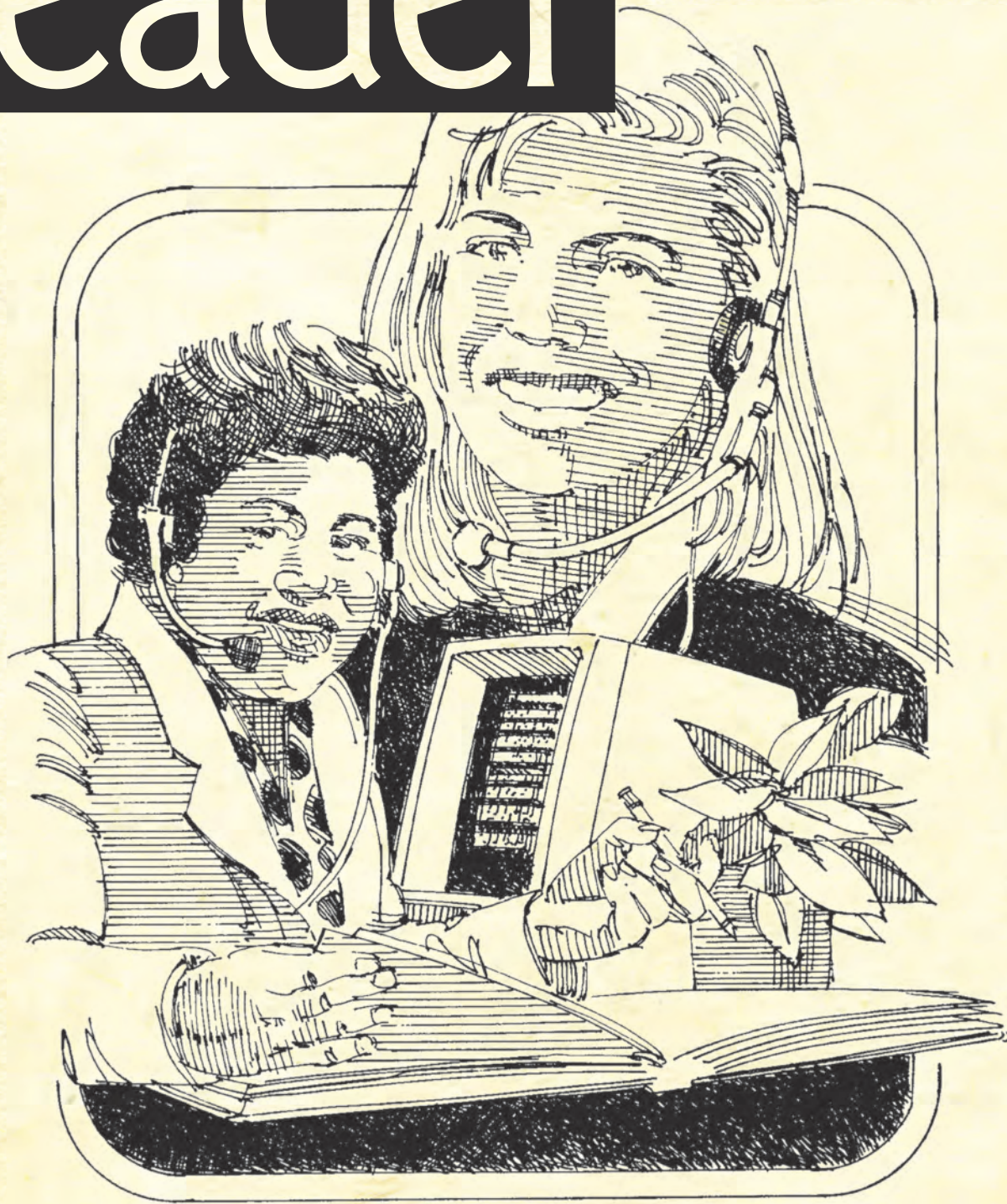


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February 7, 2019



Remember the '90s? — page 16



Purple cake uranium — page 38



Brick flick — page 65

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	70
Health and Beauty	25
Help Wanted	67
Legal Solutions	11
Massage	68
Music	52
Rentals	67
Research Studies	17
Services	68

NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights

A one-woman anti-scooter crusade; and News Ticker	2
Under the Radar: Why is Kristin Gaspar smiling?	3

Letters

Neighborhood News	6
-------------------	---

Ask a Hipster

A healthy dose of having-your-cake-and-eating-it-too smugness	9
---	---

SD on the QT

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

Golden Dreams

Watercolor life; Mermaid rescue	14
---------------------------------	----

Unreal Estate

Oceanside's most expensive house	15
----------------------------------	----

Telecomedy

I needed to find a serious job, or two really bad jobs	16
--	----

News of the Weird	71
-------------------	----

Crossword	72
-----------	----

Sudoku	72
--------	----

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance, Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures, Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness	31
--	----

Roam-O-Rama

The barren slopes of Harper Canyon	32
------------------------------------	----

Poetry

I seemed to see an angel's form appear	34
--	----

Water Front

Mission Bay's tidal island	36
----------------------------	----

Restaurants

Tin Fork: Cooked by Cuba's best teacher	37
Feast: I've been missing out on Filipino baked goods	38

San Diego Beer News

Low marks for Alta Brewing	48
----------------------------	----

Music

Blurt: Will Lemon Grove be the new La Mesa?	52
Just Announced: They found their syncopated soulful groove	56
Of Note: The kind of question you leave up in the air	60
Immortal Beauty: Classical future playlist	62

Theater

American immigrant pastoral	63
-----------------------------	----

Movies

Matthew Lickona takes the kids to <i>Lego Movie 2</i>	65
---	----

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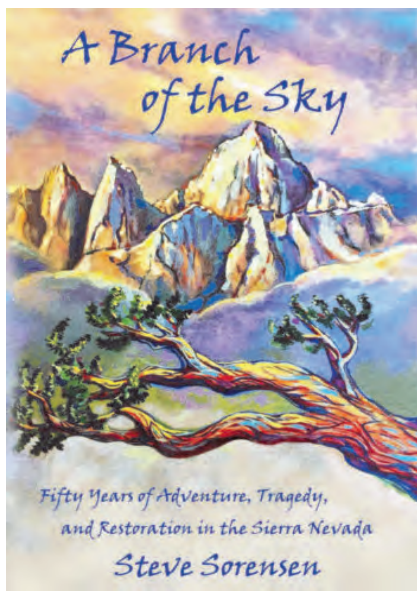


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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers



The new book.

Reader's Steve Sorensen publishes new book

And how he came to write San Diego feature stories

Editor: Steve Sorensen, who wrote for the Reader from 1976 off and on through 1997, has come out with a new book, A Branch of the Sky: Fifty Years of Adventure, Tragedy, and Restoration in the Sierra Nevada.

Sorensen's previous books include:

- *Heap of Bones: A Baja Surfer's Chronicle*
- *Morning Glass: the Adventures of Legendary Waterman Mike Doyle*
- *Day Hiking Sequoia: Fifty day hikes for Sequoia National Park*
- *Day Hiking Kings Canyon.*

We asked Sorensen to explain how he happened to write for the Reader and which were his favorite stories he wrote for the Reader.

Sorensen: In 1975, I was on my way back from a surfing trip to Mexico, when I stopped in Encinitas to visit a friend and ended up sleeping on his couch for two weeks. During that time, I saw a copy of the *San Diego Reader* and, inspired by its irreverent style, decided to try writing my very first feature story about what it felt like to be unemployed. I submitted the story to the *Reader*, then forgot about it. On the day before I had to leave town, I happened to walk by a newsstand on the Coast Highway and saw that the latest edition of the *Reader* was out. I picked up a copy and, to my astonishment, saw that the story on the cover was mine. I quickly got on the phone with the *Reader's* young editor, Paul Krueger, who offered to pay me \$300 for the story and asked if I could write more like it.

My favorite *Reader* stories that I wrote, in no particular order, are:

- The Devil's Peak: Climbing the highest

- mountain in Baja
- Mission Over the Mountains: Chocolate Mountains aerial gunnery range
- The King of Moonlight Beach: And the other outcasts of Encinitas
- The Guns of San Diego: Harrowing tales of police confiscating weapons
- Pilgrims by the Shore: Easter at the Colorado River
- Don't Pitch Your Tent on San Clemente Island: It belongs to the Navy
- Bull O' the Woods: Harvesting eucalyptus trees in Leucadia
- Hot Place in the Sun: Slab City and its neighborhoods
- Blood Brothers: Twelfth Avenue plasma center
- Fat Chance: Rancho La Puerta in Tecate
- Pecking Order: Fighting Cocks in San Diego County
- Please Don't Tell Anyone that Old Surfers End Up Here: Zacatitos, Baja California Sur

Steve Sorensen

Cory Briggs runs for mayor of San Diego

"The city does victory laps all the time on stuff that doesn't get fulfilled"



Briggs- "Hoteliers are making money and renting rooms because our city is so wonderful that people want to come here."

When Cory Briggs first announced he would run for mayor – in a tweet the day after Mayor Kevin Faulconer's state of the city speech – only the Twitter-verse noticed. Many shrugged it off – it was hard to believe that the lawyer who's sued the crap out of the city over and over would want to be the face of said city. But "I meant it, and I said why in the tweet," Briggs said in an interview on Thursday. "The mayor's speech was the straw that broke the camel's back. I've been fighting these knuckleheads at city hall since 2002, and they just do one dumb thing after another."

The mayor's speech, wherein he seemed to recite developers' wish lists, mentioning in passing the city's \$2.8 billion pension deficit, was applauded by most attendees.. Briggs saw it differently. "I agree with what most of these folks are trying to accomplish. We don't have different goals. But at some point you have talk about how we're going to implement it and how we're going to pay for it. You can't just get someone to adopt your policy and

continued on page 29



Bird calls this a "good release," because the scooter is parked off the sidewalk.

One-woman anti-scooter crusade

"Marie is trying to figure out a way to tow them off."

Mike Madriaga

South Park resident Marie, who stands about five feet tall, likes to stroll her neighborhood carrying a big stick.

"I yell at them motorized scooter and bike riders to get off the sidewalk," she said, "I have been known to stand in

the middle of the sidewalk, hook my cane into the the wrought iron fence and hold it with my left hand in front of me. Like this. I will block the sidewalk and tell them to get back onto the street and what they are doing is illegal."

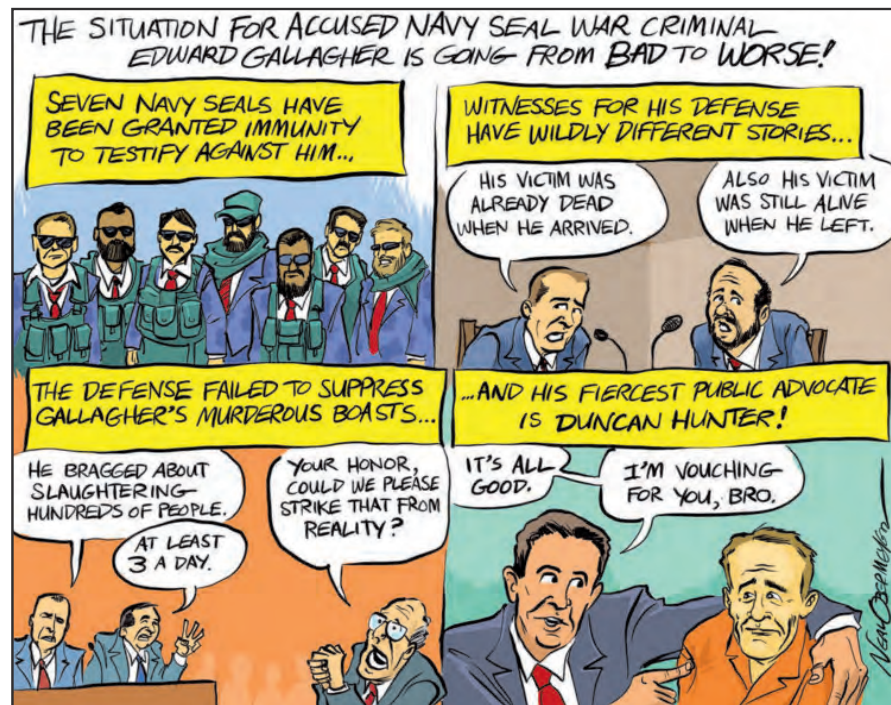
Marie, 62, has grown tired

of the motorized scooters and share bikes left on their sidewalks; so much that she used to lift and walk the scooters and bikes across the streets on a daily basis — until she sustained some injuries.

I spoke to Marie at her home by on Grape Street between 30th and Fern.

"I move them by the Discover Bike rack in front of Target (kitty-corner from the plaza) or on the other side of Grape Street," she said. "About three months ago I was moving a Bird off of our Grape Street plaza and as I put it down across

Neal Obermeyer





PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE MADRIGNA

Park a scooter in South Park's Grape Street Square, and you may incur the wrath of "Marie."

the street, the back wheel bounced up and the kickstand came right down in the middle of my foot and broke my [toe] bones; there's still like an [indentation] in my foot — look."

Marie removed her Croc-type shoe and allowed me to take a photo of her foot. "My toes are still broken and [for now] I can only wear this type of shoes."

On October 31 she emailed Bird Safety Team at hello@bird.com and San Diego District 3 city council staff members (under Councilman Chris Ward), Brett Weiss and Brian Elliott. It read in part: "I cannot continue to move these scooters. I suffered a foot injury

and have now injured my shoulder because the scooters are too heavy for me to keep lifting. I am not seeking any monetary solution — I really want you to respect our neighborhood, the residents, merchants, and our visitors. Please stop staging scooters where they will injure the neighbors."

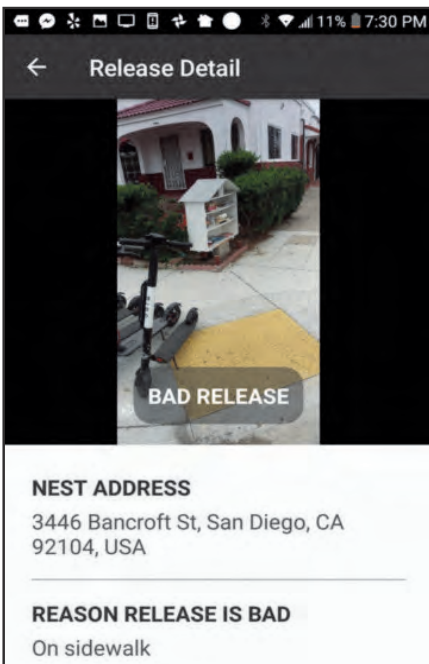
Despite her foot injury, Marie continued to move the share rides away from the sidewalk by her home and her neighbors within the Grape Street Square; Baby Garten Studio, So Childish baby boutique, Big Kitchen Café, and Faraon Hair Styling. She utilized dollies to transport the motorized bikes and scooters — because

they are locked and cannot be rolled freely unless they are activated via a phone app, a credit card, and a valid driver license.

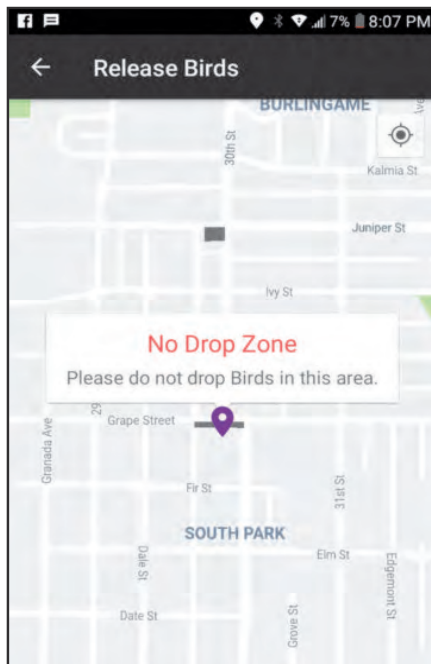
"I've seen her carry them across the street," said Rudy, manager of Big Kitchen. "She wants them off the block and she's not that strong. She carries them to that Discover bike station (about 200 feet from the cafe) and puts them there."

Rudy's been working at the cafe for 20 years and admits to attaining some of their business to patrons that ride in from North Park across the Switzer Canyon bridge. He also says the scooters are "a nuisance"

continued on page 28



The app for Bird scooter chargers calls this a bad release because it's blocking sidewalk access.



After repeated requests by Marie, Bird lists Grape Street Square as a no-drop zone.

UNDER THE RADAR

Liberal Terra firma Political hopefuls continue to pile into next year's San Diego races for city council and county supervisor, portending a costly scramble for votes as term limits continue to take their toll on previously entrenched incumbents. But one high-profile liberal already has filed to raise cash to knock-off First District supervisor **Kristin Gaspar** in 2020. The narrowly-elected first-term Republican's bid to take California's 49th District House seat, formerly occupied by the GOP's **Darrell Issa**, faltered after she huddled with **Donald Trump** at a White House anti-sanctuary parley. Now **Terra Lawson-Remer**, daughter of attorney **Shari Lawson-Remer** and her husband political consultant **Larry Remer**, has emerged to contest Gaspar's reelection.



Kristin Gaspar is smiling, despite Terra Lawson-Remer mounting a challenge to her reelection.

The younger Lawson-Remer is most noted among politicians for rappelling down the front of the Plaza Hotel with a banner protesting the 2004 Republican Convention that re-nominated **George W. Bush** for the presidency. Then 26 and a newly-minted Yale alum, she was a grad student at New York University studying for a law degree and a doctorate in law and society. "This has nothing to do with First Amendment rights," New York's then-mayor **Michael Bloomberg** stormed to reporters following word that Lawson-Remer and three young accomplices had been held for 25 hours in Manhattan's municipal lock-up before arraignment on felony and misdemeanor assault charges, per the *New York Times*. "You can express yourself, but you don't have a right to put other people's lives at risk."

More recently, Lawson-Remer has been a fellow at Stanford's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, looking into "the determinants and consequences of sustainable development, socio-economic exclusion, poverty and inequality, and human rights fulfillment within and across generations," per the school's website. A one-time Obama administration aide, she's also associated with UCSD's Center on Global Transformation and claims credit for working to get Democrat **Mike Levin** elected to his 49th District House Seat last year.

Her father Larry Remer, whose clients have included San Diego politicians from fallen Republican mayor **Roger Hedgecock** to House Democrat **Juan Vargas**, along with Southern California Edison, is widely expected to play a low-key but

significant role.

Among Remer's many other clients over the years was **Peter Navarro**, the Trump trade honcho who once ran for mayor of San Diego, among other offices. "My campaign consultant was a guy named Larry Remer. I would not want to go through life with that last name. But given his approach to politics, the name is appropriate because Larry usually reams the crap out of the opposition," wrote Navarro in *San Diego Confidential*, his 1998 campaign memoir.

Next year's contest could see a nasty high-dollar campaign by both left and right, including the take-no-prisoners GOP Lincoln Club, famous for its last-minute hit-pieces.

Vegetarian's Kosher lockdown

San Diego's county jail has gotten a bad rap from some for its number of inmate suicides and mishandling of those confined there, but the institution offers choices of cuisine. "The San Diego County Sheriff's Department requires a one-year Blanket Purchase Agreement with Four Optional years for the purchase of Vegetarian Kosher approved meals for San Diego Sheriff's Food Services. Menu changes may occur annually," says a request for bids due February 15. The frozen meals "must be prepared in a Kosher kitchen with a Rabbi on site during meal production," and "have a shelf life of three months minimum."

But no discussions, religious or otherwise, with prisoners. "The Vendor or the Vendor's employees shall keep communication with inmate workers to a strict minimum. No personal conversations are to take place between the Vendor or the Vendor's employees and the inmates. A violation of this procedure may result in the 'termination' of the existing contract"



Bill Gore's smiling, even though plans for his kick-ass new van fell through.

This van's rockin' Besides food, Sheriff **Bill Gore** has also been out shopping for a new Ford "armored tactical van," boasting "undercover Police light package with siren," a "rear undercover curtain," and "covert surveillance equipment." Says a notice for bids, "The covert exterior surveillance system shall have a 360-degree camera system consisting of at least four cameras installed to show the exterior view from the front, back and sides of the van."

continued on page 73

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LETTERS

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Not going anywhere

Regarding Thomas Larson's January 23 article, "We wish there were fewer": I generally refrain from acronyms so, oh my word. Who turned the tragic-ometer up all the way to full blast? Larson chronicles the sparsely attended burials of babies who were abused or thrown away in heartbreaking detail. Tiny innocents laid to rest in fittingly, "The Garden of Innocence." Reader readers are lucky to have Thomas Larson's prolific body of work which spans two decades. Last year's "Little Italy's big - massive redevelopment" was a standout among many. I've been fortunate to work with

some good writers. I had that opportunity as a former news editor of *Good Times* news & entertainment weekly in my beloved Santa Cruz. Please don't let Thomas Larson go anywhere.

Kimberley Monari
North Park

In black and white

In your column "Movies@ Home (January 31) it is stated for the movie, *Jammin' The Blues*, "... this free-form all-black jam session ...". The guitarist, Barney Kessel, isn't black (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammin%27_the_Blues). "Barney Kessel is the only white musician in the film. He was seated in the shadows to shade his skin."

Jan Tonnesen
La Mesa

Justice, not training

I disagree that more training is the key to reducing mandated reporting failure ("Miranda Escoto tried to report abuse of students," *City Lights*, January 23). After working 15 years as an Instructional Health Care Assistant at Sweetwater High School District, I believe the main causes of failing to report are fear of retaliation and the fact that teachers and staff are getting away with the crimes they are committing against students. The training video from district attorney Summer Stephan, superintendent Paul Gothold and the chief of police Craig Carter is commendable but not enough. Until the district attorney offers protection to those willing to report and prosecutes abusers, trainings are going to have the same old results; the continuance of physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse of the most vulnerable human beings. The reality is that inside the classroom there is a culture of secrecy and a strong corrupt brotherhood that makes it impossible to report. Since 2005 I started reaching out to the chain of command for help for special education students, as I was told. I went all the way up to the Sweetwater Union High School superintendent Edward Brand. At the beginning of 2013 I went

to the district attorney community liaison office of Jesse Navarro who suggested I look for legal aid when I told him about my fear of being fired. After Child Welfare did a mandated reporting training I asked the Ms. Quintanilla, the instructor, for an appointment to talk with her. When I got to her office the next day she directed me to the Chula Vista police office. I went right away but the office was already closed and I had to use the intercom to request service. The police officer that came to the front office refused to take my report. He said that special needs students must be restrained because of their behavior. Around 2016 I was offered a \$75,000 settlement plus the promise of getting disability by Kaiser Permanente. Can you see how big the quid pro quo web is and how power is far more important than justice? Until someone more powerful than the school district makes justice more important, additional training will not solve the problem.

Miranda Escoto
Chula Vista

Sweet Santee

Thank you for the nice commentary about my city ("Santee - where everyone wants to live," *Cover Stories*, January 30). My wife and I lived here for 13 years. We sold our house in University Heights and paid cash with the equity for our home. No regrets. Here things are spread out, plenty of parking, excellent schools for the younger families, fantastic sports and activity park with summer concerts near the river and other nice dog friendly parks. Very few homeless, they seem to prefer El Cajon. It's an attractive mid size city with plenty of shopping and excellent restaurants. The only things missing it's its own hospital and a movie complex that is in the works. The river walk goes for miles and will eventually connect to Mission Valley. Lots of hiking trails like the one above my house on Healy St.

Robert Schick
Santee

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

IMPERIAL BEACH

Imperial ferals scratch out patch by park

Pit Bulls bullied, Podencos imperiled

"These Imperial Beach cats are ballsy," Julie said. "Normally, cats just freeze and run away." She was referring to the recent rash of cat attacks reported on the Ring and Facebook apps. "Both of my [Pit Bull and Catahoula] dogs are now scratched, bit, and bleeding," said an IB resident on Facebook. "Thank GOD neither of them had their eyes hit."



Talia's Bluenose Pit Bull Ruger.

On January 28, I spoke to Julie and a couple of dog owners at Veterans Dog Park on 8th Street, a block east from the street where the bloody Facebook photos were taken. Julie brought her four Podencos (Aroa, Olive, Rusty, and Raton-the-newbie); the dogs — originally bred as hunting dogs in Spain — were running and jumping around the 18,500 square-foot off-leash dog park as we conversed about the "bully cats."

"Two months ago, three of my dogs were also attacked close to this park," Julie said. "I had them on a leash, and all of a sudden they blew up, because there was a cat. And this cat arched up, launched at us, and sliced the bejesus out of [Olive]. I was yelling hysterically. And then the cat came around for round two, but this time, my dogs got it, and I pulled up on the dogs and the cat scooted out. [Olive] had tears of blood going down her face."

Talia brought Ruger, a Bluenose Pit Bull;



Julie's Podenco posse got their own back in round two.

she had seen the Facebook photos of the scratched Pit Bull. "I think it's weird," she said. "I would have grabbed the cat, tried to trap it and call the shelter."

Julie suggested the Coronado Cares animal-care organization, because they are an "advocate for feral cats through the Trap-Neuter-Return Program." ("A feral cat is a cat that is not used to human touch," states the animal-care organization.) "There's a ton of feral cats by 13th and Grove and Iris," she said. "When I had just two of my dogs with me, this cat followed us down the block on Iris by 13th, and Rusty got scratched in the nose. That's twice these cats have attacked us."

Underneath the original Facebook post we discussed, there were comments from three additional Imperial Beach residents who claimed their dogs had been attacked by the neighborhood kitties.

MIKE MADRIAGA

KEARNY MESA

Alphabetic Evolution: graffiti solution?

Mural represents a font of font-based creativity



On January 25, Jose Venegas finished painting a mural titled "Alphabetic Evolution" at the juvenile office of the district attorney, located at Meadow Lark Drive, northeast from the 163 and Genesee. "This 15-foot painting represents the bridge that connects the transition of script lettering to graffiti writing as an art form," Venegas said. "The progression of typography styles in the United States — from the Declaration of Independence to the iconic

font of the *New York Times* newspaper, and eventually to the side of subway trains in New York City — is the story of letters."

Venegas is the current manager and part-founder of Writers Block, a 10,000 sq./ft legal-graffiti yard located in Lincoln Heights. He is also a resident artist at the San Diego Cultural Arts Alliance, which tries to redirect troubled



Respect for Respectful: Venegas' wordy work.

youth. And he has been spray painting murals since the 1990s.

"The alphabet consists of 26 characters, each one with its unique flow and structure," Venegas said. "Along the years, these characters began to evolve in different fonts and styles created by the graffiti writer. I created this painting to represent the visual transformation." The arts alliance says that the DA's office commissioned the piece as part of its ongoing efforts to promote programs such as Graffiti Hurts.

"Growing up in an environment that was surrounded by gangs, drugs and violence — as a Hispanic male in the 90s," says Venegas, "this was my daily challenge." Venegas started doodling in his third grade math book. That led to a tag on the side of a building, and then a throw-up on a freeway wall. "The Alphabetic Evolution [mural] represents the struggle and accomplishments of a teenager," Venegas said, "who at some point needed direction and words of wisdom."

MIKE MADRIAGA

OCEANSIDE

Wild West in the air over Eastside

Tim Broom issues sweeping condemnation following fatality

Tim Broom was not happy when he learned that a single-engine Piper PA-28 airplane had crashed about 700 yards from his home near Highway 76 on the night of January 28. Nor was he particularly surprised. Broom, a computer systems analyst,

told News 8 reporter Heather Hope that he and other neighbors had filed over 200 complaints with the city of Oceanside over the last seven years, warning of "dangerous activities" connected with the airport. "It's just a matter of time before we have an accident

with fatalities," Broom said he told the Federal Aviation Administration and the City of Oceanside about the small airport that is home to some 83 small planes and situated uncomfortably close to houses and traffic. "Don't get me wrong," said Broom. "I really feel sorry for the pilot who unfortunately lost his life in this avoidable tragedy. But I feel it's now time to have a productive conversation on how to make Oceanside safer for residents who live in the proximity."

Broom said that the "wild west, anything goes" atmosphere that surrounds the Oceanside airport is a "nightmare. According to [assistant airport manager Jared] Foti, their video cameras showed the aircraft may have taken off in the fog." Foti admitted that the plane took off during poor visibility and that the airport is completely unregulated and without an air traffic control tower. He said that planes that are based there — or planes from anywhere else — can come and go as they please, any time of the day or night. (A Federal Aviation Administration website said the plane was owned by Vista resident Robert Ventura. Foti said the plane was not normally stored at the Oceanside Airport.)

Broom said he and his neighbors in Oceanside's Eastside neighborhood have

continued on page 8

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been tormented by low flying aircraft. Planes departing the Oceanside Airport are only allowed to fly west and not above nearby homes to the north or south. Broom says he has documented numerous violations, “but for the most part the behavior continues.” Oceanside Airport manager Dennis Easto



The Piper was not found until the gates of dawn.

said if a plane is based at his airport and it is are caught flying over homes, he could give a written warning. He said if a plane gets three warnings, the owner could be asked to terminate his or her agreement to keep the plane in Oceanside. But he also said that he has yet had to banish anyone, and that there is nothing to keep planes from other airports or flight training schools from using the airport’s runway for practice landings at any time of day or night.

Foti said Oceanside Airport is the only airport that is not part of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority that oversees the smaller airports at Fallbrook, Ramona, Carlsbad (Palomar), Gillespie, and Montgomery Fields. The Oceanside Airport is run by Airport Property Ventures LLC (a division of KDG Construction Consulting of Glendale), which was awarded a 50-year contract to operate it about ten years ago.

KEN LEIGHTON

THE GREEN ZONE Is weed bad for the environment?

Urbn Leaf: Golden State Greens isn’t so green

As cannabis facilities grow, so does the traffic around them. Emissions increase, air quality degrades. Yet the San Diego City Council is ignoring those environmental impacts. At least, that’s what was claimed by several appeals against permits for three new pot production facilities before the city on January 14.

After a preliminary review, the city exempted the projects — 3443 Pickwick Street in southeast San Diego, and 8330 Arjons Drive and 9151 Rehco Road in Mira Mesa — from further environmental study, since the applicants

would use existing buildings and make limited modifications, and since the impacts in these light industrial zones should be minor.

Environmental concerns have nothing to do with the appeals, speakers for those applying for permits alleged. They said the California Environmental Quality Act, a state law that can be used to block development permits, was being abused by competitors. “This is wasting everybody’s time,” said Gina Austin, attorney for one of the applicants. (It’s also costing some people money: the appellants shell out a hefty fee to the city for each appeal.) Councilman Sherman noted that “on a lot of these appeals, we see the same name over and over: Mr. Fleisher.” Fleisher appealed all three projects. The morning of the hearing, he withdrew them, but another appeal remained for each.

The battle began when the city set a cap of 40 pot production facilities, and more than 60 eager entrepreneurs lined up. Those among the first 40 to be granted environmental exemptions and city approval hearings have become the targets of competitors trying to claw their way up in the queue, Austin claimed. “What you have is Bill Fleisher, who appealed a bazillion people...and he is the father of an existing

“If [Senn] can slow some people down, if somebody jumps ahead of him, then he’s still within that top 40.”

marijuana outlet operator who didn’t want to use his name, and used dad’s name for a bunch of these.”

The other one, she said, is Will Senn, who owns Urbn Leaf dispensaries in Bay Park and San Ysidro. “He has appealed almost every



URBNLEAF.COM

From the Urban Leaf website: V for “Vexatious.”

single applicant because he’s got application number 40 or 41. So if he can slow some people down, if somebody jumps ahead of him, then he’s still within that top 40.” The project at issue won’t go back to the council,

a hearing officer, or the planning commission until a later point in time, she said. “So, if you’ve seen someone who was in, say, position 38 or so move up to position 32? That drops other people down, and they’re moving them around...and that’s what this appeal process is being used for.” Austin urged the council to find a fix for the problem, which she said the city tried to do with the 11th code update, but it wasn’t enough.

Senn, of Urbn Leaf, filed an appeal in November challenging the city’s environmental determination on 3443 Pickwick street. The same month, Urbn Leaf’s buyer, Joshua Bubeck, aimed another at the facility Austin represents, at 8330 Arjons Drive. The applicant, Adam Knopf, is chief executive of Golden State Greens, a Point Loma dispensary located about a mile and a half from Urbn Leaf’s Bay Park shop.

