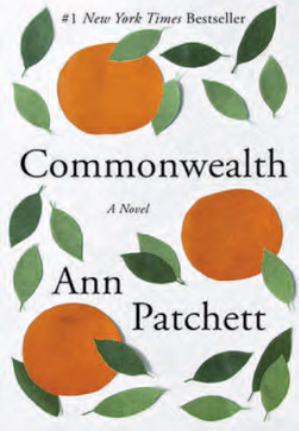
Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 13

DON'T NEED TO READ THE BOOK

Discussion on *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett, the story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives. Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls,



he has kissed Franny's mother— thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of four parents and six children. You do not need to have read the book in its entirety to participate in the discussion.

WHEN: Thursday, December 13, 2 pm to 3 pm

WHERE: Georgina Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. carlsbadca.gov

DEVIL AT NATIVITY SCENE

La Pastorela de la Familia is the newest musical in Teatro Máscara Mágica's series of Mexican-inspired Christmas performances. *Pastorelas* began in Mexico centuries ago as a celebration of the nativity; retelling how shepherds followed the star of Bethlehem to the manger. It's a dangerous trek, because Satan and his minions not only want them to fail, they want to turn innocent tenders of flocks into hard core sinners.

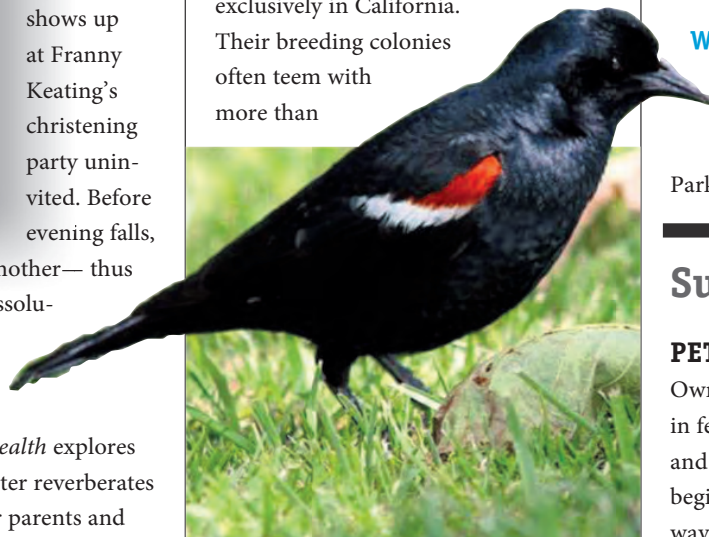
WHEN: Thursday through Sunday 7:30 pm. Through December 23.

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

Saturday | 15

SEARCH FOR TRI-COLORED BLACKBIRD

Join Jeanne Raimond and Millie Basden as they look for tri-colored blackbirds, which are found almost exclusively in California. Their breeding colonies often teem with more than



50,000 birds, sometimes all settled into a single ten-acre field or wetland. The tri-colored blackbird is distinguished by its red shoulder patch and bright white bar.



WHEN: Saturday, December 15, 8 am to 10 am

WHERE: Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive, San Carlos. mtrp.org

Sunday | 16

PETS IN COSTUMES

Owners and pets are invited to come in festive costumes for this promenade and pet holiday market. The parade begins under Gaslamp Quarter archway and ends at MLK Promenade Park. There will be nine costume contest categories, including "best ugly holiday sweater" and "best costumed duo." Dogs, cats, birds, and even fish are welcome to participate. Enjoy live music and pet presentations.

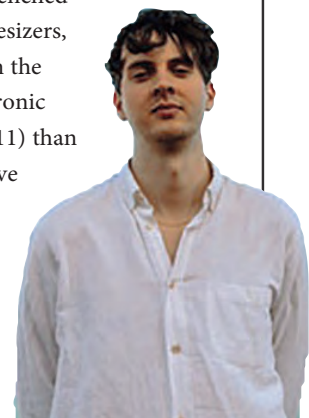
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13: LA PASTORELA DE LA FAMILIA

WHEN: Sunday, December 16, 1 pm to 5 pm

WHERE: San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, 401 K Street, Downtown. gaslamp.org/events

ROOSEVELT AT SODA BAR

Until recently, 28 year-old German singer-songwriter Marius Lauber, *aka* Roosevelt, was mainly known for his remixes of songs by other artists such as Jax Jones, Rhye, Chvrches, and Glass Animals. He surprised many when his debut album, drenched in vintage synthesizers, scored higher on the US Dance/Electronic Chart (number 11) than it did in his native Germany. The subsequent tour, his first as a headliner, sold out much of its run. His newest, *Young Romance*, was released in September, with singles and videos for "Under the Sun" and "Shadows."



ROOSEVELT

WHEN: Sunday, December 16, 8 pm

WHERE: Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights. sodabarmusic.com

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

ROSE MARIE STARNS SOUTH SHORES PARK (MISSION BAY)

Enjoy a walk on the mild side

Driving directions: Exit I-5 on to Sea World Drive west and go one mile. Turn right onto South Shores Parkway and drive about 0.2 mile and turn right into the lot. This is also home to the Mission Bay South Shores Boat Launching Facility, and is part of the Mission Bay Bike Path. **Hiking length:** 1.7 miles out-and-back. Allow 45-60 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. The trail is paved. Bicycles are allowed. A great family outing as well. No dogs between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. (April-October) or 4 p.m. (November-March). Leashed dogs allowed before and after those hours.



The walkway can accommodate wheelchairs and strollers; Inset: Coyote brush and sea lavender are common plants seen on this walk

San Diego is blessed with many nice public walks, and this is one of the nicer ones, because it hugs the south shore of Mission Bay opposite Fiesta Island. It is named for Rose Marie Starns, who was the head of the San Diego Hotel-Motel Association and a "relentless advocate for Mission Bay Park and San Diego tourism," according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

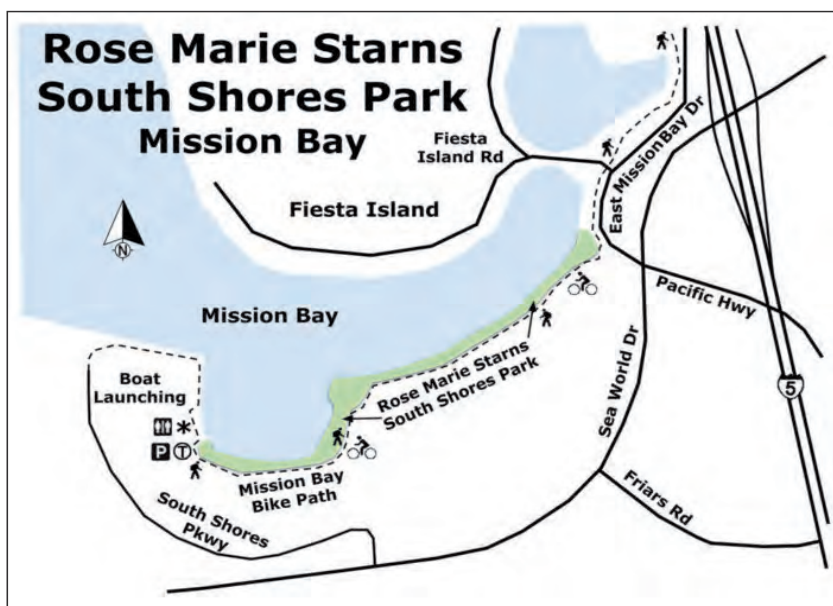
As you drive into the lot, note that the boat launch is a large, busy area with great public facilities. After parking, you'll pick up the sidewalk immediately on the right of the boat launch area. Simply follow this around to the east. Be alert and you will probably be greeted by an osprey who seems to make this

area his perch.

The focus of this small park is a wide, artistically designed concrete walkway that winds its way east until it meets up with Sea World Drive, about 150 yards south of the entry road into Fiesta Island. For those wanting a longer walk, they can continue north across Fiesta Island Road and pick up the walkway that follows the east side of Mission Bay.

What you'll notice immediately is the graceful way the path follows the shoreline. There are ample benches to sit on and watch the world go by. Or you could have a picnic; there are tables and also a shaded area. There are also fire pits. This

continued on page 32



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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Bald Eagle Celebration Join Forest Service Biologist for a 1-hour presentation on the biology of eagles and why they winter in the Big Bear Valley; great for families to learn together about our National Bird. Saturday, December 15, 8am; **free.** Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive/Highway 38. (BOULEVARD)

Frosty Farm Animal Encounters This festive event combines hands-on animal encounters with family-friendly activities, which makes it the perfect place to create new memories. You will also get a one hour excursion with a variety of animals and a holiday craft that is yours to keep. Saturday, December 15, 9am; Sunday, December 16, 9am; \$10-\$20. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Vet+Pet West Wag PetCon Get involved in a breed club, visit a petting zoo, bring the kids to a family pet care demonstration, enjoy photo booths, animal derby racers, concessions, adoption programs and more — only at Vet + Pet West's Wag PetCon! Saturday, December 15, 10am; Sunday, December 16, 10am; \$5-\$15. San Diego Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ART

Erté: the Father of Art Deco Enjoy an evening of Erté inspired style and merriment with wine, food, and music. Saturday, December 15, 6pm; **free.** Martin Lawrence Galleries, 1111 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Hotels/Motels Art Fair Over a hundred artists and curators from all over San Diego and Los Angeles will transform hotel rooms into contemporary art galleries, theatrical stages, and creative project spaces. Both days will present interactive theatrical performances in the rooms and halls. Friday, December 14, 7pm; Saturday, December 15, 12pm; \$10-\$35. Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Makers Market Local hand-crafted goods and local beer go well together. Shop small and receive 20% off your tab at the bar. Saturday, December 15, 12pm; Coronado Brewing — Tecolote Canyon, 1205 Knoxville Street. (BAY PARK)

Modern Times Holiday Market This display of arts, crafts, & gen-

eral holiday magic includes beer, coffee, & snacks. Saturday, December 15, 12pm; **free.** Modern Times Beer, 3612 Kurtz Street. (POINT LOMA)

San Diego in Solidarity Art Show & Donation Drive Over 20 artists are joining in solidarity with the asylum seekers of the Central American caravan for a raffle, yard sale, and donation drive, with food. Friday, December 14, 5:30pm; **free.** Brown Building, 4133 Poplar Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Unity in Diversity Opening This group of exhibiting artists includes the work of Dan Camp, Jo Caldwell, Tim Casey, Yomar Augusto, Barbara Runs, as well as featuring an ongoing oil painting demonstration by Dan Camp as he continues work on his monumental narrative "The Grand Hall." Saturday December 15. Saturday, December 15, 6pm; **free.** Brokers Building Gallery, 402 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BEER

Ales N' Rails Joins us for an evening of beer, trains and ugly sweaters. Taste samples from local breweries and enjoy all of the museum's exhibits with running trains, in an intimate setting, and make sure to sport your most festive, gaudy holiday sweater and sign up for our ugly sweater contest. Friday, December 14, 6pm; \$25-\$60. 21 and up. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Kegs & Eggs All day brunch specials in addition to regular menu. Brunch Specials will be rotational every weekend, follow @duckfooteastvillage 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)

Thirsty Thursdays Thirsty Thursday with bartender's choice keep the Stein fills. Your first pint is included with Stein purchase, and all bartender's choice Stein fills for the rest of the day are Happy Hour priced, just \$5. Thursdays, 2pm; through Thursday, December 27, **free.** 21 and up. Duck Foot East Village Taproom & Kitchen, 550 Park Bl., Ste 2104. (EAST VILLAGE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Holiday Book Signing Event 16 authors from the San Diego Writers and Editors Guild will display their books for purchase and signing. Saturday, December 15, 10am; **free.** Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Writers Resist: The Anthology Contributing writers will share their political resistance poetry and prose. The anthology represents the journal's first year of publishing and includes the work of new writers, established writers and some notorious writers and

artists of the resistance. The book will be available for sale and signing at the reading. Friday, December 14, 7pm; **free.** Gelato Vero Caffè, 3753 India Street. (MISSION HILLS)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

3rd Sunday Craft with Rich Farrell Third Sunday Craft is a monthly gathering of creative writers that fosters support, inspiration, and community. More than craft classes, Third Sunday Craft will help you construct and sustain a writing practice. Sunday, December 16, 10am; \$30-\$36. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Buddhism, Enlightenment & Meditation Each week we discuss Buddhist concepts and techniques with real world applications so you can gain control of your time, life and mind. After class, stay for the 45 Minute Meditation Sit to take a deep dive into the pure light of meditation. Come for one or both sessions. Saturday, December 15, 10:15am; **free.** 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Christmas Holiday Joy Wreath Brighten up any wall or door with the "Joy" of Christmas. The workshop will include everything you need to make your unique craft. Thursday, December 13, 6:30pm; \$35. Rip Current Brewing North Park, 4101 30th Street Suite A. (NORTH PARK)

Community Pilates Mat Class We will explore the original mat exercises designed by Joseph Pilates and learn how Pilates can help you to achieve your fitness goals. Bring: towel, mat, water bottle, unrestricted comfortable clothing. Sunday, December 16, 10am; **free.** Angie's Pilates Haus, 3969 4th Ave., Suite 209. (HILLCREST)

Consciousness Expansion with Sound & Meditation Teresa's joyful presence is a blessing. Take time out of your busy life to sit with her in the bliss of meditation and explore the expansion of consciousness through the power of sound. Thursday, December 13, 7pm; **free.** 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

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. Friday, December 14, **free.** Mental Health Systems, 1701 Mission Ave., Suite 120. (OCEANSIDE)

Holiday Beer Mug Painting Class Join us at Kilowatt Ocean Beach for a holiday mug painting class with local artist, Rachel Redmond. Sunday, December 16, 12:30pm; \$25. Kilowatt Brewing OB, 1875 Cable Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

Holiday Ornament Cupcake Decorating Secure your spot at this reservations-only class where students learn the art of cake deco-

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rating with fondant, royal icing, luster dust and sugar paste to create a box of "sweet" ornaments over the course of three hours. Individuals 12 years and older are welcome to attend. Saturday, December 15, 10am; \$50. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Mask Making Class The lecture includes a complete review of the function of healthy skin and what to expect from masks containing clays or fruit acids. Also learn how to preserve, package, and label mask products for resale. Students make 3 different masks containing clay and spirulina, puréed pumpkin and natural fruit acids, and collagen peptides with niacinamide to take home. Classroom hours: 4 hours, includes one 15-minute break. Sunday, December 16, 12pm; \$106. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Ostomy Lifestyle Class Ostomy 101 equips and empowers patients to live abundantly after ostomy surgery. Practical solutions for wardrobe, swimming, exercise, work, school and travel. Saturday, December 15, 9:30am; free. XIMED Building, 9850 Genesee Ave., Suite 510. (LA JOLLA)

Pendant Making Class Join us to create three pendants that you can wear yourself, give as gifts or hang on your Christmas tree as ornaments. Thursday, December 13, 6pm; \$40. 18 and up. Nainsook Framing & Art, 8130 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Sewing for a Cause Adult and teen sewers will learn the basics of a sewing machine and how to create quilts. Materials and sewing machines will be provided and quilts will be donated. Drop ins are welcome. Thursday, December 13, 6:30pm; Georgina Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Succulent & Sips Enjoy an afternoon crafting with us and learn how to create your very own 18" succulent wreath, while sipping on a complimentary glass of bubbles.

Sunday, December 16, 2pm; \$65. Herringbone, 7837 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Women's Fiction In this class, you'll learn about upmarket women's fiction, book club fiction, and various subgenres such as magical realism, beach reads, and historical women's fiction. Sunday, December 16, 10am; \$30-\$36. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Writing Believable Dialogue In this workshop, you'll receive tips, formatting, and examples, plus you'll work on writing some dialogue in class. Sunday, December 16, 1pm; \$45-\$54. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

COMEDY

Black Kat's 2018 Year in Review Join us as we cover 2018's newsmakers in one hilarious sketch comedy show. December 13-15, 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)

Jackie Beat Menstrual Krampus. Yep, it's hooters & horns, Santa & Satan, makeup and macabre merriment as Miss Beat embraces the dark side of the season to celebrate the Anti-Christmas like only she can! Saturday, December 15, 8pm; \$35-\$40. 18 and up. Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Avenue #200. (HILLCREST)

Neal Brennan Friday, December 14, 6:30pm; \$25-\$29. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Outside the Lines Enjoy a variety of lively comedic sketches and songs, created on the spot from audience suggestions. Saturday, December 15, 9pm; \$10-\$20. Com-

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems for winter by Edwin Muir

The Late Swallow

Leave, leave your well-loved nest,
Late swallow, and fly away.
Here is no rest
For hollowing heart and wearying wing.
Your comrades all have flown
To seek their southern paradise
Across the great earth's downward sloping side,
And you are alone.
Why should you cling
Still to the swiftly ageing narrowing day?
Prepare;
Shake your pinions long untried
That now must bear you there where you would be
Through all the heavens of ice;
Till falling down the homing air
You light and perch upon the radiant tree.

Scotland's Winter

Now the ice lays its smooth claws on the sill,
The sun looks from the hill
Held in his winter casket,
And sweeps his arctic sword across the sky.
The water at the mill
Sounds more hoarse and dull.
The miller's daughter walking by
With frozen fingers soldered to her basket
Seems to be knocking
Upon a hundred leagues of floor

With her light heels, and mocking
Percy and Douglas dead,
And Bruce on his burial bed,
Where he lies white as may
With wars and leprosy,
And all the kings before
This land was kingless,
And all the singers before
This land was songless,
This land that with its dead and living waits the Judgement Day.
But they, the powerless dead,
Listening can hear no more
Than a hard tapping on the floor
A little overhead
Of common heels that do not know
Whence they come or where they go
And are content
With their poor frozen life and shallow banishment.



Edwin Muir (1887-1959) was a Scottish poet who wrote in a plain style with vivid imagery. While he is counted among the Modernist poets, he did not share the Modernist view of poetry as an end in itself. (His admirers included T.S. Eliot, who edited and wrote an introduction to a volume of his selected works.) In his poetry, Muir sought to "make it new," as Ezra Pound said about poetry in his famous Modernist rallying cry, but not at the expense of life as it was experienced. His poetry was often informed by the idyllic farm life of his childhood in contrast to the corrupt world of the modern city he witnessed as an adult.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

edy Palace, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Rex Navarrete Navarrete gathers all of his material from what he calls "real Rex moments," reality and shared life experiences. Friday, December 14, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 15, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, December 16, 7pm; \$9-\$18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Trevor Noah Saturday, December 15, 7:30pm; Viejas Arena, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

DANCE

City Ballet of San Diego: The Nutcracker Accompanied by the City Ballet Orchestra and Chorus, this heart-warming production is the perfect way for families to immerse themselves in the holiday spirit, year after year. Friday, December 14, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 15, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 16, 2pm; \$34-\$89. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Contra Dance Come join us for modern American folk dancing to live music. Friday, December 14, 7:30pm; \$10. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

PADC Nutcracker Join us in supporting this enchanting holi-

day tradition. Pacific Arts Dance Center's gorgeous Nutcracker Ballet will be performed in Concert Hall. Saturday, December 15, 6pm; Sunday, December 16, 2pm; \$25-\$55. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

The Nutcracker in Balboa Park Take an extraordinary journey to the magical Land of the Sweets with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince at the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet's annual production of The Nutcracker. Thursday, December 13, 6pm; Friday, December 14, 7pm; Saturday, December 15, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, December 16, 2pm; \$12-\$18. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Violet Vixens Holiday Burlesque Party & Bra Drive We'll be drinking, dancing, mingling and collecting items for Becky's House

SD for women including new Bras and undergarments. Thursday, December 13, 7:30pm; \$15. 18 and up. Momentum Dance Company, 9235 Trade Place Suite F. (MIRAMAR)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Annual Open House Come join us and learn more about what CIHS has to offer! Catered by the Himalayan Kitchen. If you can join us, please RSVP (admin@cihs.edu) or register on our events page. Friday, December 14, 5pm; free. California Institute for Human Science, 701 Garden View Court. (ENCINITAS)

Hemlock Society Presents Wit The Hemlock Society of San Diego presents the film "Wit" as part of its Right-to-Die Film Series, this film

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SHEEP and GOATS

Charles Butler

Mystical theology is defined to be an union of the soul with God—so intimate, that her essence is, in a manner, transformed into the essence of God, and, in consequence of it, she beholds him, not intuitively, as he is seen by the blessed in Heaven, but, in a divine light; and

she believes in him, hopes in him, and loves him, not by particular or discursive acts, but in silent affection and adoration... But for passage into it, the most heroic exertions and sacrifices are necessary. The soul must completely die to the world and herself and obtain a complete victory over all

that draws, or even has a remote tendency to draw her from God.... Surrounded by the light and power of divine love, she lives, and feels, and moves in God alone.

— from *On Mystical Theology or the Science of Sacred Contemplation* by Charles Butler.

injustices done to Catholics at the time. He was also a co-founder of the Cisalpine Club, an English Catholic organization which sought to ameliorate social and political conditions for Catholics while respectfully resisting interference from the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship



is an HBO adaptation of Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about dying and death. There will be a short discussion afterwards. The program and parking are free. Sunday, December 16, 1:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Ugly Holiday Sweater Speed Dating Singles in the suggested age range of 25-40 are invited to join us in their ugliest holiday sweater for an evening filled with laughter, holiday cheer, and 20 mini-dates. Sunday, December 16, 6pm; \$25. 21 and up. Oak + Elixir, 2917 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

FOOD & DRINK

Annual Hanukkah Party Please join us for a Hanukkah afternoon celebration of food, friendship and entertainment. Sunday, December 16, 1pm; \$10-\$15. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (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 16, 9am; \$19-\$49. Decoy Dockside Dining, 1035 La Bonita Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

Christmas Pop Brunch Dust off your ugliest holiday sweater and warm up your Mariah Carey vocals

for a Holiday brunch. Enjoy the brunch menu as DJ Mike White blasts holiday beats. Saturday, December 15, 10am; **free**. Sear-sucker Gaslamp, 611 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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! Thursday, December 13, 5pm; Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Gospel Brunch Join us for our new Gospel Brunch experience which includes local talent performing both traditional and contemporary Gospel songs. Before and during the show treat yourself to an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring breakfast favorites plus tender carving stations, southern specialties and desserts. Sunday, December 16, 11am; \$22-\$44. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Grand Opening: Pitbull & Nick Cannon Join us for the Grand Opening celebration of Theatre Box with Pitbull and Nick Cannon, where we will unveil TCL Chinese Theatre's first luxury dine-in cinema. Friday, December 14, 5:30pm; **free**. Theatre Box San Diego, 701 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Holiday Tea Spend an afternoon amidst the timeless glamour, sip-

ping loose leaf teas, toasting with a welcome glass of champagne, and savoring Chef's selection of sweet and savory treats. Saturday, December 15, 12pm; \$35-\$59. U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

La Jolla Santa Pub Crawl Join the inaugural La Jolla Santa Pub Crawl! Grab some friends and wear a holiday-themed costume. The event is free to attend, but please bring an unwrapped toy to Hennessy's. Saturday, December 15, 6pm; **free**. 21 and up. George's at the Cove Ocean Terrace, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

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. Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 30, **free**. Lane Field Park, 1009 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Ramona Valley Holiday Wine Trail 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 local artists. Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 16, \$10. 18 and up. Casa Rustica, 316 Main Street. (RAMONA)

Taste 'n' Tinis Hillcrest's 2018 Taste 'n' Tinis shop and taste event

features a self-guided tour of the neighborhood filled with delicious drinks, captivating eats, and local shopping. Thursday, December 13, 4pm; Rite Aid, 535 Robinson Avenue. (HILLCREST)

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)

FOR KIDS

Angel Alert A host of talented angels have been working their wings off to make our Christmas Musical a great experience for the whole community. Join us for refreshments after the performance. Saturday, December 15, 7pm; Sunday, December 16, 3pm; **free**. King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2993 Macdonald Street. (OCEANSIDE)

Annual Barrel Tree Lighting Celebration Bring the kids and family to meet Santa and enjoy cookie decorating, a hot chocolate bar, Christmas Carolers, discounts on wine, gifts and so much more. Friday, December 14, 5pm; **free**. Callaway Vineyard & Winery, 32720 Rancho California Road. (TEMECULA)

Family Concert Series: Noel Noel From singing along to your favorite carols to listening to holiday classics performed by the Orchestra, treat yourself and your family to an afternoon of holiday

joy. Sunday, December 16, 2pm; Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Gingerbread House Workshop Each child receives an assembled gingerbread house and will decorate under guidance by Candy Pros. Workshop includes a gingerbread house, decorating materials, snacks, and a holiday beverage. Saturday, December 15, 10am; \$30-\$31. CandyPros, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., Suite 422. (LA MESA)

Grand Reopening Weekend We offer Open Jump, SkySlam, CageBall, DodgeBall, Foam Pits, Warped Wall, Sky Wars, birthday parties, all-new attractions and discounted pricing. Friday, December 14, 12pm; Saturday, December 15, 11am; Sunday, December 16, 11am; \$10. Sky Zone, 851 Showroom Place #100. (EASTLAKE)

It's Santa Photo Time Santa is located in the Santa Set under the holiday tree located in center court near GAP and Tommy Hilfiger. Thursdays, 11am; Fridays, 11am; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Monday, December 24, **free**. Carlsbad Premium Outlets, 5620 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Letters from the North Pole A holiday story told through shadow puppetry. Thursday, December 13-14, 10am and 11:30am; Saturday, December 15-16, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; \$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Meet a Park Ranger: Special Storytime Join us for storytime featuring special guest reader Ranger Parish Rye, learn about the special items he's brought from the ocean, and learn how to

keep beaches and oceans beautiful. Thursday, December 13, 10:30am; **free**. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

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's Workshop Santa is bringing his merry workshop to Westfield Plaza Bonita and families are welcome to join in the fun. Saturday, December 15, 9am; **free**. Westfield Plaza Bonita, 3030 Plaza Bonita Road. (NATIONAL CITY)

Skate with Tara Lipinski Join Olympic Gold Medalist Tara Lipinski for a once-in-a-lifetime skate session at Hotel del Coronado's Skating by the Sea®. After ice time with Tara, guests will enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, along with an opportunity for photos with the figure skating champion. Saturday, December 15, 4pm; **free**-\$150. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

LECTURES

Escherematics: Roger Penrose Lecture & VR Experience Roger Penrose's work has ranged across many aspects of mathematics and its applications, from his influential work on gravitational collapse to his work on quantum mechanics and general relativity. Sunday, December 16, 5pm; \$10-\$20. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)



Hennesseys Tavern of La Jolla presents

Annual Santa Pub Crawl!

Benefiting Rady Children's Hospital. Sat. Dec 15th. Please bring one unused unwrapped toy for donation. Donations can be dropped off at Hennessey's Tavern. 7811 Herschel Ave., La Jolla.

For Rady Children's Hospital toy wish list and the items that cannot be accepted, visit <https://www.radyfoundation.org/toys>

6pm George's at the Cove level 2 • 7pm The Spot
8pm Jose's Courtyard • 9pm Hennesseys Tavern
(Toy drop off and Live Music venue)

ROAM-○-RAMA

continued from page 28

walkway is framed by native plants that also support an abundance of bush birds. It is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

There is an explosion of color here, especially in the spring due to the moisture and mild climate, but the path any time of the year offers up many beautiful views. Keep an eye out for the pines along the way; they are Torrey Pines, as evidenced by their five-needle bundles. Take in the members of our coastal sage scrub community: San Diego goldenbush or coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) dominates throughout. The male coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) might be in bloom, waiting for

the wind to carry their pollen to interested female coyote bushes. Interspersed among the lemonade-berry, toyon, and laurel sumac are sea lavenders (*Limonium perezii*) providing their purple blooms as a contrast to the greens.

Cedar Waxwings and White-crowned Sparrows dart in and out of the coastal sage scrub habitat. Enjoy your walk on the mild side!

Canyoners 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.

Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body Learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity, and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging. Thursday, December 13, 5pm; **free**. Encinitas Elks Lodge, 1393 Windsor Road. (ENCINITAS)

Richard Lederer: The Joy of Names In *The Joy of Names*, best-selling language author Richard Lederer reveals all you need to know about names—first names, baby names, last names, nicknames, and more! Saturday, December 15, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

A Festival of Lessons & Carols A traditional Anglican service first conceived in 1880 in Truro, England. St. Michael's will be hosting this festival with carol singing, scripture readings, and holiday cheer. Sunday, December 16, 3:45pm; **free**. St. Michael's by-the-Sea, 2775 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

Christmas Candlelight Meditation Enjoy songs, carols, and scripture readings of the season by candlelight in the Historical Old Mission Church Building. Saturday, December 15, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 16, 7:30pm; **free**. Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, 10818 San Diego Mission Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Christmas by Candlelight Benjamin Britten's beloved A Ceremony of Carols followed by Conrad Susa's Carols & Lullabies. Sunday, December 16, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Daybreaker Daybreaker features yoga at 9am followed by DJ Justin Campbell at 10am. Saturday, December 15, 9am; \$35. Music Box, 1337 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Holiday Tales V: Traditions Of The Season Grand Facade proudly presents Holiday Tales V: Traditions of the Season Stories and Music of the Season. Saturday, December 15, 2pm; \$10-\$12. Congregational Church of La Jolla, 1216 Cave Street. (LA JOLLA)

Jazz Vespers Each Jazz Vespers service begins with a 30-minute set of live jazz, blues, and gospel, featuring the Archie Thompson & the Archtones and guest musicians. Saturdays, 4:30pm; through Sunday, December 30, **free**. First Presbyterian Church Chapel, 1700 Block of 4th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

The Katinas The Katinas, Spirit of Christmas Tour is the band's last stop on their west coast tour. Come enjoy a time of praise and worship at this free community event. Friday, December 14, 7pm; **free**. City View Church, 8404 Phyllis Place. (MISSION VALLEY)

NATURE

The 17th Century Island of California: A Scientific Explanation? European cartographers mistakenly depicted California as an enormous island lying off the west coast of North America. Join Jenny E. Ross as she describes how she developed an interdisciplinary explanation for this 400-year-old mystery using historic maps and first-person accounts written by 17th-century explorers. Friday, December 14, 2pm; **free**. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Toyon In December the berries on the Toyon turn red. Enjoy a hike led by a Mission Trails Regional Park Guide and see the Toyon bushes decked out for the season. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, December 15, 9:30am; Sunday, December 16, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Etsy Comes To Life Winter Shopping Expo Described as "Etsy comes to life," the popular urban-style handmade market is feminine and fun, hosting vendors who make their products by hand from booths that are designed with flair. Friday, December 14, 4pm; Saturday, December 15, 9am; \$3. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Historical True Crime Tour Walk through several eras in time as you explore interesting stories of true crime and learn some of the darker history of the Gaslamp Quarter. Fridays, 10:30pm; Saturdays, 10:30pm; Sundays, 7:30pm; through Monday, December 31, \$15. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Military Working Dog Demonstration See demonstrations by the incredible USMC military working dogs and talk to their handlers. Try on an attack vest and sleeve. After the demonstrations, take a tour of the 31 historical aircraft on display and the 8 indoor galleries of artwork, uniforms and artwork. Saturday, December 15, 9am; **free**. Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, 4203 Anderson Avenue. (MIRAMAR)

North County Indoor Vintage Market North San Diego County Indoor Vintage Market features vendors selling antique, vintage, retro, and collectibles. Friday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Veterans Association of North County Resource Center, 1617 Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Gem Faire Fine jewelry, crystals, gems, beads, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & ring sizing while you shop. Friday, December 14, 12pm; Saturday, December 15, 10am; Sunday, December 16, 10am; \$7. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

San Diego Holiday Lights Tour Discover the magic of the holidays on this tour of San Diego's top Christmas Lights neighborhoods. 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

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)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Crystal Bowl Sound Bath 7 Chakra Crystal Bowl Experience. Reclining chairs. Saturday, December 15, 5pm; Inn Spot Community Acupuncture, 3505 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 338. (MISSION VALLEY)

Mind, Body-N-Cannabliss A new way to practice yoga. Herbally enhanced yoga is a mind and body experience. Sunday, December 16, 7:30pm; \$49. 21 and up. Wellness Lounge, 8898 Clairemont Mesa Bl., Suite M. (CLAIREMONT)

Softball Thursday Pick-Up Game For 55 and Up/Females 50 up. Batting/fielding practice starts 9 AM. Game starts 10 AM. Have extra bats/mitts if needed. Thursdays, 9am; through Thursday, December 20, **free**. 21 and up. John F. Kennedy Park, 1675 East Madison Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Sound Immersion Saturday, December 15, 7pm; Cosmic Flow Kundalini Yoga, 1214 28th Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

Vino & Vinyasa Join our yoga community for a very special yoga class with coastal breezes followed by a glass of wine! Please arrive 15 minutes early and visit the front desk to receive a wristband. Thursday, December 13, 5:30pm; \$20-\$60. Cape Rey, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

WORSHIP

Sunday Gathering You are invited to join us as we gather together to celebrate a Positive Approach to Living Sunday mornings in Carlsbad! 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)

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WIN PASSES		Win a pair of screening passes to see <i>Escape Room</i> . Deadline to Enter: Friday, December 14 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
WIN TICKETS		Win a pair of tickets to see KISS at Viejas Arena. Deadline to Enter: Thursday, January 31 at 1pm

Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

WATER FRONT

LOBSTER ON THE CRAWL – BIG YELLOWTAIL AT GUADALUPE ISLAND.

Dock Totals Dec 2 – Dec 8: 616 anglers aboard 39 trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 113 bluefin tuna, 1 yellowtail, 77 bonito, 12 calico bass, 58 sand bass, 56 sanddab, 2 halibut, 2,336 rockfish, 547 whitefish, 70 sheephead, 54 bocaccio, 14 lingcod, 3 opaleye, 2 rock crab, and 87 spiny lobster (250 released).



CREDIT: EXCEL SPORTSFISHING

Mattson with an example of the large yellowtail that are biting well at Guadalupe Island.

Saltwater: The angler count dropped to another low with just over 600 anglers for the week aboard ½ day local to three-day runs, but the fishing remains solid for those that do get out. That said, the tuna counts dropped off dramatically, with only bluefin reported caught. Conditions offshore had a lot to do with that, though the Chief did well on their 2.5 day run, with 30 anglers scoring 60 bluefin, 28 bonito, and 1 yellowtail while fishing the Cortez Bank and San Clemente Island area. That one trip accounted for most of the tuna, the only yellowtail and a third of the bonito caught for the week.

Rockfish are the winter target for the majority of the short range boats and the bottom-dwellers did not disappoint those seeking them. Even the ½ day trips scored well on rockfish, lings, and sheephead – 10 anglers aboard the Dolphin afternoon

continued on page 71

Run over by dolphins

NAME: HAYDEN GORE

AGE: 42

FROM: OCEAN BEACH

LOCATION: SUNSET CLIFFS

Hayden Gore was heading down the long flight of stairs at Sunset Cliffs when we stopped to chat. Gore first started surfing in South America, six years ago. “I grew up in the middle of the country and the ocean was always a little terrifying to me. But then we moved down to Lima, South America and some buddies of mine took me out. I just immediately realized this was the abiding passion of my life.”

Gore enjoys San Diego surf, despite better conditions in Peru. “[In Lima] it’s a cobblestone break, similar to what you have up in Trestles. They get tons of swell from the Southern Ocean almost everyday. I’ve never seen it flat, and a two-to-three foot day is disappointing. Whereas here in San Diego,

it’s going to be alright. But San Diego is great; the surf culture here is really strong.”

“A couple weeks ago I was up at Moonlight Beach on an easy day, two-to-three foot, and I wasn’t sure if I wanted to paddle out. But I did, and in a few minutes a pod of six dolphins showed up. They were riding waves as they made their way north to where I was, until there were three side-by-side coming right at me while a fourth went right behind me. I had to paddle to get out of the way. But there’s been so many times like that; when you don’t feel like paddling out and then you do, and there’s dolphins out the back or seals in the line-up. It reminds me why I surf.”



Hayden Gore- “There were three side-by-side, coming right at me.”

— Evelyn Grimm

One man’s trash is another man’s surfboard

Dan Mann of Coronado handcrafts high caliber surfboards — some made from another man’s trash. “I have two ‘trash boards’ on order, and I am working to try and refine the process,” he says.

The last trash board he posted on his Instagram account in August sold for “a lot.” He explains, “It’s made from a broken Wavestorm board that I found in the trash cans on Coronado beach... I ran the Wavestorm through a series of cuts to make it fit the dimensions I wanted, and to remove these cheap wooden stringers they have in the middle of them.”

He grinded out the four fin boxes, and molded them into the trash board. He added packing foam of “the same chemistry” as the Wavestorm to add length and thickness. Then he reinforced it with carbon fiber and fiberglass scraps from previous projects. Toward the tail of the board, he affixed a leash cup that was made from a Dasani water bottle cap that he “pulled from the trash can at Whole Foods.”

“I like making things,” Mann said. “I’m cheap, and there is so much trash out there that, with a perspective shift, could be made into treasure... We won’t get out of the trash problem we see around the world by consuming something declared ‘eco’ by its maker. We have to change how we view material and incentivize each other to utilize materials in new ways with new processes.”

— Mike Madriaga

The most macho way to catch a shark

From a January 20, 1977 Reader story by David Helvarg

From the 1870s through the Second World War, San Diego had a thriving shark-catching industry... [Today] albacore and yellow tail remain

continued on page 71



He added packing foam of “the same chemistry” as the Wavestorm



Dan Mann- “it’s made from a broken Wavestorm board that I found in the trash cans.”

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

WATER CONDITIONS

Light winds, small tide swings, and smallish surf should allow for better visibility for divers and snorkelers into and through the weekend. A decent long-period swell should arrive by midday Sunday, with exceptional head-high surf through next week, with Monday-Wednesday looking best for the carvers and shredders. Break out the heavier suits, the water is getting cool out there. Lobster season is open, so boaters should especially keep an extra eye out for divers near the reefs and channel edges, and divers always mark yourselves and area appropriately.

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

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW 62°F HIGH 64°F

VISIBILITY 10’-20’

HARBOR POLICE REPORT

Bee sting at Dog Beach, shoulder injury at volleyball court & pier jumper was found OK.

Oct 13

13:03 Boating: Disabled vessel in Mission Bay Channel. Lifeguard rescue vessel tows disabled boat into turning basin for Sea Tow.

13:11 Medical: 29 year-old female bee sting patient at Ocean Beach Dog Beach. Lifeguard handles and releases patient.

15:57 Medical: Lifeguard responds with medics and fire to Bonita Cove for a man down. Units contact the man and there is no emergency, all units clear.

16:15 Medical: 29 year-old male with a shoulder injury at the volleyball courts at La Jolla Shores. Lifeguard and fire respond, and the patient elopes.

19:40 Swimmer: Pier jumper at Ocean Beach, male, no struggle witnessed but cannot find person. Lifeguards respond along with 2 San Diego police units. Secondary witnesses said the man was seen on the beach and all units go clear.

20:34 Boating: Tony from Tow Boat US reports a 21-foot tuna boat anchored but disabled about 30 yards off the South Channel Jetty tip with 2 persons on board. Lifeguard rescue vessel responds and assists with an emergency tow in to Mission Bay.

I've gone crazy and ordered a breakfast salad

And the bread bowl is not just a cheaper choice on the menu, it's delicious

Body Butter," says the sample the guy's handing out. "Free application," he says. "Step inside."

So La Jolla.

"Not now," I say. Truth is, I'm desperate for

brekky. And also, I wanna to try this place I've heard about. Has a, uh, breakfast salad.

So I carry on down Girard in the beautiful morning sun. (In the shady parts, this street's cooler than a Nantucket ice bucket.) Now heading down to where Girard plunges to sea level. Blue wall of ocean lifts up before you. And it looks like one of the best patios to catch it from is this breakfast salad place, Cody's.

Hmm. Crossing Girard. Like what I see. The house, the patios, and that ocean! One huge topaz saucer. A trawler scratches a white scar across it.

Plus they have a sandwich board on the sidewalk: "Voted Best Restaurant in the..." And they have a chalk picture of the world.

"We may have exaggerated," says Amanda, the *receptionista*. She leads me down to the lower deck. The house itself is an old, gray converted shingle and brick family home. They have an inside room with a bar, but outside is where it's at. Feels almost cantilevered over the ocean.

I sit down under one of the, okay, gray umbrellas (coordinated to be as dull as the housepaint, I guess). But there's an international vibe here. One table's speaking German, another French and Arabic, another Spanish, and the coffee this guy Alex brings me is Hawaiian. Kona. Costs \$4.50, but endless refills.

The menu's on one plastic page. "AM/PM fare served all day," it starts off. Good news. It's past twelve already.

Guy next door's ordering "Cody's Burger." Patrick, here with his wife Wendy, celebrating their seventh anniversary. I check my menu for Cody's

Burger. "Grass-fed beef, aged white cheddar, arugula, onion jam, fancy sauce, \$15," it says. "Add bacon or egg, \$2." For \$14 they have a veggie burger with quinoa and brown rice. Wendy orders two fish tacos for, wow, \$16. But they come with a bowl of chili "served with charro beans." And that's cheap compared to the most expensive item on the menu: lobster roll with fries and coleslaw, \$27.

So, hey, prices. But holiday mood's taking over. And I still have some jingle from payday.

Looking for the breakfast salad I'd heard about. Breakfast salad? You know this can mean only one thing: there's an egg on top.

And that she blows. "Healthy breakfast salad: spinach, market



Alex shows how to extract meat from recalcitrant claw

and yes, two poached eggs.

Of course, they have the whole panoply of breakfast plates, from the "All American" with eggs and spuds or grits, for \$13, to Benedict (\$17), to chicken and eggs and sausage gravy and biscuit (\$16), to crab cake (\$22).



Massive Jonah crab claw is the bonus for crab and corn chowder bread bowl

greens, Sonoma chevre, mushrooms, asparagus, zucchini, tomatoes." It comes topped with a lemon basil vinaigrette



My Breakfast Salad. Eggs are the key, but the white chevre goat cheese gives the flavor

I'm about to order the breakfast salad when my eye catches the "starters" column. "Crab and Corn Chowder," it says, "garnished with bacon and chives." Six bucks for a cup, \$11 for a bread bowl.

"I'll start with that bread bowl," I say. "Filling enough for breakfast?"

"Should be," says Alex.

And actually, it's not just a cheaper choice on the menu, it's delicious, and does go a long way to filling ye old spare tire. And it comes with a surprise: an actual giant east coast Jonah crab claw reaching out from under the bread bowl lid. Looks

like one of those trick arms that creep out and snap back. This one's also holding onto a little fork. And the pair of nutcrackers you get say there's actual meat inside.

The chowder's scrumptious, but the main reason I'd come back for this is the Bread and Cie bread bowl. The dark-tanned crust is crunchy, savory, and with the chowder flavoring its insides, it's the best surprise of the day.

Specially when you get the flavor-bursts of corn kernels you pop with your teeth. And the lemon and chunks of bacon and chopped chives on top twang the flavor up nicely.

The crab claw? I have to fess up to Alex that I ain't that cool. I'll send claw chips everywhere. He cracks it for me. Nice (even though I've always



Broken yolks do add color

been underwhelmed at the amount of meat you get from claws and legs).

But the bread bowl? I could go on tearing down its walls all day. Except, one, I'm drinking too much of their free-refill Kona, and two, I've gone crazy and ordered the breakfast salad (\$14).

The salad's... okay. Good for us? Check. Interesting? Not really. The egg idea adds more to the color than the flavor. And flavor's a little watery. Maybe the lettuce scare has limited their options here to spinach. The chevre goat cheese saves the day somewhat, but I coulda done with a bit more umami. It's the bread from the crab and corn chowder bowl that saves it.

But it has been fun. Yeah, expensive for a country boy like me, but I totally enjoyed eating with the Beautiful People.

So I'm heading for the #30 bus. Pass The Living Room at 1010 Prospect. Sun's on its patio. Figure I'll warm up with one more cawfee. Down the steps, get transfixed by luscious-looking fruit tartlets. Cost \$5.99 each. What the heck. Get one, plus a small coffee (\$2.69). So ten bucks. Take it to the patio, sit among groups of women speaking lively Arabic, next to a couple drinking wine and smoking hubble-bubbles. But, oh man. Be still, my heart. These fruits (whole shiny strawberries, blueberries, peach, grapes, kiwi), plus a layer of custard on the crumbly pastry, make this the perfect ending to the whole La Jolla experience.

Only thing left: my free smearing of body butter? ■

The Place: Cody's La Jolla, 8030 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-459-0040

Hours: 8am - 3pm, daily

Prices: "All American Breakfast," (eggs, potatoes or grits), \$13; Eggs Benedict (\$17); crab cake Benedict, \$22; chilaquiles, \$15; chicken, fried egg, sausage gravy, biscuit, \$16; crab and corn chowder, \$6 (cup), \$11 (in bread bowl); Cody's Burger (patty, cheddar, jam, sauce), \$15; veggie burger (quinoa, brown rice), \$14; fish tacos plus chili bowl, \$16; lobster roll, fries, coleslaw, \$27; breakfast salad (with poached eggs), \$14; granola, \$13

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Not a farmers market

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

Blankets, umbrellas, street food, and sun

Here's an awkward faux pas: I showed up at Lane Field Park Market last Sunday expecting to buy produce. It's not a farmers market.

For one thing, there are no farmers: this weekly market is all about street food vendors. So rather than a fruit and vegetable shopping spree, the point of this event

FEAST!

a Lane Field Park. Serious baseball fans may remember Lane Field as the original, 1936 home of the San Diego Padres. But that ballpark was long since torn down and paved over. Longtime parking lots recently gave way to a couple of big, shiny waterfront hotels opposite the Broadway Pier. However in 2016 a small section in front was set aside to create a grassy field in tribute to the location's baseball history.

The weekly market makes use of this grass, furnishing it with freestanding shade umbrellas, beneath which are laid *falsa* blankets, the striped style of Mexican blanket. The field has been set for a picnic, with games, live music, and food vendors prepared to feed you drinks and snacks.

As I previously wrote, I found raindrop cakes here, which inspired me to eat dessert first. Since many of the foods are served in small portions, I found it easy to try a few different things over the couple of hours I was there.

Another dessert vendor was called Grandma Said No! Here the concept arose from the name-sake grandmother's opinion about eating raw cookie dough. She wasn't a fan, but these kids



A scoop of raw, edible cookie dough mixed with chocolate peanut butter cups and salted caramel.



Pork belly bao served with a cocktail umbrella, eaten on a *falsa* blanket.

is to grab something to eat, then sit down, hang out, and enjoy the park.

Here again: I didn't even realize there was

are. They provide three kinds of edible cookie dough, including brownie or vegan, gluten-free snickerdoodle. I went for chocolate chip, without the chocolate chips.

They mix in the chocolate chips for you. And/or your choice of other toppings, including coconut, marshmallows, almond flakes, oreos or heath bar crumbles. Mine got a combo of chocolate peanut butter cups and sea-salted caramel. It's served scooped into a cup, like ice cream, and you may opt to add vanilla ice cream to your order, or fashion a milkshake. But for sure, cookie dough is the focus here, and my scoop tasted great, but a \$6 small was plenty. I imagine a \$9 large would have dimin-

ishing returns.

It wasn't all sweets. There were booths serving burgers, bacon wrapped hot dogs, seasoned fries, and grilled cheese. And House of Bao, a mother and young son cooking up dumplings with stacks of bamboo steamers. A five spice seasoned pork belly bao proved irresistible, served with mixed greens and a cocktail umbrella. There's a fair amount of pork hidden in that puffy, sticky steamed bun. Not a bad snag at \$4, especially eating it on a sturdy blanket, in the shade, near the bay, with a mix of chili paste and the soy sauce and sesame oil-based dumpling sauce.

by Ian Anderson

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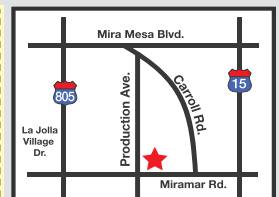
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Calendar RESTAURANT

One more craving

Patisserie Melanie, 3788 Park Boulevard, Suite 4, Hillcrest. It was my wife's birthday and I was on a quest: To find a really superlative chocolate croissant.

Here's the backstory: we got engaged in Paris back in 2000, and one of the other highlights of the trip were the chocolate croissants we found in bakeries and patisseries in

the City of Bites, er, lights.

They were the perfect food: Flaky, buttery and so chocolatey. If we could've adopted them and brought them home, we would have.

Since then, I try to get her chocolate croissants whenever possible, but the ones made stateside have lacked a certain oomph. They aren't as flaky, or as buttery, and while they might be chocolatey, the American ones lacked the balance I found in France.

It's been an 18-year quest, but I managed to find an acceptable version just in



Chocolate croissant.

time for my wife's birthday at *Patisserie Melanie*, located on Park Blvd., just south of University Avenue around



Patisserie Melanie specializes in French pastries, specifically croissants. Chocolate, left, butter croissant, right.

Homemade Food Act which allows business owners to make and sell goodies out of their homes.

It means customers have to take their croissants to go. That wasn't a problem for me

as I wanted to take mine back to my wife.

As promised by the person who recommended them, the chocolate croissants were close to what I remembered, thanks to ample amounts of high-end butter. The price per croissant — \$4.50 each — might seem steep, but consider it the difference between a great glass of pinot noir and a bottle of Two Buck Chuck.

But as much as the chocolate croissants satisfied our 18-year-long jones, I was actually more impressed with two of other items I purchased.

The first was the pistachio croissant: Same flakiness but with honey-like sweetness with just a hint of



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Calendar RESTAURANT

savory nuttiness.

The other goodie is a pastry called a Pepito, which puts the same dough used in the croissant but rolled sort of a like a cinnamon roll and covered with pastry cream and chocolate chips on the top.

The flatter shape of the Pepito made it a better chocolate delivery system than the croissant as each bite got a piece of chocolate with it, although the flakiness wasn't as apparent.

Oh well, I can always use another craving, right?

by Patrick Henderson

Yo quiero gorditas

Gorditas Don Andres, 1903 Highland Ave, National City. If you watched a lot of Taco Bell commercials in the late 90s, you might have been



The picadillo gordita resembles a spicy sloppy joe, in a masa sleeve

left with the impression that gorditas are large tacos made with pitas instead of tortillas. However, like a recent Harris Poll declaring Taco Bell "The best Mexican restaurant" in the U.S., that's at best a re-branding of the truth. In short, the Harris Poll has

about as much credibility as a talking chihuahua.

To enjoy the delicious morsels more accurately described as gorditas, I head over to National City, to a restaurant that makes them a specialty: Gorditas Don Andres. The small, counter

service restaurant stands out on Highland Avenue with a standalone storefront topped by green ceramic tiles and the word "gorditas" in giant orange letters.

Gorditas do resemble tacos, but have only a conceptual connection to pitas: they



Chile relleno with refried beans in a pocket of corn tortillas.

basically apply the idea of pocket bread to corn tortillas. With gorditas, the pressed *masa* forms a pocket to be filled with whatever stewed, braised, or grilled meats and vegetables may be available.

At Gorditas Don Andres, quite a number of options are available, over a dozen, including a choice of usual taco shop suspect such as *carne asada*, *al pastor*, or refried beans, plus

nopales, *chorizo* and potatoes, and tripe served on weekends. Here the pockets are made by fusing together two tortilla discs. One is thicker than a standard corn tortilla, verging on a quarter inch, forming a base. The second, similar in size but thinner, is sealed around the edges of the first, creating a hollow cavity between them, left open on one side for easy stuffing.



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(760) 436-1501



50% off entrée

Get 50% off your second entrée with a purchase of one entrée at regular price. Not valid with other promos, offers, discounts, or specials.



Carmel Valley:
11375 El Camino Real #170
Carlsbad:
2519 Palomar Airport Rd. #101



Get 1/2 Off Any Appetizer

up to \$10
One coupon per table. Valid Mon - Fri



Tony's Sports Bar and Grill
274 Harbor Dr, Oceanside
(760) 433-8466



**\$3.00 Off
Any
Medium Pizza**



285 N El Camino Real #106,
Encinitas
(760) 436-1501



**Buy One Bowl
Get One Free**

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



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



**1/2 Off
Select
Starters**

Offered 7 days a week.