The largest facility, a 4.72-acre site at 9151 Rehco Rd that would grow, manufacture, package and distribute cannabis products to licensed outlets, was the subject of two appeals. Councilmember Sherman asked if the appeal that was left (since Fleisher

withdrew his) was about traffic. Matt Longo, the applicant, said they would have less than 50 employees; a number Sherman said doesn’t get close to 1000, “the threshold” they go by for average daily traffic before further environmental review is required by the state. The council agreed in a unanimous vote to deny the appeals. (Cate, whose district covers Mira Mesa, was absent). Longo said he’s been in the industry for 15 years. “I play fair. I expect everyone else to play that way. That didn’t happen here.”

SHEILA PELL

LA JOLLA

Nude beach ball sighted Steel stormball painted to honor both balls and beaches

On January 27, a crew of lifeguards at Black’s Beach discovered that “the elusive steel ball” has resurfaced after a two-year hiatus, this time washing up along the north end of the beach. “We haven’t seen it in a few years, so it’s kinda fun to see it now!” a Black’s Beach regular exclaimed.

An off-duty lifeguard, speaking in an unofficial capacity, told us, “It is believed to



Peep the big ball at Black’s Beach!

be an old mooring from some sort of naval ship or shipping container based out of Los Angeles or Long Beach; it made its way down the coast during an early 1980s El Niño winter, and made landfall in La Jolla at Black’s Beach. It takes a lot of surf and a lot of sand movement to get it to relocate ‘naturally’ on the sand, which happens every so often during the large winter storms. Most of the time, it stays buried.”

During periods of exposure, the mooring often receives lots of love. “It has been painted various times, depicting nude beaches from across the world (since Black’s is a nude beach), a pumpkin, and a golf ball in honor of the Torrey Pines Golf Course that rests above the bluff. Right now, it sits about 100 yards south of Mussel Rocks, which is at the far north end of Black’s Beach. Its size is probably around five feet in diameter. Soon enough, the sand and sea will take it back underground with the king tides, and the hunt will continue.”

DELINDA LOMBARDO

CITY HEIGHTS

Red rack a refugee reminder? From the camel capitol to City Heights

“It’s a camel, but what is the point of this?” asked Kee. “Ohhh, it’s a bike rack,” she answered herself. She was referring to a new red bike rack on the corner of 50th Street and University Avenue in City Heights. I spoke to Kee, an Urban Corps employee and City Heights resident, on January 25; she was hanging out at the game tables a few feet away from the bike rack. “This being a

continued on page 30

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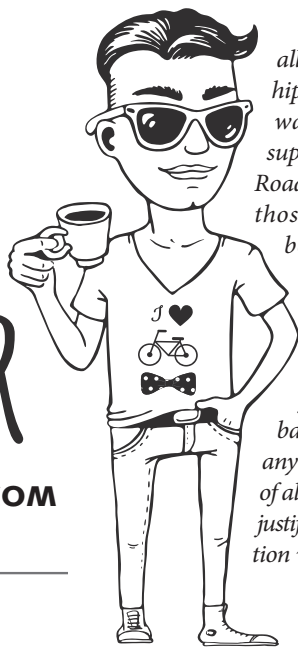
Are places like Target and Urban Outfitters bona fide hipster destinations or a mass marketed version thereof?

— DAVID

Much of the outcome here depends on your personal definition of hipster. If you think of hipsters as the type of cool social innovators perpetually finding themselves out on the bleeding edge of culture, then you probably see nothing short of corporate scene raiding in, say, Target's efforts to supply the masses with "graphic novelty tees," which is what corporate America calls ironic t-shirts. On the other hand, if your personal idea of a hipster contemplates a hopeless trend-follower forever trying to retroactively claim some stake in the new hotness, then Urban Outfitters' current run of 1990s inspired t-shirts is perfect for the utterly basic, lazy-ass hipster who can't be bothered to put in the hard labor of scouring the racks at Safari Seconds for some clothing that might very well have been worn by one of the child actors on *Home Improvement*. In the latter case, the "mass-marketed" quality of big box stores would actually qualify as genuinely hipster. That these are both perfectly valid perspectives is what makes my job so damn hard sometimes.

Dear Hipster:

A little while back, you wrote something about the complicated relationship between hipsters and electric cars. That got me thinking about another weird hipster/car relationship I have noticed recently. Specifically, I mean to call out the bizarre love affair between hipsters and station wagons. What is going on there? I have heard the cutest hipster girls imaginable cooing over old Volkswagens, and I've person-



ally witnessed at least one hipster friend drive all the way to Ontario to buy a supposedly "pristine" Buick Roadmaster, which is one of those faux-wood panelled boats my grandmother used to drive around in during the 90s. Another couple I know recently traded in their Miata for a new Subaru outback...and they don't have any kids! How, in the name of all that is cool, can hipsters justify their obsession with station wagons?

— MARK Z.

I admit, this is one of the more peculiar hipster affections (or affectations). However, I can think of at least three reasons why station wagons appeal to hipsters:

They're Unpopular

In a world where ugly, boring, interchangeable, pod-shaped "crossover SUVs" dominate the new car market, having a station wagon makes you look like a weirdo marching to the beat of your own drum; which is hella hipster.

They're Old School

Back in the day, wagons were the number one people mover in town. Nothing says "1970s family picnic" quite like climbing into mom's custom cruiser, preferably into that awesome seat in the wayback that freaking faced backwards so you could look at where you've been instead of where you're going like modern people do. How cool and old school was that? Hipsters love that kind of thing.

They're Objectively Great

The gas mileage and economy of a sedan with the people-hauling capabilities of a minivan or SUV. Plus, they can drive like sports cars when they need to. Hipsters need to feel like they're more clever than everyone else, and wagons deliver a healthy dose of having-your-cake-and-eating-it-too smugness.

On the whole, I 100 percent support the hipster wagon movement. You should too. Next time you hear someone whine about how he needs to buy an SUV because he "has to sit up high" (blah blah blah waste gas blah blah never going offroading but still... blah), think to yourself, "Sweet, there's one less competitor for the next well preserved Volvo 240 that pops up on craigslist."

— DJ Stevens

Hipstermobile



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Almost factual news

Is The Happening's Happening Happening?

Terror trees foment fear in human horde

The surprise twist: M. Night was right!



Above: the predatory palm. Below: the toppling Torrey Pine.

Twist-happy movie director M. Night Shyamalan is riding high these days after his 2016 horror hit *Split* allowed him to revisit the

superhero universe he created with 2000s *Unbreakable* and so create this year's successful third installment, *Glass*. But ten years ago, things were not

nearly so bright for Night; he was in the midst of five-picture slump that started with 2004's *The Village* and ended with 2013's awful *After Earth*. Along the way, he made *The Happening*, a story about how some trees got fed up with humanity's treatment of the planet and decided to kill a bunch of people as a kind of warning. At the time, people were not impressed, possibly because the trees never got to make a semi-convincing speech during the final confrontation before ultimately being defeated by Mark Wahlberg and his mighty biceps.

But opinions may be shifting, at least in San Diego, and not just because the Shy-man is back on top. On January 27, a rotting palm toppled onto a parked car, seemingly without provocation. And on January 21, a massive Torrey Pine killed two people when it fell on the Point Loma vacation rental where they



This just in: we're all gonna die!

were sleeping.

Authorities immediately began searching for motives behind the tree-based violence, but soon realized the possible causes were too numerous to investigate. "It turns out we've been cutting down trees all over San Diego," said SDPD Eco-

Detective Buzz Sawyer, "even in supposed sanctuaries like Balboa Park. Sure, they were dead or diseased, but it turns out that's our fault, too, thanks to our poor water management policies. Plus we've been delivering record heat every summer for like five years running. I'm just surprised

it's taken our leafy neighbors this long to start retaliating. But the real horror in all this is that if *The Happening* turns out to be prophetic, we may have to start taking *After Earth*'s portrait of a hostile, all-but-uninhabitable world more seriously. That movie was just terrible."



Environmental expert A. Smith of the celebrated Matrix Institute weighed in with this assessment: "Every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment, but humans do not. They move to an area and multiply until every natural resource is consumed. The only way they can survive is to spread to another area. There is another organism that follows this same pattern: a virus. Human beings are a disease. Trees are the cure."

St. Paul's Above It All

Church property to host tower that will tower over Balboa Park

"In the shadow of our penthouse suites you will take refuge."

"It's true that Greystar's proposed project is 50 feet taller than anything else along the edge of the Park," said St. Paul's Dean, the Most Extremely Very Reverend and Remunerated Cash Munny, "and that its shadow will cover the earth in the afternoons like the mid-day darkness that descended

when Christ died on the cross. But there will be, in the bowels - that is, the lower parts of the building - 18 low-income apartments! A full two more than the 16 we're demolishing to make way for the tower! And we'll be able to host LGBTQ events in the courtyard, which will help atone for our namesake's hateful line in Corinthians about how 'neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, etc. will inherit the kingdom of God.' Anyway, we answer to a higher authority than some planning commission, so we're going ahead with it."



There's even Biblical precedent in Genesis: "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may garner office space for ourselves."

WHO PLAYS WHO

2020 MAYORAL RACE EDITION



In *The Force Awakens*, **Adam Driver** played a Sith Lord who sought to restore glory to his order after Vader's failure

As interim mayor, **Todd Gloria** sought to restore dignity to his office after Bob Filner's failure.



In *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, **Jeffrey Jones** played a joyless gadfly of a principal who sought to bust the fun-loving Bueller.

Cory Briggs seems like he's eager to sue anyone who tries to do a little developing in San Diego.



In *The Party*, **Kristin Scott Thomas** played a newly appointed government official who's in for a bumpy ride.

Barbara Bry was elected to the San Diego city council in 2016.

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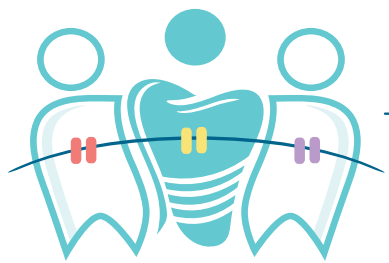
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Bridge in Mission Bay



It's a business

Watercolors of a happy life

"Just let it go, let it flow, kind of like life," says Tony Trowbridge.

He's painting a watercolor of what he sees right here on Orange Avenue in Coronado. Quick, deft, light movements, mixed with splottings of paint or of water, spreading color by finger, etching tree structure by cutting back to the paper with the wrong end of the brush. As he paints, he talks, without taking his eyes off the art paper clipped to his tripod. At his feet he has scattered finished pieces with a



Tony Trowbridge painting street scene

sign saying "Artwork for sale. Local original watercolors, \$20+."

It's so striking, seeing someone actually creating art, at least art that's not gimmicky cartoon stuff, on the street. People don't quite know how to react.

"I strictly paint watercolors," Tony says. "I

"All the principles of watercolor painting are the principles of a happy life."

learn so much every time I paint. And all the principles of watercolor painting are the principles of a happy life. The amount of control that we think we have in life, but really we don't have any. So if you just surrender, then everything becomes easy."

I'm desperate to see him create something from nothing. He says he's about done with this one. So I help him decamp from here about twenty yards down the road. He sets up outside Bay Books and the Café Madrid coffee cart.

A few eyebrows from the coffee regulars rise, just because this is not, well, regular.

Within minutes, Tony has a blank sheet of art paper clipped, and with a pencil is whipping up a few lines. Then he's grabbing a big wash brush and bathing the canvas with pale yellows, greens, blues and browns. And before you know it, he has sprouted palms, wafted shadows across the pavement, stuck in umbrellas and the silhouettes of people. It is amazing to see it come to life like this in a matter of minutes.

He stops for a smoke. "My father was, is, an artist. But I didn't live with him. I was born in Kansas, where he's from. My parents were divorced when I was six. I would go back and forth between Kansas and California. But my dad gave me such a perfect environment to create and express. Fast forward to five years ago, I picked up watercolor. I went back to school, did one semester, but it reignited me. I forgot! I was supposed to be an artist! Now I'm 42, not married, don't have any kids, but I've found my passion. I reunited with my father, and he

gave me a crash course in watercolor. He's a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, and he's an amazing artist, so it's in me. Two years ago, Keiko Tanabe, who's world famous and lives here, took me under her wing. And taught me plein air painting like this. I'd go paint with her outside, whenever she was

in town, and I got bit by the plein air bug."

Now Tony's back at it. The picture has changed radically since the start. Trees are taller, greener, shadows are longer, the Café Madrid looks backlit by a setting sun. He turns a spill into a ray of sunlight.

"All the best parts of my paintings are accidents. It's why I'll never get bored with this medium."

"Does he have a permit?" says one of the baristas. "Wonder if the police know?"

Mermaid rescue

The monk cuts across the courtyard to where we're staring up at Wat Lao Buddharam, here on 44th Street in Chollas View.

"Can I help you?"

Soon he is inviting us to come look inside. We shed our shoes and sit down, he on the raised altar level, we on the slightly lower level mat, as is customary.

My buddy Karen is looking at his right hand.

"Are you double-jointed?" she asks. Because his fingers bend distinctly in a reverse direction, the way classical dancers of the Ramayana bend their hands gracefully backwards.

"No," he says. "Hand grenade."

And this is how we get to know Phou Vieng Insysiengmae, a child soldier from Laos, who was saved by a mermaid in the Mekong river.

"I was born near Savannakhet in southern Laos, in 1960. When I was 14, government people came and took me and other boys into the mountains. They showed us how to use a gun. Then they sent us out to fight, for years."

He points to his bent finger. "I was going to throw this hand grenade when a big explosion happened right in front of me. I said, 'What the hell?' and I forgot about the grenade for a moment. It exploded. I was lucky I wore an American helmet that day. Then I got shot through my right leg. It felt like somebody kicked me."

After five years of near-death experiences "fighting for the Americans," Phou Vieng really thought his luck had run out.

"We were retreating to the Mekong, but no boat to get away, to cross the river. All we could do was to try and swim from Laos to Thailand. The cold water, it hits you. You have your gun, ammunition, you are heavy. I jumped in. I got cramps in both legs. You cannot move. You go down. I went all the way under. Deep, very deep. Many of us were caught in whirlpools. They can keep you down for three miles before they spit you up. Nobody help. Then something came from under to help me. A mermaid? A big fish? Long

hair, like a girl. Swim really fast.

"My eyes were closed, but I could see, in the water, the face of a girl, human hair, but body like a fish. She grabbed my body and pushed me, flipped me with her tail, up to the [riverbank on the] Thailand side. That's why I lived. That's why I am here now. But we were 130 soldiers, and maybe 70 die."

Could it have been a Mekong manatee? But manatees don't have hair. "I asked old people over there. They knew about it. About people underwater who help you. If you help people, and [nature] everywhere, it remembers. It sees the snake, the scorpion, before you do. If you do good, maybe it helps you too."

Now he lives the life of a Buddhist monk in San Diego. But he says that moment, and that creature, live with him. "I see in my eye every night, every day. People say real, not real. Nobody believes, but I see it, and I am here. If I didn't have her, and luck, I am gone."



Pra Phou Vieng Insysiengmae, child soldier turned monk



Heavenly creature



The finger, twisted by a hand grenade

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Oceanside, San Diego's northernmost city, is often overlooked in discussions about the region's most exclusive real estate, which tend to focus on coastal North County cities such as Carlsbad, Encinitas, or Del Mar. But while wealthier areas do exist, Oceanside, true to its name, boasts nearly three miles of sandy beaches. And no matter where you go in Southern California, homes near the water's edge are going to be prized possessions —



Putting the "oceanside" in "Oceanside real estate."

and their price tags will reflect that.

The most expensive single-family listing currently available in Oceanside is 933 S. Pacific Street,

where \$4,495,950 will buy you a three-story home built in 2007 with four bedrooms and five baths spread across "3526 well appointed square feet of

ocean front luxury living." "Let's start with the reason to own this perfect home, the beach!" read the marketing materials for the property. A

multi-tiered patio in the backyard offers "a perfect lounging area, a built in BBQ, an outdoor shower, plus a sand-filled retreat that is directly adjacent to the beach, with steps leading down to the sand." Disappointed by disappearing fire pits at public beaches throughout the county? Your own private spit of sand atop the beach's breakwater boulders has you covered.

Enter from the beach through the ground-level bonus room and you're led into "a spacious great room with a wet bar, a laundry room, a dishwasher, wine refrigerator, fireplace" and ensuite bedroom.

Take the stairs or an elevator to the main level, featuring "a gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances which include a Sub Zero refrig-

erator, Thermador oven, Wolf 6 burner cooktop, Bosch dishwasher, wine refrigerator, pot filler, & walk-in pantry," along with an ocean-view dining area.

The top floor hosts "a magnificent master bedroom with endless ocean views" and a second laundry room. There's also access to the rooftop deck featuring a hot tub and "panoramic views from Dana Point to La Jolla."

"At the end of a long day, start the fireplace, relax in your very own steam shower, then take a soak in the whirlpool tub; all while listening to the crashing waves of the ocean & watching the surfers. What could be better than that?"

Tax records indicate the property is currently owned by Jerold and Lisabeth Isaac of Canyon

continued on page 29

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I didn't screw up, or at least nobody noticed if I did, because everyone else was equally at sea.



Telecomedy

(The names of most players have been changed, partly for convenience but mostly because certain people were treated unfairly in the press many years ago, and I believe they should be protected.)

THERE CAME A TIME in the early 1990s when I realized I needed to find a serious job. Or, failing that, a couple of really bad jobs.

I had part-time employment at UCSD, but that was ending. So I went off on a random walk that took me into an area of technology that

no longer exists and is scarcely remembered: telecom switching and reselling. Briefly I was an international telecommunications executive, with offices in London and Paris. Then everything crashed.

But to begin at the beginning: at UCSD

I helped manage something called the “job listserv.” This was a mailing list showing employment opportunities at and around the university. You’d dial us up on your 9600bps modem — a modem was still something of a novelty in those days — and down would come a

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sheaf of job descriptions, beep-boop-beep.

Most of the positions were clerical and part-time, rather like mine (“Must have familiarity with e-mail”); laughable and contemptible in the best of times, though maybe not at this particular moment. A few were “real” quasi-professional jobs, either at the university or in a neighboring firm in Golden Triangle or the mesas. Any job that paid more than about \$25,000 a year elicited hundreds of responses including obsequious cover-letters and gilt-edged CVs.

It was so sad. I felt so sorry for these people I sometimes forgot I was about to be unemployed myself.

I spent my last couple of weeks at the list-serv applying to every remote possibility that showed up on our job

list. I didn't keep track of my applications, any more than I crossed my fingers

Nowadays you might say Hahaha, serves you right for using a payphone. And you'd be right.

over the want ads I kept answering in the *Union-Tribune*. Marketing Assistant, Operations Trainee, Whatever Technologist. Or: Night-Shift Graphic Designer at Kinko's. Now that I *do* remember, because it was up around Solana Beach, paid a princely \$14 per hour, and 70 people had already applied, or so they told me.

When it seemed nobody wanted me, I looked at the calendar and saw it



DYNAMIC GRAPHICS/LIQUIDLIBRARY/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

was October, about time to start applying for the “seasonal help” jobs at the local mall. I didn't want to drive anywhere, so I was pretty much limited to University Towne Center, a sprawling shopping complex at La Jolla Village Drive and Genesee

Avenue, and thus only a 10- or 12-minute walk from my apartment.

UTC was thought to be fairly upscale in those days because A) it pretended to be in La Jolla, B) it was anchored by a big Nordstrom, and C) it featured such choice

eateries as Carlos Murphy's and Tony Roma's (“A Place for Ribs”). The bar for “upscale mall” has been raised a bit since those days.

Along with these big-footprint establishments were dozens of costume-jewelry shops, Thomas Kinkadee galleries, golf-souvenir emporia, a Warner Bros. Studio Store that sold cartoon memorabilia and animation cels; and so forth. Surely one of these places could take me on? They paid barely over minimum wage, but if I worked 50, 60 hours a week I could get by for a few months, and I wouldn't have to move back to my aunt's in Newport Beach.

Besides which (I told myself), somebody was bound to see how smart I was, and they'd make me assistant manager, maybe by Thanksgiving!

So I put on an act of

being a half-witted and overeager job applicant. Clearly I overdid it, because only one shop took the bait. That was Williams-Sonoma, a tiny storefront hidden downstairs in one of the less desirable canyons of the mall. Near the dumpsters, in fact, down past Tony Roma's. Today everyone knows Williams-Sonoma as a posh cookery chain where you can pay \$300 for a coffee-maker. Back then, it was just breaking out of the catalog business, a junior partner to Pottery Barn. It didn't rate a location on the main level of University Towne Center.

I did not become assistant manager. No, my work mainly consisted of unpacking stock as it arrived — glassware, pasta bowls, spatulas, Kitchen Aid mixers, canisters of Golden Malted waffle mix bearing a strange

I have Lupus. Every day is different.



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little bow-tied boy on the label, and five times more dishcloths and aprons than we could possibly sell, which we stuffed into every available crevice of the stockroom shelves.

I worked a plastic gun that affixed adhesive “SKU labels” to every double-old-fashioned glass and ironstone chili bowl. I restocked the shelves out front and put the trash out. And when the weekends got really busy, I’d be a greeter (“Welcome to Williams-Sonoma!”) and do sales-girl work on the floor. I didn’t want to do cashiering, which was fine because that job was much sought-after by all the chirrupy teenage girls. For some reason, they thought working the cash register was high-status.

The pay was scandalously low, but you weren’t

supposed to care, because you got a 20-percent discount on everything in the store. And it was, like, just a seasonal job, you know. Years later, I heard that San Diego companies had a reputation for underpaying employees because they were being paid in “sunshine dollars,” a nice way of saying it’s a buyer’s market for over-qualified employees.

My luck took a turn: a temp agency got me a job pasting up Yellow Pages ads for \$10 an hour. I could have quit the Williams-Sonoma gig, but decided to stick with it on nights and weekends. I ended up working 60-70 hours a week and breaking my health. On Christmas Eve, I developed a fever of 104 and was completely laid up for days with flu and sinusitis.

More pathetic good luck: our UTC Williams-Sonoma won a sales prize. Yes sir, our shop had beaten out every other Williams-Sonoma in Southern California, in terms of revenue-per-square-foot for the Holiday Season. And every employee in our shop was to receive... a bread maker! Oh boy! The number one culinary fad of the early 90s!

The reason we came in first was simple. We were the smallest Williams-Sonoma in SoCal. We had a sixth of the floor space they had up at South Coast Plaza. Why we had such a tiny space is a puzzlement. My guess is that at the Williams-Sonoma HQ, they imagined their “La Jolla” door was in a quaint seaside village, surrounded by postcard shops and crafts-jewelry booths. Up in San Fran-

cisco, they don’t think there are any large conurbations south of Los Angeles. Many years later they got clued in, and W-S now has a much grander space, one that isn’t near the dumpsters.

Little Chuck Williams himself came by after Christmas to check us out and congratulate us. Because a lot of us hard-working employees already had bread machines, it was decided that we could alternatively take out our gift in other W-S merchandise. I chose a set of All-Clad cookware and some garlic roasters. Somebody told me that eating a lot of roast elephant garlic would be good for my sinusitis.

And then, suddenly and unexpectedly, I got a real job nearby, one with a decent paycheck. I kept working for Williams-So-

noma anyway on nights and weekends. Because I’d made friends there, and they were doing inventory in January, and they needed me. But mainly, the work was so mindless, I found it very therapeutic, like playing golf. You could think deep thoughts about the French Revolution and Napoleon while you broke down shipping boxes, or stuck SKU labels on hand-painted ceramic French wine carafes shaped like chickens.

The new job, across the footbridge over La Jolla Village Drive, was located in a building that said Smith Barney. I assume Smith Barney was a major tenant. I, however, was not going to work for Smith Barney. I was going to work for a strange outfit on the ground floor named Titanic Telecoms. That wasn’t its actual name, although that was

what some of my coworkers called it when I was working in London a couple of years later. We went through a succession of five or six names as we changed our branding and got swallowed up in mergers.

Titanic was a low-cost alternative long-distance company (such as MCI and Sprint in those days), although it fancied itself a high-tech firm doing important R&D. There were a number of small telecom companies like this in the San Diego area. Most went under or merged with a major player by decade’s end, or else they moved into the mobile or internet business. Titanic eventually got gobbled up by a company that merged with MCI WorldCom, which itself finally crashed in the biggest bankruptcy in

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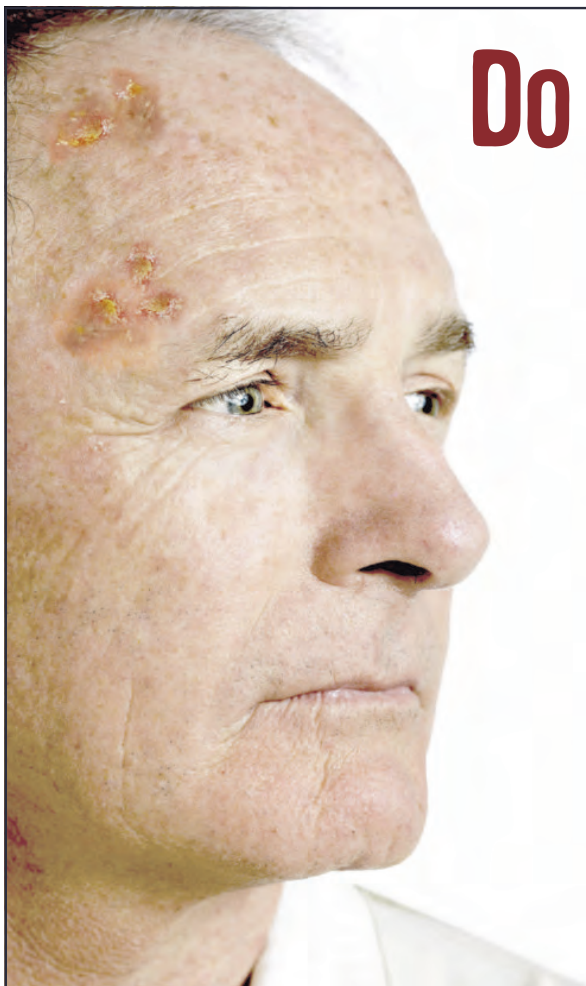


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American history (2002). Low-cost long-distance was an industry with a very short half-life: the companies all tried to undersell each other, couldn't make a profit, and then everyone had a mobile phone, and then mobile service got cheaper and cheaper.

The reason I ended up at Titanic is that I had responded to a *Union-Tribune* ad (or maybe a listserv posting) seeking a "marketing assistant." But Titanic Telecoms really wanted me as an operations manager. The two people I interviewed with told me I had "a solid technical background," because I'd had "that computer job" at UCSD. I had a queasy feeling that I was getting into the most colossal screw-up of my life. Only I couldn't back out, because the pay was

It was all very imaginative, but it overshot the capabilities of standard PC processors of that era.

so good.

When I first went in for the interviews, I was still dizzy from my fever. Floating in and out of my daze, I thought, "I'm not making sense, this is the job interview from hell." I was babbling. And then, *coup de grace*, I attempted some gallows humor about how I was working for minimum wage over at Williams-Sonoma, where we had just won a sales competition... and everyone got a bread machine... but I needed to get a real job soon, or I was going to have to go back to Newport Beach and



sleep on my aunt's folding couch.

My interviewer's face lit up when I said "Newport Beach" It was like the Groucho Marx duck coming down. I'd said the magic word.

This made no sense to me then, but very little did. I will explain all later.

I settled in quickly at Titanic Telecoms. I didn't

screw up, or at least nobody noticed if I did, because everyone else was equally at sea. It turned out almost everybody got hired in the same crazy-ass way I did. Lulu Kelly, our HR director, had her secretary open the mail as it came in, and toss the resumes into a big slush pile. Then she just ignored them until the

day came when she had to hire someone. Then she'd rifle through the pile and pick out a likely prospect.

And so, a guy who applied for a job as an administrative assistant got hired instead as head of marketing. And the middle-aged CPA who applied for the position as accounts-receivable bookkeeper, well, they

made him director of the call center instead.

For a long time, I put this all down to the inept, improvisatory way everything seemed to happen at Titanic Telecoms. It was only after I'd been there a year that I realized what was going on. As per instructions from the company head, Lulu only advertised for low-level and clerical positions. That way she didn't have people coming in, waving their lunker-school MBAs and demanding \$100,000 to be a middle-management drone. Lulu would place ads for cruddy jobs that looked as if they paid \$20-25k, then she'd cherry-pick you for a more substantive role and offer you \$40k.

You'd think you'd really lucked out, and you'd be a hard-working, loyal employee for months on end! It was a brilliant hir-

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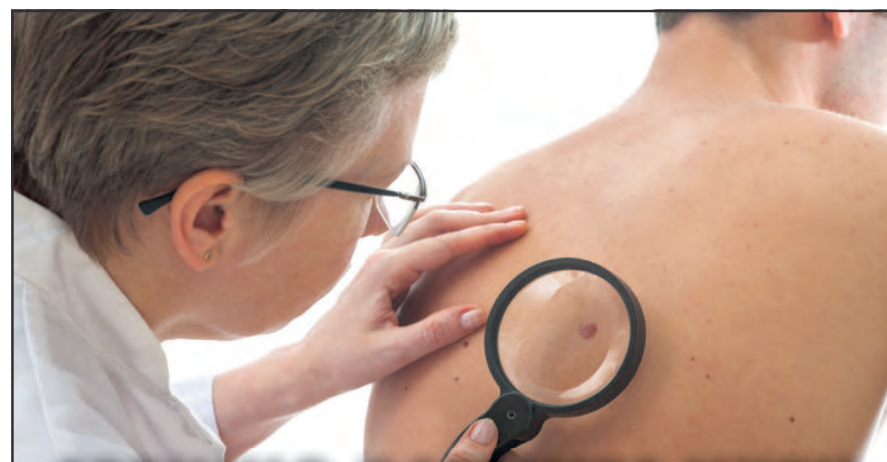
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ing strategy.

The downside was, some people got their noses out of joint when new hires immediately got moved up the totem pole. In some places, this might cause a morale problem, but we got around it. We just let the old-timers stew and sulk for a couple weeks, then we fired 'em.

We hired at whim, and fired just as quickly. Molly, the vice president of operations and technically my boss, often stopped by in the morning and dropped ex-employees' beepers and parking-garage passes on my desk. Sometimes, she gave a brief explanation, very la-di-da: So-and-so was fired because he gave himself admin rights on the database. Or: J.J. told me to fire all the AS/400 programmers, so I did.

This was the way Molly's brother J.J. liked to do business, and nobody

dared countermand him. J.J. Hughes was an intense fellow who lived mostly on Diet Pepsi. What he liked to do best of all was to fire a few PC and telecom-switch techs every week, and then maybe hire them back the following day. What he liked to do second best was sit in his glass-fronted office in that Smith Barney building, interview young engineers (some of them filched from UCSD), and talk for hours about the arcana of telephony: DS3s, and T1s, and Signaling System Seven.

J.J. dreamt of making Titanic into an R&D leader, a great Skunkworks of the communications industry. He wanted to invent his own digital telephone switch, instead of leasing those million-dollar Siemens DCO switches that were always the biggest expense on the company financials. This

dream would eventually lead the company down a dark and winding path of ill-conceived innovation.

Dr. Sooch

One day J.J. decided there were too many techs for him to handle directly, and that the company really needed a chief information officer. So he told the executive vice president, who told me, and I called my friends at Robert Half, who came up with a cheerful, garrulous East Indian, then working in Omaha.

"Dr. Sooch," as he liked to be called, had a PhD in something software-related. He also claimed to have an MBA from the world-famous Harvard Business School. However, this was in a field in which the Harvard B-School does not grant MBAs. Apparently, he had one of those loosely affiliated "execu-

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tive program” MBAs, but claimed it was a Harvard MBA anyway.

Sooch and I became fast friends. We’d go out to Mongolian grill in the evening, and he’d tell me about how he grew up in London and went to Harrow, where he was in the same form as Rod Stewart. Sooch hadn’t a trace of a British accent, but perhaps he had shed it, like a bad tooth.

And Sooch told me about when he was “at Harvard,” where he was a grand friend of Bill Gates. This was supposedly during Bill’s only year at Harvard College. Sooch related how he and Bill would stay in their dorms during Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and live on ramen noodles.

The ramen story is a good one; a similar tale appears in the brilliant

Every employee in our shop was to receive... a bread maker! Oh boy!