20 | TWENTY

5480 Grand Pacific Drive
Carlsbad, 92008



2-for-1 Small Plates

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

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



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



**Grubby's Taco
Tuesdays**

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



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



**Buy One Flatbread
Get One 1/2 Off**

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



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



Free Pizza

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

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



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



**Buy One Entrée,
Get One Free!**

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



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



2-for-1 Tacos!

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



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



**Buy 2 Entree's and Get a
FREE Appetizer**

1 coupon per visit.
Not valid with any other coupon.
Not valid on holidays.
Expires 12/31/18.



2271 1st Ave
San Diego, 92101
(619) 239-8176



**Buy One, Get One
Complimentary
Breakfast Item**

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



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



2 for 1 Dinner Entree

With the purchase of 2 drinks
Dine in Only
Must be of equal or lesser value
(\$16 maximum)
Cannot be combined with any other offer
One per person & table
Expires 1/1/19



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



**Half-off
appetizers**

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



930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101



**Buy one,
get one free**

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



Café by the Bay

3510 Ingraham St.
San Diego, 92109



**2 for 1 House
Tequila**

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



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

Calendar RESTAURANT

Flavorwise, the resulting dish differs little from a taco, with a bit of upside. There's generally more meat or veggie filling the sleeve than you'd get on a street taco, for example, and more *masa* too. It's a true pleasure to sink your teeth into the nutty savor of that thick bottom tortilla and chew. Given these range from \$2.75 to \$2.95 apiece, they make a good bargain.

If there's any downside to eating a gordita over a taco, it's that they are tougher to handle, making them messier, at least in my hands. To be fair, much of this has to do with my embrace of Don Andres's excellent salsa bar, which also includes cabbage, cilantro, onions, pickled red onions and jalapeños, and squeeze bottles of both avocado salsa and crema. Once I

dressed an already very saucy chicken mole gordita with salsa and fixings, there was little chance the mix of spicy and sweet liquids were going to contain themselves. The seal between tortillas didn't always hold when I bit down, opening a hole in the pocket and spilling some of its contents onto my tray.

I offer this mostly as a warning to the well-dressed. Any who ascribe to the notion, as I do, that messy tacos often make the best tacos, will find it a palatable risk. And some fillings prove messier than others. My *chile relleno* gordita, which included a thick smear of beans, held together well.

My personal favorite is the *picadillo* gordita, featuring a stew of ground beef, red chili, and potatoes. It eats like a spicy sloppy joe. Or, as Taco Bell would call it, a Bell Beefer.

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 15, 2pm; Sunday, December 16, 2pm; La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Annual Hanukkah Party Please join us for a Hanukkah afternoon celebration of food, friendship and entertainment. CATERED BUFFET INCLUDING LATKES: Members \$10 and non-members \$15 Since we have limited seating, please RSVP by Dec. 3. Please RSVP at info@sdjgs.org if you will be attending You may pay Using your PayPal account or a credit card by going to our <http://www.sdjgs.org/calendar.html> Or Mail your check and reservation: to San Diego JGS P. O. Box 927089 San Diego, CA 92192-7089 There will a drawing for a free full year membership to the San Diego Jewish Genealogical Society for all those who purchase a buffet ticket Sunday, December 16, 1pm; \$10-\$15. Lawrence Family

Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Breakfast with Santa Join us for Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast will feature Gingerbread Griddlecakes. Bring in your written letter for Santa and invite your friends. Saturday, December 15, 9am; free. Mimi Cafe, 5180 Mission Center Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Breakfast with Santa Join us for Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast will feature Gingerbread Griddlecakes. Bring in your written letter for Santa and invite your friends. Saturday, December 15, 9am; free. Mimi's Cafe Mira Mesa, 10788 Westview Parkway. (MIRA MESA)

Breakfast with Santa Join us for Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast will feature Gingerbread Griddlecakes. Bring in your written letter for Santa and invite your friends. Saturday, December 15, 9am; free. Mimi Cafe Oceanside, 2177 Vista Way. (OCEANSIDE)

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 16, 9am; \$19-\$49. Decoy Dockside

Dining, 1035 La Bonita Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

Caesar's Restaurant & Downtown Tijuana Tour Join Wild Foodie Tours and treat yourself to a special evening with a 4-course dinner at the legendary Caesar's Restaurant, birthplace of the Caesar salad. Begin with a beverage as you step back in time and admire the memorabilia-adorned walls and reminisce about a bygone era. Next, enjoy bread with tapenade, the famous Caesar salad prepared tableside as it was in the 1920s (or any other appetizer), choice of any entree, and dessert. While there is no dress code, a smart casual attire is recommended as you wine and dine at this timeless restaurant once frequented by Hollywood celebrity. After dinner, finish your night off with a one-hour, guided sightseeing and shopping tour in the heart of downtown Tijuana. Great for date night and first-time visitors. Trip length of 3-4 hours with a walking distance of about 1 mile. \$89. Fridays and Sundays at 5:00 pm. Everything included: 4-course dinner of choice with drinks, a narrated history of Tijuana, sightseeing, shopping, all transportation in Tijuana, and a tour guide. Fridays, 5pm; Sundays, 5pm; through Sun-

day, December 30, \$89. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Christmas Pop Brunch Dust off your ugliest holiday sweater and warm up your Mariah Carey vocals for a Holiday brunch. Enjoy the brunch menu as DJ Mike White blasts holiday beats — Mariah, N'Sync, Bieber, Buble, Madonna—they're all invited to this holiday party. And it's never too early to make spirits bright—our snowed in cocktail menu will feature holiday bevvy's like "Bellinis will be Ringing," "Rudolph's Red Sangria," "Feliz Navidad," "Rockin' Around the Blackberry" and more. Saturday, December 15, 10am; free. Sear-sucker Gaslamp, 611 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Convivial Culinary Caravan It's time for another festive Pop Up dinner experience! Join Cucina Migrante for an unforgettable culinary journey of the Mediterranean and taste rich flavors and cultures of this Region. Enjoy a night of fine pairings and inspiring dishes prepared with local and seasonal ingredients. Our six-tasting food and drink experience will satisfy any palates including veggie, meat and seafood and will be paired with



Buy one, get one free

Buy any sandwich or burrito, get one free.



Café by the Bay

3510 Ingraham St.
San Diego, 92109



3 Rolled Taco Plate for \$6

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



Famoso Mexican Street Food

815 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101



Buy One Entree Get One Half-Off

With the purchase of two drinks. M-F 4-9pm. 1 coupon per visit. Not valid with any other coupon. Not valid on holidays. Expires 12/31/18.



2271 1st Ave
San Diego, 92101

(619) 239-8176



1/2 Off Appetizers

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



699 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA
makesandiego.com



1/2 OFF Tots & Sloppy Joes Every Tuesday!



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



Half-off apps, beers, & bowling

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



930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101



2 for 1 appetizers

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

Dan Diego's Euro Café & Pub

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



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

Beer not included with free appetizer. Dine in Only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. One per person & table expires 1/1/19



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



Buy 1 Get One Free!

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



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



Free shareable appetizer!

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



Mada-Sao Hot Pots

4681 Convoy St, San Diego, 92111



1/2 Off Any Pasta Entrée

Buy any pasta entrée at regular menu price and receive 1/2 off the second entrée of equal or lesser value. (Excludes pizzas and not valid with any other discounts) Expires 1/1/19.



3333 El Cajon Blvd. • 619-743-2371



Free Fro-Yo!

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



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



Buy One Sandwich, Get One 1/2 Off

Over 70 sandwiches to choose from! One discount per person, per ticket. Must mention ad. Tues-Sat, 11:30-4:30, thru 1/30/19 only!



Classic Rock Sandwich Shoppe

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



Free Pasta!

Enjoy a free dish of pasta and your choice of sauce when you purchase any entrée at regular price.

1 coupon per person. Must be presented in order to receive discount. This coupon is not valid for cash back, can only be used once, does not cover tax or gratuities. Cannot be combined with other offers. Dine in only. Expires 12/31/18.



6011 El Cajon Blvd A San Diego, CA 92115

619.265.2700 • pestoitalianrestaurantsandiego.com



Buy 1 Burrito, Get the 2nd for \$2 Limit 1 per person



3130 University Ave (619) 333-9097



Free Crepe

Buy one crepe, get one crepe free of equal or lesser value. Valid after 3pm only. Expires 1/1/19.

refill

3752 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92103



Buy 1 BBQ Entree Get 1/2 Off

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



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



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

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



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



1/2 off a 1 topping pizza

Buy any regular priced pizza and receive a second 1 topping pizza for half-off. Expires 1/1/19.



3333 El Cajon Blvd. • 619-743-2371



Free Fro-Yo!

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



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



Buy one meal, get one free

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



Mada-Sao Hot Pots

4681 Convoy St, San Diego, 92111



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

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



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



Miso Soup - Buy One, Get One Free!

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



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



Buy a Taco Get a Free Quesadilla!

#StreetFoodMadeWithLove Limit 1 per person.



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

Calendar RESTAURANT

the finest wines and beverages from local producers and Mediterranean regions. Come to enjoy a convivial culinary caravan like no other with real food, beautiful friendly people, and uplifting inspiring music and artists in a magical venue by the sea. Let's start the holiday season with love, great memories and new connections. Sunday, December 16, 4pm; \$55-\$130. 21 and up. Cucina Migrante Oceanside, 913 S. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

Gospel Brunch Join us for our new Gospel Brunch experience which includes local talent performing both traditional and contemporary Gospel songs. Before and during the show treat yourself to an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring breakfast favorites plus tender carving stations, southern specialties and desserts. Don't miss our signature chicken and waffles. And if you're in the mood you just might end up on stage waving a napkin and dancing off some of that delicious cuisine. Sunday, December 16, 11am; \$22-\$44. House of Blues,

1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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 Bash at the Beach \$5 U-Call-Its on Most Drinks & Beers - Specialty Holiday-Themed Hot & Cold Cocktails - Jager Ice Luge Racing - \$4 Jager shots - Photobooth with holiday prop box + unlimited printed photos + will auto-upload to all your social media accounts if you want! - Music Videos by VJ Chuck P All Ugly Sweaters and Sexy Santa outfits are welcome - not required. Thursday, December 13, 8:30pm; **free**. Guava Beach Bar & Grill, 3714 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Holiday Tea Spend an afternoon amidst the timeless glamour, sipping loose leaf teas, toasting with a welcome glass of champagne, and savoring Chef's selection of sweet and savory treats. Saturday, December 15, 12pm; \$35-\$59. U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

La Jolla Santa Pub Crawl Join the inaugural La Jolla Santa Pub Crawl! Grab some friends and wear a holiday-themed costume. The event is free to attend, but please bring an unwrapped toy to Hennessey's (feel free to drop off at beginning of the night) - all collections will be donated to Rady Children's Hospital for their young patients. PUB CRAWL SCHEDULE: 6:00pm George's at the Cove Level 2 7:00pm The Spot 8:00pm Jose's Courtroom 9:00pm Hennessey's La Jolla (Toy drop off) Saturday, December 15, 6pm; **free**. 21 and up. George's at the Cove Ocean Terrace, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

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)

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 hand-crafts 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)

Street Food Tour for Foodies Join Wild Foodie Tours for an all-inclusive, fun, gritty, and insightful street food tour in Tijuana! You'll enjoy tastings at 5 food stops, 1 non-alcoholic beverage stop, and 1 dessert stop to taste the best flavors of Tijuana. Other likely visits include the Mercado Hidalgo open-air market and a Mexican bakery. Along the way we'll point out a few of the eateries Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern showcased on their Travel Channel shows. Only \$69! Everything included: food, all transportation in Tijuana, shopping, sightseeing, and a tour guide! Group meets at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. Reservations required. For info and/or to book, visit www.wildfoodietours.com Saturdays, 12pm; through Saturday, December 29, San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Taste 'n' Tinis Hillcrest's 2018 Taste 'n' Tinis shop and taste event features a self-guided tour of the neighborhood filled with delicious drinks, captivating eats, and local shopping. Thursday, December 13, 4pm; Rite Aid, 535 Robinson Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Wine Dinner Series: Prisoner Wine Co Ask and you shall receive! An encore of THE MED's popular Wine Dinner Series has been set for December 13th featuring Prisoner Wines. Prisoner Wines philosophy is to create wines that are thought-provoking and approachable, and the talented culinary team at THE MED has created a thought-provoking and approachable menu to match. Thursday, December 13, 6pm; \$125. La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

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)



Free Gyro Salad

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

Gus's Subs & Pizza

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



Dinner for 4 only \$19.99

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

Fletcher Hills Bottle Shop

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



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

Not valid events or holidays. Dine-in only

Centifonti's
Bar & Restaurant

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



Buy a Taco Get a Free Quesadilla!

#StreetFoodMadeWithLove

Limit 1 per person.



IB STREET TACOS

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



Buy 1 Entrée Get 1 Free!

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



4076 Bonita Rd
Bonita, CA



1/2 off lunch buffet

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



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



Appetizers 1/2 off

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



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



2 x 1 Pepperoni Pizza

Show this ad and get two pizzas for the price of one.



tj.cinetonala.mx
Valid only in December



Tuesday 2 x 1 Fries

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



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

HAPPY HOUR

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

CHULA VISTA

Galley at the Marina: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 well drinks; house chardonnay, cabernet, and merlot; Budweiser, Bud Light, or Shock Top 16-oz. pints, \$6 galley drinks. *Appetizers \$1.99-\$8.99. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-noon:* \$4 well drinks; house chardonnay, cabernet, and merlot; Budweiser, Bud Light, or Shock Top 16-oz. pints, \$6 galley 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 drafts, \$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.

The Blind Burro: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4.50 Buena Cerveza bottles, \$5 wine and wells, \$6 house margarita. \$4.50 fish taco, TJ dog with fries, \$6 bacon-wrapped jalapenos, \$7 Queso Crisp. *Thursday, 3-6pm:* \$4.50 Buena Cerveza bottles, \$5 wine and wells, \$6 house margarita. \$4.50 fish taco, TJ dog with fries, \$6 bacon-wrapped jalapenos, \$7 Queso Crisp. *6-10pm:* \$17 bottomless margaritas.

Blue Point: *Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm:* \$10 specialty cocktails, \$4-5 wine. \$1 oysters. *Saturday-Sunday, 5-6:30pm:* \$5 drafts, wine by the glass, \$10 specialty cocktails. \$1 oysters, \$2 jumbo shrimp, \$10 select bluepoint appetizers.

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2-5pm:* \$1 off drafts, wine, well

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

When bad things happen to good breweries

The San Diego craft beer community was rocked this week by the news two of its best small breweries are in serious trouble.

First, on Tuesday, Rachael and Matt Akin, the husband and wife team behind Benchmark Brewing, announced they are pursuing options potentially to sell their brewery for cash as they try to resolve a landlord dispute, and are at risk of being forced out of their brewing facility as soon as December 13. Wednesday, things got even bleaker, when Liz and Curtis Chism, the married duo responsible for Council Brewing Co., announced their company will close both its brewery locations and go out of business by December 15.

Ironically, the San Diego

Brewers Guild recently released a study showing local craft beer sales as a whole keep rising. It said that in 2017, brewery income exceeded \$900 million, providing a local economic impact over a billion dollars (a larger amount than the San Diego Padres, as the study pointed out).

However, on the ground, economics move way faster than the gathering of statistics, and over the course of this year, cracks have started to show in the craft beer marketplace. As 2018 began, the active brewery count in San Diego county had reached 156. Despite more than a dozen new breweries opening in the months since, the end of Council Brewing could return that number to 156 by year's end. That's because several breweries that had previously been in expansion mode were forced to close this year, including cult favorites Intergalactic Brewing Company, ChuckAlek Independent Brewers, and Toolbox Brewing Company.

Council's unexpected announcement in particular struck beer fans hard. It's been only nine months since the highly regarded brewers added a second facility in Santee. That location will serve its last beers on December 14, while its original Kearny Mesa brewery will close December 15, with discounted beers and special releases as part of a day-long celebration with fans from 11 am till 8 pm.

In a public Facebook post, Curtis Chism explained that increased competition and the rising cost of doing business forced Council to

close. "We had many significant cost increases this year (freight, labor, rent, utilities, etc.) and much lower tasting room/distribution sales due to over-saturation of the brewery market." He added, "we began taking heavy losses part way through the year. As a result, we've had too long

regardless of quality, to chase beers that are new and hard to get.

"The internet is ruining beer," she says, citing social beer review apps such as Untappd, where users earn added cachet for every new beer they rate. "People are seeking out very specific things that are only available in very specific places," Akin adds, noting that beer buyers have followed suit, consistently expecting breweries to come up with the next new hit. "You can't just make beer that's good to drink every day."

The good news is, the Akins aren't done with Benchmark just yet. Matt Akin continues to brew as they search for a way to keep from being forced out of their brewery headquarters, and the business will continue to distribute as long as possible, and serve award winning beer out of its recently opened Bay Park tasting room (4112 Napier Street, Bay Park). They have severed ties with their previous distributor, and signed with a new one, and remain optimistic as they pursue opportunities to remain in business, staying true to their motto to promote the never-boring "beer-flavored beer."

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



A collection of cans from highly regarded breweries in trouble: Council Brewing and Benchmark Brewing

of a stretch of declining sales that we can't sustain any longer."

Rachael Akin says Benchmark has experienced similar pressures, in particular flagging distribution, with outside sales declining 50 percent the past two years. "It's harder to sell a keg than it was five years ago," she says, acknowledging competition has gotten tough. She points to the proliferation of social media culture as contributing to the decline in business, as capricious fans spur each other to bypass familiar brews,

drinks, \$6 margaritas, mai tai, Long Island iced tea, \$5 and \$6 appetizers.

Cafe 21: *Daily, 3-6pm:* Half off craft beer, mimosas, and sangria pitchers.

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

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 well drinks, \$6 draft beers and wines, \$10 specialty cocktails. \$5 tacos (carnitas, fish, steak) with chips and salsa.

Cheesecake Factory Downtown: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select 16 ounce beers, \$5.95 select signature cocktails, well drinks, and wines by the glass. \$5.95 appetizers.

Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3 domestic pints, \$4 select craft pints, \$5 premium wells and house wine, \$6 Jack and Coke, draft mules, draft palomas. \$6.00 jumbo salted pretzels, hummus & pita, mozzarella sticks, hellfire chips, \$7.50 char dog.

Coyote Ugly Saloon: *Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm:* \$2 PBR, \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts, \$5 well cocktails. *Friday-Saturday, 4-7pm:* \$2 PBR,

\$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts, \$5 well cocktails. *7-10pm:* \$3 Bud Light and Corona bottles, \$5 tropic bombs, Jack Fire, and Jameson. *Sunday, 4-7pm:* \$2 PBR, \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts, \$5 well cocktails.

Crab Hut: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$4 draft beers (\$15 pitchers), \$7 house wine, house cocktail, and sangria. \$3 off craft cocktail. 75 cent wings (6 minimum), \$1.50 oysters (5 minimum), \$4 crab poppers, \$5 sausage sliders (minimum 3).

Currant: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$3 to \$13.95 appetizers. *Saturday-Sunday, 9am-2:30pm:* \$15 per person bottomless mimosa, \$7.50 to \$15.95 brunch menu.

Dobson's: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$5 draft beer, \$6 well drinks and house wine.

Double Standard: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3 off glass of wine, cocktails, half off wine bottles, \$5 draft beer, \$1 oysters.

Dublin Square: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. Half off all appetizers. *Sunday, 11am-8pm:* half off all beer, wine, and select

craft cocktails, \$4 wells, half off all appetizers.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: *Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm:* \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3.50 imported bottles, \$4 wells, Irish coffee, \$5 16oz draft beer, house wine, \$5.50 16oz craft draft, \$6 20oz draft, \$6.50 20oz craft draft, \$2 off specialty cocktails. \$3 lamb sliders, black and blue sliders, \$5 Irish potato skins, \$6 chicken tenders, \$9 combo platter.

The Fish Market: *Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm:* \$6.50 select draft beer, \$6.75 well drinks (excludes Margaritas, Martinis & Bloody Marys), \$6.75-\$7 select wines by the glass, \$1.50 Oyster on the Half Shell, \$5.25 Cheesy Garlic Bread, \$7.25 California Roll, \$7.50 Smoked Trout Quesadilla, \$8.25 Salt &

Pepper Calamari, \$8.50 Teriyaki Mahi Sliders, \$8.75 Ginger Lime Prawns.

Florent: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$5 wells, drafts, and house wines, half off share plates.

Flour & Barley at the Headquarters: *Monday-Thursday, 2-6pm, 10pm-close:* \$5 draft beer and Fireball shots, \$6 well cocktails, \$7 wine by the glass, \$10 handcrafted cocktails. *Friday, 2-6pm:* \$5 draft beer and Fireball shots, \$6 well cocktails, \$7 wine by the glass, \$10 handcrafted cocktails. *Saturday, 2-6pm:* \$5 draft beer and Fireball shots, \$6 well cocktails, \$7 wine by the glass, \$10 handcrafted cocktails. *Sunday, 3pm-7pm:* Tecate/Tecate Light, \$4.50 all bottles & draft beer (except Sculpin), \$8 Don Garcia Cadillac margarita/white sangria/Skinny Margarita, \$9 Coronarita, \$3.99 tostada (carne asada or chicken), \$3.99 Esquite, \$5.99 nachos, \$6.99 chips & guacamole.

Funky Garcia's Mexican Restaurant: *Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3pm-7pm:* Tecate/Tecate Light, \$4.50 all bottles & draft beer (except Sculpin), \$8 Don Garcia Cadillac margarita/white sangria/Skinny Margarita, \$9 Coronarita, \$3.99 tostada (carne asada or chicken), \$3.99 Esquite, \$5.99 nachos, \$6.99 chips & guacamole.

Gaslamp Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$4 wells and select drafts. \$2 off wine and specialty cocktails.

Grant Grill: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7pm:* \$7 red, white, or sparkling wine, \$10 martinis. \$2 off lounge cuisine.

Henry's Pub: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 drafts, wines, and wells.

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HAPPY HOUR

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

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 all beers, flights, house wine. \$5 Duck Fat Pretzel Bites, Golden Beet Bruschetta, Boneless Buffalo Wings, Chili Lime Fries, Double Truffle Fries, Crispy Organic Tofu.

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

The Lion's Share: Daily, 4-6pm: \$6 select cocktails. \$4 bruschetta, house popcorn, house-cut fries with parmesan and mustard aioli, \$6 deviled eggs, rabbit sausage, black-eyed pea soup, \$8 wild boar poutine, arugula salad, \$12 antelope sliders, \$10 burger and draft beer.

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 wells 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, \$8 featured martini flights, half-price cheese and chocolate selections.

Meze Greek Fusion: Daily, 3-6pm: \$3-\$5 Greek bottled beer, \$4 off Greek wine, \$5 draft beer and well cocktails, \$6 select vodka, gin, whiskey, tequila, rum.

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

Quad Alehouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 off select drafts and all whiskey, \$3 specialty cocktails. \$3 off appetizers.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Gaslamp: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4.50 any 14-oz. draft, well drinks, fireball shot; \$5.50 Jameson shot, house margaritas; \$6.50 wine by the glass, Jack Daniels, Grey Goose.

Rustic Root: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 local beers and wines, \$6 premium drinks, \$8 cocktails. Appetizers \$4.50-\$7.

Salvatore's Cucina Italiana: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$6 select beer, wine, and cocktail singles (\$10 cocktail doubles). Appetizers \$7 to \$13.

Searsucker Gaslamp: Monday-Saturday, 2:30-6pm: \$6 local craft beer and sangria, \$7 glass of wine and wells, \$9 specialty cocktails. Appetizers \$4-\$12.

Tin Roof San Diego: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Half off all drinks and select appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-2pm: Bottomless mimosas and \$5 bloody mary.

Top of the Market: Daily, Everyday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, with specials on wine, cocktails, draft beer. Indulge in a chilled seafood platter that serves

Set 'Em Up, Joe!

BY JOSEPH O'BRIEN



WENDY MCGLINNEN
Barbusa
1917 India
St., Little Italy
619-238-1917
barbusa.com

Consider the quotidian comforts of the common whiskey flask. The preferred *vade mecum* of serious sippers, this versatile vessel fits in pocket, purse, or petticoat—a genie in a bottle who, at a moment's command, provides instant courage, sudden friendship, or fast and frequent commiseration.

As Barbusa's bar manager Wendy McGlinnen points out, this little friend also has a wild side, which she's captured in a new cocktail—the Caloroso—ready to serve, batched, bunged, and served in a deep-freeze frosted 4-ounce glass flask.

"The Caloroso is really designed to be drunk straight out of the flask for presentation," McGlinnen says, noting that glassware is available upon request, "but I'm also selling the experience of doing something

naughty—like a teenager sneaking a flask into a concert."

With the first taste, customers know why the Caloroso takes its name from the Italian word for "heartwarming welcome."

"You're going to get a warm sensation from the cocktail," McGlinnen says. "It does come off a little spicy and a little sweet with the pepper, the bite of the bourbon, and the sweet of the chocolate bitters."

McGlinnen tentatively places her Caloroso in the Old Fashioned wheelhouse. "You could call it a spicy Old Fashioned," she says. "Its spices definitely make it a cold-weather cocktail."

Still, the Caloroso establishes its own place of residence in the cocktail neighborhood.

"What sets it apart is the bittersweet chocolate coming up the back," she says. "You're going to get the warmth of the cinnamon and chili up front, and then the heat of the bourbon. But the lasting finish comes from the chocolate, which makes you want to take another sip."

BARBUSA'S CALOROSO



- 2 ½ oz. Bulleit or Woodford Reserve Bourbon
- 2 dashes Ancho Reyes Chili Liqueur
- ¾ oz. Fee Brothers' Aztec Chocolate Bitters
- 1 ½ oz. Honey Simple Syrup*

Combine ingredients in jar, chill in freezer overnight, pour into glass (or stainless steel) 4 oz. flask, seal, place flask in freezer for half-hour to an hour; when ready to use, garnish flask's neck with tiny chili skewered and wrapped in orange peel.

* Macerate chilies and cinnamon, add to saucepan of water, bring to boil, simmer for 45 minutes, strain, add honey to liquid; chill before using.

- 2 cups Water
- 2 medium dried Ancho Chili
- 2 ½ Cinnamon Sticks
- 1 cup Wildflower Honey

up to four, as well as half Maine lobster, dungeness crab, jumbo prawns, mussels, littleneck clams, and oysters. Serving in the bar, rooftop deck, and chef's counter.

Topside Kitchen & Bar: Daily, 3pm-6pm: \$6 craft beer, \$7 well cocktails, \$8 seasonal wine selections.

Vin de Syrah Wine Parlor: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 5-7pm: \$7 well cocktails, draft beers, featured wines, and housemade sangria (red or white).

Werewolf American Pub: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 drafts, house wines, and wells. 50% off appetizers.

Whiskey Girl: Monday, 3-7pm: \$4 well drinks, drafts, house wine. \$5 select appetizers. Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 well drinks, drafts, house wine. \$5 select appetizers. Sunday, 10am-2pm: \$4 local beers, \$5 mimosas, \$6 Tito's American Mule, \$9.99

bottomless mimosa, \$10-\$15 brunch menu.

The Whiskey House: Daily, 4-7pm: \$4 house wines, \$4 Staropramen or 16 oz PBR beer, \$5 Moscow mule or whiskey sour, and a shot of house whiskey to any beer for \$1. Appetizers 50 cents to \$6.

EAST VILLAGE

BeShock Ramen & Sake Bar: Monday, 3-6pm: \$3 Sapporo draft, \$4 well drinks, \$5 sake, \$6 cocktails, \$7 glass house wine. \$3 edamame, \$3 Beshock buns, \$4 garlic edamame, \$5 salmon skin roll, pork taco, \$6 fried calamari, \$7 roasted mussels. Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 Sapporo draft, \$4 well drinks, \$4 and \$5 sake, \$6 cocktails, \$7 house wine, \$3 edamame, \$3 Beshock buns, \$4 garlic edamame, \$5 salmon skin roll, \$6 roasted brussels

sprouts, \$7 fried calamari, roasted mussels.

Bootlegger: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm-7pm: \$5 wells and calls, house wines, and draft specials. \$5 small plates. Tuesday, 11am-1:30pm: \$2 tacos. Thursday, 11am-1:30pm: \$10 build your own burger and domestic draft. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-1pm: \$14.95 bottomless mimosas, \$10-\$12 brunch menu.

Bub's at the Ballpark: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 select local drafts, \$5 wells, half off wings and red baskets, seasoned fries, onion rings, regular or sweet potato tots, and chips with salsa and guacamole. Specials not valid on Wednesdays, home game days or during special events.

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop: Monday-Friday,

3-6pm: Half-off all well spirits, signature cocktails, house wine, drafts, and small bites.

The Deck at Moonshine Flats: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 2 for 1 Buena Cerveza, \$5 we-call-its.

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$4 domestic pints, wells, \$5 premium pints, margaritas, house wines, half off ballpark pretzel and select appetizers. Sunday, 10pm-close: \$4 domestic pints, wells, \$5 premium pints, margaritas, house wines, 1/2 off select appetizers.

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday, 7-9pm: \$6 signature cocktails. Friday-Saturday, 5-9pm: \$6 signature cocktails.

Half Door Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 house beer, well wine, well cocktails, \$7 specialty cocktails. \$5 fried goat cheese, truffle



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

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- \$3 Cheese Quesadillas,
- \$4 Bacon Dog & French Fries,
- \$5 Half Order Nachos



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1/2 Off Drink Menu Cocktails

Power Hour 9-10pm



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Ocean Beach, CA 92107



\$3 select draft

\$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, Mission Beach
858-999-0419

fries, mac & cheese, \$6 pretzel bites, \$7 ahi tuna taco, \$9 sausage flatbread.

Lotus Thai: Monday, 11am-close: \$3 drafts, \$5 select appetizers. Tuesday-Friday, 11am-3pm; 5pm-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$5 select appetizers. Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$5 select appetizers. Sunday, 3pm-7pm: \$5 select appetizers.

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.

EL CAJON

El Cajon Grand: Monday, Noon-close: With military ID, \$3 domestic beer, well drinks, \$1 off craft/import beer and call drinks. Tuesday, Thursday, 3-6pm: \$3 domestic beer, well drinks, \$1 off craft/import beer and call drinks. Wednesday, Noon-close: \$3 domestic beer, well drinks, \$1 off craft/import beer and call drinks. Friday, 9am-1pm: \$4 shots/drinks Jack Fire or Fireball.

The Junction Steakhouse & Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half off all alcohol and appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-5pm: Half off all alcohol and appetizers.

The Landing: Monday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all margaritas and micheladas. Tuesday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all tequilas. Wednesday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all whiskeys. Thursday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all vodkas. Friday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all gin. Saturday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks, \$1.00 off all bottled beer. Sunday, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks. Bottomless mimosas \$10, bottomless Bloody Marys \$15.

Main Tap Tavern: Monday, 3-6pm: \$6 lunch specials. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$4.50 appetizers. \$2.50 fish

tacos. Wednesday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$4.50 appetizers. Friday, 3-6pm: \$4.50 appetizers. All day \$4 shots. Saturday, 3-6pm: \$5 meatball sandwich. Sunday, 3-6pm: \$3 Bloody Marys and mimosas.

ENCINITAS

Bier Garden Encinitas: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2 off craft beer, libations, house wine. \$2 off select smalls. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-2pm: \$2 off Bloody Marys until noon, \$15 champagne bottles. \$10 to \$18 brunch menu.

Blue Fin Sushi Bar: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-6pm: 40% off beer, sake (hot and cold) excluding Kubota Hekiju, Kabota Hekiju, and XL bottles, \$2 off glasses of wine, \$5 off bottles of wine. 40% off appetizers and sushi rolls.

D Street Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 beer of the month, wells, \$6 house wines.

Encinitas Ale House: Monday, 4-6pm: \$2 off premium drafts and select wine, half price all appetizers. Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off premium drafts and select wine, half price all appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-3pm: \$15 endless mimosa with brunch purchase.

Firenze: Daily, 4-6:30pm: \$2 off all wines by the glass, all cocktails, \$1 off all beer.

Roxy Encinitas: Monday, All day: \$4.50 drafts, \$5 wells, \$7 house wine, \$2 off small plates and craft cocktails. Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4.50 drafts, \$5 wells, \$7 house wine, \$2 off small plates and craft cocktails.

Union Kitchen & Tap: Monday, 3pm-2am: \$2 off beer pints, wine glasses, craft cocktails, \$3 Pacifico. \$9.95 meatballs, \$10.95 dry rubbed wings, flatbreads, \$12.95 frito misto, gumbo, \$14.95 shrimp & grits, big eye tuna poke. Tuesday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$2 off beer pints, wine glasses, craft cocktails, \$3 Pacifico. \$9.95 meatballs, \$10.95 dry rubbed wings, flatbreads, \$12.95 frito misto, gumbo, \$14.95 shrimp & grits, big eye tuna poke.

HILLCREST

Akinori Sushi: Daily, 5:30-7pm: \$.99 small hot sake, \$2.50 draft beer, \$7.50 sake combo (beer and sake), \$12.50 draft beer pitcher. Appetizers \$6.95 to \$12.95.

The Buffalo Public House: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 off all drafts, \$5 cocktails. Thursday, 4-close: \$2 off all drafts, \$5 cocktails.

Chocolat: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$2 off wines by the glass.

Empirehouse: Monday, 3-6pm: \$3 off burger and beer. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$5 wine plates. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$10 off all bottles of wine. Thursday, 10am-9pm: \$5 drafts all day. Friday-Sunday, 3-6pm: Mimosa bottle special.

FruitCraft Fermentery & Distillery: Daily, Members (\$29 monthly): All day \$5 glass of wine, glass select fermented drinks, \$8 cocktails. 10 percent off menu items.

Hachi Ramen: Daily, 3-6pm: \$3 Sapporo, \$4 hot sake, \$5 wine or daily cocktail special. Deals on bites like teriyaki pork buns and chicken & shitake, as well as \$3 edamame, \$4 dumplings.

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage: Monday, 4-close: \$5 beer, \$6 wine, \$8 cocktails, \$10 8-oz martinis. Appetizers \$6-\$13. Tuesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: \$5 beer, \$6 wine, \$8 cocktails, \$10 8-oz martinis. Appetizers \$6-\$13.

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

The Project Bar & Grill: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 beer, wine, wells, half off wings. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$5 beer, wine, wells, half off wings. 6pm-close: \$5 keep-the-pint-glass while supplies last.

Refill: Friday-Sunday, 4-8pm: \$5 all wine, beer, mimosas.

Trust: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: \$6 wines and beers, \$7 cocktails. \$2 off bar bites. Friday, 4-7pm: \$6 wines and beers, \$7 cocktails. \$2 off bar bites.

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: Daily, 2:30-5pm: \$6 beers, sangria, margari-

tas, cosmos, mai tai, and wines by the glass. Appetizers \$6-\$10.

The Salty Frog: Monday-Thursday, 2-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts and \$3.50 wells, 10% military discount. Friday, 2-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts and \$3.50 wells. Sunday, \$5 Make-your-own Bloody Mary bar, 10% military discount.

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

LA MESA

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine. Sunday, 1-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine.

LITTLE ITALY

Puerto la Boca: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only. Sunday, All day: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only.

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

Devine Pastabilities: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-6pm: Reduced price beer of the day. \$1 off all appetizers, free breadholes with purchase of beer or wine. Tuesday, 4-close: \$4 any beer. 4-6pm: \$1 off all appetizers, free breadholes with purchase of beer or wine.

Georgia's Greek Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$5 California wine. \$5 appetizers: dol-



\$5 Pints

Weekdays before 6pm.



Border X Brewing

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Half-Off all tequilas

\$5 all drafts & bottled beers, wells, house wines, house margaritas, Guavaritas, and Moscow Mules. 20% off all appetizers. Mon-Fri, 3-6pm.



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Mission Beach, 92108



\$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.



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50% Off Wine

Select Wines are 50% Off.
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HAPPY HOUR

mades, falafel, feta and olives, tzatziki, spicy feta, gigantes.

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.

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: \$5 drafts and bottled beers, wells, house wines, house margaritas, Guavaritas, Moscow mules. half off all tequilas, 20% off all appetizers. Friday, 3-7pm: \$5 drafts and bottled beers, wells, house wines, house margaritas, Guavaritas, Moscow mules. half off all tequilas, 20% off all appetizers.

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 14oz drafts, \$6 22oz

drafts, \$6 Sandbargaritas and hai tai'd. \$4 tacos. Sunday, 10am-2pm: \$25 bottomless mimosas (includes food item).

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

The Rabbit Hole: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$5 select local drafts, \$6 glass of wine, specialty cocktails. Saturday-Sunday, Bottomless bubbles until 2pm.

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.

Dunedin New Zealand Eats: Daily, 3-6pm: \$5 on select wines

and beers. \$5 pretzel bites & jalapeno cheese, chicken skewers (fried or grilled), pita and hummus, lamb sliders, calamari & peppers.

HOPE 46: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: \$2 off drafts, wine by the glass, \$4 wells cocktails (restaurant service only).

Jayne's Gastropub: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: \$1 off draft beer, \$3 off regular cocktails, \$5 Guinness. \$6-\$8 appetizers.

One Door North: Daily, 4-6pm: \$1 oysters, \$6-\$12 appetizers.

Polite Provisions: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$5 bourbon draft shot, \$6 cocktails, sparkling wine.

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

Waypoint Public: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 drafts, \$7 select wines by the glass.

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Cafe: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$3 for 20oz domestic beers,

wells, house wine, half price pitchers, \$3 appetizer samplers.

Gianni Buonomo Vintners Winery and Tasting Room: Friday, 5-7pm: \$5 glasses of Sangria, Viognier, Symphony, and all white wines, \$7 select glasses of red wines. \$10-\$14 rotating selection of apps.

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

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

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

Winstons Beach Club: Monday-Friday, 1-6pm: \$3 wells.

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

OLD TOWN

Alamo Mexican Cafe: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:30-6:30pm: \$2.25 Bud and Bud Light draft, \$3 Dos Equis amber and lager, Pacifico draft, margaritas, well drinks, red and white wine. Tuesday, 2:30-6:30pm: \$2.25 Bud and Bud Light draft, \$3 Dos Equis amber and lager, Pacifico draft, margaritas, well drinks, red and white wine. \$2.75 beef and chicken tacos. Thursday, 2:30-6:30pm: \$2.25 Bud and Bud Light draft, \$3 Dos Equis amber and lager, Pacifico draft, mar-

garitas, well drinks, red and white wine. \$2.75 tacos all day and night. Sunday, 9-12pm: \$2.25 Bud and Bud Light draft, \$3 Dos Equis amber and lager, Pacifico draft, margaritas, well drinks, red and white wine.

Café Coyote: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3:30-6pm: \$4 select draft beers, \$6.50 specialty shots, \$7.50 Coyote Gold margarita, \$8.50 strawberry, pomegranate, or pineapple chipotle margarita. \$3 all tacos other than shrimp (\$4 shrimp). Tuesday, 3:30-6pm: \$4 select draft beers, \$6.50 specialty shots, \$7.50 Coyote Gold margarita, \$8.50 strawberry, pomegranate, or pineapple chipotle margarita. \$3 all tacos other than shrimp (\$4 shrimp).

Casa Guadalajara: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off draft beer and La Terre wines, \$3.95 house margaritas and well drinks.

Fred's Mexican Cafe Old Town: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 3-6pm: \$1 off all drafts, \$5 well drinks. \$3 chingaderas, nachos, rolled chicken tacos (3), quesadilla, cheesy fries.

Home & Away: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off glass of wine, draft and bottled beer, well drinks, \$3 to \$6 off specialty cocktails. \$2.75 tacos.

Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half off well drinks and selected appetizers.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4.50

any 14-oz. draft, well drinks, fireball shot, \$5.50 Jameson shot, house margaritas, \$6.50 wine by the glass, Jack Daniels, Grey Goose.

Sushi Tadokoro: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 5-6:30pm: \$2.50-\$3 draft beers, \$5 wine. Thursday, 5-6:30pm: \$2.50-\$3 draft beers, \$5 wine..

PACIFIC BEACH

Ambrogio15: Daily, 4:30-6pm: \$4 local craft beer or house wine, \$15 biodynamic (organic) wine flight. Appetizers \$4 to \$10.

Backyard Kitchen & Tap: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 Bud drafts, \$4 Modelo drafts, \$5 select local drafts, house wine, well drinks, \$7 featured craft cocktail. Appetizers \$5 to \$11.

Bare Back Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$6 craft beer, house sangria, mules. \$6 munchies including chicken tenders and shrimp skewers.

Barrel Republic: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: All taps 20% off. Wednesday, 3-9pm: All taps 20% off.

Cabo Cantina: Monday-Friday, Noon-8pm: Two-for-one drinks. Saturday-Sunday, 4-8pm: Two-for-one drinks.

Café Athena: Daily, 3-6pm: All bottled beer \$3.75 to \$4.25, wine by



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the glass \$5 to \$5.50. Small plates \$3.75 to \$9.50.

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

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

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

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

SD Taproom: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off draft beers, cocktails, wines. \$2 off appetizers.

Tavern at the Beach: Monday-Friday, 3-8pm: Half off all drinks. \$6-\$13 appetizers. Saturday, 11am-2pm: \$7 Skyy bloody marys and specialty drinks, \$15 champagne bottle with mimosa bar. \$9-\$15.50 brunch menu. Sunday, 11am-6pm: \$7 specialty drinks.

Tidal: Daily, 4-6pm: \$6 draft craft beers, \$8 glass of wine, cocktails.

The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: Tuesday-Sunday, 6-7pm: \$4 draft wines, \$5 draft beers, well drinks, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$3 pata-

tas, \$5 huevos de toro and fish tacos, \$6 fritti misto.

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

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.

SOLANA BEACH

Carruth Cellars: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$3 off glasses, \$5 off bottles of wine.

Chief's Burgers and Brew: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off drinks and select food.

Crush: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$3 off wine by the glass, wells starting at \$6, \$10 cocktails. 10pm-midnight: \$10 margherita or pepperoni pizza, \$5 draft beer.

The Fish Market: Monday, 3:30-9pm: Wine and well drinks \$5.50; seafood specials. Tuesday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$6.25 wine and well drinks; \$6.50 well margarita or bloody Mary, \$4.50-\$8.75 seafood specials. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm: \$6.25 wine and well drinks; \$6.50 well margarita or bloody Mary, \$4.50-\$8.75 seafood specials.

Pamplemousse Grille: Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$5 well drinks, 40% off all wines by the glass, specialty cocktails.

Pillbox Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, wines, specialty drinks. \$5 select appetizers & plates. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-4pm: \$9-\$14 brunch menu.

SORRENTO VALLEY

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$5 all beers,

flights. \$5 all appetizers, including Duck Fat Pretzel Bites, Golden Beet Bruschetta, Boneless Buffalo Wings, Chili Lime Fries, Double Truffle Fries, Crispy Organic Tofu.

WineSellar and Brasserie: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$1 off all cocktails, draft beers, and wines by the glass. Appetizers \$3-\$16. Friday, 4-9pm: \$1 off all cocktails, draft beers, and wines by the glass, martinis are buy one, get another for half price. Appetizers \$3-\$16.

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.

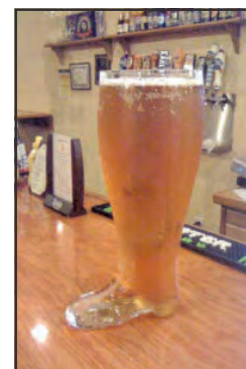
Small Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts, well cocktails. Saturday-Sunday, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts, well cocktails. 10am-2pm: \$15 to \$18 brunch menu.



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blurt the inside track

Bangs bash “Many in El Cajon and La Mesa are committed to making this an annual event, kind of like a Mother Goose Parade for rock music aficionados,” says Raul Sandelin, organizer of the First Annual Lester Bangs Birthday Bash at Hooley’s La Mesa on Friday, December 14. “Many of the people involved are Lester’s friends from El Cajon Valley High School, the same social group that produced Iron Butterfly.”

Sandelin sees the annual event as an extension of his documentary film about the late writer, *A Box Full of Rocks: The El Cajon Years of Lester Bangs*.

“Lester became rock music’s most important writer just as rock journalism was emerging



Lester Bangs from El Cajon Valley High School yearbook.

as a new literary sub-genre. It was a literature for the baby boom generation. Writing magazine articles had always

been an established medium, and teenybopper mags had entertained teenagers for a generation. But rock journalism combined print journalism with fanzine sensibilities that appealed to the youth of the 60s and 70s.”

Bangs (played by Philip Seymour Hoffman in *Almost Famous*) occasionally performed with a high school band known as Thee Dark Ages, alongside future Beat Farmer Jerry Rane and Glory guitarist Jack Butler. Both musicians are performing at the Birthday Bash. “We’re doing period-correct music as an acoustic trio with Evans Kontopuls,” says Butler.

“Although he was never actually a member of Thee Dark Ages, Lester was an honorary bonus player who would roll into our house band gig at the Hi Ho Club in El Cajon, where Parkway Bowl

is today, resplendent in his floor length coat, kind of an early Country Dick character, and we would call him up to play harp on a Yardbirds rave-up or some other loose jam song. While no virtuoso on harp, his level of energy, often receiving an extra boost from Romilar cough syrup [reportedly Bangs’ favorite intoxicant], would knock everybody out.”

“He was thinking punk rock years before it started, he kept telling us that we should shave our heads and change our name to the Goons,” remembers Jerry Rane, who co-wrote several songs for *Box Full of Rocks*. “Jam Tonight’ is about him getting ready to come play with the band. ‘They Call Us the Goons’ is us imagining that we took his advice and went nuts. He was always rebellious about church, school, and top 40 music.”

“He got himself kicked out of gym class and replaced it with study hall, and somehow managed to get off an hour earlier than the rest of us. He was brilliant.”

— Jay Allen Sanford



Tats, cleavage, pompadours — The Stilettos have it all.

Brylcreem roots

Founded by former Navy SEAL Greg McPartlin 36 years ago, McP’s in Coronado is probably most famous for being the favorite local watering hole for current and former Navy SEALs. Or for being the place where former Minnesota governor and ex-wrestler Jesse Ventura was assaulted by a former SEAL in a nationally famous bar fight.

But it’s also a place that gives Tommy Price, a self-styled rockabilly greaser, a chance to live in San Diego and work full time as a musician. Price is grateful McP’s gave him a chance to play his

stripped-down, first generation proto rock. “They let me play there once a month since 2000.”

On Tuesday, November 20, Price and his roots rockin’ trio The Stilettos played the wake for McPartlin at McP’s. McPartlin, 69, recently succumbed to an aggressive form of liver cancer. “Greg was like family,” says Price, who was raised in Baltimore and moved to San Diego in 1997. “Greg was also an ordained minister and he actually married us in 2007.”

Price and wife Tina Star share vocals in the Stilettos. “Greg officiated at all the weddings for his bartenders and

(continued on page 52)

Observatory NORTH PARK SAN DIEGO, CA

BIG GIGANTIC FRI, DEC 14	THE WHITE BUFFALO SAT, DEC 15
THOM YORK MON, DEC 17	HIPPIE SABOTAGE THU, DEC 20
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NAO SAT, DEC 29 & SUN, DEC 30	NAO SAT, JAN 19

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Monday December 17: Back Track 7pm Happy Hour All Day!
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waitresses.... After we played [at the wake] everyone told stories about Greg for an hour and a half. When we played there Greg would always tell us he was joining the band and then get up sing 'Dang Me' [by Roger Miller]."

Live music will continue at McP's says Price, who now sports a pompadour and wears jeans rolled up at the bottom — an homage, to his roots rock/Elvis DNA. "When I was 13 I was a little greaser. I was always into motorcycles, and had the rolled-up t-shirt and Brylcreem."

The Stiletto released an all-original album *Walkin' Down the Boulevard*, in 2010. But Price says it was just too hard to round up other players to play his original music live. That's why live Stiletto shows revolve around Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Stray Cats.

When he arrived 21 years ago, San Diego was "a whole lot less crowded." But worse for a musician: "Everybody played for free. We had to go out and hit the bricks and find paying gigs." Price says after finding those gigs at the Barefoot Bar, Hennessy's, and Kelly's, he discovered you could pay the rent by celebrating basic rock. The Stiletto now play regularly at Henry's Pub, Prohibition Lounge, Mc P's and Tio Leo's.

Price admits he doesn't

necessarily relish the rockabilly tag. "When they call us that, we say we are more rock than 'billy. All we really do is play rock 'n' roll as it was played when it first started. We are all about Buddy Holly and Johnny Cash with a kick in the butt. This music is something that doesn't go away. It's what got the kids dancing in the '50s. It's fun to dance to and this music will never go out of style."

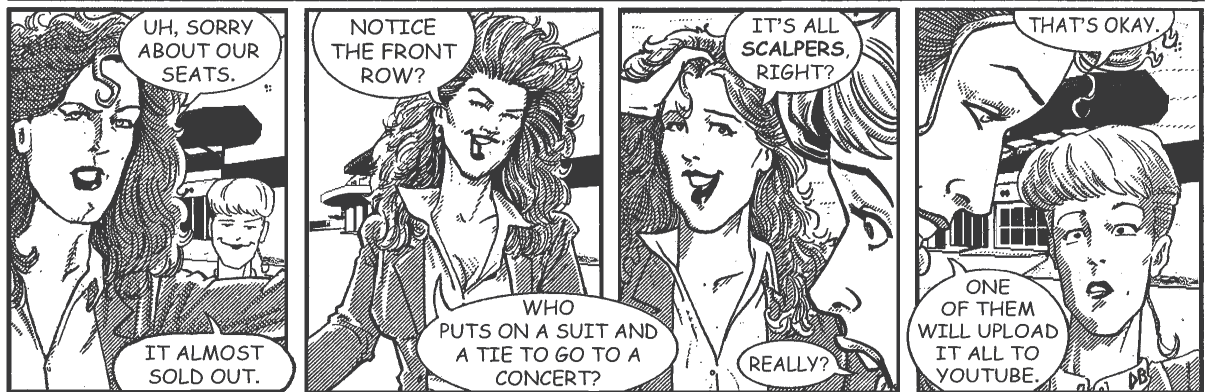
The Stiletto, with stand-up bassist Alberto Gonzales, appear at Ebullition Brew Works in Vista Saturday, December 15, at Henry's in downtown San Diego Tuesday, December 18 and at McP's in Coronado December 21 and 23.

— Ken Leighton

Pop punk pusher Quan Nguyen recently found two new members to play in his fledgling pop-punk band, Cinematic Century. It wasn't as easy of a search as he had anticipated.

"It was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be, actually. You would think that being in Poway/San Diego where the current state of pop-punk was really solidified — you would think it would be easy to find other people who are into the same music we are. Before going into this, I would have thought the finding a bassist or a drummer would have been a lot harder. But it turns out finding a guitarist is a lot harder for us," Nguyen said.

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Nguyen has been interested in pop-punk since he discovered Green Day's *American Idiot* when he was 12 years old. The album began a love affair with pop-punk music that eventually led him to Blink-182 — his favorite band. He has a tattoo of the Blink-182 smiley-face logo on his forearm, his Facebook profile picture is a shot of him with former Blink-182 singer/guitarist Tom DeLonge, and he has even set-up camp in their hometown — Poway.

"Remember that Blink-182 song 'Josie'? How they talk about eating at Sombbrero? I live like five minutes from there. I eat there all the time. In the bathroom there's Blink-182 graffiti all over the place," he said.

While Nguyen's devotion to the genre has remained strong,

the overall numbers have been dropping. After 24 summers, The Vans Warped Tour (which

SOMA is changing its format to accommodate the kids who are more interested in hip-hop.

The question now becomes whether or not pop-punk should be placed on the endangered-genre list.

"Just because the genre's not in the forefront of the mainstream right now doesn't necessarily mean it's dead," Nguyen explained. "The Warped Tour ended early this year. A lot of bands had attendance totally decrease at their shows this year, but there are still a lot of bands metaphorically carrying the torch. Now it just seems like pop-punk is

returning to the underground ethic that made punk famous in the first place."