TV series *Breaking Bad*. Obviously, it reflects a certain university reality of the 1970s and 80s. Problem here is, Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard College fifteen years before Sooch took his spurious Harvard MBA degree.

Dr. Sooch was our first CIO, and he took his job very seriously, calling meetings every day, issuing direction to all the ops and tech people (including Molly and me), the programmers, and the fat, grouchy wirepullers who serviced the LANs and PCs. However, these PC techs were tough guys — repurposed con-



struction workers — and they were used to reporting directly to J.J., the Big Boss. They weren’t taking any guff from this dizzy little Hindustani. So the bruisers got together at Molly’s house in Del Mar one weekend and

wrote up a manifesto, demanding that Dr. Sooch be sacked.

Come Monday, Sooch saw the memo and went to J.J. “Can I fire them?” he asked.

And J.J. said, “Sure, it’s your call.”

So Dr. Sooch fired the wirepullers. A week or two later, J.J. fired Dr. Sooch.

It was a really convenient way to clean house. I don’t think J.J. ever brought in another CIO.

Later on, I was working for J.J.’s father in London, and I happened to mention Sooch. The old guy knew all about the Sooch episode in San Diego. He shook his head in disgust. “I warned him, I warned him,” meaning J.J., “you have to steer clear of these Indian engineers with their fancy degrees

who talk a good game but can’t do a damn thing.”

In the event, however, Dr. Sooch took his revenge by walking off with a \$10,000 IBM ThinkPad laptop. I was tasked with phoning him up and making him give it back. Sooch smoothly assured me he didn’t have it. I couldn’t blame him.

Sooch and I stayed in touch for years after this, in London (where he always seemed to be passing through) and Seattle (where he kept promising to get me an interview with Bill Gates) and Los Angeles (where we roomed in a bad airport hotel). Once, during a London sejour, he promised to take me and friend out to a fine gourmet dinner. When the day arrived, our white-tablecloth evening somehow turned into a quickie lunch at a Burger King in Oxford Street, with Sooch dressed in the tracksuit he invariably wore on his travels.

Land pirates

One of my many slowly-dawning realizations about Titanic Telecoms was that nearly every significant managerial post was held by a member of J.J.’s family. His sister Molly was supposedly vice president of operations, while Molly’s husband headed sales in something called “opera-

tor services.” J.J.’s father ran the Miami office, until the company went international and the old man moved to London.

And then there was J.J.’s mother, a wraith-like soul whose badge bore the title of “facilities manager.” We had a real, full-time facilities manager by this point, and it wasn’t she, but we were free and easy with titles at Titanic Telecoms. So far as I could tell, this lady’s sinecure consisted of walking through our offices and making sure no one had pinned up or taped things to their cubicle walls. I first encountered her during one of our frequent office moves, when I had temporarily taken up residence in a vacant, unused cubicle. The old lady came by and wagged her finger at a *Dilbert* cartoon some previous tenant had taped up many months before. “You’ll have to take that down,” she said. “J.J. doesn’t like that.” Did she mean that particular *Dilbert* episode, I wondered, or the fact that someone had used Scotch tape, or what? I gather this was an activity J.J. had dreamt up to keep his mother busy.

My favorites in the extended J.J. clan were the Scottish in-laws. J.J. was married to Fiona Robertson, daughter of two hard-bitten Scots from the Firth of Forth.

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Fiona, mother of two, was a blonde hottie who did a daytime fitness show on the local CBS affiliate. You could tell her parents had been striking numbers themselves, back in the day; some good genes there. Fiona's mother Rita always dressed to the nines. She officially held the post of assistant human resources director. She was the one who gave you paperwork when you were hired, and who then photocopied your credentials and made you a company ID. If you were a person of some import, she'd pass you over to me to get a garage pass and a beeper.

One day, J.J. became obsessed with making every employee wear an employee ID. He ordered his mother-in-law to enforce this, threatening automatic termination. This had less to do with J.J.'s obsessive-compulsion than with the fact that we were hiring and firing so many Mexican and Vietnamese call-center people, we no longer knew most of our employees. So everybody had to wear a badge. Rita would creep up on you and bawl you out if you didn't have your badge on.

I rebelled, said it was nonsense. Rita would cut me slack because I'd stand out on the terrace and smoke with her, and we'd trade company gossip. And she'd tell me about Edinburgh in the 1950s. She knew Sean Connery. Everybody knew Sean Connery — or Tom Connery, as he was then. "He was a show-off," Rita would say, with a sneer. "Show-off didn't mean the same thing it means here," she explained, mystifyingly.

Rita was a really furious cigarette smoker, like someone circa 1958: articulated forearm jerking cig-to-mouth like a wind-up toy. Puff-puff-puff. I wasn't much of a smoker, but I saw the advantage of smoking breaks and company scuttlebutt. I'd bring Rita a carton of full-strength Silk Cuts from the Duty Free when I was flying back and forth from Heathrow.

Then there was J.J.'s father-in-law, Rita's husband Bob Robertson. With a couple of their kids, Bob ran the "zero-plus" division of the company, which installed payphones in motel lobbies and bars. Bob's payphones were just like traditional

payphones, only they were on our network, and they charged you a heavy fee if you made a long-distance or operator-assisted call.

Nowadays, you might say *Hahaha, serves you right for using a payphone*. And you'd be right. But in 1992, people still thought you shouldn't be ripping people off with payphones. Most Americans grew up thinking of payphones as a solid, honest sideline of Ma Bell.

The other part of Bob's business was signing up small-time motels to use our service. As with the payphones, you got charged fabulous amounts if you dared make a long-distance call from your room at the Gaspung Gulch Motor Court. This was a sweet deal for motel owners, because they got half the money. A business model like this wouldn't work at a serious hotel chain such as Hilton or Radisson, but people staying at little ma-and-pa hostleries in the desert weren't business travelers auditing their hotel folios. They'd seldom complain about a \$30 phone call to Palm Springs, and they probably weren't coming back to Gaspung Gulch anyway.

I thought of the Hughes-Robertson clan as land pirates, a throwback to ages ago, a family aligned with the world. "Arrgh, belay ye, varmint. Take yer last fifty hires and keelhaul 'em overr La Jolla Village Drive!"

Bob Z

Outside J.J.'s extended family, there was an outer circle of loyal associates, people who had been working for him for years, since back in the late 80s when the company was a precious-metals telemarketer in Newport Beach. When I mentioned I had an aunt in Newport Beach, people in the company got the idea I was an old associate of the J.J. Hughes clan. But, as I have suggested, this mystery took me a while to unravel.

There was an old

Jewish office-furniture dealer up in Newport Beach named Bernie, who was dunning us for some painting work and old chairs. This was around the time I joined the company. I took the calls.

"Tell him to go to hell," said J.J. "We're not going to do any more business with Bernie Cantor!"

So we were stiffing Bernie? We didn't, really. Five months later, we expanded into our new space and needed about a hundred desks and cubicles. And our vendor was the very same Bernie, and he was giving us a sweet deal to make up for the fact that he'd given us a hard time, or because he was an old vendor friend from Newport Beach.

Bernie came with his son that big construction weekend when we set up

the new call center, and they even helped unload their furniture vans. But there was a little problem with Bernie and Son's sweet deal: they brought us a lot more grey-melamine desks than we needed or could store. They didn't want to take them back. This overload was part of the Sweet Deal, I guess.

But it was a problem for me. I was stuck with a dozen or more desks and chairs, with no obvious place to put them. So I had the moving men double-stack them in nearby offices.

Come Monday morning, I had a very incensed new hire in the form of Mr. Bob Z, a senior manager who'd just moved from Florida. Bob had been looking forward to his brand new office in our brand new building.

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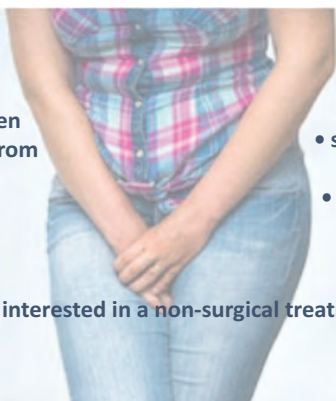
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Instead he got a rat-maze with his desk at the rear.

"WTF is this? What am I here, the quartermaster sergeant?" he said, waving his arms, when I dropped by.

I started to laugh and couldn't stop. He did look totally ridiculous gesticulating back there, with the grey melamine desks closing in on either side.

Bob Z was very funny when being serious and self-important, less so when he tried comedy. After work one evening, I was coming back to the office in my running gear. I'd been preparing for a 10k, and wasn't going to change back into dress and heels before going home. And then appeared Bob Z, giving me the once-over and making smart-alecky remarks: "What, is this the new office wear?" A year or two

later, he'd probably be one of those jerks calling, "Run, Forrest, Run!"

Anyway, I always seemed to run into Bob Z there, either on a footbridge or on the winding concrete path that connected our buildings to the Rusty Pelican and other buildings along La Jolla Village Drive. Sometimes, Bob would tell me his sorrows. He'd moved to a 5000 square-foot rental house in Rancho Santa Fe where he was paying \$1200 per month, but somehow his 9-year-old kid didn't have any neighbors to play with.

Now this was funny, again. Apparently, Bob hadn't done much reconnaissance before moving from Tampa Bay to Rancho Santa Fe. But in the end, it didn't matter. He wasn't going to be in Rancho Santa Fe, or with the

company, much longer.

A few days later I found an internal e-mail printout by the laser printer. It was J.J.'s brother-in-law nastily complaining about Bob.

By the time I found this out, Bob was canned. I felt bad about Bob; he was never going to fit in. He wasn't part of the J.J. clan, and he wasn't from Newport Beach.

Cocaine

For decades, J.J.'s family had run a small manufacturing business making high-voltage power transformers for military use. I never knew quite what that description meant, but I figured it was some kind of defense subcontracting.

J.J. worked for the family firm in his teens and early 20s, then had an entrepreneurial side-

line as a distributor of illegal substances. It was no more than a few kilos of cocaine in the space of maybe a year. But cops had him under surveillance, and eventually he went to state prison. Afterwards, J.J. knew he was going to have to stay in the background of any company he built. This made him secretive, and eager to surround himself with unblemished front-men who could take meetings and sign the financials. If you looked at our company reports, you'd see Mr. Blah-Blah was President of Titanic Telecoms, and Mr. Whoosis was Executive Vice President. Then, way down the list of officers you'd find J.J. Hughes, with some minor, inconsequential-sounding title. As the largest shareholder, he had to be somewhere on

the officers' page, though he might have preferred to forgo the honor.

J.J.'s conviction was one of those things you gradually found out about if you survived your first few weeks at the company. Few people outside the family knew the details, and even people who had been there for years thought it was no more than an arrest for selling a couple ounces of marijuana. In reality, he and his brother-in-law had run quite an impressive operation. However, I didn't learn the inside scoop till I had been at Titanic for a year-and-a-half, and we found ourselves with a likely merger partner who was doing due diligence.

Because however rumbustious and eccentric the company looked on the inside, it was ex-

panding far and fast, and had caught some favorable notice in the industry. Company revenues were doubling every six months, although we'd taken on enormous debts, beginning with our leases on three million-dollar Siemens switches set up in North America, as well as new offices and facilities opening up in Europe and Australia.

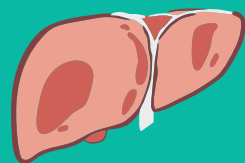
Presumably, J.J.'s hope was to go public, quadruple the size of the company, and then sell it before the bottom fell out of the telecom-reseller market. But an IPO meant SEC filings and top-level auditors (ours were Ernst & Young), and that meant getting a Chief Financial Officer with an impeccable track record to sign the financials.

And so a sterling CFO arrived, in the

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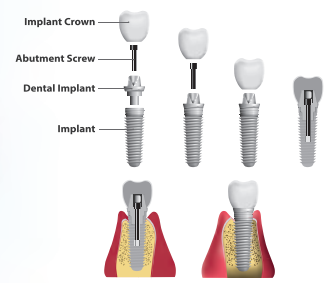
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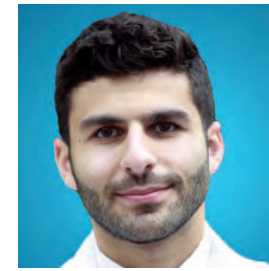
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form of a tall young financial accountant who had worked on the Dell Computer public offering when he was with Arthur Andersen. He looked a lot like the film actor Joel McCrea, circa 1940, if Joel McCrea were ever to portray a bespectacled financial executive.

Our Joel was an ideal front-man for negotiating bridge capital or an acquisition partner. He could fly off to Wall Street or take an early morning meeting in downtown L.A., and the other side wouldn't have a clue what Titanic Telecoms was really like. Calm, patient, and persevering, he was perfectly willing to stand in queue outside J.J.'s office when J.J. wanted to talk to some techs for a while. Techs outranked chief financial officers in J.J.'s world.

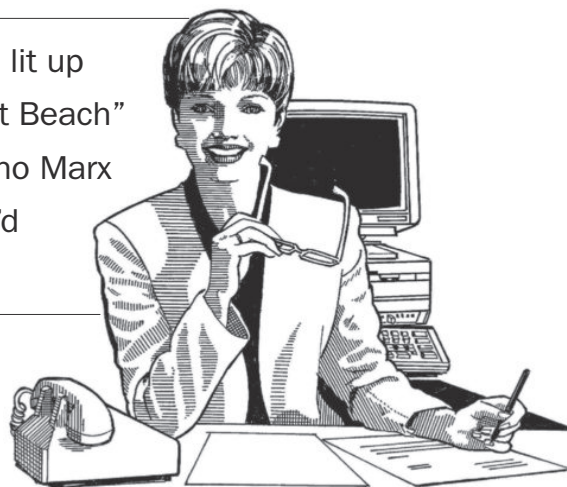
(You could cool your heels for hours outside J.J.'s office. We had a code phrase for this: "I'm going to Toon Town." Toon Town was a newish attraction at Disneyland, based on the *Who Killed Roger Rabbit?* cartoon. The wait lines were notoriously long. Joel and

My interviewer's face lit up when I said "Newport Beach" It was like the Groucho Marx duck coming down. I'd said the magic word.

his wife and kids knew it well.)

When Joel had been at Titanic for a year and a half, he found a very serious acquisition partner, a young telephone-and-internet company looking to expand its customer base. The company needed full disclosure about our founders and officers. And shortly afterwards, our in-house lawyer came by and dropped a fat legal brief on Joel's office chair. It described J.J.'s 1982 cocaine bust and conviction, and made for good reading.

In the early 80's, one of J.J.'s relatives had a little jewelry-and-beachwear shop in Newport Beach. Out front, there were some earrings and sundresses, and in back, a cocaine dealership that was open for business for an hour or so each evening.



Cops observed that the clientele was all female in the daytime, and male after-hours. They watched the shop for six months, then J.J.'s brother-in-law, and finally J.J.

The two young men were good businessmen, keeping careful books, and hiding their payment ledgers in the filter of a vacuum cleaner in the back of the store. Somehow, though, they failed to notice they were under surveillance. I'm not sure what happened to his brother-in-law, but J.J. went to state prison for a few years.

By the mid-90s, this conviction was more than a decade old. But

I gather our potential merger partners' interest evaporated when they got this news. They were a young company too, you see. There are some folks you might love to have as golf friends, but you don't want to list them as officers or owners of a publicly traded company.

And it was right about this time that our finance star, the simon-pure Joel McCrea of San Antonio and Rancho Santa Fe, started to look around for another enterprise where he could hang his hat. He quickly found one in a new mobile-communications firm.

Slamming

By this point I'd moved to London for fun and advancement, but came back every few months to San Diego. In the back of my mind was the thought I might need to bail out and get a job with Joel's mobile-phone firm.

Storm clouds were gathering for Titanic Telecoms in 1995 and '96. Some people in the news media had decided that these low-cost long-distance companies were a menace, and needed to be put out of business. They were cheating customers, supposedly switching them through fake authorizations. The noise began with complaints about small-time telecom resellers in Florida and Texas, and eventually found its way to California.

On a local TV news channel in those days, there was a large-bodied blonde, whom I'd frequently see around lunchtime at Samson's Delicatessen (a now-departed establishment in Golden Triangle). Years later, she ran for the San Diego city council, but in those days she gave herself the on-air handle of

"Consumer Watchdog"

She came up with an exposé that specifically targeted Titanic, claiming the company was major perpetrator of the practice of "slamming." Slamming meant that the company would sign up customers through dubious means, and when the customers tried to opt out, the company would pull them back in — i.e., slam 'em back.

As a practical matter, such activity was usually not possible. When you signed a new customer to your long-distance service, you had to get a letter of authorization; either on paper, or on a telephone authorization that we recorded and stored on cassettes that we kept on premises. This detail however was too mind-numbingly technical for our Consumer Watchdog's news segments. So instead she went for the low-hanging fruit: the "human-interest" side to the story. In this spin, Titanic was supposedly preying upon poor Mexican and Vietnamese immigrants, by having them telemarketed by our Mexican and Viet-

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name employees. And as a final zinger, she managed to work in J.J.'s drug conviction, back when he was 23 years old.

There is an irony here, in that beyond several daily cans of Diet Pepsi and an occasional cigarette in the evening — out on the patio behind that Smith Barney building on La Jolla Village Drive — J.J. was a most abstemious CEO. If he had a troublesome vice, it was in his wild technical imagination.

“I had a vision”

J.J. sent around an e-mail one day, and it was positively mystical. As I recall, it went something like: “I had a vision last night, it was so obvious yet so profound. Why are we bothering with these telecom switches when all they are, are computers? Yes! We have the software, let’s just feed it into a rack of PCs!”

And so began the PC switch project. Stacks and racks of what were basically PCs, configured as servers with telephone switching software. And to perfect the system, we hired electrical and telephony engineers who could adapt standard

switching software to work on our rack PCs.

It was all very imaginative, but it overshot the capabilities of standard PC processors of that era. The fundamental problem was scalability, meaning: this might work with a dozen users, or even a hundred; but after a thousand or so the system was going to be overloaded. You could maximize throughput of calls by using voice-compression technology, but then you’d end up with dim, fuzzy-sounding connections.

They were testing out this new, homebrew switch system when I got to London in the mid-’90s. Titanic already had some corporate clients running off our regular switch, but now they wanted to test out our PC-rack with a few lower-volume clients. Some of these were restaurants and pubs in the West End. The test was a disaster. One of our new signups was Planet Hollywood. Two days after we hooked them up, they were on the horn to us: “Take this out of here! Disconnect this bloody thing immediately!”

I don’t know what became of the PC telecom

switch project. My impression is that it quietly died right after this.

Or it got steamrolled by bigger crises, mainly public relations problems that were coming at us from all sides. In England and Australia, this took the form of industry rumors that our sales force was made up largely of ex-convicts.

Doesn’t that sound nice? It wasn’t entirely untrue, but there’s a big “but” there. Some of our guys in London and Sydney had been directors of English companies that went belly-up. In America, corporate bankruptcy may be regarded as a misfortune, but in England (to paraphrase Oscar Wilde), it looks like criminal carelessness. Because, you see, there’s an automatic presumption of fraud. So if your limited company goes into receivership, you may well be awarded a six-month holiday as a guest of Her Majesty. This is how we got some of our finest salesmen. No one else would hire them.

In America, our PR crises became constant, usually revolving around those nebulous “slamming” accusations

I talked about before. It wasn’t just the Consumer Watchdog lady on the local TV news; eventually there were articles in the *Union-Tribune* and the *L.A. Times*, rehashing tales of complaints filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

So far as the commission went, we thought we had a reliable friend in Sacramento in the form of state senator Steve Peace, who was trying to make a name for himself as point-man in utilities regulation. (Peace already had some renown as the youthful producer of the horror-comedy *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*; but now he was past 40 and looking to add a bit more gravitas to his résumé.) But then, out of the blue, Peace turned on us. Without bothering to do any investiga-

tion — or give us a phone call, or even notice that Titanic Telecoms had donated to his last election campaign — he started issuing rote denunciations of our company and the long-distance industry in general.

So one day, I returned to San Diego from London and found J.J. and company counsel and two or three of the other top executives, huddled together all day in J.J.’s office, trying to hash together a cringing, pleading letter to Steve Peace.

“What’s going on in there?” I asked Lulu Kelly, our HR director.

“Oh, Steve Peace said a lot of stupid things, and now they’re trying to get him to take them back.”

Gradually, painfully, Titanic Telecoms took a lower profile and receded from the news. I ended

up moving from London to Seattle, where I worked for another over-leveraged telecom outfit, but I still had a storage unit near Old Town, and would check in with J.J. and pals from time to time. They gave up their sumptuous digs along La Jolla Village Drive and moved to a new headquarters way out in Scripps Ranch. And eventually got themselves gobbled up by a series of greater fools, ending with MCI WorldCom, which, as you know, went fabulously bankrupt in 2002.

This was almost exactly as J.J. Hughes had planned. Low-cost long-distance was an industry with a short lifespan, and Titanic Telecoms got out just in time. J.J. saw the future, yes he did; and he ate it.

— Meg Burns

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Anti-scooter crusade

continued from page 3

because on weekends when their tables and chairs are laid out in the plaza — “they (scooter riders) blow through the stop signs here and make a game of it and race each other... and sometimes they ride through the plaza” between the breakfast and lunch crowds.

When Rudy’s not busy, he helps Marie move the “up to 27 pounds” scooters across the street.

Bird’s email response to Marie’s inquiry read in part: “Thank you for letting us know about this. We can absolutely understand your frustration with this situation, and please be assured that we are working hard to resolve this issue from our end. We have checked our GPS map, and it appears that there are not currently Birds in the discussed areas.

“We are hopeful that removing these drop-off locations will prevent any future reoccurrence, but please let us know if you ever notice anything. We are more than happy to look into why the Birds were left in an inappropriate location, and we will be sure to take appropriate action based on our findings.”

On December 6, I emailed Weiss, councilmember Chris Ward’s staff member, and he forwarded my email to

Ansermio Estrada, communications manager for the City. Estrada returned my email and it read in part: “We’ve communicated to BIRD and other ride sharing platforms that we need a commitment from them to stage their devices in a more appropriate area. Our office will continue to monitor Grape Street Square to ensure that the area remains accessible for all residents.

Marie’s been dealing with the ride sharing platform problems since last year when Lime bikes were staged by the gate of their trash bins located next to Baby Garten Studio. “They have to roll the two dumpsters right to here” (by the curb),” Marie said, “so if there’s scooters or bikes here, the trash guys throw them off to the sides.”

Rudy’s co-worker who requested anonymity in the article, hung out with Marie and I by the bus stop on his lunch break; I called him “Chef” because he’s a cook at Big Kitchen Café. Chef recalled when the trash collectors didn’t pick up one day because seven Lime bikes blocked the fence guarding their two large trash bins. “The trash that week was stacked, and it was bad,” he said. “That’s what started it all with Marie.”

At times, Marie helps out at the cafe and baby boutique next door. “If I see people look like they’re going to leave the scooters there, I’d

go out and ask: ‘Are you finishing your ride or are you just resting for a bit?’” she said. “And if they say they are finishing their ride, I’d say: ‘Would you mind putting the scooters off the plaza and I’d show them a couple of places.’”

“One [scooter rider] told me flat out: ‘No, move it yourself, fucking bitch.’ Then one day I talked to a Bird charger and said: ‘Please don’t put them there, there’s a place across the street where you can put them,’” Marie said.

Chef recalls: “I came out and saw two guys yelling at [Marie], and they said: ‘We don’t understand why these little scooters are in anybody’s way.’ But they were lining them up all outside. I’ve seen at least ten in our plaza and when we put the tables out during the weekend we have to move them.”

“It looked like an official [Bird] scooter employee, because they had a big white van,” Rudy continued. “She (Marie) was telling them not to leave them there and that she’s talked to someone at the scooter company. He kind of mouthed off to her and he said he can leave them where he wants. They went at it for like a minute, or so.”

“I said [to the Bird charger]: ‘You are blocking delivery trucks and Judy (owner of Big Kitchen Café) has been here for almost 40 years, and you’ve been in town for a

minute,’” Marie said, “and he responded: ‘The delivery men can walk around the scooters.’”

Marie’s anti-scooter crusade on Grape Street Square intensified when her buddy “John” tripped over a scooter. He is 80 years old, he’s blind, and he only has one arm,” she said. “He fell over the scooters a couple of months ago, and if he falls again he may not heal. He comes to the restaurant for a meal every day, and he lives about two blocks away.”

Rudy has served John’s breakfast and lunch for years. “We have three blind patrons that come here, and [John’s] the one that comes a lot,” he said. “I noticed he loses his sense of direction when he hits” scooters with his walking cane. “He thinks it’s a planter or a stop sign. He starts walking in different directions and gets lost and he stands there until somebody helps him. They used to pile the scooters and bikes next to the stop sign where the bus stop is (Grape and 30th) and he would bump into them. If there’s something in his way he has to figure out how to go around it, it throws him off, and he walks at a different angle.”

On January 7, 2019, Rudy noticed the JUMP pedal-assist electric bikes outside of the Big Kitchen. “Marie is trying to figure out a way to tow them off,” Rudy said, “she says they are pretty heavy and

she can’t do it.”

“A short time ago I received a message from JUMP telling me they can put their bikes wherever they want,” Marie said.

Leigh Young is a Bird charger and Lime juicer that picks up scooters throughout North Park and South Park by Grape Street Square — she makes an extra \$120 per night charging the scooters and releasing them in the same areas. “I am a young stay-at-home mom to our five-month-old, and my husband works full time,” she said. “We live paycheck to paycheck, but because of these scooters, they really have made a big change for my family. We are able to afford more things and not worry as much about money.

“The little bubbles with numbers on the map of our Bird charger app are ‘nests’ that chargers can claim for 30 minutes between 4-7 am,” Young said. “In the morning when us Bird chargers release scooters to their nests, we must make sure they are lined up nicely, not in the way of walking areas, fire hydrants, driveways and disability ramps.”

In order for Young to complete the charge cycle and get paid, she must drop off the scooters at an authorized nest, scan them, and “I also have to take a picture showing we released them properly,” she said.

Young then sent me

screenshots of a new feature on the Bird charger app. “Today they have started a new thing where you are given a release rating based on the photo you send of your released scooters, depending on how well you follow releasing protocol and rules.”

One release rating was labeled “Good Release” and it depicted a photo of three Birds on a dirt section next to the sidewalk. Young’s other release rating was labeled “Bad Release” and it depicted a photo of four Birds by the handicap ramp section next to the sidewalk.

“On the releasing map there are also ‘blackout zones where scooters are not allowed to be released,’” she said.

Last time I visited South Park, I did not see any parked scooters or bikes in the Grape Street Square and adjoining sidewalks, although, I did notice one Bird by Target and over 20 scooters-and-bikes a few blocks south towards Beech Street. The next day I returned and a Bird was parked on the plaza next to the hair stylist; another scooter was parked across the street. Young later sent me a screenshot from her Bird charger app of a map of the Grape Street Square block. It was blacked out.

“The riders are the [cultur] when it comes to scooters being a problem,” Young said. ■

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

go home and claim victory – the city does victory laps all the time on stuff that doesn't get fulfilled.

"We have a homelessness crisis, a genuine crisis where people died because they couldn't wash their hands after they went to the bathroom," he says. "I don't know what crisis is solved by borrowing millions to build a parking structure in Balboa Park. That's a pet project for the donor class."

"You've got to stop the draining of affordable housing. It makes no sense to tear down 14 units and get 12 back. It doesn't do any good to get rid of 20 to get 15. In the very least there has to be no net loss," Briggs says. "We've got to get rid of in-lieu fees (developers pay so they don't have to add affordable homes on site); they are a fraction of what it costs to build. You lose all the (existing) units and end up with enough money to build a dinky, tiny fraction of that. We have to make developers build on site. Last year, a study by the feds concluded that if you increase the supply of housing in a neighborhood by 20 percent, you'll get less than a 2 percent drop in housing price," he says. "The quality of the neighborhoods is what drives up the price."

"Transit comes first," he says. "Transit doesn't work until it works so well people

can count on it and it's the easiest way to go somewhere. It will take a decade to get there and, until then, people still have to be able to get to work, pick up their kids and go to the doctor, live their lives. We shouldn't make that harder."

"Our creditors know we're in trouble," he says. "The deficit is more than half the city budget for a year. At what point do regulators decide we can't continue to rack up this debt? If we continue to pretend we're paying down the deficit when we're not, we're going to be San Bernardino."

And then he says the T word. Only it's Tax with Transient Occupancy in front. "We're going to have to raise taxes. The question is who is it going to be on. It ought to be on tourists. Our TOT is too low and we're leaving money on the table," he says. "Hoteliers are making money and renting rooms because our city is so wonderful that people want to come here. They are making money off of us."

Does he think he can win? "I'm a long shot. I have to win voters' trust," he says mildly. He says he is heartened by Councilwoman Georgette Gomez's recent speech where she reminded the city council that it drives policy and plans, that the power rests with the council. "The mayor is the executive branch, the implementer and face of the

continued on page 73

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 15

Lake, a gated community in Riverside County surrounding a man-made lake.

The Isaacs paid \$3.9 million for the South Pacific home in 2017, holding it for a year before re-listing the residence in mid-October of 2018 for just under



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refugee community, its [design is] appropriate for the Little East Africa setting,” she said. Its function is appropriate as well. “I love City Heights, but I’ve seen a lot of people jacking the Ofo bikes here,” she said. “A lot of them are still around here and people are spray painting them, making them their own bikes. We need more on Fairmont Avenue or by the transit plaza (atop the I-15).”

(For now, “only one camel-shaped bike rack was installed as part of this collaborative project,” said Jose Cervantes from the City Heights Business Association. “I believe it costs around \$1,500 [to fabricate] a custom design bike rack.”)

Kee picks up trash in the City Heights neighborhoods for Urban Corps. Last year, volunteers rendezvoused in the same area where Kee and I spoke for the 50th Street Community Build Day to pick up trash, build new benches and paint some of the weathered surroundings. “It’s like a facelift for this whole area,” Ahmed Malinomar from the development corporation said on a KPBS report. “We’re going to be painting a landmark for the Somali community, [so]



“I’d bike a mile for a camel...bike rack.”

that if you’re in this particular corridor ... you [know you] are in a Somali neighborhood.” According to the Fortune of Africa website, “Somalia is believed to be the original home of the domesticated dromedary camel. The country has the highest camel population in the world.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

NORTH PARK

North Park garage still Thornley adorned

Artists Masse and Moore must wait a few months more

The art competition launched last year to add new murals to the North Park parking garage had a stated installation of Fall 2018. The plan was to have up to 15 new works of art by one to four artists that would adorn the garage for several years. But the fading



PHOTO BY DAVID BATTERSON

Private enterprise and public agencies, working together to delay an artistic endeavor!

original artworks by artist Blair Thornley are still in place at the garage structure, just off University Avenue at 29th Street.

According to the North Park Main Street contest timeline, the “final artist(s) selection” was scheduled for June 26, 2018. The project was budgeted at \$20,000. Artists’ submissions were evaluated and narrowed down by a volunteer design committee of art and history professionals, as well as representatives from North Park Main Street and Ace Parking. North Park Main Street’s executive director Angela Landsberg explained that “the project was delayed because the selection process took longer than expected. And the winners will not be awarded the contracts until they have been approved by the board of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.”

I contacted the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, and heard back from Racquel Vasquez of the city’s communications department. She explained that the arts commission got involved because the city owns the parking garage. “Per the San Diego Municipal Code, the Executive Director of the Commission for Arts and Culture makes decisions related to artworks proposed for placement on City property,” said Vasquez.

San Diego-based artists Kris Moore and Don Masse were identified by the commission as the winning artists to create the 16 vinyl banners that will digitally reproduce their original artworks. “The applicant [North Park Main Street] will be responsible for all costs,” Vasquez said. ACE Parking, operator of the garage, is a partner. It has a separate budget “to fund the engineering, printing, transport, installation, site preparation, lighting, insurance and other costs for getting the artwork displayed on the parking garage.”

The arts commission voted unanimously on January 25 to recommend that the commission’s executive director approve the art exhibit. “The applicant is proposing a five-year exhibition period beginning March 2019 through March 2024,” Vasquez stated.

DAVID BATTERSON

MISSION BAY

Van life: shag rugs, tough thugs, and hard drugs?

Life can be hard when you’re living in a van down by the river...or anywhere else in San Diego

On January 26, about 150 van-lifers converged at Fiesta Island. Jarrod, 33, rolled to the Vanlife Meetup in the 2003 Ford E-350 ambulance that he purchased from Pennsylvania last week. “[I believe that] most of the van population here are doing it out of necessity,” Jarrod said. “I think only a few do it as a hobby, and all of the people at the event yesterday do it as a lifestyle. There are van-lifers from all walks of life: some that’s low-income needing shelter; some that’s soul



CREDIT: @UNIT4816

“My best advice is to get a stealthy van that really looks like a cargo van.”

searching; some that’s wanting freedom from ‘the system;’ and some with excess money that got caught in the romantic Instagram photos of van-life and want to buy all the gadgets and go all out.” (Jarrod’s unit4816 Instagram gallery depicts places around the U.S. that he and his Great Dane have visited.)

One van-life newbie recently moved out of his East County residence because his land-

lord abruptly increased the rent; he now saves about \$2000 a month because of his foregone rent and utility bills. “The first month, staying by the beach was hard because I couldn’t sleep,” he said. “I grew paranoid because of the police and the noise from the traffic and beach-goers. Another [learning curve was adjusting] to the dirty bathrooms.”

“My best advice [for newbies] is to get a stealthy van that really looks like a cargo van,” Jarrod said, “or just leave San Diego. I would not get a van just to live here. I got mine to travel and live. I want change; I know that tomorrow is not promised, so I want to go explore and experience life before something happens that prevents me from doing that. I once lived in an RV in San Diego, and it sucked. I was constantly harassed by the police. The problem is there are so many convicts and panhandlers living in vans that the city wants them all out. Living in a van, unless it’s very nice, will result in police profiling. I was asked to step out of my old RV many times and questioned about the last time I used hard drugs. I don’t even use drugs.”

Jarrod owns a company in San Diego and is letting his business partner take over so that he can hit the road again. “I chose this ambulance vehicle after months of researching vans,” he said, “and this is the perfect fit for me.” The ambulance has a 4X4 drivetrain system with a 7.3-liter diesel motor with a turbocharger — “so I can go off grid and explore remote places,” he said. “And because

it’s an ambulance, it already has an inverter, extra batteries, insulation, AC and DC power outlets, windows, cab separation, and well built cabinets and lighting.” In the next four weeks, Jarrod will be installing new amenities into his rig, including a solar power system, a generator, a fridge, a shower, a Murphy bed and a composting toilet.

MIKE MADRIAGA

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 7

THE WEDDING SINGER

It's 1985. Robbie Hart, a wedding singer, dreams of becoming a rock star. Linda, his fiancée, fell for him because of his dream. When she concludes he's lost his ambition, she dumps him. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Then he sort of falls for Julia, a waitress, but she's engaged to bond investor Glenn Gulia.

WHEN: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Mondays 8 pm; Sundays 2 pm. Through March 3.

WHERE: Ocean Beach Playhouse, 4944 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. obtheatrecompany.com

JOAN OSBORNE SINGS BOB DYLAN

Gravelly-voiced singer Joan Osborne rocketed to fame on the strength of her 1995 hit "One Of Us," from her top-ten charting album *Relish*, which scored multiple Grammy nominations. After that, she fell out of public view with a series of low-key (but well reviewed) releases, the most recent of which is *Songs of Bob Dylan*.

WHEN: Thursday, February 7, 8 pm



WHERE: Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. bellyup.com

Saturday | 9

JOIN THE TRAIL TEAM

Care for the hiking trails at Eagle Peak Ranch. Through several acquisitions, the ranch has grown

to 454 acres. It contains the source of Temescal Creek, which flows to Upper San Diego River Gorge. (The property



was acquired to conserve the valley and protect the creek.) Volunteers will help improve hiking opportunities through trail maintenance: trail surveys, tamping, and digging. Community service hours may be verified.

WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 10 am to 2 pm

WHERE: Eagle Peak Preserve, Eagle Peak Road, Julian. sandiegoriver.org

DRINK COFFEE, HEAR POETRY

The Gelato Poetry Series presents Irish poet Mary O'Connor. O'Connor has taught literature and writing since 1977, and has received a fiction prize



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10: ART RECEPTION: SCENES OF SAN DIEGO

from Listowel, poetry prizes from the Academy of American Poets, and

residencies in Ragdale and The MacDowell Colony.

O'Connor frequently conducts poetry retreats, and has organized writing sessions in trafficking shelters. An open

mic will follow the feature.

WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 4:30 to 6:30 pm



WHERE: Meraki Cafe, 1735 Adams Avenue, University Heights. merakifacesd.com

Sunday | 10

ART RECEPTION: SCENES OF SAN DIEGO

Brian Belfield shows eight recent oil paintings celebrating the natural beauty of San Diego County. His scenes are captured in the style of "impressionistic realism" and informed by a decade of painting this county. Growing up, Belfield quickly learned to love the outdoors, hiking and camping in mountains, deserts, and beaches of California. Those scenes remain etched in his memory. He paints impressionistically, but with an emphasis on "the real" rather than "the ideal."

Most of his paintings are created outdoors, on location.

WHEN: Sunday, February 10, 3 to 5 pm

WHERE: Carlsbad Oceanside Art League's COAL Gallery, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive #101, Carlsbad. coalartgallery.com

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

HARPER CANYON (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

This remote canyon is for the experienced hiker.

Driving directions: Drive to Julian. From the intersection of Hwy. 79 and Hwy. 78 (at the US Post Office), go east on Hwy. 78 and continue for 28.7 miles to a dirt road on the right (south) that is 0.2 mile east of the signed Buttes Pass Road on the left (north). Turn right on this road. You reach Kane Springs Road after driving 1.6 miles south through occasionally deep sand. Go right on Kane Springs Road and continue for about 300 yards, then find the unsigned Harper Canyon Road branching off to the left and continue south. This road is nearly impassable without a rugged 4WD vehicle. There are several short dead ends to confuse you. However, with the right vehicle and skill, you will reach the end of the road in the mouth of the canyon in about 1.8 miles. If you are concerned about your vehicle's ability to survive this last stretch, park on Kane Springs Road and walk into the canyon, adding 3.6 miles to your hike, out-and-back. **Hiking length:** This is a moderately strenuous to strenuous 6-mile out-and-back hike. It can be completed in 3-4 hours.

Difficulty: The hike alternates between easy walking in soft sand washes and scrambling over piles of boulders, some of which are quite large. Ducks (piles of three or more stones) mark most of the difficult passages. The total ascent is about 800 feet. There are no sources of water in the canyon. Trekking poles recommended. Dogs, mountain bikes, and equestrians not allowed on trails in ABDSP.



The canyon walls are almost barren

Harper Canyon is home to hundreds of magnificent ironwood trees (*Olneya tesota*). They can become quite large and, though the pinnately compound leaves don't provide abundant shade, they are evergreen and attractive year around. Since

they are nitrogen-fixing members of the pea family, they help enrich the sandy desert soil. The canyon also has dramatic geology with huge boulders that may have fallen recently from the steep, highly eroded canyon walls. It also appears to house a resident population of desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). The canyon was named for the Harper family, who raised cattle and began taking their cattle down to the desert for winter grazing around the turn of the last century. In earlier times, this area was used by desert Indians.

Hikers should have some previous experience with desert hiking and route finding. This hike is best done after the rains come and the wildflowers begin to appear, usually from late January through April. This becomes a significantly longer hike if you must start hiking from Kane Springs Road, but there are benefits in doing so. It gives you an opportunity to visit the Cactus Garden, where you will find representatives of nine of the 16 different cacti growing in the ABDSP. While many of these cacti are now stressed due to the ongoing drought, most will survive if there is sufficient rain over the next several years. The same is true for the many ironwood trees found scattered throughout the

continued on page 34



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

Cannabis for Pets From pain to aging to chronic illness to doggie anxiety, cannabis and CBD can help our pets as much as it helps us. Humans looking to explore the use of cannabis/CBD therapies to help their animals be happier or more comfortable will benefit from this informative hour. Saturday, February 9, 11am; \$45. 18 and up. One Minute Cannabist, 3041 Industry St., Suite B. (OCEANSIDE)

Open Farm Days The Oasis Camel Dairy opens the barn doors for our monthly Open Farm Day. Camel Rides, Animal & Bird Show, Games, Kid's Activities, Mini Sheep Town Petting Zoo plus amazing camel milk products available like pure, natural soaps, lotions and chocolate. Saturday, February 9, 1pm; Sunday, February 10, 1pm; \$7-\$12. Oasis Camel Dairy, 26757 Old Julian Highway. (RAMONA)

Valentine's Day Doggie Brunch Does the love of your life lick, bark and wag its tail? Join us for our 5th Annual Valentine's Day DOGGIE BRUNCH. We'll have our Bloody Mary Bar, a special doggie menu, raffles, prizes and rescue dogs available for adoption benefiting Second Chance Dog Rescue San Diego. Sunday, February 10, 10am; free. Bub's at the Ballpark, 715 J Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

ART

Alumni Exhibit Opening The inaugural exhibition "Looking Forward, Looking Back", features artwork by 47 alumni in a variety of media. Exhibition on view through February 13. Thursday, February 7, 5pm; free. Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (MESA COLLEGE)

Anniversary Event We hope you will join us for our anniversary celebration and to experience Erin's most recent works, live music, and refreshments. Saturday, February 9, 5pm; free. 21 and up. Erin Hanson Gallery, 9705 Carroll Centre Road. (MIRAMAR)

Back Pocket and In House "Back Pocket" featuring work by local artist, Max Lofano, and "In House" featuring work by local artist, Lynn Susholtz. Saturdays, 6pm; through Saturday, February 16, free. Art Produce Gallery, 3139 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

By Land and By Sea Open House Guests are invited to go back in time with the new exhibit, By Land and By Sea, which explores

theories about who, when, and how early peoples came into the New World and into Southern California. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

February Artist Reception The theme for this special display will be all things heart shaped or Valentine's Day themed. Included will be jewelry, gourd art, glass, pottery, and paintings. Come on by and find a gift for your special Valentine. Saturday, February 9, 4pm; free. Off Track Gallery, 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, suite C-103. (ENCINITAS)

For the Love of Chocolate Festival Escondido Chocolate Festival. In honor of Valentine's Day, Stone & Glass will be introducing a new line of "Fire in My Heart" pendants. Saturday, February 9, 1pm; free. Stone & Glass, 629 W. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Gotta' Have Heart: Magnify St. Madeleine Sophie's Center (SMSC) presents "Gotta' Have Heart: Magnify," a show featuring a collection of photographs of contemporary floral images celebrating the creative growth of our artists. Friday, February 8, 5pm; free. Sophie's Gallery, 109 Rea Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Pop Up Creative Arts Cafe A day of art, music, and poetry featuring performances and work by service members and veterans, open mic, and interactive experiences for all ages. Family-friendly Onsite food trucks and free parking. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. Resounding Joy, Inc., 10455 Sorrento Valley Road. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Valentine's Themed Makers Market The Curate Pop Up Market will host over a dozen local vendors selling everything from clothing, gifts, home accessories, pottery, baby and kids to Vegan products. Saturday, February 9, 9am; free. Shops at La Jolla Village, 8800 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Year of Queer Art Show & Fundraiser This art show will feature portraits of queer San Diegians captured by photographer Lauren Perkins. We will display never-before-seen images from the year of queer calendar shoot, auction off prints, and sell year of queer calendars. Friday, February 8, 6pm; free-\$25. Brown Building, 4133 Poplar Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

BEER

Brewbies Festival Enjoy an array of outstanding, interesting, unique, and (our favorite) signature pink beers from over 40 of the best breweries around. Shake Before Us will perform. Saturday, February 9, 1pm; \$55-\$75. 21 and up. Bagby Beer Co., 601 S. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

Traditional Scottish Sunday Roast On Sundays, we present hand selected meats of the highest quality, skillfully prepared and accompanied with traditional Scottish sides. Sundays, 1:30pm; through Sunday, February 24, \$26. Fourpenny House, 8323 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Valentine Chocolate Dipping Workshop Learn how to work with tempered dark chocolate and make delicious handcrafted treats while enjoying a pint of Eppig beer. Ticket includes your first pint, hands-on chocolate dipping experience, and plenty of treats to take home. Saturday, February 9, 1pm; free-\$35. 21 and up. Eppig Brewing Waterfront Biergarten, 2817 Dickens Street. (POINT LOMA)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Mickey Brent: Broad Awakening This is an opportunity to meet local, multicultural author, Mickey Brent. She spent nearly two decades living in Europe and writes quirky stories about Europeans, their diverse cultures, languages, and lifestyles. Sunday, February 10, 4:30pm; \$5. Women's Museum of California, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16, #103. (LIBERTY STATION)

Quincy Troupe Poet Quincy Troupe will read from his new books Ghost Voices: A Poem in Prayer, and Seduction: New Poems, 2013-2018. Saturday, February 9, 7pm; free. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

All Girls Physics Workshop This All Girls STEM Society workshop will cover the basics of physics, from the subject's history to optics with LSS boards to a mess-free egg drop. Participants will have the chance to engage in hands-on activities, answer trivia, and win prizes. For girls in grades 3-5. Saturday, February 9, 2pm; free. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Backyard Composting & Vermicomposting Workshop Learn how to compost! Join Solana Center for this 2-hour presentation where you will learn the basics of backyard composting and vermicomposting. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. 18 and up. Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive. (GOLDEN HILL)

Gongs & Crystal Bowls Meditation These sound healers will fill the room with restorative harmonies that release tension, clear the mind and bring you into a deep state of relaxation. Saturday, February 9, 5pm; \$25. Modo Yoga San Diego, 3091 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

Healthier Living with Chronic Pain Workshop County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services is offering free workshops for individuals with chronic pain. Workshop participants will explore ways to reduce fatigue, anxiety, sleep loss and pain. Fridays, 11:30am; through Friday, February 15, free. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)



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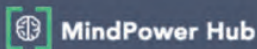
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Make Chocolate Sweets with Your Sweetheart Class Secure your spot at this reservations-only class to learn to make beautifully dipped strawberries. Friday, February 8, 6:30pm; \$40. 18 and up. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Make Chocolate Sweets with Your Sweetheart Class Secure your spot at this reservations-only class to learn to personalize a chocolate bark – with options including freeze dried raspberries and strawberries alongside savory pretzels, potato chips, nuts, candied bacon and more. Saturday, February 9, 12:30pm; \$40. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Melt & Pour Photo Soap Class Soapmaking 100 is a beginning-level melt and pour soapmaking class to teach students to make bars of soap embellished with personal photos. Learn to create stunning, personalized gift soaps with images of wedding parties, newborn babies, or company logos. Sunday, February 10, 1pm; \$54. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Mindfulness: The Art of Living Mindfulness is the art of generating happiness, for ourselves and others, while acknowledging and dealing with life's difficulties. It is the art of seeing clearly, understanding the wrong views that generate suffering, and breaking free of these wrong views. Fridays, 7pm; through Friday, February 15, free. PDG Health & Wellness Center, 909 Prospect Street Suite 290B. (LA JOLLA)

Practical Tips to Lose Weight & Keep it Off Maintaining a healthy weight is good for your overall health and for preventing and controlling diseases. Attend a free health workshop at the Central Library to learn strategies for successful long-term weight management. Thursday, February 7, 5pm; free. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Valentine Chocolate Dipping Workshop Grab your Valentine and join You & Yours and Andrea's Truffles for a dip & sip chocolate workshop. Learn how to work with tempered dark chocolate and make delicious sweet treats like a pro. Ticket includes a punch bowl cocktail, hands-on chocolate dipping experience, and plenty of hand-made treats to take home. Sunday, February 10, 1pm; free-\$45. 21 and up. You & Yours Distilling Co., 1495 G Street. (EASTLAKE)

Valentine's Cooking Workshop We will show you how to make a delicious appetizer and simple dessert, then it is up to you to create your own versions of them. You will get to enjoy your creations with a glass of wine. Saturday, February 9, 11am; \$10. Vom Fass, 1050 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

COMEDY

Bryan Callen Bryan Callen is an actor, comic and podcaster. He's currently in the middle of his fourth season as "Coach Mellor" on ABC's THE GOLDBERG'S. He's also the co host of the popular podcast THE FIGHTER & THE KID. Thursday, February 7, 8pm; Friday, February 8, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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

Michael Walters Sequins blaze and punchlines fly as Michael Walters pays unique homage to Dame Edna in his loving parody. Thursday, February 7, 8pm; \$35. 18 and up. Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Avenue #200. (HILLCREST)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems with ridiculously long titles by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, published herein at the beginning of the shortest month of the year

Lines On Observing A Blossom On The First Of February, 1796

Sweet flower! that peeping from thy russet stem
Unfoldest timidly, (for in strange sort
This dark, frieze-coated, hoarse, teeth-chattering month
Hath borrowed Zephyr's voice, and gazed upon thee
With blue voluptuous eye) alas poor flower!
These are but flatteries of the faithless year.
Perchance, escaped its unknown polar cave,
E'en now the keen north-east is on its way.
Flower that must perish! shall I liken thee
To some sweet girl of too, too rapid growth,
Nipped by consumption mid untimely charms?
Or to Bristow's bard, the wond'rous boy!
As amaranth, which earth scarce seemed to own,
Till disappointment come, and pelting wrong
Beat it to earth? or with indignant grief
Shall I compare thee to poor Poland's hope,
Bright flower of hope killed in the opening bud?
Farewell, sweet blossom! better fate be thine
And mock my boding! Dim similitudes
Weaving in moral strains, I've stolen one hour
From anxious self, life's cruel taskmaster!
And the warm wooings of this sunny day
Tremble along my frame, and harmonize
The attempered organ, that even saddest thoughts
Mix with some sweet sensations, like harsh tunes
Played deftly on a soft-toned instrument.

Sonnet Xix. To A Friend, Who Asked How I Felt When The Nurse First Presented My Infant To Me

Charles! my slow heart was only sad, when first
I scanned that face of feeble infancy;
For dimly on my thoughtful spirit burst
All I had been, and all my babe might be!
But when I saw it on its Mother's arm,
And hanging at her bosom (she the while
Bent o'er its features with a tearful smile),
Then I was thrilled and melted, and most warm
Impressed a Father's kiss: and all beguiled
Of dark remembrance, and presageful fear,
I seemed to see an Angel's form appear--
'Twas even thine, beloved Woman mild!
So for the Mother's sake the Child was dear,
And dearer was the Mother for the Child.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) is one of the most famous of the English poets, who, along with his literary partner William Wordsworth, founded the Romantic Movement in England, which sought to reform English prosody with less archaic diction and subject matter that was previously thought "unpoetic." His major works, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and "Kubla Khan," serve as mainstays in most anthologies of English verse. He also introduced the world of literary theory to the phrase "suspension of disbelief."

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

DANCE

American't Dream The Kidz Danz Kompany presents their annual teen dance concert "American't Dream." Join Kidz Danz Kompany as they tackle some of America's most challenging topics and hot issues of the current day through dance. Friday, February 8, 7pm; Saturday, February 9, 7pm; \$8-\$19. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

International Dance Assn Dance Festival Dances from around the world will be performed by members of the San Diego dancing clubs as part of the colorful International Dance Festival. Sunday, February 10, 11:30am; Balboa Park Club & Ballroom, 2144 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

New Style Hustle Partner Dance Partners, groups, and solo dancers welcome to learn how to new style hustle. Fridays, 9pm; through Thursday, April 11, \$5. Facility Dance Studio, 1414 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Community Meeting Space 4 Art will host a community meeting to share an update on our Permanent Home project. Our plans for the 35,000 square-foot facility on Market Street in Sherman Heights are ambitious and include 80+ below market rate rentals for artists, more than half of which are live/work spaces, as well as a large gallery, event space, classroom, amphitheater, and wood/metal shop. Thursday, February 7, 6pm; free. Sandbox, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

LGBTQ Book Club Join other North County adults in reading books by or about people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans*. January 3: "If I Was Your Girl" by Meredith Russo, February 7. Thursday, February 7, 6pm; Oceanside Library, 330 N. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

FARMERS' MARKETS

Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale Come join us for our annual Winter Show and Sale. This event is open to the public and free to attend with a private sale open to SDCSS members from 9am to 10am. The show will feature unusual and exotic cacti and succulents, highlighting "winter growers" from around the world. Saturday, February 9, 9am; free. Casa del Prado, 1800 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

FOR KIDS

Circus Vargas Join us in celebrating, Circus Vargas' 50th anniversary extravaganza, an homage to the golden era of circus in America. Thursday, February 7, 7:30pm; Friday, February 8, 4:30pm and 7:30pm; Saturday, February 9, 1pm, 4pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, February 10, 12:30pm, 3:30pm and 7pm; \$15-\$72. Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Discovery Tables: Owl Pellets What do owls eat? Find this out and more about owl pellets from a Trail Guide at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center Discovery Tables. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, February 9, 10am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Whale Fest Join us for Whale Fest, a week-long celebration of whales. Winter is the peak time to see migrating Gray Whales in Southern California and we are celebrating these marvelous marine mammals and their fantastic cousins with a festival of whales. Thursday, February 7, 10am; Friday, February 8, 10am; Saturday, February 9, 10am; Sunday, February 10, 10am; free-\$19. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

Carlsbad Solar Experience Join your Carlsbad community for a Q&A with nationally certified energy practitioners and nonprofit experts, and find out how you can go solar and secure the 30% federal tax credit in 2019. Saturday, February 9, 11am; free. Pine Avenue Park, 3333 Harding Street. (CARLSBAD)

Chula Vista Solar Experience Join your Chula Vista community for a Q&A with nationally certified energy practitioners and nonprofit experts, and find out how you can go solar and secure the 30% federal tax credit in 2019. Saturday, February 9, 11am; free. Monteville Recreation Center, 840 Duncan Ranch Road. (CHULA VISTA)

Insights: Heart Disease We will take an in-depth look at heart disease. Heart disease is the number one killer worldwide, according to the American Heart Association. Join scientists, doctors, patients and survivors for a panel discussion on

ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 32

Harper Canyon bajada. Once you enter the canyon and begin hiking on the wide sandy creek bed, most of the abundant ironwood trees appear healthy and green, in contrast to those on the bajada. This suggests that the canyon ironwood roots may have tapped underground aquifers that are not available to trees on the bajada.

A striking observation as you progress up the canyon is the starkness of the canyon walls. Several of the tributary canyons house a jumble of boulders, many of which appear to be poised to tumble into the main canyon after the next earthquake or intense flash flood. You will come to piles of such boulders at increasingly short intervals as you make your way up the canyon. These obstacles can be overcome by following the ducks that indicate a way over or around the barrier.

Look for signs of desert bighorn sheep in the sandy washes. Piles of sheep scat are common, as well as hoof prints in soft mud if it has rained recently. If you are quiet and observe the canyon slopes and ridges carefully, you might see some sheep watching you. It is a bit of a mystery as to

where they get their water, as there are no known sources anywhere near here.

While the vegetation on the steep canyon walls is sparse, there is a wide array of plants on the canyon bottom. In addition to the many ironwood trees, catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*) and desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*) are abundant. Wildflowers such as wild heliotrope, rush sweetbush, ghost flower, tansy mustard, Emory's rock daisy, and Parish's gold-poppy are among the 150 plants that were found growing in the canyon by Tom Chester and his co-workers (see chester.org for their checklist).

After you have hiked about 3 miles from the canyon trailhead (or 4.8 miles from Kane Springs Road), the trail goes through huge slabs of sharply tilted, fractured rock. This may be a good place to turn around and go back the way you came. Harper Flat is about a mile ahead—although it is well worth a visit for its rich archeological artifacts, there are better ways to get there.

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

the latest breakthroughs, followed by a Q&A session. Location: Building 12, SBP Auditorium Thursday, February 7, 5:30pm; **free**. Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, 10901 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

Leonardo The world continues to be fascinated by the man himself, the source of his genius, the beauty and mystery of his art. The last three weeks will be devoted to an in-depth look at his paintings, taking note of his distinguishing characteristics in preparation for discussion of disputed Leonardo works. Thursday, February 7, 7:30pm; Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

Women Crossing Borders in Southern Africa A lecture by Professor Lorna Lueker-Zukas, Co-Director Sociology Program, National University. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the African and African-American Studies Research Center at (858) 822-0265 or email bjulesro@ucsd.edu. UCSD Social Science Building, #101 Thursday, February 7, 3:30pm; **free**. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

NATURE

A Brisk Morning Walk Come to Kumeyaay Lake Campground for a walk through the area led by a trained Mission Trails Regional Park Trail Guide. Perhaps you will see a Great Egret or a Black-crowned Night Heron. Meet at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground flagpoles at the campground entry station. Saturday, February 9, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Bird Walk Batiqitos Lagoon Foundation docents will host a free birding event. Migratory birds are arriving in big numbers. Bring your binoculars. Meet at the Nature Center. Saturday, February 9, 9am; **free**.

Batiqitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Cupid's Cleanup with Cutwater Spirits Join I Love A Clean San Diego to clean up the park and surrounding neighborhood. Afterwards, Cutwater Spirits will be offering a 20% discount to all volunteers at their Miramar location. We will have cleanup supplies, snacks, and water. We also provide community service hours and Letters of Appreciation for volunteers. We encourage volunteers to bring their own reusable items such as water bottles, work gloves, and buckets to promote zero-waste practices and help us in our mission to have a zero waste, litter free and environmentally engaged San Diego region. Saturday, February 9, 10am; **free**. Hourglass Field Community Park, 10440 Black Mountain Road. (MIRA MESA)

Rain and Shine Some rain, then some sunshine and now you can enjoy a Trail Guide led walk at Mission Trails Regional Park to see how the native plants enjoyed the rain and the sunshine. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, February 9, 9:30am; Sunday, February 10, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Trail Team You can help care for the hiking trails at Eagle Peak Ranch! This is your chance to enjoy a beautiful day outdoors while working with like-minded folks to care for our open spaces. Volunteers will help to enhance and improve hiking opportunities at Eagle Peak Ranch through a fun and rewarding trail maintenance project. Please wear long pants, close-toed shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots) and layers. Bring AT LEAST 32 oz. of water to drink and a snack. Also be aware that you may be working near poison oak. All supplies will be provided. Community service hours may be verified. This project takes place about 1.5 hours by car from central San Diego. The preserve is located on Eagle Peak Road 3 miles before the intersection of Pine Hills

Road and Eagle Peak Road. RSVP Required, please email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or call (619) 297-7380. Saturday, February 9, 10am; Eagle Peak Preserve, Eagle Peak Road. (JULIAN)

SPOKEN WORD

Long Story Short: Just Lust Long Story Short is an improvised storytelling show where everyone is welcome and the audience is friendly. Anyone who signs up and is randomly selected tells a true, 5-minute (or less) story related to the show's theme! February's theme is "Just Lust." Thursday, February 7, 7pm; **free**-\$5. Rooted Kava Bar, 1731 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Non-Standard Lit: Sajé & Alcosser We invite you to the SECOND reading for spring 2019 for Non-Standard Lit: Natasha Sajé and Sandra Alcosser! Friday, February 8, 8pm; **free**. Verbatim Books, 3793 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Second Saturday Poetry Cafe The Gelato Poetry Series will continue at its new location on the second Saturday in February. Share in the lyric insight of Irish poet and educator, Mary O'Connor. Though some may wish to build walls, we can also make windows and doors. An open mic will follow the feature. Saturday, February 9, 4:30pm; **free**. Meraki Cafe, 1735 Adams Avenue. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Box Lacrosse Pick-Up Games Play Box Lacrosse Pick-Up Games Every Sunday. Everyone 18+ welcome, or high school Varsity players. Come join us for fun, fast box lacrosse, and get a great workout. Sundays, 4pm; through Monday, December 30, \$10. 18 and up. Sportsplex USA, 12349 McIvers Court. (POWAY)

Have a Play Date



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WATER FRONT

WEATHER PUTTING A DENT IN YOUR FISHING PLANS? DON'T GET GRUMPY, GO GET SOME GRUMPIES

Dock Totals Jan 27 – Feb 2: 1,610 anglers aboard 60 half day to three day trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 47 yellowtail, 44 bonito, 70 calico bass, 475 sand bass, 17 halibut, 2,995 rockfish, 603 whitefish, 8 lingcod, 57 sheephead, 1,085 sculpin, 88 blacksmith perch, 20 rubberlip seaperch, 120 sanddab, 43 white croaker, 2 triggerfish, 1 black seabass (released), 45 rock crab, and 81 spiny lobster (497 released).

Two species, one issue

The seawall at Casa Beach's Children's pool was built in 1931. The goal was to provide a safe, surf-free area for children to play in the ocean.

Eighty-eight years later, the seawall is still providing a safe harbor for youth. However, from early winter through late spring, the youth have been those of pinnipeds.

The small beach is closed to human use from December 15 to May 15. There has been an ongoing fight for the beach since the 1990s, when the first harbor seals were witnessed hauling out on the popular piece of sand. The spot has since become a harbor seal pupping area.

Harbor seals are usually calm and seemingly sluggish. They make little noise compared to their very vocal cousin, the sea lion. Typically, they don't harass or attack people as sea lions have done. There are about 200 harbor seals on the beach at the Children's Pool during pupping season.

But both species of pinnipeds have



The stench results in loss of business revenue.

been the center of ongoing political and legal controversy.

One camp cites illness caused by bacteria-laden water, overpopulation, noise, and stench drifting to the east — with a resulting loss of business revenue. The opposing camp points to ecotourism benefits and the need to

preserve wildlife.

To get a firsthand look, the Sierra Club's Seal Society docents offer "walk and talk" events to see and learn about the harbor seals pupping at the beach. Contact the club at (858) 551-9553.

— Daniel Powell



PHOTO CREDIT: JASON COZ, DOLPHIN SPORTSFISHING

Surfing kind of saved me from being an alcoholic

NAME: JAMES

AGE: 39

FROM: LA MESA

LOCATION: OCEAN BEACH

I caught up with James as he emerged from the water after a morning surf. Ocean Beach was particularly crowded due to a surf school.

"In the summer, the crowds bother me a little bit. It can get a little hairy sometimes. I'm more worried about running into tourists with my board, because I don't want to hurt anybody. That's what I get scared of the most. I haven't had any head-on collisions here at Ocean Beach, but I have at other beaches."

James has been surfing for nine years. "I was stationed here in the Marines... Surfing kind of saved me from being an alcoholic. It gets me out there and moving, and if I stay up drinking all night the night before, I can't really paddle out the next morning."

James' most embarrassing surf moment: "When I first was learning I didn't know where to go, so I went down to Black's with a huge foam board."

"I paddled out to the line up and these two guys started smiling at me and I was like, 'What are they smiling at?' Well I took off to catch one of the waves that was way above my skill level at the time, and it straight dunked me and tunneled me. It seemed like eternity until I got back up, and I said, 'Oh, that's why they were smiling.' So that was definitely a humbling experience."

— Evelyn Grimm

A tidal island in Mission Bay

Leisure Island at Mission Bay might be one of San Diego's only sandy "tidal islands," if you can catch it on the right day.

A tidal island is a body of land that is connected to the mainland during low tide and can be reached by foot. When

continued on page 73



James- "The wave straight dunked me and tunneled me."

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

WATER CONDITIONS

Rain and high wind is predicted Friday and Saturday that should push some head-high plus sets by midday Saturday, but the conditions won't clean up until Sunday around 9 a.m. after the swell has dropped to about two to three feet. Monday looks decent early for the surfers, Monday afternoon through Tuesday looks a bit windy. Dive conditions will be iffy at best. When there is any substantial rain, bacteria levels will increase. Lobster season is open now, so boaters should especially keep an extra eye out for divers near the reefs and channel edges.

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

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **59**°F HIGH **61**°F

VISIBILITY **0'-10'**

LIFEGUARD REPORT

Surfer on the rocks, a traumatic scooter injury, kayakers too far out and a woman stuck in a drainage ditch.

Jan 18

16:08 Medical/Swimmer: Jet3 picks up surfer having difficulty exiting the water at Devils Slides. Male in his 30s has rib pain from hitting the rocks, transferred to the boat launch to meet medics.

Jan 17

14:57 Medical: Regular call reporting a 25 year-old female suffering traumatic injuries from a scooter

accident at Avalon Court and Oceanfront Walk. Police respond. Medic transports patient to Scripps. **17:05 River:** 911 transfer call from San Diego Police reporting that a woman is stuck in a drainage ditch at 5050 Auburn Drive. Victim self-rescues and declines any further assistance.