Nguyen mentioned Welsh,

pop-punk band Neck Deep's album *The Peace and the Panic* reaching number four on the Billboard 200 as a sign of life for the genre. He also has hope for the kids that are still showing-up at the concerts. Some come with their parents, some come on their own.

"I think that it could be time for a revival for the whole genre. I've been to both smaller pop-punk shows and bigger ones — like Blink-182 and Green Day. I still see a lot of kids that are younger than me who are really into the music. The kids are inspired to pick-up a guitar and start their own band," Nguyen said.

— Dryw Keltz



Quan Nguyen with his hero Tom DeLonge.

prominently featured punk, metal and emo acts) shut down operations this year, and even local punk stronghold the

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

THU. DEC. 13 EYES SET TO KILL Rest Repose, Avoid, Blackcast, Hollow Stage	BRICK X BRICK	THU. JAN. 24 RUBY THE HATCHET With Special Guests
FRI. DEC. 14 SCOUR Nukem, Thrown Into Exile, Eukaryst		FRI. JAN. 25 PRIMITIVE MAN 16, Cave Bastard, Sixes
FRI. DEC. 21 ADELITAS WAY Approaching Fiction, Thread The Lariat	SAT. JAN. 19 SUMAC Divide And Dissolve, Tashi Dorji	SAT. JAN. 26 CORROSION OF CONFORMITY Crowbar, Weedeater, Mothership
FRI. JAN. 4 INSANE CLOWN POSSE'S VIOLENT J AND ESHAM Sylint, Izzy Projectz, FATTBOY	SUN. JAN. 20 REAGAN YOUTH Midnight Track, D.V.T., VFMS	SUN. JAN. 27 TONY MACALPINE Monte Pittman, Loner, RDG, Taz Taylor Band
FRI. JAN. 18 JUDAS PRIESTESS Cowgirls From Hell, 2 Hot 2 Handle	WED. JAN. 23 MARTY FRIEDMAN Immortal Guardian, Nightshadow	WED. JAN. 30 MICHAEL ANGELO BATIO With Special Guests

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WEDNESDAY • DEC 12 BERNHOF AND THE FASHION BRUISES MOOREA MASA AND THE MOOD	Casbah COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 619-232-HELL • casbahmusic.com	WEDNESDAY • DEC 26 DJ ARTISTIC'S HIP HOP BATTLE BOT
THURSDAY • DEC 13 THUMPASAURUS DANI BELL AND THE TARANTIST		THURSDAY • DEC 27 HAIL HAIL RAZOR NIGHTS CON-TACT
FRIDAY • DEC 14 FU MANCHU BOSSWITCH		FRIDAY • DEC 28 THE PALADINS BIG SANDY & HIS FLYRITE BOYS THE TIGHTEN UPS
SATURDAY • DEC 15 FU MANCHU • -(16)-		SATURDAY • DEC 29 GET BACK LORETTA THE HEAVY GUILT SHANE HALL NENA ANDERSON
SUNDAY • DEC 16 JMSN • AUGUST 08		SUNDAY • DEC 30 LOUDSPEAKER 30 PRESENTS THE GREAT ELECTRIC QUEST THE BASSICS THE PETTY SAINTS THE OXEN
MONDAY • DEC 17 THE SOFT MOON HIDE • LINGUA IGNOTA		MONDAY • DEC 31 THE SCHIZOPHONICS THE CREEPY CREEPS THE WIDOWS SCARY PIERRE
TUESDAY • DEC 18 BULLFIGHTERS PUSHIN' ROPE IRISH EYES		
WEDNESDAY • DEC 19 AVIATOR STASH ARIEL LEVINE THE FRETS HEADPHONE		SATURDAY • DEC 22 DIRTY SWEET BAND OF GRINGOS ALVINO AND THE DWELLS
		SUNDAY • DEC 23 EL VEZ MERRY MEXMAS
		MONDAY • DEC 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD.

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MUSIC BOX



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
BEEBS AND HER MONEY MAKERS**

**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**



SATURDAY

**NICKY GENESIS
WINTER WONDERLAND
CAZZTEK
HOTFIRE
WHIPLASH**



**DEC
22**



SUNDAY

**THUNDERCAT
ZACK FOX**

**DEC
23**

JUST ADDED

**Bar1ne and Friends (late show) 12/29 • Sage the Gemini 1/16
No Kings, Aviator Stash, MDRN HSTRY, Coral Bells 1/24 • Passafire 2/7 • Red Not Chili
Peppers 2/16 • Bailo 3/21 • Las Cafeteras 4/12 Metalachi 4/19 • Com Truise 4/27**

COMING SOON

12/27 Poolside	1/18 Rob Garza DJ set (of Thievery Corporation)	2/14 A Queen Musical w/ a Ballet Twist ft. Brian Justin Crum (seated show)
12/28 An-Ten-Nae	1/19 Zoso: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience	2/15 The Soul Rebels w/ The Routine
12/29 La Empresa Tour ft. Grupo Corrupta, Estevan Plazola	1/20 Tom Gun Live! (seated show)	2/17 Kongos
12/30 Steely Damned 2 Holiday Show (seated show)	1/21 Parquet Courts w/ Snail Mail	2/20 Justin Nozuka (seated show)
12/31 BoomBox NYE Show	1/22 Emily King	2/22 Brasstracks
1/4 Electric Mud	1/25 Ozomatli	2/27 Darlingside w/ special guest River Whyless (seated show)
1/5 The Winehouse Experience	1/26 Ozokidz feat. Ozomatli (matinee)	3/9 You Me At Six w/ special guest DREAMERS
1/10 Mimi Zulu	1/26 Johnny Clarke, Tabby Diamond, and Ken Bob	3/14 Yung Gravy
1/11 Dirtwire	2/1 Poncho Sanchez	3/24 Matt Nathanson
1/12 Tommy Emmanuel feat. John Knowles (seated show)	2/2 MadeinTYO	4/4 The Havana Cuba All-Stars
1/12 Kaleena Zanders and FriendZ (late show)	2/8 Katchafire	4/7 Mt. Joy
1/17 Lost Kings	2/9 The PettyBreakers and Desperado	4/11 Space Jesus

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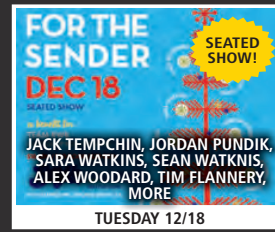
EST. 1974



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



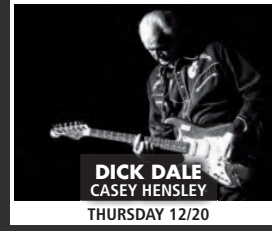
EARTHLESS
FEAT. MAD ALCHEMY LIGHT SHOW
VOLCANO
SUNDAY 12/16



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



**AN EVENING WITH
THE VENICE
CHRISTMAS SHOW**
WEDNESDAY 12/19



DICK DALE
CASEY HENSLEY
THURSDAY 12/20



**BEATLES
VS
STONES**
CHRISTMAS SHOW
SATURDAY 12/22



CASH'D OUT CHRISTMAS
GRACEBAND
SUNDAY 12/23



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



**KARL DENSON'S ANNUAL
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KARL DENSON'S TINY
UNIVERSE**
SPECIAL GUEST Z-TRIP
THURSDAY 12/27



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

**TWO
NIGHTS!**



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

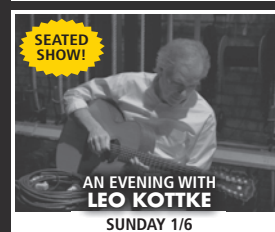
**NEW
YEAR'S DAY
SHOW!**



**AVIATOR STASH,
IMAGERY MACHINE,
BELLADON**
THURSDAY 1/3



BEAT FARMERS HOOTENANNY
THE FARMERS, JESSE HUGHES
OF EAGLES OF DEATH METAL,
MIKE WATT OF THE MINUTEMEN
JOEY HARRIS & THE MENTALS
SATURDAY 1/5



**AN EVENING WITH
LEO KOTTKE**
SUNDAY 1/6

**SEATED
SHOW!**

JUST ADDED! Richard Thompson Electric Trio 1/28 - pre-sale 12/12
Makana & Shawn and Lehua 3/10

Upcoming Shows:

12/12 Colter Wall - Sold Out!	1/25 & 26 The English Beat	2/23 Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday
12/17 The Soft Moon @ Casbah	1/27 Ana Popovic	2/24 Albert Hammond Jr.
12/21 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	1/29 Sergio Mendes	2/27 Coco Montoya & Tinsley Ellis
12/21 Eric Rachmany - Sold Out!	1/30 Tower of Power 50th Anniversary	2/28 & 3/1 The Wood Brothers
1/4 Queen Nation and Erotic City (Prince tribute) - Sold Out!	1/31 Turkuaz	3/1 Lettuce @ Observatory
1/8 Bill Champlain and Wunderground (seated show)	2/1 Jacob Banks	3/2 Pine Mountain Logs
1/9 & 10 Eric Burdon & The Animals	2/2 Vaud and the Villains	3/3 The Marshall Tucker Band - Sold Out!
1/11 Wild Child (The Doors tribute)	2/4 & 5 Blackberry Smoke	3/5 Twiddle w/ special guest Yera Terra
1/12 Amen Dunes	2/6 North Mississippi Allstars	3/15 & 16 Super Diamond
1/14 Paul Thorn	2/7 Joan Osborne sings the songs of Bob Dylan	3/21 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (seated show)
1/15 The Maggie Salute w/ special guest The Stone Foxes	2/8 Groundation	3/22 The Spazmatics
1/16 Daring Greatly	2/9 Tainted Love	3/28 Galactic ft. Erica Falls
1/17 The Infamous Stringdusters	2/10 Joshua Radin	3/30 Donna Missal @ Casbah
1/18 DSB (Journey tribute)	2/12 Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra (seated show)	3/31 Black Moth Super Rainbow
1/19 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers	2/15 Dead Man's Party Valentine's Weekend Show	4/3 Al Stewart (seated show)
1/21 & 22 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue	2/16 ALO	4/7 Buddy Guy
1/23 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave - Sold Out!	2/17 Los Lonely Boys	4/7 Ten Fé @ Casbah
1/24 Big Head Todd & The Monsters	2/19 Mark Hummel's Golden State & Lone Star Blues Revue ft. Anson Funderburgh (seated show)	4/9 Jimmie Vaughan
	2/22 The Mother Hips	4/28 White Denim
		5/4 Wayward Sons
		5/10 & 11 Jefferson Starship
		5/21 Idles
		6/1 Snarky Puppy @ House of Blues

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JUST ANNOUNCED

I realize that all the morbid online dead pools are betting on the upcoming tours by 76 year-old Paul McCartney (coming to Petco Park June 22), John Prine (now 72), and/or the Rolling Stones (70s-and-up) as frontrunners for Most Likely to End in Death (some pools include the purported farewell trek by Kiss, but only if Peter Dinklage rejoins). It's hard to count anyone out of the concert game, though, when one notes that 80 year-old **Gordon Lightfoot** is already booking dates



GORDON LIGHTFOOT AT BALBOA THEATRE ON MARCH 13

well into next year, including a short spring tour that brings him to the Balboa Theatre on March 13. It's his first time playing the restored downtown hall, after spending the last decade favoring Humphreys and occasionally the Belly Up, but the storied stage would seem best equipped for his whispery brand of storytelling folk, especially with its acoustically superb sound. It's also one of the few venues downtown (other than Spreckels and Symphony Hall) even older than Lightfoot. "We love to work while the sun shines," says Lightfoot in the tour announcement, "because the night will come when you may no longer work. That was from Dylan. I love doing the shows. The ship of state is still afloat, and I've still got the vocal, and the desire." Hopefully, that means he hasn't tired of doing the requisite biggies from 1970 to 1976 that everyone will expect and demand, such as "If You Could Read My Mind," "Sundown," and his own

masterwork of morbidity, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

Heroin and Helicopters, the first new album from **Citizen Cope** in seven years, doesn't drop until March 1, but he's already announced a headline tour that includes a March 30 date at Observatory North Park. The lead single, "Justice," is streaming online, a sunny bit of psychedelic pop that kicks off like a late-60s Beatles track, all vintage synths and baroque horns.

Things grow even more Beatlesque as he sings happily of how "I found this brand new light, something within me all my life." All that's missing is the "goo-goo-katchoos" as he slips into a melted mantra of how "Yeah, still my love will be received, better yet still

my heart is in need of release." The last few times the Washington DC singer-songwriter, now based in Los Angeles, played our city, it was either as a solo or duo act. This time, he'll be accompanied by a full band in order to bring to life an album that he says deals with his "personal struggles with religion, political manipulation, hollowness in the entertainment world, and spiritual enlightenment."



CITIZEN COPE AT OBSERVATORY NORTH PARK ON MARCH 30



AL STEWART AT BELLY UP ON APRIL 3

Al Stewart is another performer now in his 70s whose setlist, by popular demand, is punctuated by his own 1970s heyday hits, most notably "Year of the Cat" and "Time Passages," which by themselves account for several million records sold. He's been associated with the annual music lineup at Humphreys since the outdoor venue's earliest seasons, though he also began turning up at the occasional nearby casino a few years ago. Earlier this year, he did

a classic album performance at the Belly Up that apparently made all concerned very happy, because the Solana Beach club is bringing him back on April 3 for what's being billed as a Greatest Hits Show. Pretty much all of his non-album concerts for years have qualified as greatest hits presentations, seeing as how his only full-length over the past decade was a live album. However, consider that the Glasgow-born folk rock troubadour recorded nearly 20 studio albums between 1967's *Bedsitter Images* and *Sparks of Ancient Light* in 2008, and nearly every one of those releases spawned a "hit" somewhere in the world, so there's a fairly broad potential for setlist selections. The possibilities are even more expansive due to this tour including his full backing band, the Empty Pockets, who accompanied him for the classic album performances staged on his previous tour.

The folks who book the county fair each year at the Del Mar Fairgrounds usually announce the majority of

headliners all at once, most of them free with admission. This year, they're rolling out the announcements one by one, perhaps because next year's slate seems to include more ticketed events than usual (though most concerts do match the free seating with a small selection of reserved premium tickets). The newest confirmed booking is **Toby Keith** on June 14, on the Corona Grandstand Stage. It's only his second time at the Fair (he usually plays Chula Vista), and last year's



TOBY KEITH AT DEL MAR FAIR-GROUNDS ON JUNE 14

appearance was cited by many as the highlight of the annual event. From "Should've Been a Cowboy" to "Red Solo Cup," few country acts know how to build, grow, and maintain a faithful audience for as long and successfully as Keith has. If you think going from huge outdoor arenas to a county fair is some kind of career digression, you obviously haven't been to a fair-ground concert lately. There are legacy acts putting their grandkids and great-grandkids through college with the cash earned between booths hawking fried Oreos and funnel cakes. To "end up" on a Del Mar grandstand stage is no more of a failure than taking a break between full-lengths to release a greatest hits album. When that many people are offering you money to hear the same hits over and over, giving the people what they want is more sell-through than sellout.

— Jay Allen Sanford

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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

All Souls' Episcopal Church:
Friday, 7pm — Peninsula Singers: An American Holiday. Free.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Chloe Lou & The Liddells.

Balboa Theatre:
Monday, 8pm — Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Windham Hill's Winter Solstice.

Bancroft:
Friday, 9pm — Kitty Plague and Go Man Go.

Beaumont's:
Friday, 9pm — Gusto.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 8pm — Robert Cray. \$42-\$74.
Sunday, 8pm — Earthless. \$20-\$24.

Monday, 8pm — The Soft Moon and Hide. \$15-\$27.
Tuesday, 8pm — For the Sender Holiday Show. \$18-\$32.
Wednesday, 8pm — Venice Christmas Show.

Black Cat Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, 8pm — Scour and Nukem.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Wednesday, 7pm — Irish Christmas in America.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Thumpasaurus. \$10-\$12.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Fu Manchu. \$15.
Sunday, 8pm — JMSN.
Wednesday, 8pm — Ariel Levine and Aviator Stash.

Cheers Bar & Grill:
Saturday, 9pm — Josie Day Band. Free.

Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church and Academy:
Saturday, 5:30pm — Friends Christmas.

Ché Café:
Thursday, 7pm — Thou and MJ Guider. \$15.

City View Church:
Friday, 7pm — The Katinas. Free.

Club M:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Roman Palacios. \$20-\$100.
Saturday, 8pm — Winter Wonderland Ball. \$10.

Congregational Church of La Jolla:
Saturday, 2pm — Holiday Tales V: Traditions Of The Season. \$10-\$12.

Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD:
Saturday, 5:30pm — Christmas Utsav: a Desi Christmas Party.

Country Club Senior Center:
Sunday, 2:30pm — Holiday Barbershop Choral Concert. Free.

Courtyard Marriott at Liberty Station:
Saturday, 7pm — Hillcrest Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert. \$25.

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, 8pm — Keefer Blues and Radd Co.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:
Sunday, 7pm — Tucker, Patton, Sprague & Friends. \$20.

Downtown Café:
Saturday, 6pm — Brown Sugar.

Ebullition Brew Works:
Friday, 6pm — The Taryn Donath Trio. Free.

Encinitas Library:
Wednesday, 12pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Famous Mexican Village:
Friday, 8pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

First Presbyterian Church:
Sunday, 7pm — Christmas by Candlelight. Free.

Flying Pig Pub & Kitchen:
Sunday, 1pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Friday, 5:30pm — Gilbert Castellanos, Mike Wofford & Dean Hulett. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:
Friday, 8pm — Lester Bangs Birthday Bash.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:

OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Even though the calendar proves otherwise, the members of Fu Manchu, a San Clemente band that dates back to the 1980s, seem not to have aged much. Still sporting the Vans skater gear and way-long hair and hard-rocking songs influenced by Blue Cheer and Black Flag, Fu Manchu still have the collective agility of 18-year-olds. They come with the same guitar-driven rock and roll that has stayed the course through 11 of their own albums now, and their stage show remains unchanged. If the Fu Manchu ethic appears cliché to a newcomer, remember that this is one of the bands that invented that particular slice of rock history. Stoner rock, called 'desert rock' in some circles, is its own entity.

The mother of all stoner rock is blues

music. Of course, American blues begat everything from jazz to the kind of hybrid blues-rock that Jimi Hendrix and Big Brother and the Holding Company and the Airplane were making by the end of the 1960s. Led Zeppelin, when they were new, were bluesier than many will remember. Amplifiers got bigger, rock concerts got louder, and the electric guitar bumped off rock's first weapon of choice, the saxophone. Distortion was the new rule, and that's where bands like Fu Manchu came in. Their psychedelic sound of distorted electric guitar, driving electric bass, and power-kicked drums gave us our first glimpse of stoner rock.

The primitive aspects of stoner rock are key to its popularity. Stoner rock sounds like anyone could play it, (which was part of the sonic protest that was original garage rock, and later, punk.) And no one stayed up late to write lyrics such as these: "Summer girl / free and easy / she came to me / like a sum-



FU MANCHU

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GILHOOLEY

mer breeze." Broken? No. This is one musical dinosaur that didn't go extinct.

FU MANCHU: Friday, December 14 and Saturday December 15, Casbah, 619-232-HELL, 8:30 p.m., \$15

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

Friday, 8pm — Camino Paz.
Saturday, 9pm — Kevin Begin.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 7pm — Robert Allen Shepard. Free.

Friday, 7:30pm — Mac Powell & the Family Reunion. \$35-\$100.
Saturday, 7pm — Graham Gillot Duo. Free.

Sunday, 11am — Gospel Brunch. \$22-\$44.
Sunday, 7:30pm — The Regrettes and Welles.

Tuesday, 8pm — Ministry.
Friday, 7pm — Robin Henkel. Free.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, 5pm — Y3K Happy Hour. Free.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:
Friday, 8pm — Love Actually In Concert.

Saturday, 8pm — San Diego Symphony: Noel Noel.
Sunday, 2pm — Family Concert Series: Noel Noel.

King of Kings Lutheran Church:
Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 3pm — Angel Alert. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.

Friday, 6pm — Roman Palacios.
Saturday, 6pm — Los Reyes.

Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, 6pm — Elliott Lawrence.

Wednesday, 6pm — David Owen.

Lucy's Tavern:
Saturday, 9pm — Sonic Tonic.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:
Friday, 8:30pm — Sonic Tonic.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Thursday, 8pm — Amy & Freddy Christmas. \$30.

Sunday, 5:30pm — An Evening of Holiday Magic. \$49-\$59.
Monday, 8pm — Shawn Ryan & the Kelly Park Band. \$20.

Wednesday, 8pm — Ty Herndon. \$35.

Mediterraneo:
Saturday, 8pm — Amy & the Unknown. Free.

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá:
Saturday & Sunday, 7:30pm — Christmas Candlelight Meditation. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, 9pm — Nemesis. Free.

Moonshine Beach:
Friday, 8pm — Young Guns.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — James Allen.

Friday, 8:30pm — Wonderdogs.
Saturday, 4pm — Adrienne Nims.

Saturday, 8:30pm — The Nkd Shorts.

Music Box:
Thursday, 7pm — La Santa Cecilia. \$25-\$30.

Friday, 8pm — Lyrics Born and Zion I. \$20-\$22.
Saturday, 9am — Daybreaker. \$35.

Sunday, 6:30pm — Anuheha. \$25-\$27.
Wednesday, 8pm — Fishbone: Crazy Glue Xmas. \$25.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Saturday, 12pm — Robin Henkel.

Navajo Live:
Friday, 7pm — Car Radio.

Saturday, 9pm — Copycat Killers.
Wednesday, 8pm — Two Reverends & A Sinner.

Observatory North Park:
Monday, 7:30pm — Thom Yorke.

Panama 66:
Saturday, 7pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Friday, 7pm — Wrex the Halls: Death Cab For Cutie, more.

Prohibition:
Saturday, 9pm — Frankie T. & the Triple B.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Saturday, 6pm — Heal Your Soul. \$10-\$40.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Gary Hoye's Rockin' Holiday Show.

Red Door Restaurant & Wine Bar:
Thursday, 5pm, Friday, 6:30pm, Sunday, 5pm — Sheila Sondergard. Free.

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Saturday, 6:30pm — Salvador Padilla. **Free.**

Rosie O'Grady's:
Saturday, 9pm — Reverie Noise and The Touchies.

San Diego State University:
Wednesday, 5:30pm — Apna Christmas.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — Middle Kids and the Shacks. \$15.

Friday, 8pm — Death Valley Girls. \$10-\$12.

Saturday, 8pm — Proxima Parada. \$10-\$12.

Sunday, 8pm — Roosevelt. \$17-\$20.

Monday, 8pm — Void Vator, Mezzoa, Amigo. \$7.

Tuesday, 8pm — Vera Sola. \$10-\$12.

Soma:
Saturday, 7pm — Queen Naija. \$18.

Soul of Yoga Sound Institute:

Saturday, 6pm — Benefit Concert for Fire Victims.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
Friday, 6pm — Raúl Prieto Ramirez. **Free.**

St. Elizabeth Seton Church:
Sunday, 4pm — La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Christmas Messiah Community Sing. \$10-\$18.

St. Michael's by-the-Sea:
Sunday, 3:45pm — A Festival of Lessons & Carols. **Free.**
Tuesday, 3:45pm — Caroling at Carlsbad By The Sea. **Free.**

Tio Leo's:
Saturday, 8pm — Crown City Bombers and Hot Rod Lincoln.

Tower Bar:
Sunday, 8pm — Scattered Guts.
Wednesday, 8pm — Neko-Neko and Good Time Girl.

VFW Don Diego 7420:
Friday, 7pm — Brown Sugar.

Viejas Arena:
Thursday, 7pm — Barry Manilow.

Westfield University Towne Centre:
Saturday, 6pm — King Taylor Project. **Free.**

Wholly Crepe Restaurant:
Friday, 7pm — Jazz-ish Trio. **Free.**

Winstons Beach Club:
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

UPCOMING SHOWS

BNS Brewing & Distilling:
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Flipside Burners Ugly Sweater Contest. **Free.**

Balboa Theatre:
Friday, Dec. 21 — A Peter White Christmas. \$38-\$75.

Baumont's:
Thursday, Dec. 20 — Dave Gleason.

Friday, Dec. 21 — Pollinators.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Part Time Model.

Belly Up Tavern:
Friday, Dec. 21 — Eric

Rachmany. \$25-\$44.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Beatles vs Stones. \$20-\$35.
Sunday, Dec. 23 — Cash'd Out.

Brick by Brick:
Saturday, Jan. 19 — Sumac and Tashi Dorji.

Casbah:
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.**

Cheers Bar & Grill:
Saturday, Dec. 22 — New Dogs Old Tricks. **Free.**

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Sunday, Dec. 23 — Flipside Burners. **Free.**

De Oro Mine Co:
Friday, Dec. 21 — Frankie T. & the Triple B.

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, Dec. 21 — FX5.

EVE Encinitas:
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Amae Love, Krista Richards, Shantaya Boneja. \$15.

Ebullition Brew Works:
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Chris Fast Band. **Free.**

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Friday, Dec. 21 — Sherry Williams, Bob Boss & Rob Thorsen. **Free.**

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JAN 15, 7:30PM A Brief History of "New Music"

All music was "new music" once; plenty of now-familiar pieces once seemed startling and strange (and if we listen deeply, they can still sound startling and strange!). This chamber concert brings together four pieces written across nearly 250 years: first, one of Haydn's early string quartets, through which he breathed new life into string quartet form; next, Schoenberg's passionate early work *Transfigured Night*; John Adams's jubilant *Shaker Loops*, a piece that gathers the joyous energy of Minimalism into an ecstatic dance; and finally, the meditative *Its Own Accord*, composed just last year by "Hearing the Future" festival curator and MacArthur winner **Matthew Aucoin**.

JAN 24, 6:30PM* | JAN 25, 8PM JAN 27, 2PM

Matt's Playlist: Echoes of the Future

Enjoy the concert version of a playlist curated by composer-conductor **Matthew Aucoin**. "Matt's Playlist" shuffles music written in radically different times and places and allows us to hear music in new ways and discover new and unexpected connections between new music and music written centuries ago — all of which looks ahead to the future. Internationally acclaimed baritone **Rod Gilfry** makes a special appearance to sing selections from Aucoin's own opera, *Crossing*, based on the poetry of Walt Whitman.