Jan 14

10:45 Boating: 31Sam reports 3 kayakers in distress unable to make it back to shore from approximately one mile offshore. R1 and Jet3 respond. R1 takes two victims, one guide, and three kayaks in tow back to La Jolla Shores.

Lunch cooked by Cuba's best teacher

I don't know why guava isn't more popular.

"I was a professor," says Rafael. "A licenciado. I taught history, specializing in Persia and Greece. And in 2015, I was named best teacher in the nation."

That nation was Cuba. Yet now he's a chef, here at Los Pollos Bakery.

Rafael has come out from the kitchen of what I thought was a chicken joint. Los Pollos, right? My friend Henry loves the chicken, but discovered they had a whole Cuban thing going on as well. "And dude," he told me, "Cuban coffee."

Oh yes. An espresso that's got a special kind of concentration, and sweetness. They whip the brown sugar into the first drops of coffee, the strongest ones, so you get a nice creamy foam.

But as usual, I'm late. I steam into this li'l place on Third near Palomar. And completely forget about the Cuban coffee when I see this couple, Jorge and Karla, munching away at chicken and black beans outside, right under a Cuban flag in the window. So are their two kids, Kiara (9) and Kailey (4). "Chicken's awesome," says Kiara. "Awesome," repeats Kailey.

"In case of emergency, feed me Cuban food!" says this sign inside.

Henry's been waiting. Not as mad as he might be, 'cause he's had that coffee.

"OK, I'm paying," I mutter. "cause I was late."

"You got it," he says. "So let's have chicken first, a whole chicken. I'm telling you: they're to die for." Uh, Okay. "A whole chicken?" I ask.

"Yeah. Whole. Nothing really Cuban I can tell, but it has way more flavor and way less grease than the chains."

I check. Menu says, "Whole chicken, (ulp) \$19.95." Includes two medium sides, salsa, and tortillas. We could've gotten a 2-piece individual meal, including a 12-ounce drink for \$8.95, or a 4-piece for \$11.95, but I'm kinda warming to the

idea of chomping into a whole chicken.

So now, this is crazy, but I'm also determined to have some real Cuban nosh. I check the menu. I mean, I know enough about Cuban food to say that it's this combo of Spanish, African, and Caribbean cooking. And that they go for squished sandwiches "a la plancha." One's filled with stewed beef, shredded to

tenderize it, and the meat really does end up looking like the name implies: *ropa vieja*, "old clothes."

But now the gal, Ingrid, passes by with a delectable-looking steaming-hot bowl. A dark lake of black beans, rice, two chunks of golden-black rotisserie chicken, some onions, and this log-shaped chunk of some vegetable, creamy-colored, straddling the top.

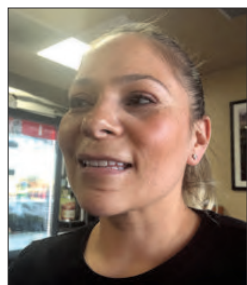
"Yucca," says Ingrid, "and *mojo*, garlic. Also, plantains, grilled onions, rice, pork."

Costs \$8.95. It looks so sexy I almost go for that. But right below, they have these sandwiches. Famous one's the *media noche*. "Midnight." Named that because

back in the pre-Castro days when Havana was like Miami's party-town annex, they'd serve these at nightclubs around midnight. It has roast pork, ham, cheese, and pickles, inside a sweet egg-bread. The "Cubano" sandwich is the same, except with crispier regular bread, often baguette-style. They cost \$7.95 each.

But last on the list is *pan con lechon*. Ooh. Roasted suckling pig.

That's what I go for, not that we're gonna have an inch of room. For starters, we have to pick two sides for the whole chicken. D'aah. Everything from ripe, sweet plantains, to *arroz con gandules* (rice, pigeon peas, and pork, kind of a Puerto Rican national dish), *congrí*, which has to be one of Cuba's national plates — basically, black beans and rice — to, hey, *yuca con mojo de ajo*.



Ingrid



Pan con lechon, roasted suckling pig, in a sandwich. Plantain chips on side

Henry's way ahead of me. "Congrí and yucca?" he says. "Yucca's like garlic potato."

Sounds good to me.

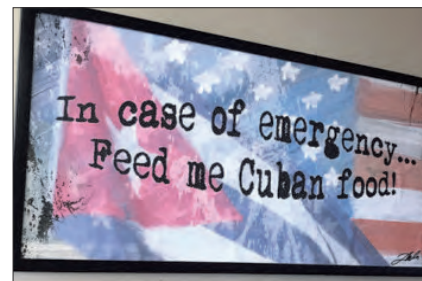
The chicken? Lush, and we eat about half of it, along with the sides. We bathe it all in salsa (good taste, but not much heat). *Congrí's* rich, in that black bean,

Caribbean way. Yucca's actually deliciously like garlicky potato. All from that spiky yucca plant, "the Spanish Bayonet." Who knew?

"Good for arthritis too," says Henry. "Anti-inflammatory."

I wash it down with a bottle of Malta Hatuey, from Cuba. A malt drink. Tastes like a sweet stout, but is non-alcoholic (\$2.25). Oh man: now Ingrid turns up with the *pan con lechon* sandwich. I'm nearly bursting. But we agree to split it, and wow, Umami? This has it. It's juicy, partly because of the mayo and garlic they put in. Plus it's squished and toasted and hot and crunchy. Enough for a meal right there.

We even make space for what Ingrid says is a Cuban favorite from their bakery side: guava and cheese strudel (\$1.15). I don't know why guava isn't more popular than it is.



Revival advice

have to earn money."

Now I'm paying the bill.

"How much?" Henry says.

"Uh, \$34.15," I say.

"Wow, seventeen each. But you know we coulda filled up on, like, four bucks each?"

"Say what?"

"Look, dude. Just right of the chicken plates, 'Cuban specialties.' Croquetas, 99 cents. They're filling. Beef potato ball, \$1.15. Spicy chicken potato ball, \$1.15. Meat pie! \$2.05. Spicy chicken empanada, \$2.05. All those strudels, \$1.15. Coconut, guava, mango and cheese, cheese pastry, dollar-fifteen! You made of money?"

Me, I'm muttering zen thoughts aloud, just to fight the blood pressure.

"Tell you what. We'll try those next time, alright?" he says. "And that will be on me."



Karla, Jorge (blocked), Kiara, 9, Kailey, 4. They come for the rotisserie chicken

The Place: Los Pollos Cuban Bakery, 1372 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-870-1225

Hours: 10am - 8pm, daily (9am till 5pm, Sunday)

Prices: Croquetas, 99 cents; beef potato ball, \$1.15; spicy chicken potato ball, \$1.15; meat pie, \$2.05; spicy chicken empanada, \$2.05; Cuban bowl, \$8.95; whole chicken, \$19.95 with salsa, tortillas, two sides (e.g. sweet plantains, arroz con gandules (rice, pigeon peas, pork), congrí (black beans, rice), yucca; 2-piece chicken meal, drink, \$8.95; 4-piece, \$11.95; ropa vieja sandwich, \$9.95; media noche sandwich, \$7.95; pan con lechon, \$7.95; guava, cheese strudel, \$1.15; mango strudel, \$1.15

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Colorful Cakes

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Purple cake is just a highlight

Valerio's City Bakery, 1631 E 8th St #1, National City. I've been missing out on Filipino baked goods. And considering Valerio's City Bakery has been making them in National City since 1979, I've been missing out for a good forty years.

During that time, the family business has grown and expanded, so there are now more than a dozen Valerio bakeries, including an



Buko pie is made from cake flour, milk, and whole coconut.

offshoot chain named Valerio's Tropical Bake Shops, throughout California and even in the Midwest. Despite my personal oblivion, Fili-

pino baked goods are in high demand.

So, I've tried to make up for lost time. For starters, I've learned that baking in the Philippines goes back centuries, drawing influence from Spanish traditions, China, and the Malay Archipelago, while incorporating favorite local ingredients.

Which explains why the first thing I notice in the shop is an ube cake roll. Actually, its characteristic purple coloring makes it pretty hard to miss. A type of purple yam indigenous to southeast Asia, *ube* is a staple of Filipino desserts, and shows up often on the shelves full of baked goods that line the Valerio's shop. Most

FEAST!

of the time, it's made into a cream or paste, discreetly filling assorted pastries. But this cake roll glistens royal purple against a spiral of white frosting; the *ube* lends its color and muted sweetness to a moist and fluffy cake.

Were it made with chocolate, this cake roll would be cocoa brown and might be described as decadent. *Ube* will never be as popular as chocolate, but no kid would refuse this purple dessert, not at any age.

On the pie front, I found another common contributor to Filipino desserts: coconut. Chilling inside a cooler filled with perishable items, *buko* pie is essentially a gelatinous mixture of cake flour, milk, and whole coconut. Its texture



Purple indicates it's an ube cake roll.

falls somewhere between flan and meringue, interspersed with narrow strips of gnashable coconut flesh. I'm not sure you could serve this *a la mode* — the ice cream might taste bland by comparison.

Despite these appealing desserts, most of my interest went to a host of breaded pastries. Several landed on the savory side, including *pan de sal*, the sweet and salty rolls that Valerio's reputation was built upon, and *puto pao*, which sees the rolls stuffed with chicken, pork, or beef. There are also *pan de sal* rolls filled with *ube* or mango.

The standout for me was called an *ensaymada*. The eggy pastry filled with cream cheese filling reminded me much of a cheese danish,

except significantly thicker, which makes for a far more satisfying chew. Alternate takes feature *ube* or coconut, or some combination of cheese and fruit.

But these options barely scratch the surface of the dozens of baked items Valerio's has to offer, ranging from breads and cookies to Filipino crackers. I found brightly colored steamed rice cakes, and behind a service counter, chafing dishes offer lunch items ranging from noodle dishes to entire fried fish.

Congratulations to Valerio's for celebrating 40 years in 2019. Congratulations to me for having so many new breads and cakes to try.

by Ian Anderson

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A mural at newly opened Supernatural Sandwiches in Little Italy.

Seafood cravings once again met, south of 8

Supernatural Sandwiches Little Italy, 2155 Kettner Blvd, Little Italy. Last weekend brought good tidings for fans of saucy seafood sandwiches in the

downtown area, namely me: Supernatural Sandwiches held its grand opening in Little Italy.

When I first got hooked on Supernatural, it was a pop up caterer I could reliably find at Hillcrest Farmers Market and the woefully short-lived San

Diego Public Market. After that closed, it opened a shop in Miramar, not too far to travel for a serious craving, but only truly convenient to marines and beer writers.

I've been hoping the place would come back south of the 8 freeway, watching it expand

instead to Pacific Beach (too out of the way) and Orange County (way too out of the way). It even opened a Tijuana location (too surrounded by tacos). But with the new Kettner shop, there's finally a shop close enough to satisfy any sudden urges for

a spicy lobster grilled cheese.

The new storefront is all west-facing windows, with a shade to pull down when there's glare, and a sidewalk patio to enjoy when there's not. However, the dining room and bar are set up to resemble an underwa-

ter scene. Murals wrapping around interior walls depict a shipwreck surrounded by sea life, including a sea turtle and mermaid, while wood beams overhead form a joint, echoing the bow of a ship.

Most of the familiar sandwiches show up on the

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Blackened tombo served over garlic fried rice, drizzled with avocado ponzu sauce.

menu, plus a pair of new, location-specific options. The first is Kaiju, an alternate take on Supernatural's \$22 Cthulhu lobster roll, this one described as "Cantonese style," featuring ginger, scallions, and jalapeños. I went for the \$12 Jaeger, a fried calamari steak sandwich,

dressed with apple slaw and doused in a sweet and sour style sauce based on Korea's sweet chili paste, *gochujang*.

If you're thinking, that's a unique sounding sandwich, you're not alone. Fans of calamari should bite for a tender take on that distinctive calamari chew, and a

crispy fried batter and sauce combo I can't help liken to a spicy orange chicken. Fret not if you don't dig calamari — and I know you're out there — everything else on the menu is a go.

Even if you don't eat sandwiches, it turns out. All of the sandwiches are available



Underwater references abound, including boat hull shaped rafters.

served with rice and salad, instead of the usual, brioche style buns. I decided to give this a shot with the fish of the day, which happened to be *tombo* (albacore tuna). On the menu, the Hydra blackened fish sandwich (\$11) is topped with lettuce and tomatoes, and dressed with

avocado ponzu and a three chili aioli. When I ordered it as a rice plate (plus \$1 to make it garlic fried rice), the fish came served over the rice, and dressed with the avo ponzu. Beside it, a salad of lettuce and tomatoes was dressed with the chili aioli. Not as cohesively rich and

saucy as the sandwich, but a fine deconstruction when anchored by the garlic rice. I almost liked the rice plate better. That's *almost*. Supernatural remains my favorite local sandwich shop.

by Ian Anderson



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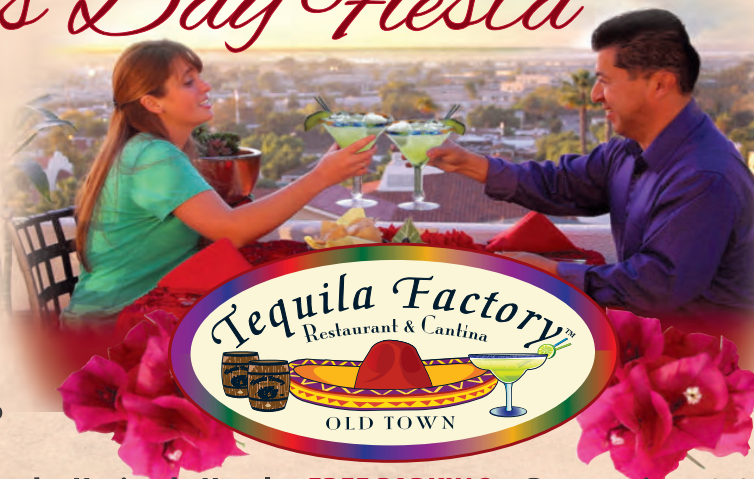
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Oven roasted turkey sandwich on cheddar jalapeño bread.



Roast beef with "oven dried tomatoes"

Wild Thyme Table: Turkey vs. roast beef

555 West C St #103, downtown. Turkey or roast beef. How often do I find myself in this position?

I'm visiting The Wild Thyme

Table, a newish deli counter in between the train station and the courthouse downtown. There's a lengthy list of sandwiches and salads on the wall in front of me, but the most popular, I'm told, are the Citrus Turkey sandwich (\$9), and

the Oven Roasted Beef (\$9). I think to myself, I'm always choosing between turkey and beef at a sandwich shop. This has become standard.

But then the sandwiches arrive, and they're not standard. They're kind

of memorable.

Wild Thyme Table is an extension of The Wild Thyme events and catering company. The pastries behind the glass counter at the front of the shop were baked at its Miramar HQ. So was the focaccia used to make my roast beef sand-

wich, which tastes like springy pizza crust.

Everything on the sandwich is thinly layered. The roast beef has mellow, umami forward flavor. There's a light tang of white cheddar, a little earthy arugula, and a bite of horse radish. Really setting

the sandwich apart though is the "oven dried" tomato: slow roasted at low temperatures until its virtually spreadable. It gives the sandwich just enough to stand out.

The bread of the turkey sandwich was not baked in Miramar; it's a jalapeño ched-



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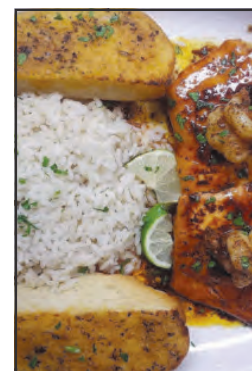
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Enjoy 2 for 1 small plates valued up to \$12. One per table. Not redeemable for cash and not valid with any other offers.



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(760) 230-2899 • www.roxyencinitas.com



Yummy Appetizers

Half off all appetizers up to \$15.00 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm Tuesday through Friday.

Sand Crab Tavern

2229 Micro Place
Escondido, CA 92029



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



Free Lemonade

Buy any sandwich and receive a free lemonade.



155 S. Orange St.
Escondido, CA (downtown)



Buy 1 Sandwich, Get 1 Free!

Get a free sandwich with a purchase of another sandwich and two refreshments. Equal or lesser value only. Valid during happy hour only (5-8pm, 7 days).



13173 Black Mountain Rd, Suite 5
San Diego, CA 92129
858-484-9117 • www.TheDeliStop.com



Free Entree!

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



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



Buy 1 Large Mason Jar Lemonade, Get 1 Free

When life gives you lemons, drink lemonade!
Limit 1 per customer.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.



4150 Mission Blvd #145, San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 886-7733
www.pbpokehouse.com



Buy One Entree and Two Beverages, Get One Entree Free

Offer Valid M-F between 11am and 2pm only
Free entree must be of equal or lesser value.
One free entree per table. May not be combined
with other discounts or promotions.
Present this coupon to your server before ordering.
Offer expires 2/28/19.



1333 Hotel Cir S • San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 297-2231



Buy 1 Fusion Taco Get 1 Free

Limit 1 per person



3130 University Ave
(619) 333-9097



Buy 1 Taco Get 1 Free

Limit 1 Per Person



3139 University Ave



Buy One Burger Get One Free

of equal or lesser value. Only one
coupon per table. Expires 2/28/19



7811 Herschel Ave, La Jolla
(858) 551-8772



Buy Any Beverage Get One Free!

Every purchase supports the
City Heights Community.



4350 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92105
619-957-2512 • thedojocafe.com



Buy 1 Poke Bowl Get 1 Free!

Only Valid on Regular Size Bowls.
Limit 1 per customer.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.



4150 Mission Blvd #145, San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 886-7733
www.pbpokehouse.com



A counter full of pastries and side dishes.

dar bread from another local bakery, Bread & Cie. It turns out a nice choice for the thick slices of citrus roasted turkey, spruced up with a fresh tasting basil aioli. It's a lot of flavor for a turkey sandwich, and I'm diggin it.

Wild thyme replaces a

Waters Fine Catering at this location, and offers a fairly similar approach. I would have to say this feels like an upgrade, while acknowledging I partly think so because Wild Thyme only charges \$2.50 for cold brew coffee.

I've barely grazed the sur-

face of its daily menu, which changes with the seasonal produce, but I get why these sandwiches have sold well for the young eatery. It was good enough to lure me back here next time I get jury duty, for sure.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK

Afternoon Tea Sip tea and gaze upon the sparkling Pacific. 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. Saturday, February 9, 12pm; La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

California Wine, Cheese & Olive Oil Want to enjoy the sunset while sipping on California wines, champion cheeses and outrageous olive oils? Join us for a delicious tasting adventure. You'll learn what separates the real deal from imposters in all three categories: wine, cheese and EVOO. This is a great opportunity to hang with old friends or make new ones. Thursday, February 7, 6pm; \$60. We Olive & Wine Bar, 1158 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Chinese New Year 2019 Ring in the Chinese New Year and celebrate the Year of the Pig with Chinese fare, American Soju bar, live music, dance DJ, and special entertainment by the Legendary Lion Dance

Association. Red or gold cocktail attire suggested. Saturday, February 9, 8pm; \$10. 21 and up. Club M, 5200 Grand Del Mar Way. (DEL MAR)

Domaine Chandon Valentine's Tasting This Valentine's Day Toast to your love as you sip on Domaine Chandon while enjoying oceanfront views on JRDN's sunset patio. On Tuesday, February 12 enjoy 5-6 tastings of sparkling wine paired with small bites prepared by executive chef David Warner. Tuesday, February 12, 6pm; \$40. 21 and up. JRDN, 723 Felspar Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Gluten Free, Allergy & Special Diet Festival Nourished: The Gluten Free, Allergy & Special Diet Festival, formerly The Gluten Free & Allergen Friendly Expo, is returning with expanded offerings to better accommodate the most popular food lifestyles. In addition to the existing Gluten-Free and Nut-Free zones, Paleo, Keto, and Plant-Based zones will provide exciting new products and educational opportunities to everyone living a gluten-free lifestyle. As in the past, all products at the festival will be gluten free. At the Nourished Festival, attendees will have one-on-one moments

with over 100 brands exhibiting the best products for food sensitivities, food allergies and modified diets. The festival also provides the opportunity to sample and purchase products, meet founders, receive coupons and attend free educational presentations hosted by industry-respected speakers. Saturday, February 9, 10am; Sunday, February 10, 10am; \$5-\$35. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Iron Horse Vineyards Wine Brunch Sip, Savor, and Sabor. The Med's Wine Dinner Series returns this February with Iron Horse Vineyards. The heart of Green Valley is coming to the heart of La Jolla. Enjoy a sparkling brunch with a saber demonstration and a bottle of Iron Horse to take home. Saturday, February 9, 1pm; \$125. La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Love is On the Menu We are offering a romantic 4-Course Valentine's Day Dinner & Flamenco Show Performance for \$69 per person. All packages include complimentary entry to our nightclub. Plus, guests attending our 7pm and 8pm dinner shows can take advantage of our salsa and bachata dance



Free Panini or Salad!

Buy a panini or salad and get the second panini or salad (of equal or greater value) for free.



155 S. Orange St.
Escondido, CA (downtown)



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 3/1/19



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



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.
Dine in only. Expires 2/28/19.



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



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



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



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 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 3/1/19



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



1/2 Off Appetizers

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



699 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA
makesandiego.com



Buy 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.



Free crunchy roll

Free crunchy roll with \$35 dollar purchase.

Poke, sushi, C jack noodles, chili prawn, golden coconut noodles.



8008 Girard Avenue, Suite 210
La Jolla, CA 92037



2-for-1 Tacos!

Buy one taco, get one free!
(of equal or lesser value)
Good through February 28, 2019.
Limit one per customer.



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



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 2 Entree's and Get a FREE Appetizer

1 coupon per visit.
Valid from 4:00pm-9:00pm.
Not valid with any other coupon.
Not valid on holidays.
Dine in only. Expires 2/28/19.



2271 1st Ave
San Diego, 92101

(619) 239-8176



Half-off apps, beers, & bowling

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



930 Market Street, San Diego, 92101



Buy One Buffet & Get 2nd Buffet 1/2 Off

With Coupon • Exp. February 28, 2019
San Diego's #1 African Restaurant



(619) 955-8778

2322 El Cajon Blvd. • San Diego
www.flavorsofeastafrika.com



Order Any Food Item Get A Free Drink

One coupon per customer per order. Cannot combine coupons.

Stop by for authentic Vietnamese Banh Mi sandwiches, spring rolls, egg rolls, and noodle salads.



220 Euclid Ave., Suite 180
San Diego, CA 92114 • (619) 450-6177



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



Early Bird Special, Buy One Entree, Get the Second Entree for 50% off

Offer Valid Sun-Thurs between 4pm and 7pm only. Discount applied to Entree of equal or lesser value. One discount per table. May not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Present this coupon to your server Offer expires 2/28/19.



1333 Hotel Cir S • San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 981-7968



2 for 1 Mimosa at Brunch

2 for 1 mimosa with entree order and promo code: reader



One Door North
3422 30th Street • San Diego



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



3130 University Ave
(619) 333-9097



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

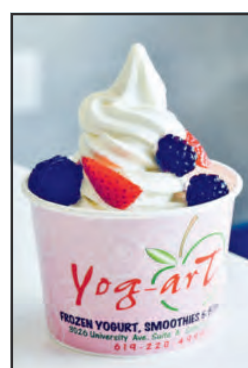


1/2 Off Any Pasta Entree

Buy any pasta entree at regular menu price and receive 1/2 off the second entree of equal or lesser value. (Excludes pizzas and not valid with any other discounts) Expires 3/1/19.



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

Calendar RESTAURANT

classes. You can compliment the 4-Course Menu with a \$25 Spanish wine pairing or you can indulge in one of our specialty craft Valentine cocktails. Valentine's Eve at Cafe Sevilla Have to work on Valentine's Day? Celebrate with us on Valentine's Eve instead! On February 13th, we will be offering a romantic 4-Course Valentine's Day Dinner & Full Flamenco Show at 5:30pm for \$69 per person. The dinner show also includes complimentary salsa & bachata dance lessons in our nightclub. We will also be offering our 4-Course Valentine's Day menu and dinner menu in our dining room as well. Wednesday, February 13, 2pm; Cafe Sevilla Tapas Bar, 353 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Make Pizza & Drink Wine Here's your chance to learn pizza secrets. We'll be tossing the dough, blending toppings and tipping back wine during this fun and informative happy hour cooking adventure. And of course, there will be cheese - lots of cheese. Monday, February 11, 1:30pm; \$80. Officine

Buona Forchetta, 2865 Sims Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Make the First Move Valentine's Day Party Bumble San Diego is so excited to invite you to our Make The First Move Valentine's Day party. The first 50 people to show their Bumble profile will receive a free drink ticket to be used that evening. Enjoy private cabanas with other San Diego Bumble users on the rooftop overlooking Little Italy in downtown San Diego. There will be plenty of Bumble swag for you to take home; all you need to do to get in is show your Bumble profile at the door. Friday, February 8, 9pm; free. 21 and up. Kettner Exchange, 2001 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

Pop-Up Dinner Join us for a night of al fresco dining at our third pop-up dinner. The menu will be cheese-focused (naturally) and will be a theme of love, including special wine and bubbles pairings with each of the five courses. Your hosts will be the fabulous Del Mar cheese monger team. You'll learn a little, eat a lot, and make new friends at this intimate twilight dinner, limited to just 12 guests. Also enjoy a 10% discount of any in-store purchases the night of the event.

Sunday, February 10, 6pm; \$100. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

Pre-Valentine's Dinner Specials Treat your loved one to a romantic Pre-Valentine's evening. Your heart will be a-flutter whether you come with your love, or with your lovely friends. Make it a date, and savor every minute. MENU HIGHLIGHTS: Wagyu Beef Skewers, Kobe Beef Brisket, Clam & Shrimp Linguine, Strawberries & Cream Cheesecake. Reservations recommend Wednesday, February 13, 5pm; Chandler's, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

Succulents & Sweets This Valentine's Eve join us for some succulents & sweets at Torque Moto Café! We will be creating a lovely succulent arrangement that you may keep for yourself, or give someone special on Valentine's Day. Enjoy wine and dessert while you mingle and create your succulent masterpiece. All breakfast, lunch and dinner items on the regular menu will be available for purchase. This is what is included with your ticket: 1.1 raffle ticket to win a Valentine pendant in sterling silver with CZ Pave accents with a chain, retail value of \$30. 2. All

materials needed to create your succulent arrangement. 3. 1 glass of red/white wine or a non alcoholic option of a latte or hot chocolate. 4. 1 dessert Wednesday, February 13, 5:30pm; \$30. Torque Moto Café, 3604 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Sweet Heart Party Dallmann's Fine Chocolates pairing fine wine with chocolate. Dallmann Chocolatier, Wendy, will guide us through how fine chocolate is procured Michael has carefully paired TOVW wines with select Dallmann Chocolates Tickets: \$20 non-wine club members, \$15 wine club members (includes wine tastings and chocolates). Saturday, February 9, 5pm; \$15-\$20. Twin Oaks Valley Vintners, 1575 Mulberry Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

Valentine Teas Invite a friend or loved one to tea at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, now in its 7th year. This unique way to celebrate Valentines Day is presented by the Friends of Sikes Adobe, offered February 9th and 10th at 1PM or 3PM, and includes tea service, sandwiches, and sweets. Any questions please email dvidal@sdrp.org. Seating is very limited. The beautifully restored Victorian Adobe farmstead welcomes you back in time to early

San Diego and the days of pioneer farmers. Furnished with period antiques and staffed with knowledgeable docents, Sikes Adobe is the perfect place to travel back to simpler times and enjoy tea with friends and loved ones. Saturday, February 9, 1pm and 3pm; Sunday, February 10, 1pm and 3pm; \$15. Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, 12655 Sunset Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Valentine's Day Card Making & Cookie Decorating You're never too old to make a card for that special someone. Join us at the Little Italy Food Hall for some family fun. Heart-shaped cookie decorating from Frost Me Cafe and Bakery (while supplies last) and Valentine's Day card-making. Cocktail specials available all day until February 14th at the LIFH Bar. 2 for 1 mimosas, single shots, and a craft cocktail made specially for all of you hopeless romantics. Sunday, February 10, 2pm; free. Little Italy Food Hall, 550 W Date St Suite B, Little Italy

Whisky & Cheese You say whisky. I say whisky - what's the big diff? Come find out at this tasting adventure. We all know that wine and beer are fabulous with cheese. But the sweet smokiness of whisky

creates a whole new meaning to the term "perfect pairing." Sample four varieties from here and there along with at least six of our favorite whisky-friendly cheeses. What a better way to make new friends or celebrate the new year with old ones at San Diego's coolest whisky bar? Saturday, February 9, 7pm; \$45. Seven Grand, 3054 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Wine If You Want To Wednesday Every Wednesday, select wines are half off. See our selection of California treasures and Chef's favorites. It's the best way to taste the region. Every pour served with an ocean view. Let us take you on a tour, right from your table. Wednesdays, 11am; through Monday, December 30, 21 and up. Chandler's, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

Youth Fundraiser Valentine's Dinner \$15 ages 8 and up \$7 ages 7 and under Child Care Provided. Black and Red Formal attire Dinner, live music, games For more info or to purchase tickets, contact Ivan: 858-483-1831, ivan.ocampo@usw.salvationarmy.org Saturday, February 9, 6pm; free. San Diego Citadel Corps, 4170 Balboa Avenue. (CLAIREMONT)



Buy 2 Sandwiches, Get 1 Free

One coupon per customer per order. Cannot combine coupons.

Bring a couple friends for delicious Vietnamese Banh Mi sandwiches and get yours free! Also serving wings, spring rolls, egg rolls and noodle salad. Open 10am-9pm daily.



220 Euclid Ave., Suite 180 San Diego, CA 92114 • (619) 450-6177



Free Appetizer

With purchase of 2 Drinks Expires February 28, 2019 San Diego's #1 African Restaurant



(619) 955-8778 2322 El Cajon Blvd. • San Diego www.flavorsofeastafrica.com



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 2/28/19 only!



Classic Rock Sandwich Shoppe

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



Free Crepe

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



3752 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92103



1/2 off a 1 topping pizza

Buy any regular priced pizza and receive a second 1 topping pizza for half-off. Expires 3/1/19.



3333 El Cajon Blvd. • 619-743-2371



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



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 entrée and two drinks, get one entrée free!

Of Equal or Lesser Value, must bring in ad. Valid at North Park location only. Offer expires 3/31/19.



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



**Buy One Pretzel
Get One Free!**

Buy one Original Salted Pretzel & get one Original Salted Pretzel Free! With Coupon • Expires Feb. 28, 2019



(619) 281-0551
4245 El Cajon Blvd • San Diego



Free Mexican Entrée!

Free entrée with purchase of a 2nd entrée of equal or greater value & 2 drinks.

Maximum value \$7. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per party. Must present coupon. Expires 2/28/19



3695 India St. • 619-299-0333



**Get ANY Omelette
1/2 OFF!**

Come join us for ANY Omelette 1/2 OFF! Bring coupon. Mon-Fri 5:30am - 3pm.



8697 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91941
619-589-0806
lamesaistro.com



**Buy One Entree,
Get One Free!**

Any entree \$8 & up. Not valid for deliveries.



795 Arnele Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020
619-334-0234



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

Not valid events or holidays. Dine-in only



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



**Miso Soup - Buy One,
Get One Free!**

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



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



**Buy a Taco
Get a Free Quesadilla!**

#StreetFoodMadeWithLove

Limit 1 per person.



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



**Dinner for 4
only \$19.99**

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

**Fletcher Hills
Bottle Shop**

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



Free Gyro Salad

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

Gus's Subs & Pizza

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



**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



**Buy 1 Entrée
Get 1 Free!**

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



4076 Bonita Rd
Bonita, CA



**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 two,
get one burrito**

Buy two Flamin' Hot burritos, get one free.



Tu Taco Taco Shop

1419 Hilltop Dr. #D
Chula Vista, 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



Taco Tuesday 2 x 1

Try our new tacos like this delicious marinated pork topped with chicharron.



Must show ad (1 per customer).
22015 Tijuana • Baja California
664-622-5062

HAPPY HOUR

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$5 domestic 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 Bell Marker: Monday, Flight Attendant Mondays: Half off wine bottles, \$5 cocktails, food specials Thursday, \$3 select keg pints

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

Alta Brewing: memorable for the wrong reasons

Casual beer fans don't often see it, but behind the scenes, the people making a brand's beers may change often, as brewers bounce from one brewery job to another. For larger businesses with established beer recipes, brewer turnover results in little, if any, difference in the final product. However, for a newer or smaller business, changing head brewer effectively results in an entirely new business, making a different set of beers while wearing the same brand name.

In few places has this been more evident than **Alta Brewing** (1983 Julian Avenue), the Barrio Logan area brewery founded in

a back corner of Logan art space Bread & Salt in 2017. Every time I ventured in to try beers during its first year open, I would find brewer and founding partner Brett Stampf around the bar, usually pouring pints for customers.

Change came last summer when, nearing the end of that first year, Stampf reportedly resigned amid disputes with his business partners. Alta closed down for a couple months, but Stampf's partners carried on without him, and Alta re-opened in September with a new brewer, and a new lineup of beers.

It doesn't feel all that different walking into Alta today than it did a year ago. Stampf's wasn't a gregarious presence, so the space retains its personality. It's a low-key nano-brewery, hallmarked by a stylish bull's head mural and open roll-up doors overlooking a parking lot and freeway overpasses feeding the Coronado bridge. I detected a little less rock and a little more hip hop in the mix of music playing through the overhead speakers, and spotted a collection of board games stacked in one corner. Otherwise, it felt like the same Alta.

That meant changes to the beer menu really stood out. Gone were the most memorable beers from my first few visits: a dry Irish stout, a dry-hopped brown ale, and a nostalgic pale ale featur-

ing 90s-era hops. However, no individual beer or style had established Alta's brand identity. It was more that their consistent quality left me



The view from Alta Brewing, including a flight of its beers

with a positive first impression.

I'm sorry to report the new roster of beers has proved consistent and memorable, but for the wrong reasons.

Selected from a total of eight beers on the menu, my entire flight of six disappointed. It was loaded with beers prone to imbalance, off-flavors, and unpleasant aftertastes. Two lagers

on the board proved the best of the bunch, despite overbearing bitterness that lingered long after each sip, the way lagers tend to taste when brewed with San Diego water that hasn't been softened by filtration.

On the other end of the spectrum, a hefeweizen exhibited the customary banana and clove, but the clove was so pronounced, it verged on curry spice. My least favorite was a pale ale redolent of cheese. I could only manage a couple of sips, and considered asking for a replacement. And of the two available beers I didn't taste, one was described on the menu as "a happy accident." Not altogether encouraging.

I don't know whether Alta's remaining partners re-opened seeking continuity or a change in direction. In my opinion, these beers tasted like a step in the wrong direction. But what's that they say: it's never too late to make a third impression?

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

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.

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.

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Daily, 11-7pm: \$1 tequila poppers, \$3 Tecate or Bud Light draft, Dos XX lager, \$4 imported and draft beers (not local), \$5 sangria, house wines, \$5 select specialty drinks, premium liquor, \$6 top shelf wells and margaritas \$12 select top shelf cocktails, \$7.99 appetizers.

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

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

House of Blues: Tuesday-Sunday, 4-6pm: \$4 well cocktails, Fireball or

Sauza Blue tequila shots, select beers, \$5 call cocktails, sangria, house wine, \$6 Moscow mule, house margarita, select 23 oz. draft beers, \$4-\$6 appetizers

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.

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.

Mint Downtown Thai: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2.50 sake, \$3 beers, \$5 featured wine or small beer & small sake, \$7 large beer & small sake, half off selected starters.

Pinzimini: Daily, 5-7pm and 9-11pm: \$6 house wine, well drinks, \$1 off draft beer, \$6-\$9 appetizers, \$10 build-your-own 3 topping pizza.

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.

Stout Public House: Daily, 4-8pm: \$4 select drafts.

Striders Clublounge: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 well drinks and select drafts, \$5 Jameson all day every day. Saturday-Sunday, \$5 Jameson all day every day, add a beer to any lunch order for \$3.

Taste & Thirst on Fourth: Monday-Friday, 3-8pm: Half-off all drinks, drafts, bottled beers. \$3 chicharones, chips & salsa, \$4 zucchini sticks, mozzarella sticks, fries, tater tots, \$5 buffalo wings (5), truffle fries, hummus & pita, onion rings. Saturday-Sunday, 3-8pm: Half-off all drinks, drafts, bottled beers.

Tin Roof San Diego: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Half off all drinks and select appetizers. Saturday-Sunday,

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HAPPY HOUR

10am-2pm: Bottomless mimosas and \$5 bloody mary.

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

Vin de Syrah Wine Parlor: Monday-Friday, 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, add a shot of house whiskey to any beer for \$1. Appetizers 50 cents to \$6.

EAST VILLAGE

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.

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.

GOLDEN HILL

Kafe Sobaka: Daily, 4-6pm: \$4.50 infused vodkas, cocktails, wine by the glass, \$5.50 all beers. \$4.50 tapatchkas.

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

HILLCREST

Akinori Sushi: Daily, 5:30-7pm: \$9.99 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.

Empirehouse: Monday, 3-6pm: \$3 off burger and beer. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$5 wing plates. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$10 off all bottles of wine. Thursday,

Set 'Em Up, Joe!

BY JOSEPH O'BRIEN



ELIZABETH LARIOS
619 Spirits North Park
3015 Lincoln Ave, San Diego
619-269-2757
619vodka.com

619 Spirits North Park is the tasting room and eatery for its mothership, 619 Vodka. Both were named for San Diego's area code, but that doesn't mean 619's founder and master distiller Nick Apostolopoulos is calling it when he batches out a crop of the clear stuff. In a city where cocktail culture depends on a variety of spirit-forward flavors—and many of its bartenders might find vodka about as exciting as a glass of water—the timeless vogue of vodka, 619 Spirits bar manager Elizabeth Larios says, always eclipses the Latest Taste. “Vodka on its own is such a neutral spirit that it provides the ingredients added to it an opportunity to shine,” she says. “As a bartender, I like having a spirit that is so versatile.”

For this reason, Larios says, 619 didn't have to look far to find the perfect delivery vehicle for its 619 Coffee Vodka. The Dude indeed abides, and Larios believes he would very much

abide by 619's send-up of the White Russian.

619 was challenged. How to top the perfection already inherent in the Dude's preferred beverage? Fool the vodka into playing nice with a coffee infusion without sacrificing texture and integrity. Easy, right?

“Nick's biggest obstacle was getting the coffee grind to such a fine degree that it becomes unnoticeable,” Larios says. “He had to tinker with how fine to grind, and also what micron of filtering we were going to use.”

Most of what 619's White Russian offers is mostly what The Dude would expect—at least on first impression.

“It's a creamy, coffee-forward drink,” Larios says. But here's the thing—rather than taking the usual path to sugar, 619 Coffee Vodka remains committed to caffeine, Larios says, “because we infuse the coffee ourselves and there is a slight bit of caffeine to the drink. A regular White Russian will give you the punch of vodka without so much of the coffee flavor. There is also more mellow to the flavor palate in 619's version, but you still get a buzz from the vodka.”

Take note, Dude.

619'S WHITE RUSSIAN



- 1 ½ oz. 619 Coffee Vodka
- ½ oz. Simple Syrup
- 1 ½ oz. Half-and-Half

Dry-shake ingredients in cocktail shaker, pour into an Old Fashioned glass over ice, and garnish with pinch of cinnamon powder.

10am-9pm: \$5 drafts all day. Friday-Sunday, 3-6pm: Mimosa bottle special.

Refill: Thursday, 4-8pm (first Thursday of the month): \$5 all wine, beer, mimosas. 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.

KEARNY MESA

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

LA MESA

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine. Sunday, 1-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine.

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

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

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

LITTLE ITALY

Puerto la Boca: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only. Sunday, All day: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

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

MISSION BEACH

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

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

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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.

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.

Cantina Mayahuel: Monday, Sunday, All day: \$5 margaritas. Street taco trio plate (sirloin, chicken, or carnitas) \$7.50. Tuesday-Friday, 12-6pm:

\$5 margaritas. Street taco trio plate (sirloin, chicken, or carnitas) \$7.50.

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.

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

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

PACIFIC BEACH

Ambrogio 15: Daily, 4:30-6pm: \$4 local craft beer or house wine, \$15 biodynamic (organic) wine flight. Appetizers \$4 to \$10.

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

RANCHO BERNARDO

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

SAN MARCOS

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

SANTEE

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

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The Lancers Cocktails: Daily, 10am-2am: \$4.50 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.

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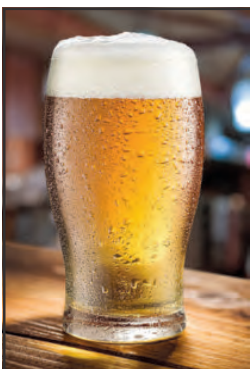


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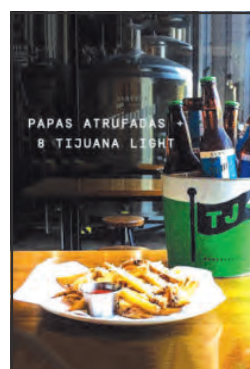


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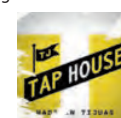


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2 x 1 Pizzas!**

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blurt the inside track

North Park hipsters don't bother him
Zydeco musician Ruben Moreno admits that, strictly

"I live in North Park," he enthuses, "When I can pay my rent on time. I like the vibe there. Open-minded



Ruben Moreno leads the Zydeco Revolution.

speaking, he doesn't live anywhere — or at least not for very long. But he proudly counts the Sun Dog City as one of his somewheres.

people, nice businesses, and the hipsters don't bother me yet. Reminds me of parts of Houston today. Minus the southern cooking."

Over the past two years, Moreno's music took him from L.A. to Houston to Costa Rica to Europe. "I haven't had more than six weeks to sit still anywhere." But he's bringing his peripatetic Zydeco Revolution band to the Bon Temps Social Club on Saturday, February 9th, letting in him check in on a few of his favorite haunts.

"Performing at Centro Cultural de la Raza was an honor," he recalls. "The people and the energy were magical. I once played a Zydeco dance in Balboa Park. We left this lady in a crazy trance. Totally into the show and music. She didn't want to let us leave to the next town. Eventually we got away without being harmed!"

Moreno grew up part Latino and part Creole in Houston, Texas beating the summertime heat, "The same way the other Mexicans do. We use our melanin. We work



PHOTOGRAPH BY JUSTIN CRAMER

Louis Valenzuela found a venue for his weekly Jam Session.

in the sun, play in the sun, and live in the sun. Some of us even worship the sun."

He logged long hours in his grandmother's bar, connected by a secret door to the family home. In and around the bar he heard "Zydeco, Cajun, Blues, Tejano, Conjunto, Salsa, Afro-beats, and so much more."

He heard zydeco first "in the womb," but got his primary education in the music starting age eight, at Pe-Te's Cajun BBQ House,

and the Texas Crawfish Fest. "The accordion and washboard drew me in at first... I remember every Sunday morning jams in my grandmother's backyard where I learned the most. Sixteen years of those jams. All these old musicians were famous accordion players, guitar players, percussionists, full bands really. Tons of drinking and jamming. Sharing stories and music and their art."

— Andrew Hamlin

Monday night jam

packed Guitarist Louis Valenzuela was looking for a specific type of vibe when he was considering setting up a new jam session for local players. "I remember there was another Monday night session back in the day," recalls Valenzuela. "I really enjoyed that one, but unfortunately it kind of died out. I kept hoping that someone else would pick it up — finally, I realized that I was

(continued on page 54)

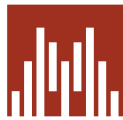
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DJ BARTINE**

**FEB
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FOOZ FIGHTERS
UNTED RAGE**

**FEB
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CRAIG CARDIFF**

**FEB
20**



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The Winehouse Experience 6/29

COMING SOON

2/22 Brasstracks w/ special guest Pell	3/9 You Me At Six w/ special guest DREAMERS	4/3 Missio
2/23 The Como La Flor Band (early show)	3/10 Better Oblivion Community Center - Sold Out!	4/4 The Havana Cuba All-Stars
2/23 Kaleena Zanders & Friendz (late show)	3/14 Yung Gravy	4/5 Strangelove (Depeche Mode tribute)
2/24 A George Harrison Celebration (seated show)	3/15 Karl Denson's Tiny Universe	4/6 Dance Yourself Clean
2/26 Robert DeLong	3/16 Madlib: Travelers Club Presents Shing02 & The Chee-Hoos: A Tribute To Nujabes	4/7 Mt. Joy
2/27 Darlingside w/ special guest River Whyless (seated show)	3/17 Journey (Journey tribute), Radio Thieves, One Hit Wonders	4/8 Space Jesus
3/1 Stepping Feet (Dave Matthews tribute)	3/22 Matt Nathanson - Sold Out!	4/9 Las Cafeteras
3/5 Novo Amor	3/24 SWMRS - 91X Inspired by Music Series w/The Regrettes and Beach Goons	4/10 Perturbator
3/7 Eli-Mac and New Kingston	3/28 She Wants Revenge	4/11 SoMo
3/8 Redwoods Revue ft. Jake Najor and the Moment of Truth, The Midnight Pine, Birdy Bardot & Dani Bell and the Tarantist	3/30 Rubblebucket	4/12 White Lies
		4/13 The Steely Damned 2: Performing "Aja" + the hits (seated show)

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FRIDAY 2/8



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SATURDAY 2/9



**JOSHUA RADIN
CARY BROTHERS
LILY KERSHAW**

SUNDAY 2/10



**OTTMAR LIEBERT
& LUNA NEGRA**

TUESDAY 2/12



**TOM CURREN BAND
& THE UN CUT FOOTAGE
PRES. BY LUAAU &
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WEDNESDAY 2/13



SIX STRING SOCIETY PRESENTS
**CASEY HENSLEY'S
LOVIN' VALENTINE'S DAY
THE SONGS OF ARETHA FRANKLIN,
ETTA JAMES, & MORE
JB AND THE MOVERS
CROOME BROTHERS**

THURSDAY 2/14



**DEAD MAN'S PARTY
VALENTINE'S WEEKEND SHOW
THE BLACK 52'S**

FRIDAY 2/15



**ALO
HORSESHOES &
HAND GRENADES**

SATURDAY 2/16



LOS LONELY BOYS

SUNDAY 2/17



**MARK HUMMEL'S GOLDEN STATE
& LONE STAR BLUES REVUE
FT. ANSON FUNDERBURGH,
MIKE KELLER, WES STARR &
RW GRIGSBY**

TUESDAY 2/19



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VERONICA MAY
NATE DONNIS TRIO**



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NENA ANDERSON
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THURSDAY 2/21



**THE MOTHER HIPPS
THE MIDNIGHT PINE**

FRIDAY 2/22



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Matisyahu 4/10 & 4/11 - pre-sale 2/6
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Oh Sees 6/14 • Queen Nation 8/30

Upcoming Shows:

2/7 Joan Osborne - Sold Out!	3/14 Stephen Marley Acoustic - Sold Out!	4/6 Yonder Mountain String Band
2/8 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	3/15 & 16 Super Diamond	4/7 Buddy Guy - Sold Out!
2/23 Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday ft. The Rugburns	3/17 Scary Pockets	4/7 Ten F@ Casbah
2/24 Albert Hammond Jr.	3/19 Cold Cave	4/9 Jimmie Vaughan
2/26 Joy Williams (of the Civil Wars) (seated show)	3/20 Green Leaf Rustlers ft. Chris Robinson, Barry Sless, Pete Sears, John Molo, Greg Loiacono	4/12 The Highwayman Show
2/27 Coco Montoya & Tinsley Ellis	3/21 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (seated show)	4/13 Common Sense w/ The Bonedaddys
3/1 Lettuce @ Observatory	3/22 The Spazmatics	4/19 Los Lobos - Sold Out!
3/1 Junior Brown @ Casbah	3/23 Ryan Bingham - Sold Out!	4/20 Michael McDonald - Sold Out!
3/2 Pine Mountain Logs	3/24 Infinite Floyd: A Pink Floyd Experience ft. Hammers Inc.	4/25 The Reverend Horton Heat w/ The Creepy Creeps
3/3 The Marshall Tucker Band - Sold Out!	3/25 Ryan Bingham	4/27 Livin' On A Prayer
3/5 Twiddle w/ special guest Iya Terra	3/26 Ella Vos	4/28 White Denim
3/6 G.Love & Special Sauce	3/27 Blue Oyster Cult - Sold Out!	5/4 Wayward Sons
3/7 Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds	3/28 Galactic ft. Erica Falls	5/7 The Church
3/8 Betamaxx	3/29 Beatles vs. Stones	5/10 & 11 Jefferson Starship
3/10 Makana & Shawn and Leahua (seated show)	3/30 Donna Missal @ Casbah	5/15 Wild Belle
3/11 Pete Yorn	3/31 Black Moth Super Rainbow	5/20 Willie K
3/12 Black Uhuru w/ special guest Onesty	4/3 Al Stewart <i>Greatest Hits Show</i> - Sold Out!	5/21 Idles
3/13 Billy Idol & Steve Stevens - Sold Out!	4/4 Easy Wind	6/1 Snarky Puppy @ House of Blues
	4/5 Dead Feather Moon	8/2 The Stranger (Billy Joel tribute)
		9/12 The Marshall Tucker Band

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going to have to do it myself.”

Initially he set up shop in Hillcrest.

“We started out at this restaurant called Busalacchi’s, and we did that for about a year, but they went out of business. It was always kind of sketchy anyway and I didn’t think the vibe was really right.”

So Valenzuela set out in search of a new home for the Monday session using a combination of high and low tech methods. “I searched on the internet, looking for places that I’d go to myself as a customer to hang and have a drink. Finally I just drove over to Adams Avenue, parked and just sort of hoofed it. I talked to a few bar owners — but they weren’t really feeling it. I would always go around 9 pm on Mondays to see what each place felt like.”

Eventually the footwork paid off.

“One night I wandered into Rosie O’ Grady’s and talked with Jason, the owner. Right away he was receptive to the idea. Turns out his dad is a jazz musician and they actually used to have a jam session back in the day. So he was immediately all about it — and we’ve been doing it every Monday night for almost a year and a half.”

So has the jam been

a success?

“Yeah, it’s packed,” says Valenzuela. “It’s always slammed and everyone says it’s a fun hang. The management is really cool and I sat down with Jason over the New Year and he’s totally down for the cause. We usually start after Monday Night Football during the NFL season. A lot of sports league type people come in with their jerseys on, and I’ve gotten to know them all. Many of them continue to hang out and enjoy the music.”

When he’s not playing at Rosie O’Grady’s or doing a Tuesday night R&B session at the Riviera Club, Valenzuela teaches guitar at Avant Garde Music Company in Chula Vista. “We’re hitting it right now. We have like a 170 students and we’re looking to hire more teachers.”

— Robert Bush

Lemon Grove, new La Mesa? “I think the last show I played in Lemon Grove was a place called the Pelican Pub a million years ago and, prior to that, an all ages venue called Mesopotamia,” says Manganista singer-percussionist Matt Rhea. “However, a couple of friends of mine just opened up Lemon Grove’s first brewery called 13 Point Brewing, they’re also going to be a music venue, and Manganista is playing their first band night on February 8.”

Operators Bob and Dylan

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: DOWNTOWN

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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Frank and brewer Robert Bessone, all graduates of SDSU’s Business of Craft Beer certificate program, have said the venue’s goal is to be a

brewery with a focus on live original music. “The 13 Point guys are Grateful Dead fans, so the name comes from the 13-point Grateful Dead lightning bolt,” says Rhea. “I think they plan on having one or two shows a week once they’re fully up and running.”

For the debut band night, “We’ll be doing mostly tunes from our latest and upcoming records, but have a couple of

covers lined up too. Maybe we’ll try to throw in something from an older album, if we can remember how to play any of that stuff. We’re

times before.”

Operating in a Broadway locale that formerly housed a Mexican restaurant, the venue currently has three

seven-barrel brewed beers on tap: LG Basic Blonde Ale, Blue Lake Brown Ale, and My Trusty Llama American Pale Ale. “In the coming weeks leading up to their official open, they’ll be releasing more beers,” notes Rhea. “O’ Nessie

It may seem an odd neighborhood to be launching a new music venue, let alone a brewery, given the lack of similar nearby businesses.

“It’s hard to say if Lemon Grove will follow in the footsteps of what seems to be happening in La Mesa’s village area and 3rd Avenue in Chula Vista. All I know is that 13 Point isn’t even officially open yet, they’re ‘soft’ until their opening on February 8, and there’s already a steady stream of people coming in, even on weeknights.”

“I guess ‘if you build it, they will come,’ especially if what you’re building serves beer.”

— Jay Allen Sanford



Manganista will play the inaugural performance at Lemon Grove’s 13 Point Brewing on February 8.

playing with a band called Space Farce, which I’ve been told is a fake name and the band is really another band that we’ve played with many

vanilla porter, The Red which is a red ale, a West Coast IPA, and a hazy IPA called the LD Super Nova. LD stands for Lazy Daze.”

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

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FRI. FEB. 15 POWERMAN 5000 “Tonight The Stars Revolt!” 20th Anniversary		SUN. MAR. 3 OM Emel Mathlouthi
SAT. FEB. 16 THE THREE TREMORS Resistance, Helsott	SAT. FEB. 23 LORDS OF ACID Orgy, Genitorturers, Gabriel and the Apocalypse	THU. MAR. 7 THE REAL MCKENZIES Pinata Protest, Midnight Track, The Writers
THU. FEB. 21 LEFTOVER CRACK Days N Daze, Dayglo Abortions, Cop/Out	TUE. FEB. 26 JAKE E LEE’S RED DRAGON CARTEL Murder of Five, Taz Taylor Band	FRI. MAR. 8 CONAN Sixes, Gutter
FRI. FEB. 22 THE BLACK QUEEN Uniform, Kanga	THU. FEB. 28 MUSHROOMHEAD Hellzapoppin Circus Sideshow, Ventana, Worldwide Panic	SAT. MAR. 9 THE IRON MAIDENS Malison, Warpath, Taz Taylor Band, Brian Jones Rock n’Roll Revival

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SATURDAY • FEB 9 THE WOGGLES THE SCHIZOPHONICS THE TWO TENS		TUESDAY • FEB 26 DJ ARTISTIC’S HIP HOP BATTLE BOT
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WEDNESDAY • FEB 13 BRONCHO PINKY PINKY		FRIDAY • MAR 1 JUNIOR BROWN
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JUST ANNOUNCED

Houston's **The Suffers** were still trying to match their funky 1970s "Workin' at the Car Wash" R&B sound to contemporary reggae and dub music when their first singles and debut *Make Some Room* EP dropped between 2013 and 2015. They weren't bad — David Letterman liked them well enough to book their TV debut — but they weren't doing anything altogether original either. By 2016's self-titled full-length on Rhyme & Reason Records, they had found their syncopated soulful groove, especially singer Kam Franklin, whose powerful Joplinesque pipes are an interesting

ing Nick Duffy and Adam Abildgaard, they expanded both their ranks and their song catalog with the addition of fellow songwriters Ted Davis and Nathaniel Blum, with all four sharing lead vocals at various times. A sophomore album in 2017, *Soaked*, became a college radio fave, and the set of related music videos have racked up hundreds of thousands of YouTube spins. The album's lead single "Bye Bye Baby" turned up on Canada's Viral 50 Spotify playlist, around the same time that they embarked on their first North American headline tour, including local dates at Soda Bar, Soma, HOB, and most recently, the Che Café. A bubbly new single just dropped, "Sky So Blue," which kicks off with a lilting flute run before some new wave synth sets the beat for a track that wouldn't sound out of place on 91X circa 1991, snaking its way between sets by the Cure and New Order. And there's an entertaining newish video on their website for a single called "Glo Ride" that gives a fair indication of what you're likely to see when they play the Irenic on March 23. The bill includes experimental pop soloist Temporex, aka Joseph Flores, and rock-n-pop band Diners.



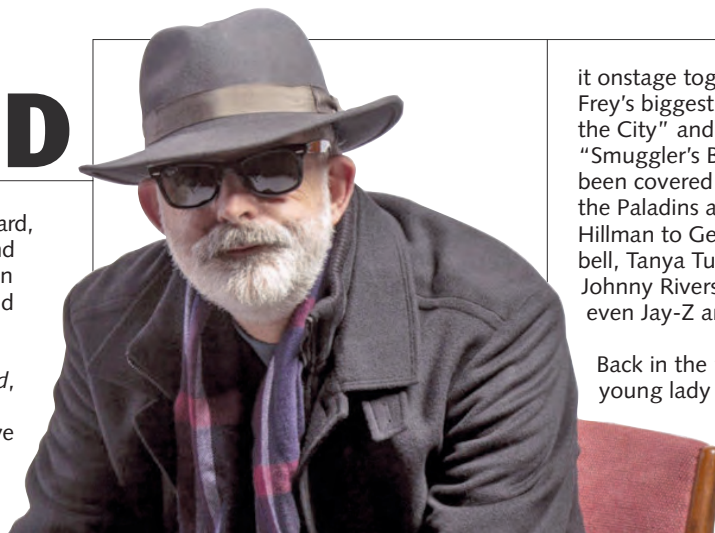
THE SUFFERS AT SODA BAR ON MARCH 11

alternative to the usual breezy and fluid sounds of female-fronted reggae bands like San Diego's own Hirie. The album landed them more TV gigs, including *The Daily Show* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, as well as opening slots on tour with A-listers such as Lake Street Dive and Galactic. They've since played stages throughout Latin America, as well as in Japan and at high profile starmaking mega-events like the Afropunk Festival, the Newport Folk Festival, and Austin's SXSW 2015, where *Esquire* magazine named them one of 40 Bands to See. Signing to the Shanachie Entertainment label seems to have invigorated the band and resulted in their most engaging LP to date, last year's *Everything Here* album, which stirs a tangy dose of salsa throughout a surprisingly jazzy release. An ongoing support tour is due to arrive at the Soda Bar on March 11.

San Francisco indie quartet **Hot Flash Heat Wave** is a good example of a band birthed by social media. Their 2015 video for "Gutter Girl," from their debut album *Neapolitan*, turned up on the front page at Reddit, and away they went. Originally a duo featur-



HOT FLASH HEAT WAVE AT IRENIC ON MARCH 23



JACK TEMPCHIN AT AMSDCONCERTS ON APRIL 13

"Probably because **Jack Tempchin** has opened for a couple of concerts," says AMSDconcerts honcho Carey Driscoll, "co-billed for one or two others, and been called up from the audience to play a song or two during at least one other AMSD concert — in addition to coming to some other concerts at AMSD — I hadn't realized that it had been so long since he was the featured performer at one of our shows. It looks, from my records, like Jack's last headlining appearance at AMSD was way back in February 2010. So to say that another Jack Tempchin show is long overdue would be a great understatement, and it's an oversight we're correcting right now." The occasional Eagles songwriter, whose parents relocated from Ohio to San Diego when he was still an infant, will make his first appearance at AMSDconcerts' new Sweetwater Community Church digs in Bonita on April 13. Expect to hear signature Eagles tracks such as "Already Gone," "Somebody," and "It's Your World Now," as well as one of the top-selling songs of all time, the Eagles' "Peaceful Easy Feeling," which has inspired a same-name Cabernet Sauvignon from Temecula's South Coast Winery as well as serving as the title of a 2017 Tempchin album. But you can also probably count on several other numbers you know well but had no idea he had a hand in writing, including famous former neighbor Tom Waits' "Tijuana" (written with Waits at SDSU's Backdoor Theater while Tempchin was managing the student venue, moments before they debuted

it onstage together), and two of Glenn Frey's biggest hits, "You Belong to the City" and the Miami Vice track "Smuggler's Blues." His songs have been covered by everyone from locals the Paladins and former Byrd Chris Hillman to George Jones, Glen Campbell, Tanya Tucker, Emmylou Harris, Johnny Rivers, Trisha Yearwood, and even Jay-Z and Coolio.

Back in the '90s, I was dating a young lady who I found I had very little in common with musically. She had a thing for beach-y bro rock, which to me sounds like bees living in my head, but had little patience with my penchant for 70s prog. The one CD that we found we could both take long drives grooving along with was *Starfish*, by an ethereal Australian dream pop band named **The Church**. She especially loved singing along to its best-known single, "Under the Milky Way," which if you don't recall by name was kind of like Bowie on Quaaludes, underwater. That little sonic fever dream made its way into a bunch of commercials over the years, not to mention the film *Donnie Darko*, and it remains pretty much their only hit record, having



THE CHURCH AT THE BELLY UP ON MAY 7

been covered by the Killers, Sia, and others. That entire album was just as sublime as the single, and I still tend to spin it at least annually, but I confess that I've never owned any of their other full-lengths. I'd skip through a few of their more recent releases for this column in order to tell you a bit more about what they've been up to, but it hardly matters since it's a *Starfish* 30th Anniversary Tour that brings them to the Belly Up on May 7. My mismatched paramour of long ago, wherever she is today, will be happy to hear that the band will play the album in its entirety.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find JUST ANNOUNCED online at SDReader.com/music

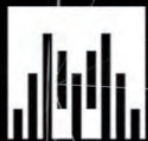


PRESENTS

DKH W

but they found me

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21



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Friday February 8: **Tim Norton** 5pm
Jessie Ray Smith 8:30pm

Saturday February 9: **Dave Booda** 12pm
Russel Ramo 6pm
Daddy O & Batman 8:30pm

Sunday February 10: **Sheila Sondergard** 12pm
Chuck Crossen 7pm

Monday February 11: **Jasmine Rogers** 7pm
Happy Hour All Day!

Tuesday, February 12: **Soul Seduction** 7pm

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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

13 Point Brewing Co.:

Friday, 6:30pm — Manganista and Space Force. Free.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Friday, 7:30pm — Flute Fusion: Classical Meets Jazz. \$30-\$99.
Monday, 12pm — Sue Palmer. Free.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Bad Plus.

Bar Pink:

Saturday, 8pm — FuseBox.

Bassmnt:

Saturday, 9pm — DJ Arty.

Bay Bridge Brewing:

Saturday, 6pm — Sonic Tonic.

Beaumont's:

Friday, 9pm — dB Jukebox.
Saturday, 9pm — The Rhythmatics.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Joan Osborne Sings Bob Dylan. \$30-\$53.
Saturday, 8pm — Tainted Love.
Sunday, 8pm — Joshua Radin. \$30-\$35.
Tuesday, 8pm — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. \$35-\$62.

Bread & Salt:

Tuesday, 8pm — Steph Richards.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Monday, 7pm — Kishi Bashi.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

Friday, 8pm — January Berry Band.
Saturday, 8pm — Redhanded.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Alex Cameron & Roy Molloy. \$15-\$18.

Friday, 8pm — Steve Gunn. \$15.

Saturday, 8pm — The Woggles and the Schizophonic.

Sunday, 8pm — Radar State. \$12-\$15.

Monday, 8pm — Free Paintings and Lefties.

Tuesday, 8pm — Imagery Machine and the Havnauts.

Wednesday, 8pm — Broncho and Pinky Pinky. \$15.

Cheers Bar & Grill:

Wednesday, 8:30pm — West Coast Swing Dance.

Ché Café:

Thursday, 7pm — TV Girl and George Clanton. \$15.
Friday, 7pm — Balms.

Club M:

Saturday, 8pm — Chinese New Year 2019. \$10.

Country Club Senior Center:

Sunday, 3pm — Big Band & Jazz Hall of Fame Orchestra. \$10.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Saturday, 2pm — Flipside Burners. Free.

De Oro Mine Co:

Friday, 9pm — Frankie T. & the Triple B.

Flying Pig Pub & Kitchen:

Sunday, 1pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Full Circle Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — West of 5. Free.

Grand Ole BBQ y Asado:

Wednesday, 6pm — Laura Gibson. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Sunday, 4:30pm — Mikan Zlatkovich Trio.

Harp:

Friday, 9pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:

Thursday, 8pm — Highland Way.

Friday, 9pm — Ron's Garage.

Saturday, 8pm — Jamacha Project.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:

Friday, 8pm — The Emergency Exit. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — Steven Langdon.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm — Stro, Ezri, Cantrell. \$15-\$18.

Friday, 7pm — Badfish: a Tribute to Sublime. \$20-\$45.