*One-hour Rush Hour concert without intermission.

JAN 10, 8PM Payare Conducts Mozart and Tchaikovsky

Rafael Payare's first concert as Music Director Designate features Mozart's Overture to *Don Giovanni* and Strauss's *Don Juan* along with the lovely concerto for cello by Tchaikovsky.

JAN 13, 6PM Were You There*

Bass-baritone Davōne Tines channels some of America's most prescient voices, from the words and melodies of African-American spirituals to the poetry of Walt Whitman, in this meditation on society today. *This performance takes place at The Sandbox.

JAN 19, 8PM Beyond the Score®: Symphonie fantastique

This multi media presentation takes an in-depth look at Berlioz's life — his struggles and his passions — and concludes with the performance of *Symphonie fantastique*.

JAN 11, 8PM | JAN 12, 8PM JAN 13, 2PM

Payare and Weilerstein

Acclaimed cellist Alisa Weilerstein performs Britten's Symphony for Cello and Orchestra in this program that includes Shostakovich's great Symphony No. 10.

JAN 18, 8PM | JAN 20, 2PM The Young Romantics

Michael Francis conducts this concert featuring the romantic works of Mendelssohn, Liszt and Berlioz.

JAN 26, 8PM Generation Next: Hearing the Future of Jazz

Gil Castellanos curated this program featuring some of today's most creative and innovative young jazz musicians.

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House of Blues:

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.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

Friday, Dec. 21 — San Diego Symphony: Noel Noel.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — San Diego Symphony: Noel Noel.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — San Diego Symphony: Noel Noel.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Rick Ross.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Whitney Shay.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — David Burnham. \$35.

Merrow:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Imiuswi Aborigine. \$12-\$15.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, Dec. 21 — Still Around. Free.

Moose Lodge Oceanside:

Friday, Dec. 21 — Winter SOULstice.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Steelehorse Country.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Bonneville 7. Free.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — The Jamacha Project.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — The Boatrockers.

Music Box:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — A Berkley Hart Christmas. \$30-\$35.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Christmas haters, back off

"I hate Christmas music" is a phrase I've heard often over the years. What's to hate? Three-four time? Angels? Babies? The rebirth of the sun?

I'm going to poke the dragon of PC-culture and suggest that Christmas is the perfect holiday and that the music has been there since the beginning.

For the entirety of recorded history, December 25 has been the most important day in the cultures north of the equator. For the record, 68 percent of the Earth's landmass is in the Northern Hemisphere and the vast majority of the cultures we have records of are from the north.

Why is December 25 so important? On December 21 the sun enters its "grave." It appears stuck from the 22nd

to the 24th. On the 25th it begins to ascend again. That's a big deal. Imagine primitive humanity observing the sun slowly disappearing for no apparent reason.

There are no guarantees that the sun will begin ascending again. Every year they waited three days for the sun to rise again, and when it did, there was a big celebration. There was confirmation that life would continue.

Yes, the stories of Jesus and Osiris rising from the dead after three days go along with the winter solstice, even though Easter is in the spring. The significance of being dead for three days comes from the winter solstice. Both Jesus and Osiris were born on December 25 of a virgin.

All this to say that Decem-

ber 25 has been the day of days forever. But what of the music?

"They stay up all night singing hymns to the idol with a flute accompaniment...And they carry the image itself seven times around the innermost shrine with flutes, tambourines and hymns, hold a feast, and take it back down to its place underground. And when you ask them what this mystery means, they reply that today, at this hour Kore — that is, the Virgin — gave birth to Aion." (Epiphanius, *Panarion*, 22,9)

Epiphanius, writing in the 4th Century AD, described this musical ritual which was held in Alexandria over the night of December 24. The music was crucial to December 25 celebrations at least



caption

1700 years ago.

Here's the very true thing about Christmas. It's already multicultural. December 25 is important in European, Middle Eastern, African, Indian, and Chinese cultures. If you're not into December 25, you're not a progressive, you're an a-hole — unless you're Jewish.

Every year, December is

stuffed full of music, from Handel's *The Messiah* and Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* to Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* to Frank Sinatra or Bing Crosby singing *Silent Night*. The music makes the season, and the history of all humanity is tied to December 25. So why not go with it? Nay, why not celebrate it as if your life depended on it?

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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.

Navajo Live:

Friday, Dec. 21 — Divad and Fused.
Saturday, Dec. 22 — Clapton Hook.

Sunday, Dec. 23 — Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Free.

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.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:

Sunday, Dec. 23 — Tinkersmith. Free.

Ocean Beach Playhouse:

Thursday, Jan. 10 — Springboard West Music Festival.

Friday, Jan. 11 — Springboard West Music Festival.

Saturday, Jan. 12 — Springboard West Music Festival.

Old Town Temecula Community Theater:

Friday, Jan. 11 — Infinite Floyd: A Pink Floyd Experience. \$22-\$35.

Saturday, Jan. 12 — Hollywood U2. \$22-\$35.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Saturday, Dec. 29 — OMFG! NYE. \$100-\$110.
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Monday, Dec. 31 — OMFG! NYE. \$100-\$110.

Wednesday, Jan. 9 — Disturbed and Three Days Grace.

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Friday, Dec. 21 — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Saturday, Dec. 22 — Miss Demeanor. Free.

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Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:

Saturday, Jan. 5 — Rough Riot, Rattz, Symbolic.

Friday, Jan. 18 — Southern Reign and Artimus Pyle Band.

Red Door Restaurant & Wine Bar:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Gina Sobel.

Friday, Dec. 21 — Jinnah Williams. Free.

Saturday, Dec. 22 — Salvador Padilla. Free.

Thursday, Dec. 27 — Gina Sobel.

Friday, Dec. 28 — Jinnah Williams. Free.

Sunday, Dec. 30 — Gina Sobel.

San Diego Repertory Theatre:

Friday, Dec. 21 — Yale Strom's Broken Consort: Winter Shminter.

Seaside Center for Spiritual Living:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Winter Solstice Drumming Celebration. Free.

Friday, Dec. 21 — Drumming in the Light: Winter Solstice. \$20-\$25.

Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa:

Monday, Dec. 31 — Family Friendly New Year's Eve Speakeasy Bash. \$50-\$130.

Soda Bar:

Saturday, Dec. 22 — Pulley and Versus the World. \$15-\$20.

Thursday, Dec. 27 — Sol Orchard and the Values. \$6.

Friday, Dec. 28 — Hideout and Heavy Hawaii. \$10.

Saturday, Dec. 29 — Keepers and Sixes. \$5.

Sunday, Dec. 30 — La Beat Cantina. \$7.

Monday, Dec. 31 — Weatherbox and Pistolita. \$15-\$20.

Friday, Jan. 4 — Elektrik Voodoo and Rally Club. \$8.

Friday, Jan. 11 — The Undercover Dream Lovers and Boyo. \$10-\$12.

Monday, Jan. 14 — Mother Mother. \$15.

Friday, Jan. 18 — Dent May. \$10-\$12.

Soma:

Saturday, Jan. 19 — As It Is. \$15.

Space:

Thursday, Dec. 20 — Lumerians and JUUUUUU. \$12-\$15.

Springhill Springs Marriott:

Saturday, Dec. 22 — Peppermint Candy Holiday Party & Ciroc Tasting. \$25-\$300.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:

Friday, Jan. 18 — The Hutchins Consort: Hawaiiana. \$15-\$35.

Tower Bar:

Friday, Dec. 21 — This Ain't Bethlehem.

Tuesday, Dec. 25 — The Idiot Bombs and Worth.

Thursday, Dec. 27 — Sad Dance Party.

Monday, Dec. 31 — Hey Chels and Civil War Rust.

Saturday, Jan. 19 — Brendan Kelly and Ricky Schmidt & the Stupid.

Turf Supper Club:

Sunday, Jan. 6 — Leonard Patton & Ed Kornhauser.

Vistal:

Monday, Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve Festivities. \$89-\$125.

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Saturday, Jan. 5 — King Taylor Project. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 16 — King Taylor Project. Free.

Westgate Hotel:

Monday, Dec. 31 — Julio De La Huerta & Band. \$129.

Witch Creek Winery Carlsbad:

Sunday, Dec. 30 — Cowboy Jack. Free.

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Arrivederci, Roma

A bucketful of soap suds splashes across a row of tiles, transforming a square of garage floor into a mirror awash with the reflection of an airplane hovering in the sky above. The long take goes on to reveal Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), the maid whose job it is to rinse away the dog crap before its master and her employer, Dr. Antonio (Fernando Grediaga), returns home from work. If a film were to be judged solely on its opening shot, *Roma*

would handily deserve to take home all of this year's best picture honors.

Alfonso Cuarón's (*Y Tu Mamá También*, *Children of Men*) curtain-raising quest to eke poetry out of life's most mundane corners consumes but three minutes of a 135-minute running time. It's a brilliant setup for what's to come, but the two hours that lie ahead find moments of schematized repetition that border on gimmickry and cause the mind to disengage and begin drifting almost as much as Cuarón's camera. Round and round the interior scenes it goes, where the oscillating lens stops, nobody knows.

Every night when the doc squeezes the Ford Galaxy into the narrow parking garage, his family greets him like a soldier returning from battle. Purposely withholding the identity of the driver, Cuarón covers every inch of the auto, inside and out, right down to the cigarette ash that falls to the floor when the brakes finally grind to a halt. What exists is a grey little nothing of a man, fed up with his marriage and poised

to take it on the lam with another woman. His wife Sofia (Marina de Tavira) is not alone in her misery. She soon learns that Cleo is carrying the child of a brute who wants nothing to do with her, and therein lies the rub. The black-and-white 'Scope images have the makings of a fine coffee table book, but at 24 fps, very little about these characters and their soap opera existence is compelling to watch. Sure, there are flashes of nude samurai-play, an earthquake in a maternity ward, and a bedroom wall adorned with mounted heads of beloved pet pooches, but there's not enough forcible human emotion to provide needed balance.

MOVIES



Roma: Signature pose from Alfonso Cuarón's Oscar-bound trip down memory lane.

Cuarón not only wrote and directed this semi-autobiographical tale of middle class life in Mexico City at the dawn of the 70s, he also acted as the film's producer, cinematographer, and co-editor. Cuarón shot a series of shorts in the early 80s, followed by a brief stint lensing episodic television. This marks his first time photographing a narrative feature. It's also another sterling example of the conductor falling in love with his hands.

After watching *The Favourite*, I surmised that Agios Vasilis — aka "Greek Santa" — brought Yorgos Lanthimos a fisheye lens for Christmas. He wasn't alone. Cuarón must have pulled up on the lap of a similar department store Kringle. Either that, or they both awoke Christmas morn to find Blu-rays of John Frankenheimer's ode to the 9.7mm lens *Seconds* stuffed in their stockings. In both cases, overuse of the wide angle lens becomes oppressive,

with the edge going to Cuarón, whose fluid, albeit monotonous circular pans at least strive for something more than mere camera confection.

Take the scene in the back row of a grand old thousand-seat movie palace. Set just as Gerard Oury's *La Grande Vadrouille* is reaching its final fade, Cleo informs her boyfriend Fermin (Jorge Antonio Guerrero) that she is "carrying life," as a nurse later puts it. Unfazed, Fermin uses his bladder as



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 21

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an excuse to make an early exit, leaving her alone and distressed. Not for a second was I caught up in Cleo's dilemma. What hooked me was the sense of nostalgia associated with the ancient practice of drawing the travelling-curtains together as the closing credits played over them.

Even though the scene takes place long before the climax, it's best that I issue a SPOILER ALERT! Cleo and the family grandmother visit a local department store to pick out a crib for the baby. A steady military presence in the streets prefigures the spectacularly staged riot that breaks out on the street below. The one-two punch of coincidence that follows — Fermin's participation in the violent insurrection is revealed, causing Cleo to moments later break her water — is the type of plotting one expects from a *Telenovela*, not a film garnering this much critical attention.

A question of cinema sticks in my mind, the asker of which I have long ago forgotten. People always bandy about the term “beautifully photographed,” but can a bad film truly be beautifully photographed? While *Roma* is far from bad, shouldn't cinematography and direction go hand in hand? Always the first to rail against directors who rely on closeups for a crutch, I find myself equally under-

whelmed by a film composed almost entirely of medium to long shots. Call it a case of hello fisheye lens, *arrivederci Roma*.

—Scott Marks

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

Bohemian Rhapsody — Substantive biopic, or little silhouette of a docudrama sporting performances by a Queen tribute band? As frontman Freddie Mercury, Rami Malek's ability to outdistance the *Nutty Professor* bucks and *Planet of the Apes* shag is a testament to his charisma. Alas, almost from the start the project seemed ill-omened. It's not every day when a director, in this case *X-Men* mimeographer Bryan Singer, is let go part way through production due to chronic tardiness. (He was replaced by HBO veteran Dexter Fletcher, who shot for 16 days, oversaw post-production, and failed to receive a co-directing credit.) Then there's screenwriter Anthony McCarten, working overtime to run the more sordid aspects of the Mercury's life through a PG-13 denaturizer. (Kindly check the camera at the door once Mercury has followed the burly trucker into the gas station lavatory.) And I don't care if Mike Myers was half of *Wayne's World*: bang the “Gong!” for yet another latexed takeoff on a British showbiz sycophant. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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 got a way 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 (*Diary of a Teenage Girl*) matter-of-fact tone. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST; VINTAGE VILLAGE THEATRE)

Creed II — A pleasant crowd-pleaser. Ryan Coogler, having gone on to bigger and bigger things with *Black Panther*, steps aside and lets relative newcomer Steven Caple, Jr. do the job of mixing the beats of *Rocky III* — losing your edge and finding it again — and *Rocky IV* — facing the deadly Russian menace — into a smooth groove for the son of Apollo Creed (Michael B. Jordan). (His mom may call him a grown man now and again, but this is very much a story about growing up: facing fears, taking responsibility, quitting the grandiose narcissism of youth, etc.) The result is better than might be expected, still heavy on the Instagram aphorisms (right down to a marriage 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)

Die Hard — Twelve superbly drilled, highly financed, and heavily armed international terrorists find themselves overmatched against a vacationing New York cop in bare feet. The action, set almost entirely inside an L.A. skyscraper, is a pyrotechnical marvel. But the overriding marvel is how action so marvelous has come to seem, in the Eighties, so routine. Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia; directed by John McTiernan. 1988. — D.S. ● (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

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

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IN THEATERS JANUARY 4

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Calendar MOVIES

gobs of unearned feeling and scads of largely pointless beasties, plus some just plain lazy visuals (looking at you, magic cats). Director David Yates does what he can to provide motion and mood, but gets bogged down in the narrative and dramatic muddle. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Favourite — At the outset of director Yorgos Lanthimos' gorgeous, witty, bawdy, bruising, depressing, and disheartening 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 or be cast out into the muck. 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. 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 highborn vulgarity almost as much as it delights in the bulgy warp of fisheye lenses) or manipulate it into an advantageous marital match. There are no heroes in *The Favourite*; there are only sad creatures driven by their various needs. 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 is to get as far away from the levers of power as possible. It turns out there are worse things than smelling like the sewer. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST; REGAL CARLSBAD 12)

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)

Home Alone — Underimagined fairy tale about the runt of the household who gets accidentally left behind when the family takes off for France, fends for himself, fends off burglars (à la Dustin Hoffman in *Straw Dogs*), grows, in short, into a little man. It might just have worked if the filmmakers had spent as much thought on what a kid could actually get into and get out of as they did on what would get kids into a movie theater (e.g., "Don't you know how to knock, phlegm-wad!"). Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci,

Daniel Stern, Catherine O'Hara; directed by Chris Columbus. 1990. — D.S. ● (CINÉPOLIS DEL MAR; CINÉPOLIS LA COSTA; CINÉPOLIS VISTA)

Mary Queen of Scots — Near the end of Josie Rourke's pox-and-all rendition of Mary Stuart's misadventures in monarchy (at the outset, she is former Queen of France, current Queen of Scotland, and hopeful Queen of England), the beleaguered Catholic asks her Protestant cousin Elizabeth (Margot Robbie), "How did it come to this?" We know the "this" from the opening scene, wherein she is taken from her knees before an altar and placed on her knees before a chopping block. The rest of the film is concerned with the "how," and while there is much to admire — particularly the period aesthetic and Saoirse Ronan's quicksilver lead performance — there is also much to lament: wonky political fast-talking over character interaction, a too-oft indulged tendency toward melodrama, and a largely failed attempt to parallel the struggles of two powerful women navigating the corridors of power. Mary has the better of it — in terms of both story and character — right up until her fateful confrontation with Elizabeth, which strives for momentousness but instead comes off befuddling. (How did it come to this?) After that, Robbie rises up and shows why she took the role, and the film manages a strong finish despite everything that's come before. If it's not quite a success, at least it's an ambitious failure. 2018. — M.L. ★ (ANGELIKA CARMEL MOUNTAIN, LANDMARK HILLCREST)

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms — How do you know it's a Disney picture even if you've missed the magic castle logo? The protagonist's mother is dead before the opening credits roll and a mouse shall lead them. Make that King Mouse, a creature made whole only when hundreds of Mickeys stand on each other's shoulders to form a lean, mean, vermin machine. Morgan Freeman and Helen Mirren bring little more than marquee value to justify their paychecks, and it would have been hard to find someone less emotive and more void of humor than star Mackenzie Foy. And yet, maybe see it anyway, for the effects work and production design, both of which are nothing short of spectacular. Lasse Hallstrom (*My Life as a Dog*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*), Disney's first choice for director, was unavailable when it came time to return for the additional CGI work needed to complete the film. So visual effects doyen Joe Johnston (*Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*) was contracted for 32 days of reshoots. My biggest regret is not having seen it in 3D. With equal tributes to Leopold Stokowski and Dave Edmunds. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Quake — It's been over a hundred years since a major earthquake hit Oslo, but it only took Fantefilm three years to crank out a seismic sequel to their tsunami hit *The Wave*. Kristoffer Jøner returns as the jinxed geologist fond of "alternative theories" who, in this case, is the only egghead in all of Norway to know the precise moment when the next big temblor will hit. A perfectly good disaster film is almost done in by a middling Irwin Allen-esque family-in-crisis subplot. (Daddy misses out on his little girl's opening night performance at the opera because he's out trying to alert Sweden to the unceasing horror and whatnot that lies ahead.) The quake doesn't hit until around the 70 minute mark, but when it does, the devastation doesn't stop until the filmmakers have

imaginatively expended their comparatively runty (by American standards) \$60 million budget. This marks cinematographer John Andreas Andersen's first solo flight behind the camera as director. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

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 goofy 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)

Roma — Reviewed this issue. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

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)

They Shall Not Grow Old — Peter Jackson's World War One documentary, assembled from historical footage and interviews with the soldiers who survived. See it in 3D if at all possible. Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Venom — Director Ruben Fleischer can't be blamed for making a movie that tracks so closely with one released just a few weeks earlier (the equally clumsy *Predator* remake from Shane Black): once again, we have an alien invader who decides, for whatever reason, to aid humanity in thwarting a full-scale invasion by his fellow aliens. But he can probably be blamed for the clumsiness — the vacillating tone that pings between lowbrow slapstick and sci-fi horror; the slippery, slip-shod nature of the relationship between the black-goo alien and his host, disgraced reporter Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy, acting like a live-action cartoon); the hacky dialogue, which sports clichés like "You look like shit" and "You and I are not so different," and the dim, deadly visuals. The *Venom* symbiote requires a perfect match to bond with its host; otherwise, the host is doomed. The *Venom* movie plays like a midnight horror feature that has

invaded a superhero movie, and while there are some luffs to be had — Hardy's delivery is excellent, and his discussions with the growly alien voice in his head are suitably zany — it's far from a perfect match. 2018. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Widows — A group of gangster widows, led with tigerish confidence by Viola Davis, find their husbands' blueprint for a heist and decide to try their hands at robbery. *Widows* peaks when focusing on the crime at hand. Basing his story on a pair of six-part Thames Television mini-series from the 80's, director Steve McQueen has a tough job of holding together all of the plot strings without overlapping into coincidence. (Fortunately for Elizabeth Debicki, the trio's first meeting is being held on the same night that she decides to test the waters as a high-price call girl. That way, if she bails, it's just a short cab ride across town and out of the plot contrivance.) The worse the bad guy, the better the picture. We could have used more of Daniel Kaluuya's flagrant nastiness — his "rapping dumpster" shootings help to compensate for Robert Duvall's moth-eaten performance as a racist politician. It could be the most thinly-sketched character ever presented him. Still, there's enough quality action and surprises to keep it interesting. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Wife — Joan (Glenn Close) accompanies her husband Joe (Jonathan Pryce) on a trip to Sweden to pick up his Nobel Prize for Literature. If foreshadowing isn't your strong suit, which is clearly the case for Swedish director Björn Runge, why bother to introduce an element of mystery? It's obvious where this is going when, at the five-minute mark, Pryce insists upon Close listening in on the extension when the call from Stockholm arrives. A why-they-dunit outdoes a whodunit at every turn. It might not have been so bad had the road to the big reveal been paved with insight and originality, but other than the performances, there is nothing here audiences haven't seen more times than they have their own feet. Helping to turn an already miserable trip into an even bigger downer are Christian Slater as a bothersome biographer looking to stir the shit between husband and wife and Max Irons rounding out the bottom half of a second-rate father-son rivalry. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

FILM FESTIVALS



White Christmas: An Easter Egg in a Christmas movie: Our Gang member, Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer makes a cameo appearance.

White Christmas (1954) Sorry for the "Humbug!", but this is a case of not seeing the forest for the Technicolor Christmas trees. For the first film shot in VistaVision, Paramount put more thought into the sparkling set and costume design and Loyal Griggs immersive "high fidelity" cinematography than it did the comatose script, co-written by Groucho's pal Norman Krasna and a pair of feckless Bob Hope gagmen (Melvin Frank and Norman Panama), none of whom had the energy (or good sense) to simply roll over and remake *Holiday Inn*. Bing was too old to play the part of a returning WWII vet and Danny Kaye was an inadequate substitute for Fred

Astaire. Even Hollywood warhorse Michael Curtiz — this was something like his 150th feature — couldn't muster much enthusiasm for this setback stiff. The veteran director basically parked his camera in the fifth row of the theatre/nightclub and covered the Irving Berlin song and dance routines as he would a stage play. IN WIDE RELEASE

Elf (2004)

Will Ferrell's comedic temperament has always been best suited to skitwork on the small screen. Clearly wanting to pick up a yearly residual check come December, Ferrell and company set out to make an evergreen holiday picture geared for the entire family. With its heart in the right place and head stuck squarely up its ass, it's no wonder that this basal one-joke feature — adopted Buddy (Ferrell) is the tallest elf in Santa's workshop — is bursting at the seams with good intentions and little else. With a 97-minute running time, Elf clocks in at approximately an hour-and-a-half too long. Even Ed Asner's endearingly Jewish Santa Claus isn't enough to thaw one's heart. Jon Favreau directs without the least bit of style or enthusiasm. Audiences must be tiring of

It's a Wonderful Life; why else would this lump of Yuletide coal get brought back in time for the holidays every year? IN WIDE RELEASE

Snowflake (2017)

A pair of undaunted serial killers (Reza Brojerdi and Erkan Acar) find in the trunk of their car the script to the film they're currently the subjects of and quickly thumb to the last page to see how it turns out. When they discover that it's unfinished, they track down the screenwriter (Alexander Schubert) at his day job as a dentist and start making demands concerning their destinies — the first of which involves calling off an orphan (Xenia Assenza) and her bodyguard (David Masterson) looking to avenge the death of her parents. When director Adolfo J. Kolmerer isn't aping Tarantino or trying to keep pace with screenwriter Arend Remmers's wandering plot, there's much to admire about *Snowflake*. It's when the two become a wee bit too hip for the room that the rhythm buckles and the mounting tension ends in a logjam of plot inconsistencies. DIGITAL GYM: Saturday, December 15 at 10:45 pm.

The cast could do much more

Doug's ghost practically taunts Mike with forgiveness

Clint Black, country music star, produced his sixth studio album in 1995. *Looking for Christmas* explores the feelings the holidays generate, from standing “Under the Mistletoe,” to the wise, self-deprecating, “Slow as Christmas”: “Every Christmas day makes other days seem long/And what seemed would never get here/Has so quickly come and gone. Come and gone...”

Black and James D. Sasser created a musical based on the album. Now in its world premiere at the Old Globe Theatre, the mildly entertaining piece has a tentative, no-risk feel, when kicking things up, here and there, would make it more poignant.

Musicals with a Christmas theme usually have major obstacles to overcome. Ebenezer Scrooge needs three creepy ghosts and temporary omniscience to learn to love others. George Bailey, who campaigns for affordable housing in *It's a Wonderful Life*, must understand his value to the community. And the Grinch must overcome chronic Whoville issues.

In *Looking for Christmas*, Mike “Whiskey” Randolph’s an Army medic/staff sergeant serving in

Afghanistan. As he and his unit look forward to a possible leave for the holidays, they sing “A Mind To,” a knee-slapping rouser about what they’ll do when they rotate back to the world. They’ve just one more patrol, in a dangerous part of town — an expression as ominous as it is predictable.

As they search door-to-door by flashlight, an explosion kills Douglas Miller, Mike’s best friend. Mike has always taken care of everyone else. This time he was too late. Now the question becomes: can Mike “take care of himself”?

At home, Mike’s daughter Ellie’s also in a panic. She’ll be playing one of the three wise men in the local pageant (and wonders “Why not a wise woman?”). Her father must be home in time to see show!

Mike’s back. But instead of the “Magical Christmas” wife Jessie wishes for him, he suffers from post traumatic stress at the loss of his best friend. But a surprise guest comes along: Doug’s ghost practically taunts Mike with forgiveness. As a reminder of Doug’s presence, the refrigerator door opens on its own.

The show’s set-up shows promise: A Christ-

THEATER

JEFF SMITH



Looking for Christmas: “If we can just get past this grief, the pageant will be fine.”

Looking for Christmas, music and lyrics by Clint Black, book by Black and James D. Sasser. Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, Balboa Park.