Sunday, 7pm — Lee "Scratch" Perry. \$22-\$28.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Sunday, 7pm — B-3 Four Band: Aubrey Fay Tribute. \$10.

Indian Joe Brewing:

Friday, 5pm — The Tones and the Resinators. Free.

Saturday, 4pm — Small Town Heroes. Free.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

Saturday, 8pm — Jurassic Park In Concert.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

Friday, 6pm — Rick Ross.

Saturday, 6pm — Los Reyes.

Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.

Wednesday, 6pm — Danny Green.

Lhoq/Exrealism:

Saturday, 7pm — The Gift Machine, China, Modern Bummer.

Loft:

Tuesday, 8pm — ArtPower: Msaki & the Golden Circle. \$15-\$30.

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage:

Wednesday, 8pm — Steve Grand. \$40.

Midnight Jack Brewing Company & Echo Room:

Saturday, 6pm — Avenue Army and Justin Linn & the Rotations.

Mission Trails Church:

Sunday, 3pm — Yuko Maruyama. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Cheap Date. Free.

Moonshine Beach:

Friday, 6pm — Martin McDaniel.

Saturday, 8pm — John Gurney.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — The Sickstring Outlaws.

Friday, 8:30pm — Flipside Burners.

Saturday, 4pm — Jerome Dawson.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Tower 7.

Ms Vintage:
Saturday, 12pm — C+C Market Valentine's Event.

Music Box:
Thursday, 8pm — Passafire, Psydecar, the Originators. \$18-\$20.

Friday, 9:30pm — Katchafire, Jordan T, Swells. \$32.

Saturday, 9pm — The PettyBreakers and Desperado. \$19-\$21.

Navajo Live:
Friday, 8pm — Madman and Up the Irons.

North University Community Library:

Sunday, 3pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, 7:30pm — Atmosphere.

Saturday, 7pm — Irration and Through the Roots.

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SUNDAY JUNE 9



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Sunday, 7pm — Danko Jones and Nashville Pussy. \$5.
Wednesday, 7pm — Cuco.

Omnia San Diego:
Friday, 8pm — Steve Aoki.

Pal Joey's:
Friday, 9pm — New Normal.

Pala Casino:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Peabo Bryson and Sister Sledge. \$68-\$128.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Sunday, 7:30pm — 2Cellos.

Pour House:
Friday, 8pm — Babydoll Warriors and the Loons.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Charles Burton Blues Band. Free.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Saturday, 7pm — Guitar Shorty and Band of Gringos.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town:
Saturday, 5pm — Joe Cardillo.

Rosie O'Grady's:
Sunday, 10pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Salty Frog:
Friday, 9pm — Subspecies, Kid Gruesome, Kitty Plague. Free.

Soda Bar:
Friday, 8pm — Tijuana Panthers and Matt Lamkin. \$16-\$18.
Saturday, 8pm — Tijuana Panthers and Fun Country. \$16-\$18.

Monday, 8pm — The Holy Knives and Aunt Cynthia's Cabin. \$7.
Tuesday, 8pm — The Abstracts and Cardboard Boxer. \$6.
Wednesday, 8pm — Dreamgirl and Acid Tongue. \$10-\$12.

Soma:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Foxtide and the Kabbs.

Spin Nightclub:
Friday, 8pm — Destructo. \$10-\$25.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church:
Sunday, 4:30pm — Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi. Free.

Til-Two:
Saturday, 9pm — Koda. Free.

Tower Bar:
Tuesday, 8pm — Seth Anderson and Sammy Kay.

Viejas Arena:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Kiss.

Waterbar:
Tuesday, 7pm — Irusalem.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Monday, 9:30pm — Survival of the 90s. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

Witch Creek Winery Carlsbad:
Sunday, 3pm — Cowboy Jack. Free.

Zel's Del Mar:
Thursday, 7pm — Robin Henkel.

UPCOMING SHOWS

AMSDCconcerts Bonita:
Saturday, Feb. 23 — The Subdudes. \$40-\$50.

Abbey:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Valentine's Jazz Evening. \$55-\$75.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:
Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Aaron Diehl Trio.

Auditorium at the Scripps Research Institute:
Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Charles McPherson 80th Birthday Celebration. \$32-\$105.

! OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Canada: some of our better rock and rollers from over the years have come from up north. Joni Mitchell, Barenaked Ladies, Neil Young, Rush, Tokyo Police Club, Arcade Fire, and Ronnie "The Hawk" Hawkins, to name a few. Hawkins, a rockabilly star, was born in Arkansas, but has lived most of his life in Ontario. He may be best remembered for his role in helping launch The Band, a Canadian-American quintet that first performed as Hawkins' back-up band, The Hawks. The Band later backed Bob Dylan, then went on to a career that left a significant impact on everything rock and roll.

It's tempting to wonder if there is a deeper connection between The Band's bassist, the

late Rick Danko, and Danko Jones, an Ontario-based power trio that bears the name of its singer/guitarist. Danko Jones came about in the late 1990's with a sound not unlike that of a boozy AC/DC, only harder, faster, and louder. And funnier, and indie-rock streamlined. (Danko Jones is not so much for the lengthy guitar solos.) Jones once told a reviewer that when he started his band, the sound he was aiming for was something in between the Blues Explosion and James Brown. Twenty years and several albums later, Danko Jones is now traveling in support of their latest, *Wild Cat*.

Danko Jones is a big draw throughout Europe and the Scandinavian countries. The trio spends much of their time there. Their records chart well in Europe, and that kind of success pays for a lot of groceries. But America is still the proving ground for good old rock and roll. Will Danko Jones rise above this country's discord of Voice spinoffs, indie flameouts and



DANKO JONES

auto-tuned pop radio cheese? Will the power trio from Canada strike gold here, as so many of its predecessors have done in years past?

DANKO JONES: Sunday, February 10, Observatory North Park, 619-239-8836, 7 p.m., \$5, all-ages (Nashville Pussy and Prima Donna also perform)

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

Aztec Brewing Company:
Friday, Feb. 22 — Ron Franklin Band and Christopher Cash. Free.

Baily's Old Town:
Sunday, Feb. 24 — Debora Galan. Free.

Balboa Theatre:
Sunday, Feb. 24 — Gregory Porter.

Bancroft:
Thursday, Feb. 28 — Shane Secor and Bradley Palermo. Free.

Bassmnt:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Spag Heddy. Sunday, Feb. 23 — Virtual Riot.

Beaumont's:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Aquile. Friday, Feb. 15 — Born Fighters. Thursday, Feb. 21 — Mark

Fisher. Friday, Feb. 22 — Fish & the Seaweeds. Saturday, Feb. 23 — Emotional Rescue.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Casey Hensley Band. \$16-\$18. Friday, Feb. 15 — Dead Man's Party and the Black 52's. \$20-\$35. Sunday, Feb. 17 — Los Lonely Boys. \$40-\$42.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Mark Hummel's Golden State & Lone Star Blues Revue. \$25-\$44. Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Nate Donniss and Secret Lynx.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — Kimmi Bitter and Nena Anderson. Friday, Feb. 22 — The Mother Hips. \$20-\$35. Saturday, Feb. 23 — Banding Together's Greatest Hits Benefit

Concert. Saturday, Feb. 23 — Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday. \$34-\$60. Sunday, Feb. 24 — Albert Hammond Jr. Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Joy Williams and Anthony da Costa. Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Coco Montoya and Tinsley Ellis.

Black Plague Brewing:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Blind Mountain Holler.

Bread & Salt:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Rock, Paper, Toy Pianos. \$5-\$15.

Brick by Brick:
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Lords Of Acid and Orgy. Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Red Dragon Cartel and Taz Taylor. \$18-\$22.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Sunday, Feb. 24 — Mesa-Yakushev Duo.

Carlsbad Community Church:
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Coastal Communities Concert Band. \$15-\$20.

Carvers Steak & Chops:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Crossroads. Free. Saturday, Feb. 16 — The Lemon Squeezers. Friday, Feb. 22 — Gino & the Lone Gunmen. Saturday, Feb. 23 — Ramshackle.

Casbah:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Louis XIV. \$25. Saturday, Feb. 16 — Louis XIV

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Bossfight / The Rough \$10
Sat 2/9 Trying To Get By / Apathy Cycle / Midnight Track / Delma \$3

Sun 2/10 Jack McCain Band / Subspecies \$5

Mon 2/11 Trivia with Lenny

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Sat 2/9 Nemesis
Sun 2/10 Drink and Paint!

Fri 2/15 The New Normal

Sat 2/16 Alice Insane/ Oceans (Alice in Chains/ Pearl Jam tributes)

Sat 2/23 Serious Guise

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Jen Razavi & Poli van Dam
Gillian Beeks and Her Money Maker
Jen Carlson

FRI, 2/8 **ROMAN WATCHDOGS**
Midnight Block
Delma • Late for Life

SAT, 2/9 **SHINERS CLUB**
Tap & Die • Ursula
Gut Punch • DJ Miggs

SUN, 2/10 **THE SUN AND THE MIRROR**
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TUE, 2/12 **SETH ANDERSON SAMMY KAY**
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Sat 2/9 Detroit Underground
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Wed 2/13 "Hoots is Home Wednesdays" Line Up & Dance Country
Thu 2/14 GINO AND THE LONE GUNMEN Valentines Day Dance We've got a heart for you!
Fri 2/15 Funks Most Wanted, Funk Baby Friday!
Sat 2/16 The Rhythm Shakers and The Sleepwalkers

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and the Slashes. \$25.
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Post Animal and Ron Gallo.
Monday, Feb. 18 — Cherry Road and Flower Animals.
Tuesday, Feb. 19 — The Gift Machine and the Paragraphs.
Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Spear Of Destiny. \$15.
Thursday, Feb. 21 — Kolars and Alex Lilly.
Friday, Feb. 22 — King Tuff and Tropa Magica. \$18-\$20.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — King Tuff and Paint. \$18-\$20.
Sunday, Feb. 24 — MDRN HSTRY and Belladon. \$6.
Monday, Feb. 25 — Graveyard Witch and Supra Summus. \$6.

Central Library:
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Duo Gliss. Free.

Ché Café:
Sunday, Feb. 24 — Crumb and Video Age. \$15.

Clairemont Lutheran Church:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — San Diego County Recorder Society. Free.

Club M:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Rosario Monetti. \$10-\$35.

Crown Dance Studio:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Hot Rhythm Lounge. \$5-\$12.

Duck Dive:
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Durell Anthony & Joe Bigham. Free.

EVE Encinitas:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Valnetine Dinner with Eliza Rose Vera & Jack Robie. \$80.

Ebullition Brew Works:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Mercedes Moore & Grumpy Bear BBQ. Free.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Thursday, Feb. 28 — Durell Anthony & Ian Patrick Cler. Free.

First United Methodist Church of Chula Vista:
Sunday, Feb. 17 — eXchange: A Choral Collaboration. \$10-\$35.

Full Circle Saloon:
Friday, Feb. 15 — The New Normal.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Joshua White Trio.
Sunday, Feb. 24 — Christopher Hollyday. Free.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Air Supply.

Herringbone:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Durell Anthony & Ian Patrick Cler. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Black Market III.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Camino Paz.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Kevin Begin.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Tony Cummins.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Heart Band.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Flophouse Playboys.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Jimmy Lewis.

House of Blues:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Emo Night Brooklyn. \$12-\$20.

Friday, Feb. 15 — The Moves Collective and the Higgs.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — The Aces. \$15-\$40.
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Local Brews Local Grooves. \$10-\$60.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Thumpasaurus. \$10-\$12.
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — The Band Camino. \$12-\$15.
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Poppy. \$18.

IDEA1:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Breakthrough: The Roaring 20s. \$25-\$40.

Indian Joe Brewing:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — North County Lumber Truck. Free.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Vertical Limit. Free.

Infinity Dance Sport Center:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Restorative Sound Journey. \$12-\$15.

Irenic:
Friday, Feb. 15 — The Marias. \$15.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Pedro the Lion and Tomberlin.
Monday, Feb. 18 — The Red Pears. \$13-\$15.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:
Friday, Feb. 22 — Michael Feinstein: Songs of Sinatra. \$20-\$80.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Brubeck's Time Out In Concert.

Kraken:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Prom Night. Free.
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Bonneville 7. Free.

La Jolla Riford Library:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Annie Rettic. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, Feb. 15 — Rick Ross.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Los Reyes.
Monday, Feb. 18 — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Lisa Campbell.
Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Danny Green.
Thursday, Feb. 21 — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Rick Ross.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Los Reyes.
Monday, Feb. 25 — Javid & Naoko.

Landings at Carlsbad:
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Gone Blonde. Free.

Lestat's Coffee House:
Friday, Feb. 22 — Gregory Page. \$20.

Loft:
Tuesday, Feb. 19 — The Nels Cline 4.

Lyceum Theatre:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Ritmos Latinos. \$35-\$50.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Ritmos Latinos. \$35-\$50.
Sunday, Feb. 17 — Ritmos Latinos. \$35-\$50.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Sonic Tonic.

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge:
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Sisster.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Steve Grand. \$40.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Rayme Sciaroni & Peter Kalivas. \$25.
Thursday, Feb. 21 — Sam Harris. \$40.
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Terri Bratcher. \$20.

Marrow:
Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Roger! and the March Divide.

Midnight Jack Brewing Company & Echo Room:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Kitty Plague, the Touchies, Hocus.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Be A Hero Festival.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Alter Ego. Free.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Bobby Patterson Band. Free.

Moonshine Beach:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Lewis Brice.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Jerry Jacobs. Free.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Trent Tomlinson.
Saturday, Feb. 23 — Brodie Stewart Band.

Moonshine Flats:
Friday, Feb. 15 — Lewis Brice.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Lewis Brice.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Easton Corbin.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — James Allen Country Band.
Friday, Feb. 15 — Blue Light.
Saturday, Feb. 16 — Lindy & the Charlies.
Friday, Feb. 22 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Music Box:
Thursday, Feb. 14 — Somebody to Love with Brian Justin Crum. \$67.

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Friday, Feb. 15 — The Soul Rebels and the Routine.
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Red Hot Chili Peppers and Fooz Fighters. \$12-\$15.
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — Kongos. \$25-\$27.
 Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Justin Nozuka and Craig Cardiff.
 Thursday, Feb. 21 — iDKHOW. \$15.
 Friday, Feb. 22 — Brasstracks.
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — Como La Flor Band. \$20-\$22.
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — Kaleena Zanders and Silva. \$10.
 Sunday, Feb. 24 — Abbey Road's George Harrison Celebration. \$17-\$19.

Nate's Garden Grill:
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — Tinkersmith. Free.

Nick & G's:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Tim Yancey. Free.

Observatory North Park:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — The Expandables and Ballyhoo.
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Caifanes.
 Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Cannibal Corpse and Morbid Angel.
 Friday, Feb. 22 — Aurora and Talos.

Old California Coffee House & Eatery:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Rolf Olsen Quartet. Free.

Omnia San Diego:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Lil Jon.
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — Illenium.
 Friday, Feb. 22 — Borgeous.

Pacific Islander Beer Company:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Panama 66:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Parq Restaurant:
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — Lost Frequencies. \$20.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Panic! At the Disco. \$35-\$85.
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — RL Grime.
 Thursday, Feb. 21 — Justin Timberlake.

Pour House:
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — Gone Blonde. Free.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — Murphy's Celtic Legacy.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
 Friday, Feb. 22 — Moonlight Serenade Orchestra. \$10-\$20.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Classical playlist of the future

I had mixed feelings about Matthew Aucoin's concert at the San Diego Symphony on Friday, January 25. The concert consisted of several short pieces and excerpts from larger pieces. I like that format. It is one which the recording industry has used for decades.

The theme of the playlist was *Hearing the Future*. The list featured music which currently looks to the future and also which looked to the future in the past. Programming this playlist concert was a risk on Aucoin's part. Anytime anyone creates a themed playlist, opinionated people like me are going to take exception to what was and was not included.

The first two pieces were by Steve Reich and Thomas Adès. These composers use completely different mediums, and time will tell if the future sounds like their

music or not.

Next up was Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, fourth movement, and the introduction to Haydn's *Creation*. These two pieces puzzled me, as I've always considered them to be the concluding chapters of the classical period as opposed to the start of something new.

Some would say *The Creation* is the crowning achievement of the classical period. I think Haydn would agree. The obvious choice for hearing the future from this period is the first movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*. I have a feeling Matthew Aucoin was interested in something finer than the obvious.

I was surprised to learn that my adoration of Sibelius is limited. The concluding movement of his *Symphony No. 4* was on the playlist, and I could not

have cared less. I realized I only truly love his symphonies number one, two, and five, along with his *Violin Concerto* and, of course, *Finlandia* and *Valse Triste*.

My favorite musical selections were from Mahler's *Ruckert Lieder* and Aucoin's opera *Crossing*, all of which included baritone Rodney Gilfry. But the unfortunate fact was that Gilfry was singing in a symphony hall from the very foot of the stage. He may as well have been singing in a park, as there wasn't a reflective surface within a hundred feet of his voice. I wouldn't say his performance suffered for it, but I did miss the immediacy which a better acoustical situation affords the voice.

During the selection from the *Ruckert Lieder*, I had a revelation. Mahler never covers up his soloists in any



Matthew Aucoin

of his vocal music except for, perhaps, the opening section of *Das Lied von der Erde*.

Mahler's tenure at The Vienna State Opera is considered the golden age to this day. Could it be that Mahler took his experience as a conductor of opera and incorporated it into his compositions? I feel as if there must be a connection between Mahler's ability as an opera conductor and his ability to allow the voice to

be heard over his monstrous orchestral creations.

If I ever have a chance to hear Aucoin's *Crossing*, I'm going. I've enjoyed everything I've heard from it so far.

What piece do I think was missing from this playlist about hearing the future? The prelude to *Tristan und Isolde*. There has never been a more profound moment of hearing the future than when that music was premiered. We are still in its shadow.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Saturday, Feb. 16 — Ike Willis Project and RDG.

Project and RDG.

Monday, Feb. 23 — Berlin.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town:

Friday, Feb. 15 — Gary Seiler.

Saturday, Feb. 16 — Nitro Express.

Friday, Feb. 22 — Gary Seiler.

Friday, Feb. 22 — Joe Cardillo.

Saturday, Feb. 23 — Nitro Express.

Saddle Bar:

Thursday, Feb. 14 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Searsucker Gaslamp:

Saturday, Feb. 23 — Funk You Up Brunch. \$100.

Ship in the Woods:

Saturday, Feb. 16 — Wax/Wane. \$10.

Soda Bar:

Friday, Feb. 15 — Mike Krol and Vertical Scratchers.

Saturday, Feb. 16 — Awesome Fest: Cancelled. \$25-\$40.

Sunday, Feb. 17 —

Awakebutstillinbed and Sundressed. \$10-\$12.
 Monday, Feb. 18 — Dalton & the Sheriffs. \$10.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Half Waif and Whitney Ballen. \$13-\$15.

Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Smoking Popes and Direct Hit. \$17-\$20.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — Houses. \$10-\$12.

Friday, Feb. 22 — Black Sabbitch.

Sunday, Feb. 24 — Private Island, Kuwada, Hush. \$15.

Soma:

Thursday, Feb. 14 — Hockey Dad and Hunny.

Friday, Feb. 15 — Ja Rule & Ashanti.

Saturday, Feb. 16 — On Drugs and Mikey Carnevale.

Friday, Feb. 22 — Madhouse Fest.

Space:

Thursday, Feb. 14 — Daniel Romano. \$12.

Sunday, Feb. 24 — Un and Body Void. \$10-\$12.

Spin Nightclub:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Lee Foss.
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — Pleasurekraft.

St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Emmet Cahill. \$30-\$45.

St. Michael's by-the-Sea:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Ashley Bathgate. \$15-\$35.

St. Paul's Cathedral & Episcopal Church:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — eXchange: A Choral Collaboration. \$10-\$35.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:
 Friday, Feb. 15 — Small Potatoes. \$15-\$18.

Tio Leo's:
 Saturday, Feb. 16 — Rhythm Shakers and the Sleepwalkers.

Tower Bar:
 Wednesday, Feb. 27 — MDC and Verbal Abuse.

U-31:
 Thursday, Feb. 14 — Living Single '90s Valentine's Day Party. Free.

UCSD Price Center:
 Tuesday, Feb. 26 — ArtPower: Habib Koité & Bassekou Kouyate. \$25-\$30.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego:
 Sunday, Feb. 17 — Peter Sprague Trio. \$10-\$40.

United Church of Christ of La Mesa:
 Sunday, Feb. 24 — Joyful Noize. Free.

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center:
 Sunday, Feb. 24 — Downbeat Big Band Dance & Swing Class. \$10.

Viejas Arena:
 Thursday, Feb. 21 — Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band.

Waterbar:
 Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Irusalem.

Westfield University Towne Centre:
 Thursday, Feb. 21 — King Taylor Project. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:
 Monday, Feb. 18 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.
 Sunday, Feb. 24 — Band of Gringos and Bayou Brothers. \$10.

Monday, Feb. 25 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

Witch Creek Winery Carlsbad:
 Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Cowboy Jack: Johnny Cash Birthday Tribute. Free.

Wokou Ramen & Yakitori:
 Friday, Feb. 22 — Durell Anthony & Ian Patrick Cler. Free.

Wong's Dragon Room:
 Saturday, Feb. 23 — 8 East Band. Free.

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A soup to bring Dad back to life

“We demanded the sublime on a platter.”

When Ray, a Korean-American, said he wanted to be a gourmet chef, his father loathed the idea. Cooking is “women’s work,” he said. It’s low class, uneducated. Ray became a chef anyway, and top-shelf at that. He studied in Paris. One day he splurged and bought a \$1900 French chef knife, the Stradivarius of cutlery. His ever-irate father huffed: Ray could have picked up the same for ten bucks at a local store.

Ray quit cooking when his father came home from the hospital dying of cirrhosis.

Desperate for his father’s approval, or to make some kind of amends, Ray once prepared an 18-course “taste meal” of delicacies fit for a “foodie.” His father just said, “Interesting.” Ray later found him in the kitchen eating ramen. Since it is too big to fit anywhere else, the father’s hospital bed is in the kitchen, a blaring irony since he hates food and can no longer eat or speak.

Like most hospice workers, Lucien can tell if a person has weeks or just days to live. When Lucien says the father’s end is near, father and son must find a way to reconnect: to break the barrier between them, and defy the barrier between

life and death.

And Ray might be just the one to do it. He’s an intuitive matchmaker: he can sense the perfect meal for a client. His restaurant doesn’t even have menus. He just looks at the diners,

goes into the kitchen, and *voila!* He won his girlfriend, Cornelia, with his love of food, then lost her when he quit. Now he must

not only reconnect with his father, but also his near-religious calling.

Ray recalls a South Korean woman whose son was heading overseas. To keep him from leaving, she prepared a *mugook*, a simple Korean soup so delicious that when he tasted it, the boy stayed home. His unnamed uncle tells Ray to prepare a *mugook* to bring his near comatose father back to life.

Julia Cho’s *Aubergine* (what the rest of the world calls eggplant) unfolds like an 18-course meal. Many dishes delight, while others lack flavor and feel forced. And the meal continues long after the entrée’s been served.

Some of the delightful dishes come in monologue/flashbacks. Most concern a favorite meal.

Amanda Sitton — making a much welcome return to the stage — opens the piece as Diane.

THEATER

JEFF SMITH



A JEWEL IN THE CROWN CITY

“CRITIC’S CHOICE!”
JAMES HEBERT, SD UNION-TRIBUNE

“CRITIC’S PICK!”
JEFF SMITH, SD READER

“BEST BET!”
PAT LAUNER, TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

The Biggest Hit of the New Year IS NOW EXTENDED! THRU FEB 24

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE, CORONADO
LAMBSPLAYERS.ORG • 619.437.6000



Aubergine: a play that “unfolds like an 18-course meal.”

Aubergine, by Julia Cho.

San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown.

Directed by Todd Salovey, cast: Brian Kim, Dana Lee, Audrey Park, Terrell Donnell Sledge, Amanda Sitton; scenic design, Justin Humphries, costumes, Elisa Benzoni, lighting, Kristin Swift, sound, Melanie Chen Cole.

Playing through February 16: Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 7, Matinee Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

She and her husband have “more money than we know what to do with,” so they became food junkies, then experts, then globe-trotting “food tourists,” driven to savor culinary ecstasies — including three trips to El Bulli, far off Spain’s beaten track. “We demanded the sublime

on a platter,” she boasts.

Diane’s favorite meal? Her father’s pastrami sandwiches. Diane’s monologue stands at the far end of the eating spectrum, with Ray’s father at the other. She also reveals one of the play’s consistent weaknesses: the set-up is often better



“Works beautifully! A sustained theatrical exercise in empathy.”
The New York Times

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed
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Directed by James Vásquez

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than the punch line: Diane and her husband quit “gastronomic gallivanting” when they had a baby.

Other monologues include Lucien’s — about being a refugee — and Ray’s off-and-on girlfriend Cornelia’s acquired distaste for food. The at-times eloquent monologues define character and let the playwright strut her poetic stuff. But they lull the pace and make the less dramatic scenes feel flat.

One of the strengths of the San Diego Rep’s show, and Todd Salovey’s direction, is respect for cultural details. One may or may not believe in Ray’s alleged intuition, but Brian Kim, who plays Ray, does. Kim adds resonances to a lost soul who has abandoned his dream.

Salovey has crafted a voiceless, improvised ritual where differences come together at the father’s simple funeral. That the vehicle is cigarette smoke detracts from one of the production’s most touching moments.

Every now and then, an actor will come on stage in what looks to be a nondescript role, and play it so well you’re glad when he’s in a scene. Yong

Kim does that as Ray’s uncle. He’s from South Korea and speaks no English. That’s why Ray hooked back up with Cornelia (Audrey Park, acerbic, funny), so she can translate. The uncle suggests the meal to resurrect Ray’s father.

Justin Humphries’ spare, semi-circular set, given the occasional purple blush by Kristin Swift’s lighting, provides uncredited subtitles when Kim speaks. But they aren’t necessary. Kim’s vocal inflections, expressive eyes, and vivid gestures are crystal clear. Without pushing or trying to steal a scene, he’s a kind of modest life force, and genuinely funny.

As Ray’s father, Dana Lee spends much of the show’s two hours in bed, getting slammed with insults. His stately monologue identifies the source of his grief and restores the balance. The father’s death is the play’s climax. But it takes five or six scenes after that to tie up loose ends. Even in such capable hands, they tend to sputter.

Terrell Donnell Sledge’s Lucien, the sensitive, semi-mystical refugee/caregiver, says many things about death. Most are dusty truisms Henry James summed up: “It is not death a man should fear, but never beginning to live.” ■

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 Jewel in the Crown City

Twenty-five years ago Lamb’s Players Theatre opened its new space on Orange Avenue in Coronado. This show celebrates with a Greatest Hits look back that’s both classy (the 16 member cast and six musicians all in black, much of the stage too) and beautifully done. The piece is also a walk down musical’s memory lane. Projections overhead highlight Lamb’s hit shows, as singers perform songs from *Les Miz*, *The Music Man*, *The Fantasticks*, *Fiddler*, and 20 more. Robert Smyth, co-founder of the company, narrates with well-earned pride. It’s impossible to choose standouts since there are so many. **Critic’s Pick.**

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

And Then There Were None

Lamplighters Community Theatre stages Agatha Christie’s classic whodunit. A cryptic invitation lures 10 people to a deserted island. They don’t know each other, but have one thing in common. Each got away with murder. They won’t tonight. Keith Anderson directs.

LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Aubergine

The San Diego Repertory Theatre opens the new year with Julia Cho’s “meditation on the beauty of life where hope is no mere ingredient — it’s the main course.” A Korean family struggles to relate across emotional and cultural divides. Todd Salovey directs.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Bojo’s Place

To commemorate Black History Month, Community Actors Theatre presents Jennie Hamilton’s “finger popping, toe tapping, “HOT” musical revue, celebrating the Blues, Jazz, Pop, Rock & Roll, MoTown, and those who made them possible.” Earl Hamilton, Jr., directs with choreography by Patty Faye and musical direction by Kimberly Coburn.

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., OAK PARK. 619-581-2634. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS.

Crazy for You

San Diego Musical Theatre opens its new season with the classic Gershwin musical comedy about Bobby Child, New York banker, sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose a

ANTI-REVIEW GARRETT HARRIS

American immigrant pastoral

TO ASSIMILATE OR NOT TO ASSIMILATE, that is the issue in *Familiar*, which plays at The Old Globe through March 3, 2019.

This mixed cocktail of comedic cultural exchanges was written by Danai Gurira, who also moonlights as General Okoye in the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s *Black Panther* and *Avengers Infinity War*. Gurira was born in Iowa, but her parents immigrated from South Rhodesia, currently Zimbabwe, in 1964.

The family in *Familiar* shares a few qualities with Gurira’s. For example, the parents in *Familiar* are professionals who have immigrated to Minnesota from Zimbabwe.

Their oldest daughter, Tendi, is getting married to a “white boy,” Chris. However, Tendi has visited just visited Zimbabwe, and wants to have a traditional wedding. Her parents, the immigrants from Zimbabwe, do not want her to have a traditional wedding.

Coming to Tendi’s aid is her

maternal aunt Anne, directly from Zimbabwe. Aunt Anne will be performing a traditional “bride price” ceremony. The mother of the bride calls that a “non-starter” and the story goes from there.

This isn’t a new story, but



Playwright Danai Gurira as General Okoye in *Black Panther*

the condensing of the generations makes for ample comedic moments. Typically, the successful immigrant story in the United States is a three-generation affair. The initial immigrant family has nothing and works day and night for little money. The next generation takes the foundation of that work and becomes successful, but still has an immigrant mentality.

It is the third generation

which ends up living what Philip Roth called the American Pastoral in his book of the same title. This third generation goes to the best schools and makes a pilgrimage to the homeland to reconnect with their now distant heritage.

Condensing the generational progression of an immigrant family is an excellent way to ramp up the stakes in a story. *The Godfather* comes to mind. Michael Corleone feels more like Vito’s grandson than the youngest brother, but two generations is easier to coordinate than

three. In *Familiar*, Aunt Anne feels more like the grandmother of the bride, as opposed to an merely an aunt.

Gurira keeps the focus of her play firmly on the immigrant dynamics and avoids the quagmire of Zimbabwe’s political present and past. The story isn’t about Zimbabwe; it is about America and how a family navigates the tension between cultures with conflicting ideologies.

rundown theater. He falls for Polly Baker, but must use “cunning” and “razzmatazz” to win her over. Kirsten Chandler directs, Jill Gorrie choreographs, and Don LeMaster is musical director.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Dancing Lessons

Scripps Ranch and Oceanside Theatre Company present the story of a young man with Asperger’s Syndrome seeking instruction from a professional dancer to survive an awards dinner. But she suffered an injury that may end her career. Meg DeBoard directs.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Diary of Anne Frank

Coronado School of the Arts presents a theatrical version of “one of the most famous documents of World War II/ The memoirs of a young, Jewish girl, forced to hide for nearly two years to escape Nazi persecution, are an essential part of how we remember one of the darkest periods of our human history.” Kim Strassburger directs.

CORONADO SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, 650 D AVE., CORONADO. 619-522-4050. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS.

Familiar

The Old Globe Theatre offers Danai Gurira’s comedy about “tradition, marriage, and what it means to be an American family.” Donald and his wife Marvelous have been living the American Dream since emigrating from Zimbabwe. Now one of their daughters insists on a traditional African wedding ceremony. Edward

Torres directs.

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Freaky Friday

Encinitas-based Ovation Theatre presents the first community theater production in San Diego County of the musical about an “overworked mother and her teenage daughter who magically switch bodies — with just a day to put things right.”

HOWARD BRUBECK THEATRE AT PALOMAR COLLEGE, 1140 W. MISSION RD., PALOMAR COLLEGE. 760-744-1150. 7PM FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY.