Directed by Kent Nicholson; cast: Aaron C. Finley, Kaylin Hedges, Liana Hunt, DeLeon Dallas, Syndee Winters, Reese McCullough, Bryant Martin, Scott Richard Foster, Bobby Chiu, Veda Cienfuegos, Giovanni Cozic, Lauren Ellen Thompson, Katie Sapper, Lauren Livia Muehl, Ranne Acasio; scenic design, Sean Fanning, costumes, Charlotte Devaux, lighting, Rui Rita, sound, Leon Rothenberg.

Playing through December 31; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 pm. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Critic's Choice
“Stands as a worthy addition to the holiday-show canon!”
The San Diego Union-Tribune

CLINT BLACK'S
 LOOKING FOR
CHRISTMAS
 A NEW MUSICAL

Music and lyrics by **Clint Black**
 Book by **James D. Sasser** with **Clint Black**
 Directed by **Kent Nicholson**

Final Weeks!
Must Close December 31

THE OLD GLOBE
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Liana Hunt, Kaylin Hedges, and Aaron C. Finley. Photo by Ken Howard.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

The cast of *The Year to Come* poses for a photo by Jim Garmody.

the YEAR TO COME

BY **LINDSEY FERRENTINO** DIRECTED BY **ANNE KAUFFMAN**

NEW YEAR. SAME FAMILY.
 A funny and touching new play.

NOW - DEC 30 BUY TODAY! LaJollaPlayhouse.org

The inseparability of church and theater

I ARRIVED AT THE THEATER dressed in my usual inconspicuous black dress pants, simple blouse, and low heels, only to realize immediately that I hadn't gotten the memo. Among all the red and sparkles, I felt like a kill-joy in my plain attire.

I took a moment to watch the multi-generational families in all their finery as they spoke together in animated tones. *They are dressed for a Christmas morning church service*, I thought. I looked up and down the lovely, old-fashioned Orange

Avenue before walking into the lobby. I would not have been surprised if June Cleaver had approached me with a tray of gingerbread cookies.

As I settled into my seat, enjoying the palpable anticipation in the house, I thought about the relationship between worship and theater. It's a close one, actually, although as a culture we've forgotten it. ("Culture" comes from the Latin *cultus*, religion. A culture is rooted in religion. If we are what we eat, then our culture is what we collectively worship.)

Anyway, back to that relation-

ship: Greek drama — whose influence on our drama today cannot be overstated — grew out of religious rites, specifically, out of those performed at



They still do Christmas pageants, don't they?

festivals honoring Dionysus. A tyrant named Peisistratus saw the increasingly-popular devotion to the god of wine and fertility as an opportunity to bring the people of Athens together—quite literally. It's estimated some 14,000 Athenians attended the festivals he organized. About a century later, we have Aeschylus entering the drama contest.

Now, skip forward half a millennium, and we get the advent and ascent of Christianity. When the Christians got into power, the pagan festivals got the axe (and if you imagine for a moment what was happening at those festivals

honoring the god of wine and fertility, you'll understand why).

It was not long, however, before theater started sneaking in the church doors in the form of acting out the Gospel stories during the Mass. It got so popular, that they started moving it onto the church lawn to accommodate everyone. That tradition held all the way to Shakespeare's boyhood, when the first theater he experienced were the *Mystery Cycles*, which presented Bible scenes on stages mounted on wagons that travelled

from town to town during festive seasons.

During Shakespeare's day, the theater and the Church went their separate ways again. Today's theater might be a child of religion, but it's always been a pretty dysfunctional parent-child relationship. At some point, the child becomes a teen and thumbs his nose at religion, and religion in turn disowns him and calls him a bastard child. But, to quote the Bard, "the whoreson must be acknowledged."

Festival of Christmas runs at Lamb's Players Theater through December 30.

8900. 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

A Doll's House, Part 2

The San Diego Rep could have a monster hit! Lucas Hnath's comedy-drama begins 15 years after Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece ends. Nora comes home. She's made it in the world, but needs a little help from her X. The playwright calls what follows, "boxing matches," as Nora (amazing Sofia Jean Gomez) squares off about marriage against the housemaid (hilarious Linda Libby), her daughter (spunky Danny Brown), and finally her controlling husband, Torvald (outstanding Rene Thornton, Jr. Cudos to director Sam Woodhouse the cast and designers for theater that will make you think, most likely disagree at some points, and laugh. **Critic's Pick.** SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS.

Always...Patsy Kline

The North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Ted Swindley's tribute to the great Patsy Kline, based on her correspondence with Louise Seger, a loyal fan and friend. Songs include: "Walking After Moonlight," "I Fall to Pieces," and "Crazy." Allegra Lionati directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS.

Always...Patsy Kline

The North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Ted Swindley's "musical play" about the legendary country singer, based on her friendship with Louise Seger, a fan from Houston. Songs include: "I Fall to Pieces," "Walking After Midnight," and the immortal, "Crazy." Allegra Lionati directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Lamplighters presents a celebration of Christmas set in 1980's Julian. "Senior living at the local retirement center leaves it's residents longing for an old-fashioned Christmas, like the ones they remember from their childhood. They gather together to make a wish that comes true" in spite of unexpected consequences. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 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 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 themselves in the holiday spirit, year after year. Following each matinee performances, members of the cast will be in the lobby to greet audience members and pose for photos. SPRECKELS THEATRE, 121 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-9500. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

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. 2PM SUNDAYS.

Elf Jr. the Musical

The Ocean Beach Playhouse presents the story of Buddy, a young orphan, who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. "The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth." OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 6PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 6PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)

Patio Playhouse Community sand Youth Theater presents this holiday musical-piece about a trio of performers determined to do something other than the traditional A Christmas Carol. So they scroll through

abridged versions of every yuletide tale they can recall, with help from the audience.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 E. GRAND AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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.

Five Farc by Anton Chekhov

Canyon Crest Academy stages "The Bear" and "The Proposal," directed by Jeannine Marquie. Skyler Sullivan directs "The Reluctant Tragic Hero" and "The Festivities. Marquie and Sullivan co-direct "The Wedding Reception."

CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGER CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. 4:30PM THURSDAY, 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

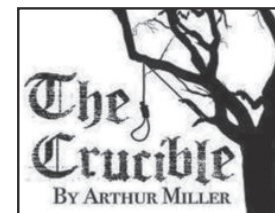
The Giving Season

Write Out Loud, the popular company that reads literature "out loud," presents an evening of holiday stories and poetry, including authors Martin Bell, Jeff Brumbeau, Stephen Schnur, and more. The company invites the audience to "bring a new children's book for Light One Little Candle," which provides books for families living with cancer.

OLD TOWN THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7PM MONDAY, DEC. 17.

HIR

Cygnnet Theatre has an impressive reputation for high quality shows. This isn't one. Taylor Mac's "black comedy" says important things about the transgender and other spectrums (each character also has a place on the cruelty spectrum).



BY ARTHUR MILLER

By Arthur Miller.

"It is rare for people to be asked the question which puts them squarely in front of themselves."

San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts

Ole Kittleson Little Theater

2425 Dusk Dr.
Paradise Hills

Fri-Sat, Dec 7-8, 14-15,
and Fri, Dec 21, 7 pm.

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

Cygnnet 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.

CYGNNET 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 Carol, A Radio Play

Oceanside Theatre Company celebrates the holiday season with a radio version of the Dickens classic about Scrooge, cocoon'd curmudgeon turned yuletide butterfly. Ted Lieb directs the piece, which takes place in the studios of WOTC radio. SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-

mas reunion for a military family deflated by tragedy. But what follows feels held back, as if reticent to emote. There's also strangeness: when Mike walks in the door, Ellie gives him a cursory hug, then waxes ecstatic that he'll see her pageant. It's as if the musical's trapped between Real World pain, and the demands of an upbeat Christmas show. It consistently opts for the latter.

There's one exception. When the wives meet for the first time since Doug died, they hug as if trying to warm each other on the coldest night of the year. This is the only instance where pain and sorrow feel genuine. The rest of the time the loss and Mike's post-traumatic stress are more obstacles to overcome than infinite aches: if we can just get past this grief, the pageant — and the musical — will be fine.

Clint Black's music has an engaging, personal quality, as if he's half of an ongoing dialogue with you. The score doesn't include "Slow as Christmas," which might be too reflective. Backed by Matt Hinkley's seven-piece band, which often overpowered the singers when I caught the show, the music's too homogenized. It could use a stronger country rinse. And two songs were too toned down.

Affecting as Mike, Aaron C. Finley sings a competent version of Black's "The Kid" (longing to return to when Santa "believed in me and overlooked the flaws that grow inside" as one ages). But Finley could take it deeper. Sydnee Winters (Alissa) also does a competent job with "Never Knew Love" ("What if I never knew you/ What if I never knew love?"). But this song begs to be belted. Throw your head and shoulders back, stop the show, and startle the heavens!

No song stops the show. Everything's in a hurry. Also, many scenes are just long enough to prepare for the next number. As a result, characters are underwritten. Each is a dominant trait, which is a shame, since the cast could do much more. Several have Broadway credits, and newcomer DeLeon Dallas (Doug) should have them soon. It's as if the show is governed not by the music or the script but by what

you could call the "90 Minute Barrier." This is the no-intermission deadline: pare away anything that might run over.

Maybe this is why the book's so by-the-numbers predictable. Things progress in recognizable stages with never any doubt. The happy ending happens because it's supposed to. But Mike has PTSD. Even aided by Doug's ghost and the Christmas spirit, his turnabout's awfully swift.

Local wizard Sean Fanning has two sets in town: the ghostly Victorian interior for *Doll's House, Part 2* at the Rep, and a minimal ice blue floor for *Looking*. Thanks to Rui Rita's lighting, the stage can be intimate or expansive, as when the pageant arrives. Charlotte Devaux has designed many elegant period costumes for the Old Globe. She should win an award for excellence in bad outfits: two Christmas sweaters, one olive drab, the other a distressing brown, must rank among the most gruesome ever on a Globe stage.

Calendar THEATER

It's more a scene piece than a play, since most of the time people hurl insults at each other, along with violent slapstick antics. Deanna Driscoll gives a truly fine performance as Paige, New Age/slasher-mom, and Sean Fanning delivers another detail-perfect set. Although he has done good work before, director Rob Lutfy hasn't a clue and has settled for one loud, two-hour scream out with little respite or nuance.

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 8PM SATURDAYS.

Holiday Cabaret

PowPAC presents its annual fundraiser, featuring holiday songs, stories, and dancing by "PowPAC favorites along with Leigh Scarritt Productions' youth performers, and a possible visit by Santa Claus." Scarritt directs.

POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM & 8PM SUNDAY.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical retells the biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers, and a coat of many colors by blending pop, country, and rock. Jason R. Bailly directs. Favorite songs include: "Those Canaan Days," "Any Dream Will Do," and "Close Every Door"

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

La Pastorela de la Familia

Teatro Mascara Magica presents one of San Diego's most popular holiday shows. This year's text, written by the inventive Max Branscomb, "celebrates the family, a journey we all take and we have to choose sides, since Evil lurks in every corner and is masked with many faces." William Virchis directs.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS & 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 THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 11AM, 1PM, & 2:30PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

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.

Mamma Mia!

The musical celebrating the songs of ABBA is vibrantly being performed

at the recently re-opened Welk Resort Theatre. This lighthearted, romantic romp through over 25 songs of the 70's musical team has a slight story line with some heartfelt moments. Directed with verve by Larry Raben and inventively choreographed by Karl Warden, it's a lively, entertaining show. Unfortunately, too much emphasis on props to animate the songs makes some numbers fall flat, such as "Chiquita" and "Dancing Queen." There are also minor cases of miscasting in the male ensemble. Jennifer Edwards lighting does much to create the mood and feel of a Greek island. Impressive performances by Misty Cotton, Barbara Schoenhofer, and Olivia Hodson. *Worth a try.* Review by *Larry Steckling.*

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS.

Mark Twain's A Christmas Carol

The North County Players presents 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, 4PM SUNDAYS.

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

New Village Arts presents the San Diego premiere of Lauren Gunderson 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.

Mrs. Cratchitt's Wild Christmas Binge

The Roustabout's Theatre Company presents its "second annual ultimate Christmas party" with Christopher Durang's mash-up of the season's most beloved stories, including *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Bob Cratchitt's sloshed past the gills), *The Gift of the Magi*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Admission is by donation, and "please consider bringing a gift for the homeless."

CENTRAL LIBRARY, 330 PARK BL., EAST VILLAGE. 619-236-5800. 2PM SATURDAY.

Naughty or Nice Christmas Puppet Slam

"Tis' the season to be Naughty or Nice" at the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. "Nite at the Puppet Asylum" hosts an evening of adult puppetry featuring a holiday mix of sketches, videos, and songs by puppeteers for a mature audience.

MARIE HITCHCOCK PUPPET THEATRE, 2130 PAN AMERICAN ROAD WEST, BALBOA PARK. 619-544-9203. 7PM SATURDAY.

Scrooge in Rouge

Ocean Beach Playhouse stages "this quick-change, cross-dressing" version of the Charles Dickens classic, set in a Victorian music hall, where "a widespread case of food poisoning leaves only three surviving members to soldier on through a performance of *A Christmas Carol*."

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS.

She Loves Me

The insouciant charm and effervescent spirit of the Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick musical has now taken residence at Scripps Ranch Theatre. The flimsy but surprisingly sturdy story of two people who fall in love, without knowing each is the other, has been adapted over and over. Ted Leib directs the highly charged, fast moving musical. N. Dixon Fish's ingenious set's like a complicated puzzle that turns, slips, and slides into place, showing the outside and inside of the Perfume Shop, a Hungarian street, an elegant restaurant, and more. Period wigs and hairstyles are the fine work of Kat Senior-Scott. Music director Terry O'Donnell on keyboard and Grant Clarkson on bass provide strong backup work, though being onstage is most disconcerting. Taylor Magee sings with a rare purity as unabashed Amalia. Luke Monday is charming as Georg and proves to be a strong musical comedy performer. *Worth a try.* Review by *Larry Steckling.*

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

This Beautiful City

Diversionsary Theatre presents the San Diego premiere of the Civilians' drama, based on interviews with citizens of Colorado Springs, "the capital of the Evangelical movement." The piece "explores faith and the organized resistance against gay rights." Matt M. Morrow directs. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Who Dunit? Seaport Village

Who Dunit? Seaport Village hosts a scavenger hunt style Murder Mystery Adventure that lasts approximately 2 hours. The "interactive, self-guided tour" has checkpoints along the way. Audience members will collect clues, crack codes, decipher riddles, and "participate in crazy challenges."

SEAPORT VILLAGE, 849 W. HARBOR DR., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-4014. 4PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS.

The Year to Come

Every New Year's Eve a family gathers in their Florida backyard to ring in the coming year. In between dips in the pool, politically incorrect banter and a highly-anticipated onion

dip, their relationships grow and fracture in moments that become family legend. Unfolding backwards 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 Ferrentino's "portrait of contemporary America through the lens 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. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

UPCOMING SHOWS

10th Annual Nutcracker Holiday Tea

Bring your little sugarplums for an unforgettable abridged performance of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," performed by the Scripps Performing Arts Academy. Pair every plié with a bite of scrumptious tea sandwiches and delicate French pastries. \$65 per adult | \$38 per child (ages 4 - 12) Pricing is exclusive of tax, gratuity and 20% service charge. \$10 of every ticket sold will benefit Isabella's Giraffe Club — a non-profit organization committed to providing emotional and educational support for parents with infants in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Reservations: 858.314.1996 Sunday, December 23 Seating: 10:45 am, Tea: 11:00 am, Performance: 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm Seating: 1:45 pm, Tea: 2:00 pm, Performance: 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm Monday, December 24 Seating: 10:45 am, Tea: 11:00 am, Performance: 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm FAIRMONT GRAND DEL MAR, 5300 GRAND DEL MAR COURT, CARMEL VALLEY. 858-314-2000. DEC. 23 THROUGH DEC. 24.

34th Plays by Young Writers Festival

Playwrights Project presents the 34th Plays by Young Writers Festival featuring plays by California students chosen through the 2018 California Young Playwrights Contest. "Out of over 400 submissions, six students won the opportunity for their plays to be performed at the Old Globe. Three young writers receive full productions; three younger writers will have their scripts presented as staged readings."

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. JAN. 12 THROUGH JAN. 26.

Always...Patsy Kline

The North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Ted Swindley's tribute to the great Patsy Kline, based on her correspondence with Louise Seger, a loyal fan and friend. Songs include: "Walking After Moonlight," "I Fall to Pieces," and "Crazy."



The window seat helps provide a spa-like feel to the master suite.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 15

as a fixer-upper, or potentially an opportunity to tear down the century-old structure and "maybe build your perfect dream home." Since that market sale, it's changed hands several times, with public records indicating title currently lies with David Lepre, a licensed real estate salesperson who currently lists no employing broker.

Renovations required to flip the property took approxi-

mately a year, as it was re-listed for sale at just under \$3 million, or double the reported acquisition price, in December 2016. Finding a buyer, however, has proved difficult — the property has been placed on the market six times, including five sale offerings with an asking price as high as \$3,195,000 and one rental listing seeking between \$8900-9900 per month.

The most recent listing, this time with a price of \$2,979,000, went live in mid-October and remains unchanged to date. ■

Allegra Lionati directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SO-LANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. DEC. 20 THROUGH DEC. 30.

An Act of God

Carlsbad Playreaders open their 2019 season with a staged reading of David Javerbaum's comedy about "the One with the first and last word on everything has finally arrived to set the record straight...in just 90 minutes." Gerilyn Braut directs. CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY, 1775 DOVE LANE, CARLSBAD. 760-602-2049. JAN. 14.

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 and magical performances from dancers throughout the world. Accompanied by the City Ballet Orchestra and Chorus, this heartwarming production is the perfect

way for families to immerse themselves in the holiday spirit, year after year. Following each matinee performances, members of the cast will be in the lobby to greet audience members and pose for photos. SPRECKELS THEATRE, 121 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-9500. DEC. 21 THROUGH DEC. 23.

New Village Arts: Final Draft New Play Festival

New Village Arts presents its second annual "Final Draft" new play festival, featuring works by local authors Dea Hurston, Aleta Barthell, Karen Riehl, Roy Sekigahama, and a full-length musical by Blake McCarty and Trevor Bachman. Selections came from an open pool of over 80 new plays. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. JAN. 3 THROUGH JAN. 6.

Weighing In: A One-Woman Show

Lamplighters Community Theatre presents Ilene Kruger's one-woman show about "love, loss, and what I was eating." The piece is intended for adults from "21 to 103." LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. JAN. 13.

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Becton, Dickinson & Co. (BD) seeks a Team Leader in Holdrege, NE to achieve continuous improvement in production operations, waste reduction and resource utilization.. Req. MS + 2 yrs exp or BS + 5 yrs exp. Mail resume to: (BD), Attn: Yen Le Bavis, 3750 Torrey View Ct., San

Diego, CA 92130. Must reference Job Title: Team Leader; Code: 000215. EOE.

VOLUNTEERS 50+ WANTED:

Experience Corps is currently recruiting volunteers ages 50+ to tutor during the after school expanded learning programs in Normal Heights, City Heights, Central San Diego, Lemon Grove and the College area. Children who don't read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are 4x more likely to drop out of school than proficient readers. You can help change this statistic! By volunteering as an AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy mentor, you will help change the course of students' lives. Experience Corps is a proven reading program made up of tutors who work with struggling readers in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to help them with their literacy skills. To learn more and attend an upcoming information session please contact Sigrid Struben or Kristin Shea at sstruben@theci.org or call 858-581-5880.

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job descriptions, min. edu. & min. exp. requirements at www.sivaltech.com. Job Site: San Diego, CA. Job may involve working at various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Travel required to the extent of relocating to various unanticipated locations throughout the United States. Send resume referencing aforementioned job title and reference number to Sivaltech Inc, 6170 Cornerstone Ct. E, Ste 260, San Diego CA 92121.

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REAL ESTATE

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dishwasher; laundry hookups; WOOD FLOORS; private patio; no pets; water paid; available now; 3970 Honeycutt Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

Downtown

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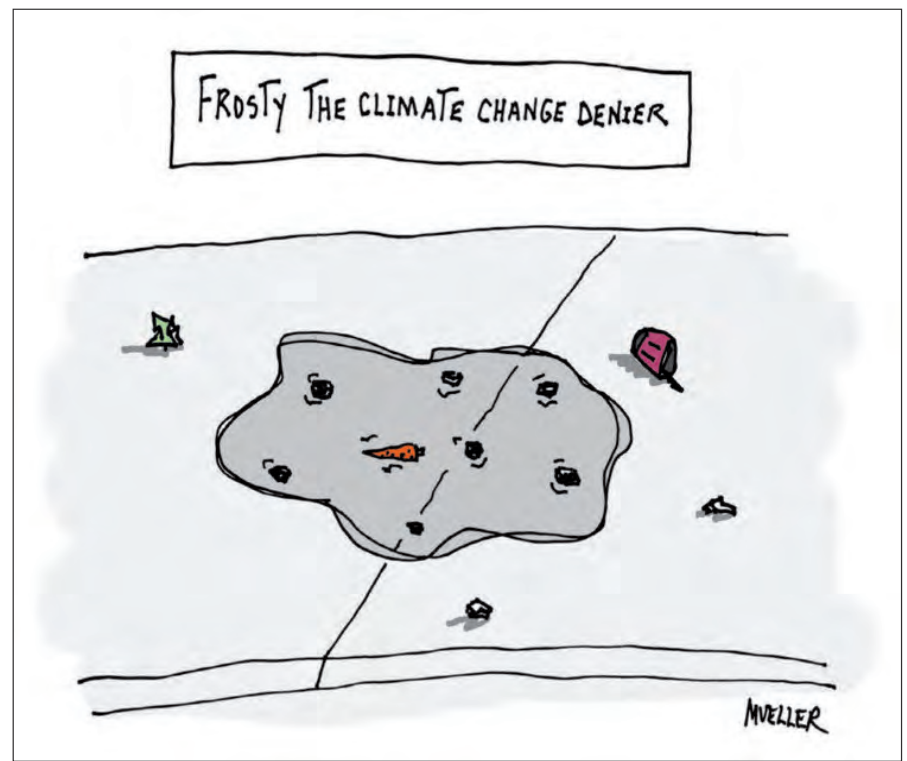
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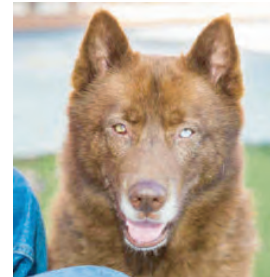
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FISH REPORT cont.

½ day run on December 4 had great up and down fishing with 128 rockfish, 18 sheephead and a lingcod for their efforts. They weren't alone; most of the boats targeting groundfish put plenty of meat in the gunnysacks for their clients.

Spiny lobsters typically walk a lot – each night, the transient “bugs” search for food during treks of up to ½ mile along the bottom alongside reef edges, kelp beds, and jetties. Unlike their east coast counterparts, California spiny lobster do not have claws, nor do they return to the same den. They find a spot to “hole up” for the day and then spend the majority of their nights crawling about. There must have been plenty of them on their walkabout on December 2nd – the Jig Strike reported 28 legal sized lobster kept and 83 shorts released for the 7 anglers aboard their twilight hoop-netting run.

Shelter Island boat ramp: Good news, finally, for private boaters launching out of San Diego Bay – The Port of San Diego has slated December 21 as the day it will reopen. It was closed in May 2017 and original estimates had the ramp reopening on or around Memorial Day 2018. It's been a long wait, as boaters out of San Diego Bay had to launch some five miles further from open ocean.

Long Range: As it is Long Range season, here's a post from San Diego's fishing dynamo Kevin Mattson aboard the Excel's latest run south: “Well the trip is windin' down and it was another epic one. It wasn't your typical 16 Day Cow Trip but we had damn good fishing. The wahoo bit for us at Alijos and the marlin were thick as well. The Tuna fishing at Guadalupe was better than your typical pick bite, but you still had to have a bit of skill and work for it. That jig bite on the yellows was probably the highlight for me, but the wahoo on the spinnerbait and bass rod was a close second. Not sure what

WATERFRONT continued from page 34

the big sport fish, and sharks are considered a “nuisance” catch. Charter boats have no interest in going out after them, according to the Point Loma Sportsfishing Association. If you feel you simply must have a six-foot Blue to hang over your mantle, here's a list of equipment to take: heavyweight test line, 20 feet of steel leader, blood lure and bait, a grappling iron, a pair of thick work gloves and a twelve-gauge shotgun. It's also a good idea not to try to boat your shark until you're sure he's dead. In 1959, a fisherman fired four pistol shots and jabbed a six-foot metal spear into a large White Shark off La Jolla. The shark swam away, apparently unharmed except for the spear sticking out



It's a good idea not to try to boat your shark until you're sure he's dead.

this yellow weighs, but it was the biggest I had on 3 straight drops with every one in the high 30's. An epic window of opportunity. Many thanks to @fleekjustin and the crew of the EXCEL for taking what the

ocean gives you and making it happen.”

Fish Plants: Dec 14, Santee Lakes, trout (1,000), Lake Cuyamaca, trout (1,200)

of its head...

Of course anyone can catch sharks from boats, but for true macho craziness, no one can beat the Samoans. They cruise out at night in their outrigger canoes and bait the water with blood. When a shark surfaces, some hyped-up young stud jumps it, wraps his legs around it and sinks a knife into its belly. The sport is in getting back in your canoe before the shark's friends smell the blood and go into a feeding frenzy. Some teenagers in Key West, Florida got into the “sport” of “shark jumping” a few years ago until local police put a stop to it.

Here in Mission Beach, three swimmers wrestled a seven-foot Blue Shark into shore in August of 1961. After it was beached, a policeman dispatched it with two bullets to its head. Another nice thing about sharks is that they don't hold grudges.

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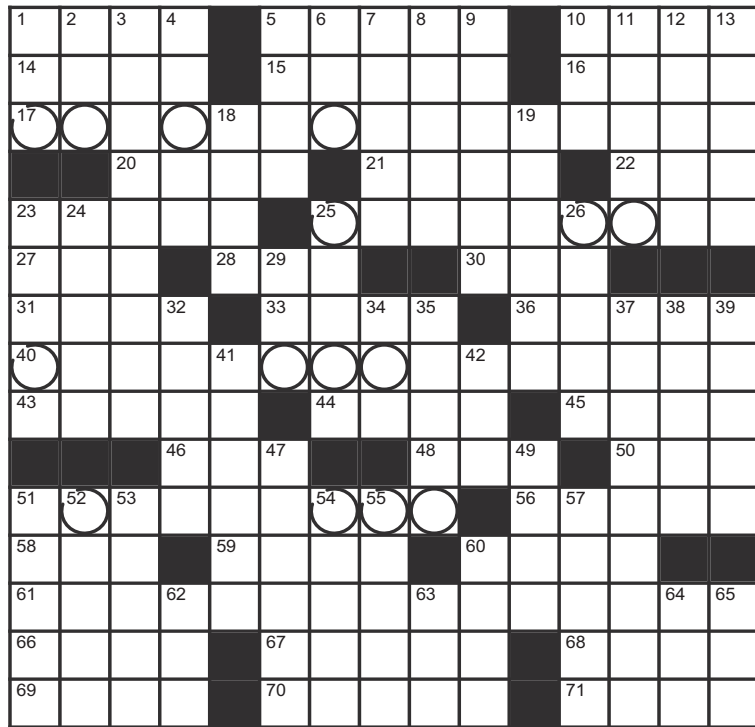
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17. Detective novelist in the same 61-Across as a children's author?
20. Nashville's home: Abbr.
21. TV host who won a Mark Twain Prize for American Humor
22. Bethesda-based research agcy.
23. Light lunch choice
25. Spy fiction author in the same 61-Across as a novelist who depicts the Chinese-American experience?
27. Not post-
28. Tree whose name sounds like a letter of the alphabet
30. Successful turn in the game Battleship
31. Harmonizers with soprani and bassi
33. Civil War fighters
36. NFL Hall-of-Fame coach Greasy
40. Poet of the Middle Ages in the same 61-Across as a popular western dime novelist?
43. Longtime NBC newsman Roger
44. He was emperor at 16, dead at 30
45. Big ____, nickname of baseball's David Ortiz

46. Microsoft Word creation, briefly
48. Remarks around cute babies
50. Bench press target, for short
51. Fantasy writer in the same 61-Across as a horror novelist?
56. Frank who directed "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"
58. Cry with one card in hand
59. Poetic nights
60. Bouquet holder
61. Where writers often intermingle ... or this puzzle's theme
66. Finishes, as a cake
67. Planet between Mercury and Earth
68. Neutrogena competitor
69. "Your point being ...?"
70. Show host
71. Smears, as a reputation

Down

1. Morning or night lead-in
2. Pitching stat
3. Some holiday greenery
4. Milo of "The Verdict"
5. Bygone bomber whose name is a call in bingo
6. Symbol of wisdom
7. "You there?"
8. Tailor again, as a skirt
9. Stem the flow of
10. Extra product
11. Ivy League sch. in Philly
12. Web site?

13. Like old, neglected sweaters, maybe
18. Archaeologist played by Harrison Ford, informally
19. Diego Rivera portrayer in the 2002 film "Frida"
23. Wolfgang Puck restaurant
24. Republican-turned-Democrat U.S. senator Specter
25. 11-year old, e.g.
26. Really went for
29. Fumble
32. "Don't mind ____!"
34. "Later!"
35. Scrawny one
37. Like singing in a shower
38. Recipient of Jesus' healing
39. Emmy-winning Susan Lucci role
41. It's often found in a bed
42. "____ goes it?"
47. Split with an ax
49. Lasting reminder
51. Paul Simon's "Me and ____ Down by the Schoolyard"
52. Madison Sq. Garden player
53. Dull drills
54. Against a thing, legally
55. Justin Timberlake's original group
57. Fancy neckwear
60. Workbench gripper
62. That, in Tijuana
63. Prompt
64. Good listener?
65. GPS part: Abbr.

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.
- 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

G	U	T	P	A	S	T	A	S	A	L	A	D	S	
O	T	O	I	D	E	O	L	O	G	I	C	A	L	
T	E	X	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	T	L	Y	
E	R	I	N	G	A	U	G	I	N	G				
M	I	N	A	J	H	U	T	H	I	T				
A	F	T	H	O	W	I	E	E	S	T	E	E		
S	T	O	M	A	C	H	C	R	U	N	C	H	E	S
P	O	K	E	D	O	E	I	L	S	A	S	E		
C	R	E	D	A	I	D	T	U	B					
A	D	D	C	Y	S					E	R	A	S	E
			A	R	E	T	H	A	S	A	S	I	A	
A	L	O	H	A	S	H	I	R	T	S	A	D	S	
P	A	R	I	S	H	I	L	T	O	N	N	E	E	
T	H	A	T	S	A	S	T	E	A	L	A	B	S	

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

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Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

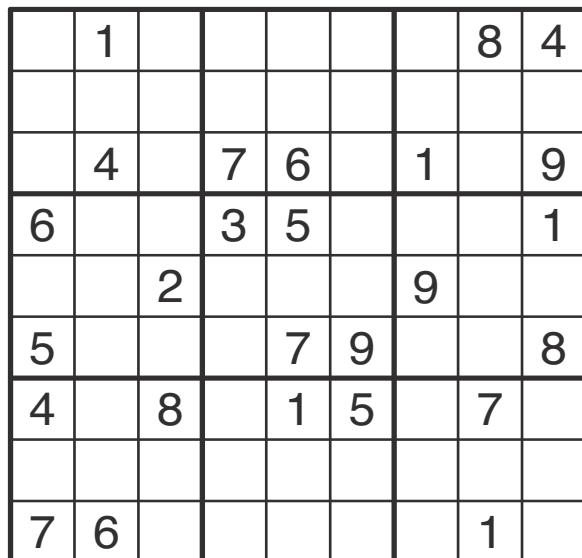
☛ Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 34.

Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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EVIL:



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- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
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Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

9	2	1	5	4	7	3	6	8
6	5	7	8	3	1	2	9	4
3	4	8	6	2	9	7	5	1
4	1	5	3	9	8	6	7	2
8	7	6	2	5	4	1	3	9
2	9	3	7	1	6	4	8	5
7	6	9	4	8	2	5	1	3
1	3	4	9	7	5	8	2	6
5	8	2	1	6	3	9	4	7

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.

☛ Alford Claiborne, San Diego, 29.

To Absent Friends

— During the 2014 World Cup, five friends in Durango, Mexico, made a pact to travel to the 2018 tournament in Russia. They saved their money, bought a bus, painted it in Mexico's colors and booked passage for themselves and the bus on a ship going to Spain, where *The Daily Mail* reported, the friends planned to drive the bus to Russia. But just before they boarded the ship in April, one of the five, Javier, told his friends his wife had put the kibosh on his trip. So the remaining four did the next best thing: They made a cardboard life-size cutout of Javier, looking grumpy and wearing a shirt that says, "My wife didn't let me go," and set off for Russia. The cardboard Javier has been very popular at the soccer venues, attracting female admirers, appearing on the big screen, crowdsurfing and being photographed with fellow football fans from all over the world.

Smooth Reactions

— When Daryl Royal Riedel, 48, was pulled over for suspected drunk driving June 14 by Monroe County (Florida) Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Lopez, he first drove off, but thought better of it and stopped to face the music. Riedel, who claimed to be scared, then stepped out of his truck with an open can of beer and chugged the contents as Lopez watched. The Associated Press reported that Riedel has four prior DUI arrests and now faces felony DUI, fleeing from a deputy, driving with a suspended license and failure to submit to a breath test.

Ewwwwwww!

— In a gross twist on road rage, Henry George Weaver, 69, of New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, ended an argument with another man June 8 by defecating on him. According to *Lehigh Valley Live*, Pennsylvania state police reported that "the accused and the victim got into a road-rage argument, leading the accused to defecate on the victim," but they did not disclose what started the argument. Weaver was charged with harassment.

What Is Art?

— Over in Melbourne, Australia, customers of the Prahran neighborhood Woolworths store will have to park somewhere else on July 9, as renowned American photographer Spencer Tunick captures thousands of willing nudes in a group shot on the store's rooftop parking lot. Reuters reported more than 11,000 people registered to disrobe for Tunick, who has done group nudes in other spots around the world. "It's well and truly oversubscribed," said John Lotton, director of the Provocare Festival of the Arts in Melbourne.

Czech This Out

— Czechoslovakian president Milos Zeman called a press conference on June 14 in Prague, where Zeman instructed two firefighters in protective gear to incinerate a huge pair of red underpants as reporters watched. The underwear had been hoisted during a 2015 protest at Prague Castle,

replacing the presidential flag and symbolizing Zeman's close relationship with Russia and China. Zeman told reporters, according to the Associated Press: "I'm sorry to make you look like little idiots, you really don't deserve it." Zeman's longstanding difficulties with the press include an incident last year when he waved a fake machine gun at them.

O.M.G.

— Wa Tiba, 54, disappeared on June 14 while tending her vegetable garden on Muna Island in the Southeast Sulawesi province of Indonesia. Her family found only her sandals, a machete and a flashlight in the garden, but just 50 yards away, villagers located a 23-foot-long python with a severely bloated midsection. Fox News reported that when the snake's belly was cut open, it revealed the woman's fully intact body inside, still wearing all her clothes. Villager Ayu Kartika said, "Everyone cried and was in shock. ... It looked like a horror movie."

Fetishes

— In Auckland, New Zealand, an unnamed 28-year-old man appeared in court June 18 to answer charges of stealing two human toes from the Body Worlds Vital exhibition, a traveling display that features human corpses and organs preserved through plastination. The toes, valued at \$5,500 each, have been returned to the exhibition, the *New Zealand Herald* reported. The toe thief is looking at seven years in prison and

two years for interfering with a dead body.

High Times

— Two unnamed employees of the Inn at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont, enjoyed some malted milk ball-type candies left behind by guests on June 13, but they didn't enjoy the aftermath. The candies were cannabis edibles, and the employees became sick after consuming them. Police arrived to find one of them lying in the parking lot, and both were transferred to the hospital, according to the Associated Press. Recreational use of marijuana becomes legal in Vermont on July 1; police said the guests who left the edibles would not be charged.

Art Makes a Statement

— At the Royal College of Art's annual London fashion show in June, one graduate unveiled a unique approach to accessorizing garments: crystallized bodily fluids. Alice Potts displayed a pair of ballet shoes decorated with crystals formed from sweat, along with a fake fur adorned with urine crystals. Potts told Reuters the "more natural materials" could offer environmental benefits not possible with traditional plastics.

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NEWS TICKER*continued from page 26*

pages. Editors try to discover new ways for the paper to appear energetic, fearless, and up to the minute — without its actually being so. Stories are not so much gathered and printed as they are imagined, ordered, and packaged.

In an indifferent atmosphere like that, people burn out. I was one of them. No more cutesy lead sentences were forthcoming. I no longer had any enthusiasm for world-in-a-teacup features, nor did I experience a rush of pride from a genuine front-page story. I couldn't find satisfaction by practicing my craft as meticulously as I was able. My salvation from the tedium came to lie in grand, sweeping stories of life and death and moral bankruptcy — the bleaker and starker the better. I began to want only to awaken shock and anger in a public I came to think was as diffident as

the newsroom. But the more clearly I seemed to perceive the senseless, random, mindless screw-ups and products of neglect in the city — a sewer system and a highway network jammed, both of them, to overflowing at a time the mayor and city council reverted to a hospitable growth policy; and a district attorney's stated belief that a televised shooting revealed a gun hand that was rising in the direction of police when it sure as hell appeared to be falling — the more palpable and evident the public failures became, the less it seemed could be said about them. At times I thought the reform spirit had vanished, or had been drowned in a slop-pot of soap operas, discomania, tits and ass, four-wheel driving, violence, and the worship of good health. In fact, though, I was tired. Never mind the truth or falseness of my vision of San Diego as Rome in the late Third Century. I was simply tired of the

Evening Tribune.

But when Samuel C. Brown was shot and killed by a policeman on a recent Thursday afternoon downtown, in front of television cameras, I thought I perceived a news story through a thin layer of jade after a full day's work. I had been researching a series of police stories, and I was ready to work a little longer. That night I spoke to winos and street types who talked about murder, to councilmen and cops who spoke of shooting "to incapacitate," and to people at the Knickerbocker Hotel who knew Brown. The main story had already been written by Preston Turegano, and I did two others: one of them a profile of Brown — his extremes and anguish and what he did the day he was shot — the other an attempt to analyze what was seen on the videotape in terms of police shooting policy and of handgun law as cited by a deputy city attorney. I left

the newsroom at 2:00 a.m. What appeared in the *Tribune* nine hours later was not essentially what I had written. Gone was the quotation from a city policy that police shoot "only as a last resort" when lives are endangered. Gone also were the remarks of Councilwoman Maureen O'Connor a day before the shooting that the police have a policy of "shoot to kill." Missing from the published stories were Assistant Police Chief Bob Burgreen's explanation that the policy on shooting is "to incapacitate" by aiming at the largest target, the chest, where "it also happens you're likely to kill that way." Also absent from the stories was the deputy city attorney's summation of gun laws (it's not a crime to carry a handgun openly in public; it is a crime to threaten someone with it or conceal it without a permit to do so). I quoted from a police press release that said it was confirmed Brown had earlier fired a shot but that it wasn't clear whether the officers who had him in their gun sights were aware of that when they stepped onto the sidewalk. The rewrite man changed the story and wrote that police were answering a call that a man had fired shots. No one, neither cops nor witnesses, had ever said more than one shot had been fired. But the rewrite man did. The suicide motive I reported high in my own story was not mentioned until the end of the rewritten main story.

The main story's opening paragraph had placed the videotapes at the center of the planned investigation of the shooting. But in its place appeared a simple statement that Brown had been shot in front of television cameras the day before, which is what almost all readers knew and had themselves seen.

The city editor told me he did not know who rewrote the story and asked me to call up the people I had quoted in my originals in order to get new quotes, though the old one could have been retrieved from duplicates I submitted. Some of the cuts were accidental, he said; others he agreed with. He then asked me to help another reporter who was back at the Knickerbocker and who had no idea how to follow up on the story. I asked what had been done with a long memo I had written, which suggested ways to follow up, and he said he didn't know and looked through a garbage can for the note. Two hours later the reporter who had been at the Knickerbocker came back with my duplicates in his hand and the note he said he had been given by the city editor.

I argued about all this, then put it in a memo to the assistant managing editor and the managing editor; and then I went to a bar with other reporters and complained loudly. The next day, Saturday, the *Los Angeles Times* appeared with two stories that contained

most of what the *Tribune* had neglected or elected not to use. Monday I tried to break some new ground by calling the Los Angeles and San Francisco police departments for the number of fatal shootings by police in those cities. San Diego has triple the rate of deaths of both those cities, which I wrote for the next day and which included specific numbers and another reference to the written "shoot only as a last resort" policy of San Diego police. That night I got a call at home from the assistant assistant city editor asking if it wouldn't be better to hold the story a day or so to develop it further, because "it is a sensitive issue." The next day a truncated version of what I had written (it said simply that San Diego's killing rate is "well ahead" of L.A. and San Francisco) ran deep inside the paper as the last third of a story about the angle from which the videotape was recorded. The police department's shooting policy had again been edited out, and the headline and first two-thirds of the story (written by the police reporter and the city desk) had nothing to do with San Diego's alarming rate of fatal police shootings.

I turned in my resignation two and a half hours after asking that my name be taken off the story. I went back to the bar, where about 15 *Tribune* people, most of whom I love, bought me every beer I drank.

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BEST PRODUCT AT THE BEST PRICES!



Sea Mac
I love this five star place! ★★★★★ 5.0
 Five Stars for staff friendliness - five stars for excellent selection - 5 stars for best prices! I have to ride an HOUR each way by public transit and it is totally worth it! Thank you guys for all the best! I'll be back! Software Santa

Vicky20178
Best deals and customer service in town ★★★★★ 5.0
 Washington meds goal is a complete customer satisfaction. They are always trying to make a customer leave the store with a smile on their face. I always do?

Top of the line customer service and the best deals in El Cajon!

Get helped by the 10 BEST budtenders in San Diego!

Kushy Punch



Cheeba Chews

Free FTP Gram with \$20 Donation
 Any customer gets a free house gram added to their first purchase! Must mention ad.

STILIZY .5g for \$20
 (usually \$35 each)

Connected 1g for \$30
 (\$10 off)

FREE Pre roll and dab for FTP

\$20 (1G) TWISTED VAPES

\$10 /G EXOTIC SHELF

\$9 /G HYDRO SHELF

\$7 /G EXCLUSIVE SHELF

\$5 /G TOP SHELF

EXOTIC SHATTER & CRUMBLE \$25 /GRAM
 (while supplies last)

HOUSE VAPES \$12 (0.5G) 2 for \$20

EXOTIC CARTRIDGES \$22 Special!

BRASS KNUCKLES \$30 (1G VAPES)

HOUSE DISTILLATE \$20 /GRAM

710 KINGPEN \$30 (1G VAPES)

GET A FREE SWEET GREEN EDIBLE WITH \$50 DONATION

EXOTIC HOUSE WAX ~~\$35~~ \$25
 While supplies last!

\$15 /GRAM MOONROCK

Seniors, vets, and disabled get a free gift with any donation!

LARGE Private Parking • Wheelchair Accessible • Pet Friendly
 ATM On-Site • Armed Security for Customer Safety

844 E. Washington Ave. El Cajon, CA 92020

619-504-4153

OPEN 24/7!

FIND US ON WEEDMAPS AND LEAVE US A REVIEW!

MARCH AND ASH
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE

25% OFF
 ENTIRE STORE
MUST BRING IN COUPON FOR DEAL

(619) 31-GREEN
 2835 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH MISSION VALLEY

MARCHANDASH.COM
LICENSED DISPENSARY C10-18-0000044-TEMP

Goldn Bloom
 — Setting The Goldn Standard —

Golden Hill

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER



**First Time
 Patient Deals**



Happy Hour

Mon-Fri 4:30-5:20 PM

Sat-Sun 7:00-9:00 PM



Daily Deals

**Ask how to DONATE
 for our**



HOLIDAZE FUNDRAISER

OPEN DAILY 7 AM - 9 PM

3385 Sunrise Street, San Diego, CA 92102

619-955-5540

THE DANK BANK
GRAND OPENING IN EL CAJON!
HUGE CBD SELECTION! **OPEN 24/7!**

FREE 7 GRAMS OF FLOWER + FREE DAB!
Any first-time customer with min. \$10 purchase gets 7 free grams & a free dab! Must present ad.

TOP-SHELF \$5/GRAM <small>Any patient, no limit!</small>	PRIVATE RESERVE \$8/GRAM <small>Any patient, no limit!</small>	V.I.P. \$10/GRAM <small>Min. 30% THC! Any patient, no limit!</small>
JOINTS <small>Starting at \$15</small>	\$20 <small>(1G VAPES)</small>	\$15 <small>Any patient, limit 3.</small>
KNOCKOUT PRE-ROLLS \$15 <small>Limited time only! Limit per patient.</small>	FUTURE PRE-ROLLS \$15	
MOONROCK \$15/Gram <small>Limited time only! Limit per patient.</small>	ELECTRIC CIGAR \$65	BRASS KNUCKLES \$40
Starting at \$30	BRASS CARTRIDGES \$10	2 OUNCES \$50 <small>1 oz Kief, 1 oz mixed nug and shake</small>
DIAMOND STICK CARTRIDGES \$25 <small>(1G VAPE)</small>	7 GRAMS \$50 <small>Choose from 25 different strains!</small>	
ROAR YELLOW SHATTER \$10/GRAM	1/4-POUND \$400 FIRE NUGS SPECIAL!	
5 PRE-ROLLS \$10	STIIZY STARTER KIT + 1G VAPE \$70 <small>Limit 1 per customer.</small>	

Over 200 Medicated **291 Lexington Ave, Suite B El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619-375-6880** **Vendors Welcome!**
Open All Day, Every Day

MUST PRESENT AD FOR SPECIAL PRICING. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED.

Field of Greens

NOW OPEN 24/7!

Text **FOG** to 833-431-2593 to receive **FREE** stuff & discounts on products!

Babylon Gardens Gummies Event! Friday, 12/14, 4-7pm
BUY 1 PACK OF GUMMIES, GET 1 FREE!

Uplifted Vape Event! Friday, 12/14, 5-7pm **BUY 1 VAPE, GET 1 FREE!**

PRIVATE RESERVE \$10 /GRAM **OR \$120** 1/8-OZ **OR \$230** OZ
 Best flower in the store!

TOP SHELF \$5 /GRAM **OR \$65** 1/8-OZ **OR \$120** OZ
 Many different flavors!

SHATTER OR CRUMBLE: 1G \$20 2G \$35 3G \$55 6G \$100

5 Pre-Rolls w/ Kief, Wax, & Hash \$20 **UNREAL VAPES \$15** (.5G)

HOUSE SHATTER \$15 **MOONROCK \$10** (1G) **3 Twisted Moonrock Pre-Rolls \$25**

\$65/\$80/\$100 OZ FULL NUGS! **FIRE SHAKE \$40** OZ

KNOCKOUT \$20 **TWISTED VAPES \$20** (1G) **WAX \$10**/GRAM

UPLIFTED VAPES \$35 **PRE ROLLS \$10** **STIIZY \$30** (0.5G) **OR \$55** (1G)

BABYLON GARDENS PRE-PACKAGED 1/8TH \$40 **BABYLON GARDENS GUMMIES \$9** (150MG) • **\$18** (300MG) • **\$35** (1000MG)

Kushy Punch \$15 or 2 for **\$25** **1G VAPES \$30** (Over 90% THC!) **FIRE SHAKE \$40** OZ

1216 Greenfield Dr. • El Cajon, CA 92020 • 619-581-1027 **OPEN 24/7!**

Golden State Greens

Cannabis you can trust

SPEND \$120+ GET \$10 OFF ORDER

JAHLIBYRD 2 EIGHTHS FOR \$70

HOT BOX PRE ROLLS 2 FOR \$25

LIFT TICKET MEDICATED ROLLING PAPERS 2 FOR \$10

CBD LIVING WATER \$10

BUY A DELTA9 CBD CART GET A DELTA9 BATTERY 50% OFF

VALID THROUGH 12-19-2018

DONT HAVE TIME? TRY OUR OUTSTANDING, FAST DELIVERY SERVICE. CALL AND ORDER NOW!

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FIRST TIME W/ COUPON

25% OFF

APPLIES TO ENTIRE PURCHASE. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS.*

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SAN DIEGO CA, 92110

GOLDENSTATEGREENS.COM

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@GOLDENSTATEGREENS

Rated #1 Dispensary in San Diego

Dank House

+1238+

OPEN 24/7 IN EL CAJON!

FREE 1/8TH + FREE 100MG EDIBLE!
Valid for first time patients with min. \$10 donation.

\$7 PRIVATE RESERVE GRAMS

\$7 BRASS CARTRIDGES

\$7 HOUSE WAX GRAMS

BUY 3, GET 1 FREE ON ALL EDIBLES!

TOP-SHELF \$5/GRAM
Any patient, no limit!

V.I.P. \$10/GRAM
Min. 30% THC!
Any patient, no limit!

7 GRAMS \$50
Choose from 25 different strains!

2 OUNCES \$50
1 oz Kief, 1 oz mixed nug and shake

BRASS KNUCKLES \$40

DIAMOND STICK CARTRIDGES
Full Gram for \$25

Kushy Punch \$15
Any patient, limit 3.

STIIZY STARTER KIT + 1G VAPE \$70
Limit 1 per customer.

3 FOR \$100

KNOCKOUT PRE-ROLLS \$15
Limited time only! Limit per patient.

MOONROCK \$15/GRAM
Limited time only! Limit per patient.

JOINTS \$15
Starting at \$15

NON-ALCOHOL INFUSED BEER \$5
Starting at 150mg-1000mg edible

Starting at \$30

ELECTRIC CIGAR \$65

Starting at \$5

OZs: \$25/\$60 /\$75/\$90 /\$100

5 PRE-ROLLS \$10

GSTIKS \$10

SHATTER & CRUMBLE \$20
Select strains.

10 GRAMS OF SHATTER \$100

3 RICE KRISPIE TREATS \$10

HUGE CBD SELECTION!

Over 200 medicated items!

Vendors Welcome!

1238 Oro St. • El Cajon, CA 92021

Open All Day, Every Day

MUST PRESENT AD FOR SPECIAL PRICING. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED.

SPRING VALLEY'S PREMIERE SHOP

SEARCH "KUSH CLINIC" FOR OUR UPDATED WEEDMAPS MENU!

\$5/G MID SHELF

\$7/G TOP SHELF

\$8 .5G HOUSE CARTRIDGE

\$9 CAVIAR 100MG EDIBLES

\$10/G EXCLUSIVE SHELF

\$13 KUSHY PUNCH (INDICA, SATIVA, HYBRID)

\$15 BRASS MONKEY WAX 1G

\$17 HOUSE WAX 1G

\$20 TWISTED 1G CARTRIDGE

\$25 PUNCH EXTRACTS 1G (1G RED BOX)

\$35 UPLIFTED 1G CARTRIDGE

CAVIAR PAD

12/7

6PM - 12AM

BUY 1 GET 1 1/2 OFF

ON ALL 100MG & 250MG

619-915-8679

VETERANS/SENIOR DISCOUNTS

9966 DOLORES ST. SPRING VALLEY CA 91977 UNIT 209

VALID UNTIL 1/1/19

“★★★★★! A must-see!”

—Broadway World



“An extraordinary experience!”

—Cate Blanchett,
Academy Award-winning actress

“Really inspirational!”

—Stewart Lane,
6-time Tony Award-winning Producer

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SHEN YUN'S unique artistic vision expands theatrical experience into an inspiring journey through 5,000 years of traditional Chinese culture, which has been displaced by communism in China. This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms—classical Chinese dance—along with innovative multimedia effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a civilization of enchanting beauty and enlightening wisdom. *Prepare for an experience that will take your breath away!*



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“This is the highest and the best of what humans can produce.”

—Olevia Brown-Klahn, singer and musician



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