Guys and Dolls

The Coronado Playhouse stages the Frank Loesser, Abe Burrows, and Jo Swerling musical based on “The Idyll of Sarah Brown” and characters by Damon Runyon. Can Sky Masterson persuade Save-A-Soul Missionary Sister Sarah Brown to accompany him on a trip to Cuba? Justin Allen Slagle directs.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Hour of Great Mercy

Diversory Theatre stages the world premiere of Miranda Rose Hall’s “poetic play with music.” Ed, a gay Jesuit priest, leaves the church to reconcile with his brother in Alaska. In an isolated township, Ed “confronts his tragic past and tenuous future.” Rosina Reynolds directs.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS. NDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

People v. Beanstalk

PowPAC, Poway’s Community Theatre, offers Neil Pisk’s new play. Jack is on trial for murdering the Giant by cutting down the magic beanstalk. A jury — selected nightly from members of the audience — must decide Jack’s fate. “Did he do it to cover up a robbery? Or was it something no one saw coming?” Brent Stringfield directs.

POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Smokey Joe’s Cafe

New Village Arts offers Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller’s (legendary composers of rock n roll) musical — that features nearly 40 of their greatest hits, among them, *Jailhouse Rock*, *Love Potion #9*, and *Stand by Me*. Tony Houck directs, with choreography by Michael Mizerany.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Wedding Singer

Ocean Beach Playhouse stages the musical — music by Matthew Sklar, book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy, lyrics by Beguelin — based on the New Line Cinema film. “Rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey’s favorite wedding singer. He’s the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own.” Amanda Blair directs and choreographs.

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 8PM MONDAYS.

Life is a Dream

by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, directed by Joseph Hendel, in the Mandell Weiss Forum (graduate theatre production).

UCSD

Mandell Weiss Forum Theater

Previews: Feb. 6, 7 pm.

Show dates:

February 8, 9, 15, 16

@ 7:30 pm

February 9, 2 pm



R+J

Adapted from Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, *R+J* is a 45-minute theatrical collage that remixes, recycles, and riffs on Shakespeare’s timeless tale of star-crossed lovers, ancient grudges, and family strife. An ensemble of actors weaves movement together with familiar scenes, soliloquies and famous lines from the play. Audiences of all ages are invited to unpack the well-known characters and language. Tuesday, Feb. 19 to Saturday, Feb. 23, 7:30 pm (also 2 pm on Feb. 23).

San Diego State Theater

Time to let go of LEGO?

Maybe it's unfair to open my review of *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part* by noting that midway through, my 10-year-old daughter felt compelled to lean over and whisper in my ear, "I don't like this." She is not, after all, the critic here (even though Daddy the critic was in robust agreement). She is, however, the target

MOVIES

audience, never mind the endless series of winking jokes for the parents in the room. (Hey, we've got time travel as a major plot point, so let's throw in a heavy *Back to the Future* reference! It won't matter if the kids don't get it, as long as we make explicit acknowledgment that the kids don't get it in the film itself! Because you can never get too meta! Kids love meta! And references to old movies, and also R-rated movies — *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *The Matrix*, to name two that the film also names — that they hopefully haven't seen! And even if they don't love 'em, that's okay, because the references tie into the overall theme of the way that growing up can produce a hardening of the sensitivities. Phew! This sure is an exhausting and dragged-out parenthetical! Kind of like the movie itself! Meta!) And she did make a point of watching the original, which she loved, the night before, just to get herself in the right headspace.

On the one hand, that proved a satisfying move, because *The Second Part* begins right where the first part left off: with Dad's casual bombshell that if his son can play in the basement Lego paradise, then so can the son's younger sister. Cue the arrival of the adorable Duplo destructors, and hello, new central conflict! You might even say that *The Second Part* connects to the first as snugly as, oh I don't know, a LEGO brick! Hey, maybe that's why they called the sequel *The Second Part*, even after they included a 2 in the title!

On the other hand, it proved a frustrating move, because the sequel suffered all the more by comparison. The conflict here — play with your sister, son, lest all the LEGOs suffer Armomageddon and disappear into the Bin of Storage (pronounced store-AJ) — just isn't that compelling. There's a lot of talk about how growing up can interfere with the essential sweetness that makes such sibling cooperation possible — at one point, a character actually goes so far as to say that the

action is just an expression of the death of the imagination in the subconscious of an adolescent — but the fact remains that the kid is still young enough at heart and imaginative enough to play with LEGOs, so...what's the problem, exactly? Never mind, here's a half-baked song about Batman and romance to take your mind off things!

Oh, and the end credits were old-school cool, even if they did keep the exhausted and exhausting meta thing going with a song about how the best song from a movie is always the one that plays over the credits. My daughter even thought that they were good enough to merit a star.

—Matthew Lickona

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

2018 Oscar Nominated Shorts — Animation — Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2018. (LAND-MARK KEN)

2018 Oscar Nominated Shorts — Live Action — Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2018. (LAND-MARK KEN)

Breakfast at Tiffany's — Howlingly miscast travesty of the Truman Capote novella: starting at the top with Audrey Hepburn as a backwoods waif turned big-town party girl, down through George Peppard as the heterosexualized neighbor, all the way down to a squinting Mickey Rooney as the Japanese landlord — more Mr. Magoo than Mr. Moto. "Moon River" is just another spoonful of sugar in the candy coating. With Patricia Neal, Martin Balsam, Buddy Ebsen; directed by Blake Edwards. 1961. — D.S. ★ (LAND-MARK KEN)

Capernaum (Capharnaüm) — Director and co-writer Nadine Labaki gives the world a Middle Eastern *The Cider House Rules* — that is, a film that explicitly argues against bringing children into the world under difficult circumstances while relying for its narrative hook and dramatic effect on the heroism and resilience of a child brought into the world under difficult circumstances. Twelve-year-old Zain (a slight and moppetish Zain Al Rafeea) certainly has cause for heartbreak and rage when his parents give his 11-year-old sister away in marriage to the guy who's letting their large family live rent-free in a few rotten rooms. (It's never quite clear why Mom and Dad are in the awful situation they're in; here as



Lego Movie 2: "Yikes! It's a long way down from the heights we achieved with the first one!"

elsewhere, the point is that circumstances are difficult and kids suffer for it, so maybe don't ask so many questions.) So it's understandable that he decides to run away and look for some less painful life. He even finds it — for a while. But sorrow weighs upon Zain like the mournful-string score weighs upon our ears, to the point where even he is driven to try abandoning an infant on a crowded sidewalk while the grownup world looks on in utter indifference. (Subtle, this ain't.) It's no spoiler to announce that he eventually trades the role of child for adult mouth-piece and sues his parents for giving birth to him, because that's pretty much how the film opens. It's also pretty much how it closes, except for a final pair of scenes that take tremendous gall — as opposed to courage — to offer up, given all that's been said and done before. 2018. — M.L. ★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Casablanca — The City of Intrigue is converted into a large Camp ground, as Bogart feigns broken-heartedness and moral rehabilitation in this feminized thriller. Directed by Michael Curtiz, lushly. 1942. — D.S. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Cold Pursuit — It's February and that means it's time to kick the box office take up a notch with a new thriller starring Liam Neeson. Neeson stars as a snowplow driver seeking revenge against the drug dealer he thinks killed his son in this remake of the 2014 Norwegian film, *In Order of Disappearance*. 2019. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Cold War (Zimna Wojna) — Dustin Hoffman said it in *Stranger than Fiction*: if you're in a tragedy, you die; if you're in a comedy, you get married. Viewers will have to decide for themselves exactly what sort of story they are getting from director and co-writer Pawel Pawlikowski's handsome, gorgeous, heartbreaking, heart-thumping romance. Handsome: pianist Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) looks like a cross between Clive Owen and Michael Fassbender, Pawlikowski's precise framing tends to put the subject near the bottom of the screen and let the world open up (or bear down from) above, and the lighting and focus make the principals gleam like diamonds amid coal. Gorgeous: singer Zula (Joanna Kulig) looks like a cross between Jennifer Lawrence and Cate Blanchett, the music that both drives and infuses the story burns with felt life, and the black-and-white image makes the absolute most of Poland's snowstruck

light and Paris's voluptuous shadows. Heartbreaking: our lovers are beset from within and without; there's a cold war on, and while they are for each other, they are also still their own. (Zula especially — she is the star Wiktor must follow.) Heart-thumping: the passion on display is of all sorts, a steady flame against the cold. 2018. — M.L. ★★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Dirty Dancing — A teenage girl, bound for college and the Peace Corps in the summer of '63, falls in with the "entertainment staff" at a Catskill resort, and it changes her life forever: goodbye Namibia, hello mambo. The transformation, presented as an Ugly Duckling makeover with a debouchment in Swan Lake, amounts to a fairy tale for the body-obsessed, brain-dead Eighties. A college education, as we shall see, leads only into the ideological cesspool of Ayn Rand, anyway. What particularly earmarks this movie for the young, and what stops it from expanding either its boundaries or their horizons, is its indifference to the period: its redesigning of the Sixties to better suit the Eighties. Anyone old enough, for example, to remember what infuriated adults about the actual youthful dance styles of 1963 will adduce one thing above all else: the no-touching rule of the twist and its relatives. And so the immediately striking thing about what goes on here among the representatives of Youth is very much the opposite: not just touching, but bodies braided together in tangled-vine fashion, with spontaneous grafts attempted between pelvic bones, in a style redolent of Bob Fosse at his most grossly carnal. It leaves very little, you might say, to the imagination. Or you might better say it took very little imagination to think of it in the first place. With Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze, and Jerry Orbach; directed by Emile Ardolino. 1987. — D.S. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Dog's Way Home — Separated from her owner, Bella, a mixed-breed mistakenly labeled a pitbull by the mean old Denver dog catcher, travels 400 miles for the inevitable tearful reunion. Bryce Dallas Howard gives voice to Bella's thoughts in a manner that's bound to endear both young and old. Her director, Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*), is no stranger to this type of material. Honestly, I teared-up more during the trailer than I did during the finished product. Smith could have had another *Benji* on his paws if only he had axed the decision to computer generate some of the furry friends

(a baby cougar) and enemies (a pack of wolves) Bella runs with on the road back home. This isn't A-X-L. Every time these pretend creatures appeared on screen was like a vacuum to the brain, sucking the life out of the moment while leaving my tear ducts dryer than the Mojave. At least until the finale. With Jonah Hauer-King as her master's voice. 2019. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Do The Right Thing — Spike Lee voiced displeasure at being branded after his first film "the black Woody Allen," and in truth his ambitions, though no less large, run in a quite different direction (and at even a faster clip) than those of the maker of *Interiors* and *September* and such. Lee's third feature — a fragmented street comedy that intermittently, and at last completely, loses its sense of humor — anatomizes an incident of racial violence in Bedford-Stuyvesant on a hot summer day. The ostensible catalyst scarcely seems earth-shaking: whether or not Sal's Famous Pizzeria ought to include some photos of "brothers" — Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Michael Jordan — among those of Sinatra, Loren, De Niro, et al., on the restaurant's Wall of Fame. The movie, in consequence, seems most truly (most artistically) serious in exploring the particular, petty circumstantiality of the case: a combustible mix of individual people, extreme temperature, and unfortunate happenstance. And a feeling of genuine despair lingers well past movie's end. Some didactic expediencies (a fantasy forum of Melting-Pot Bigots) are less seriously serious, and some stylistic uncertainties (tilted cameras, fish-eye lenses) are no more than capricious. With Danny Aiello, John Turturro, Richard Edson, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Rosie Perez, and Lee. 1989. — D.S. ★★ (READING CINEMAS GROSSMONT WITH TITAN XC)

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

Calendar MOVIES

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. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Glass — Perhaps there really is such a thing as a fickle Muse; a spirit of genius that sometimes alights upon the artist like a butterfly upon a leaf, but then, suddenly and inexplicably, flies off again. How else to explain writer-director M. Night Shyamalan's decision to sully two fine films that stood on their own two feet — 2000's *Unbreakable* and 2016's *Split* — by yoking them together and driving them over the cliff that is this talky, balky, treacherous mess of a concluding chapter? Both told complete stories about extraordinary characters: a criminal genius who is willing to slaughter innocents in his quest to give meaning to his suffering, and an abused man-child who has decided that not only does his meaning have suffering, it makes him superhuman. There was no need for a third chapter, and as it turns out, there wasn't much material for one, either. Or even much will — or so it seems from the sloppy storytelling and tired twists. There are a few thoughtfully placed cameras and thrilling moments — Bruce Willis vs. a door, for one — but they're not nearly enough to make this self-conscious live-action comic book worthwhile. With James MacEvoy, Samuel L. Jackson, and Sarah Paulson. 2018. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Green Book — To pick up some side money, a raffish Copacabana bouncer agrees to chauffeur and an African-American jazz musician on a concert tour through the deep South. Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali's deeply engaging performances are the best Christmas present moviegoers will open this year. It's when the two finally find themselves on even footing that the picture goes beyond a standard lecture on the evils of racism. Directed by one half of the Farrelly Brothers, *Green Book* isn't content to simply smell like a *Driving Miss Daisy*. Surprisingly, the messages are not imparted with a wagging finger, but smuggled in as a shared experience. Is it a feel-good charmer poised to rake in greenbacks and Oscar gold? You bet! But don't let that keep you away from this overall well balanced (and timed) look forward from the safe distance of America's motley past. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Kid Who Would Be King — Everything one could ask for from a contemporary sword and sorcery adventure and more, this live-action retelling of the *Sword in the Stone* legend has the feel of John Boorman's *Excalibur* were it written for today's YA market. New kid in school Alex Elliot (Louis Ashbourne Serkis) comes across a playground fight and takes it upon himself to bulldoze a pair of bullies. This forms an alliance between our four Knights of the Round Dining Room Table whom, along with a backward-aging Merlin played at various times by Angus Imrie and Sir Patrick Stewart. Imrie is a human windsock of a lad who brings an ineffable brand of bewitchery to the character. Together they must defeat a medieval sorceress on her own turf, lest Britain buckle under to eternal slavery. Why the studio is dumping this in January rather than waiting to roll it out a major summer release is obvious. It's too good. Written and directed by Joe Cornish (*Attack the Block*). 2019. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part — Reviewed this issue. 2019. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Miss Bala — *Miss Bala* is nowhere near the *muy mala* dose of gun porn that's promised in the trailer. How's this

for being as timely as today's headlines: in the Americanized remodel of Gerardo Naranjo's gritty 2011 crime thriller, Mexican actors assume the roles of kidnappers, rapists, border-jumpers, crooked federales and/or drug smuggling pimps. A wall should be erected around every theatre that books it. Surely the current White House squatter deserves a consultant's credit. This time around it's the makeup artist sidekick (TV's Gina Rodriguez), not the beauty pageant contestant (Cristina Rodlo) who finds herself doing the bidding of a ruthless (is there any other kind?) drug cartel that holds her hostage. As silly as it gets — and it can get pretty damn silly at times — I was never bored thanks to the accelerated pace of Catherine Hardwicke's (*Thirteen*, *Twilight*) direction. 2019. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Mule — Ten lean years following a Gold Medal win for his green thumb, and 87-year-old horticulturist Earl (Clint Eastwood) was no longer capable of popping for a round of drinks on the house. If the amount of emotional damage he'd already inflicted on two generations of women were any indication, Earl was always one to put work before family. In need of cash, he finds steady work as a drug mule for a Mexican cartel. Thank God that Clint Eastwood's not done yet. We follow Earl on a dozen runs and the flow of conflicting yet never-snagging parallel storylines finds storyteller Eastwood at the top of his game. Warner Bros. didn't get behind the film, probably due to Eastwood's personal politics. Did the studio really think that Eastwood, a director known for his objectivity and cool, would be dumb enough to sabotage one of his pictures by following in the spoor of Trump supporters? Eastwood owes the American filmgoing public one thing. His job was to make a great movie again. To that extent, he has not only lived up to his part of the bargain, he's surpassed it. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Nightmare on Elm Street — Intriguing idea: a group of American teenagers share the same dream, from which they wake up dead. Why and how this is happening, especially at this particular time, remains obscure

to the end, and the mention of Balinese "dream skills" is no help. (And speaking of obscurity, the photography throughout is about two shades too dark.) The idea is further devalued by the deliberate cheating of the transitions from waking to dream, and by too many slobbering, cackling pursuits. With John Saxon and Ronee Blakley; directed by Wes Craven. 1984. — D.S. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Roma — If a film were to be judged solely on its opening shot, *Roma* would hardly deserve all of this year's best picture honors. Alfonso Cuarón's 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. 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. And the one-two punch of coincidence that caps the film's big set piece contains the type of plotting one expects from a Telenovela, not a film garnering this much critical attention. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA; LA PALOMA; ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY AT HAZARD CENTER)

They Shall Not Grow Old 3D — Is it ironic or fitting that director Peter Jackson's brilliant use of technology should help make such an arresting treatment of a war in which technology — tanks, machine guns, mustard gas, etc. — wrought heretofore undreamt-of horror upon humanity? Either way, it's astonishing that a film which must resort to illustrations to depict its actual battle sequences should prove to be such an immediate, immersive, and affecting account of soldierly life during the Great War, thanks to Jackson's addition of color and depth to archival footage and photos of what went on before and after the carnage. (Think home movies if your home

was a rat-infested trench with shells bursting overhead and mines exploding underfoot.) Thanks also to the careful and continual use of bits from old interviews with old veterans to narrate the proceedings, from hearing the call to arms and rushing to sign up to getting outfitted, trained, fed, shipped, sent to the front, sent over the top, and sent home. We don't learn a single name or follow any one soldier, but the film still manages an intense intimacy between the viewer and viewed. An achievement, an experience, and a remarkable tribute. See it on the big screen, and in 3D if at all possible. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Tito and the Birds (Tito e os Pássaros) — A moody and only slightly spooky animated effort out of Brazil from directors Gabriel Bitar, André Catoto, and Gustavo Steinberg (who also co-wrote) that makes good use of its combination of oil-paint backgrounds and precise-pencil characters but rather spectacularly fails to stick the landing. The enemy here is fear, whether irrational (televised fear-mongers are forever yammering about danger and asking, "Where are the authorities?") or thoroughly, alarmingly rational (there's a psychological plague at work that is causing actual physical mutation and paralysis). Equally curious: right from the outset, you're asked to accept the notion that a boy whose father abandons him in the wake of a lab accident can successfully decide never to be afraid again, which seems a taller order than accepting Dad's folkloric claim that throughout history, birds have warned humanity about impending danger. (The accident happens while Dad is trying to figure out how to chat with pigeons, who have been hanging around and pecking at our scraps since our days in the caves.) Without giving away too many details, it's fair to say that the democratic language of the grand climax is belied by its heroic action. Also that the film's eagerness to criticize institutions (government, media, industry, and maybe Big Pharma while we're at it) leads it to neglect its more human and narrative elements. 2018. — M.L. ★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

When Harry Met Sally... — Can a man and a woman (a woman whom the man finds attractive) just be friends without sex intervening? The initial hypothesis is "No," and it takes twelve-years-plus of screen time to fail to disprove it. A lot of sophisticated ideas, observations, and sitcom one-liners are gotten off the collective chest (of scriptwriter Nora Ephron and director Rob Reiner), but not much takes shape in the way of dramatization. As the words mount up in static set pieces, the movie often suggests a live-action Feiffer cartoon, rancid with Manhattan angst. It also sometimes suggests a Woody Allen movie — at which times it would be better advised to avoid the Gershwin on the soundtrack and the references to "Casablanca", not to mention the crosstown dash at the climax. And talking of climaxes: the famous faked-orgasm scene in a crowded deli only shows that a faked orgasm is apt to look faked indeed, and that the filmmakers are willing to sacrifice half a movie of repetitive character development for one big boffo. With Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan, Carrie Fisher, and Bruno Kirby. 1989. — S.M. ★ (CINÉPOLIS DEL MAR; CINÉPOLIS LA COSTA; CINÉPOLIS VISTA)

FILM FESTIVALS

San Diego Jewish Film Festival
Carl Laemmle (2018)

Outside of a small chain of SoCal art houses that bear his family name, Carl Laemmle is an all but forgotten footnote in the annals of cinema. James J. Friedman's illuminating documentary is hell-bent on sounding a clarion call to acquaint the unfamiliar with the Laemmle legacy. Laemmle emigrated to America before there was an Ellis Island. A pioneering studio head, his insistence on assigning billing to his players gave rise to the star system. Without his "Universal Horrors," moviegoers might never have gasped at the sight of Karloff or Lugosi. (Next time you visit Universal City, remember it was he who first invited the paying public to tour the studio.) Laemmle earned the sobriquet "Uncle" Carl for the familial approach he took to running Universal Pictures, not to mention his proneness to padding the payroll to include as many relatives as possible. This proved Schindler-worthy when, years later, *mishpucha* found the guaranteed employment needed in order to emigrate from Nazi Germany. (Laemmle is credited with saving over 300 families.)



Carl Laemmle: the story of a pioneering studio head and unwearingly Nazi-trammeler.

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS: Sunday, February 10 at 1 pm or READING TOWN SQUARE, Sunday, February 17 at 1:30 pm (director present).

San Diego Jewish Film Festival
It Must Schwing: The Blue Note Story (2018)

Did you know the influential jazz label was founded by a pair of upbeat German record fanatics, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff, who

fled the Nazis, emigrated to America, and laid the groundwork for what would prove to be an iconic approach to modulating modern jazz? That forms the foundation for this boppin' doc that features archival footage and/or interviews with just about every musician fortunate enough to lend their names to the label. But as much as the viewer may admire writer/director Eric Friedler's desire to move beyond the traditional closeup assemblage of heads and lips, perhaps CGI wasn't the way to go. The backgrounds and overall design work of animators Tetyana Chernyavska and Rainer Ludwigs attract the eyes just long enough for the characters' open-casket facial expressions and stiff, Hall-of-Presidents movement to shatter the illusion. Shameless name-dropping: Wim Wenders receives an Executive Producer credit.
READING TOWN SQUARE: Thursday, February 7 at 7 pm or Wednesday, February 13 at 7 pm.

San Diego Jewish Film Festival
Hitler Versus Picasso and the Others (2018)
Italian actor Toni Servillo (*Il Divo*), book

in hand, stands reading aloud in a dimly-lit library. Like a modern day Robert Stack preparing to walk audiences through an unsolved mystery, Servillo acquaints viewers with Hitler's dream of building a picture gallery in his birthplace, the walls of which would be lined with the loot of the world. Hitler's wish became the command of an elite corps of curators, historians, and even artists, all looking to pilfer a few masterworks as commission. A retreat of well-covered ground that began in 2006 with the definitive statement on the subject, *The Rape of Europa*, followed a year later by another powerful doc, *Stealing Klimt*. Those who've seen *The Woman in Gold* or George Clooney's barely released *Monuments Men* know that Hollywood failed to do right by the subject. For those unfamiliar with any of the above-mentioned, I suggest you see this one.

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(Extra \$10 off Mon-Fri before 1pm)
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Free hot oil

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Relax, Recharge, Reflect

\$30

60 min. Asian Full Body Massage with Oil and Hot Stones
With this ad. Expires 02/28/2019

\$35

60 min. Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage
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\$55

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LUCKY FOOT MASSAGE

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www.sdluckyfootspa.com • 619.299.5555



\$10 OFF

1-Hour Massage

With Ad - Expires February 28, 2019

Deep Tissue • Swedish
Hot Stone

Sunny Spa (858) 616-7656

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Open 7 Days 9:30am - 10:30pm
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1 - Hour Full Body Massage

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Lakeside

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HAPPY FOOT SPA

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(Reg. \$35)

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\$15⁹⁹/hr

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Before 1 PM

Gift Card
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get 1 Free

(Only December)

Full Body Massage
\$35/hr



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619-888-3999



Unique Foot Spa

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Full Body & Combo Massage
Only December

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\$40/hr (Reg. \$50)

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San Diego 92111
858-231-0523

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San Diego 92121
858-250-9066



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Front or rear. *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services \$65
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

RADIATOR \$45
or Transmission Services *Prices may vary depending on make and model. 4 cyl.

TIMING BELT \$75
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Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 1(619)-303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

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MISC WOMEN'S CLOTHING
Various sizes. Shoes, hats, etc. Over 200 pieces, all in excellent shape. All for \$200, sizes large-XL. Shoes sizes 8.5-9. Cash only. (951)309-1688 only serious buyers.

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SALE
Two beautiful multicolored blouses, size ten, five pretty tops, different colors, all like new, two never worn. One pair of red silk slacks. 619-588-2467

THREE SURFBOARDS
All 6'. All shaped by Stu Kenson. Starting at \$100. 619-800-7409

Event Listings

PADRES BOWLING LEAGUE
Bowl 3 games/week starts 3/7/19, ends 8/26/19 at Dodgers/Padres game. Party bus free food/drinks call 858-748-9110 for info

READER TACOTOPA 2019
Join the San Diego Reader in our continued search to find the best taco at the 5th Annual Reader Tacotopia in Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 11th, 2019. Try signature tacos from more than 60 of the best restaurants in San Diego, TJ and LA as they compete to win the "Best Taco" award. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best taco vendors and you decide who will ultimately win. I ReaderTacotopia.com

GARAGE SALES

MOVING/GARAGE SALE SATURDAY FEB. 9
4760 Mansfield Street of Adams Tel. (619)795-2794. 8-4. Household items. Living/Dining/Kitchen/Patio/Beds Queen/ Double/Single with drawers.

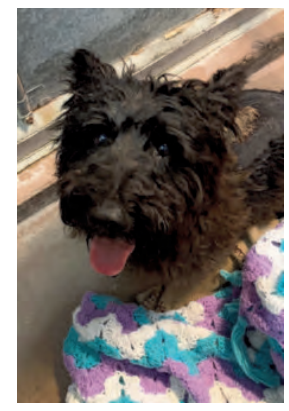
PETS

FREE PET ADS:
Selling a pet for under \$200? Email your wording & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

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Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.
FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES & KITTENS
Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for

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JASPER
Jasper is a 5 year-old, male Scottish Terrier. He came in as a stray on 01/26/19 from the Bonita area. Jasper is being treated for a skin condition on his back, and will continue to need medical treatment from his new family. He loves to play and go for long walks. Jasper has so much love and energy to share. Come and see if you would like him to be the newest addition to your family! Animal ID: A1856131 San Diego County Animal Shelter 5821 Sweetwater Rd. Bonita, CA 91902 Hours: Tuesday, Ai Saturday, 9:30am -Ai 5:30pm Adoption Fee \$35 (comes with microchip, deworming, and all vaccinations) For more information, please call 619-498-2311 or visit our website at www.sddac.com

Smog Check \$36.75
+ \$8.25 Certificate of Compliance (most cars). Bring DMV Notice. Model years 1976-1995 \$10 extra for Evap Test. RV's: call for details

Oil Change Special \$18.95
Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes new oil filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil. 6-cyl. & 8-cyl. extra, some oil filters extra.

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Includes performance test on compressor, visual inspection for leaks and damaged components and recharge (freon EXTRA).

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(FREE if repairs are performed on site).

Fuel Injection Service
3-Step - \$109.95*

60K/90K/120K Services
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6-cyl. and 8-cyl. extra. Platinum plugs extra. Call for details.

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858-270.1888

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
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With coupon only. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

STAR Certified \$29.95
with coupon. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest Free when repair done on site. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

BRAKE & LAMP INSPECTION \$99.95
plus cert. \$3.50 each. Most 4-cyl. Cars

ALIGNMENT \$39.95
Most 4-cyl. Cars

TRANSMISSION SERVICE \$89.95
Most 4-cyl. Cars

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WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$21.75*
+ \$8.25 cert
Smog Test or STAR Certified All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 31, 2019.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41.75
+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER \$24.95
from Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(both locations)

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(Cliff Brown location)

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN \$69.95
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

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Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up
Oil and filter change • Lube chassis
Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE \$159.95
Parts & Labor

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Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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Bright Idea

— In Nashville, 20-year-old Antonio Freeman knew he had a problem on June 25 when three police officers approached him as he rolled a marijuana cigarette. He also knew there was a bigger problem in his pocket: a plastic bag full of cocaine. In a bold move, according to the *Tennessean*, Freeman pulled the bag out of his chest pocket, crushed it in his hand and sprinkled cocaine over Officer Ryan Caulfield's head and into the air in an attempt to destroy evidence. The officers were able to salvage about 2.5 grams of cocaine and charge Freeman with tampering with evidence along with possession of a schedule IV drug and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.

Bold Move

— A cheeky seagull embarked on a life of crime on July 14 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, by plucking a man's wallet from the top of a pizza box and carrying it onto a nearby roof. Phil Peterson was on a cherry picker hanging lights nearby and offered to retrieve the wallet, which was being picked apart by two baby seagulls "literally trying to eat (it)," Peterson explained. He tried to distract them by throwing bread at them, but that only turned their attention to him. "It was like the movie *The Birds*," he said. "I was afraid they were going to pick my brains." Quick-thinking bystander Mike Ramos borrowed a flashlight from a police officer and used the strobe feature to "discombobulate" the birds long enough for Peterson to sneak in, grab the wallet and bring it back to Earth. "It

was just the craziest thing I ever saw in my life," Ramos told New England Cable News.

Awesome!

— Painesville (Ohio) Municipal Court Judge Michael Cicconetti has a reputation for serving up unusual sentences, and he delivered again on July 24 when 18-year-old Bayley Toth appeared in his courtroom. Toth was convicted of two misdemeanor criminal mischief charges for toppling a portable toilet at Painesville Township Park in June, among other things. Cicconetti sentenced him to 120 days in jail, but suspended it in lieu of Toth shoveling ... manure at the Lake County Fair. "You act like an animal, you're going to take care of animals," Cicconetti told Toth. The *News-Herald* reported Toth will also have to perform 40 hours of community service and pay restitution for damage to the park.

Mystery Solved

— On Jan. 25, 71-year-old Alan J. Abrahamson of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, went for his regular pre-dawn walk to Starbucks. What happened on the way stumped police investigators until March, reported *The Washington Post*, and on July 13 they made their findings public. Images from a surveillance camera show Abrahamson walking out of his community at 5:35 a.m. and about a half-hour later, the sound of a gunshot is heard. Just before 7 a.m., a

dog found Abrahamson's body, lying near a walking path. Police found no weapon, no signs of a struggle; he still had his wallet and phone. Investigators initially worked the case as a homicide, but as they dug deeper into the man's computer searches and purchases over the past nine years, a theory developed: Abrahamson had tied a gun to a weather balloon filled with helium, shot himself, and then the gun drifted away to parts unknown. A thin line of blood on Abrahamson's sweatshirt indicated to police that "something with the approximate width of a string passed through the blood on the outside of the shirt," the final report says. As for the balloon, investigators said it would likely have ascended to about 100,000 feet and exploded somewhere north of the Bahamas in the Atlantic Ocean.

Revenge, Texas-Style

— *The Austin American-Statesman* reported that on June 17, RV park neighbors and long-time adversaries Ryan Felton Sauter, 39, and Keith Monroe got into a heated dispute about an undisclosed subject. Later that day, Monroe saw Sauter leaving Monroe's RV and asked him why he had gone in without permission, to which Sauter replied, "You'll see why." Going inside, Monroe soon spotted a 3-foot-long rattlesnake. "I freaked out," he said. He used a machete to kill the snake, which strangely was missing its rattles. Turns out Sauter had bitten off the snake's tail, with its signature warning sound. Sauter has been charged with deadly conduct and criminal trespass.

Florida. Need We Say More?

— During a July 23 debate among mayoral candidates in Key West, Florida, Sloan Bashinsky, a perennial contender, took a minute to answer a call from God. "Hello? What? God?" Bashinsky said, speaking into his cellphone. According to FLKeys News, it wasn't the first time he's heard from a higher power: "I have said every time I ran, I ran because God told me to run," Bashinsky explained. "I think anyone who wants this job is insane." Bashinsky has a law degree from Vanderbilt University and was once among the island's homeless. He joins six other candidates on the ticket.

Bright Idea

— Diamonds are SO 20th century. In Japan, Warp Space is offering newlyweds the chance to make their union universal with wedding plaques launched into space. According to United Press International, the startup company, founded by faculty members from the University of Tsukuba, will print a titanium plate with the names of the betrothed and put it, along with a few hundred other plaques, in one of a series of small cubes to be released into space from the International Space Station. Astronauts will memorialize the launching by taking photographs, which will then be sent to the newlyweds. The service costs \$270.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

SMOG CHECK \$19⁹⁵

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Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.

OIL CHANGE

up to 4 quarts & oil filter
Most 4 cylinder cars,
Trucks extra.

\$16⁹⁵
+tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
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- Premium Pads
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Free Inspection

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most cars

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Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

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- 4-cyl. Most cars

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+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
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Most cars



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ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

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1616 Precision Park Lane San Diego, 92173

AC SERVICE

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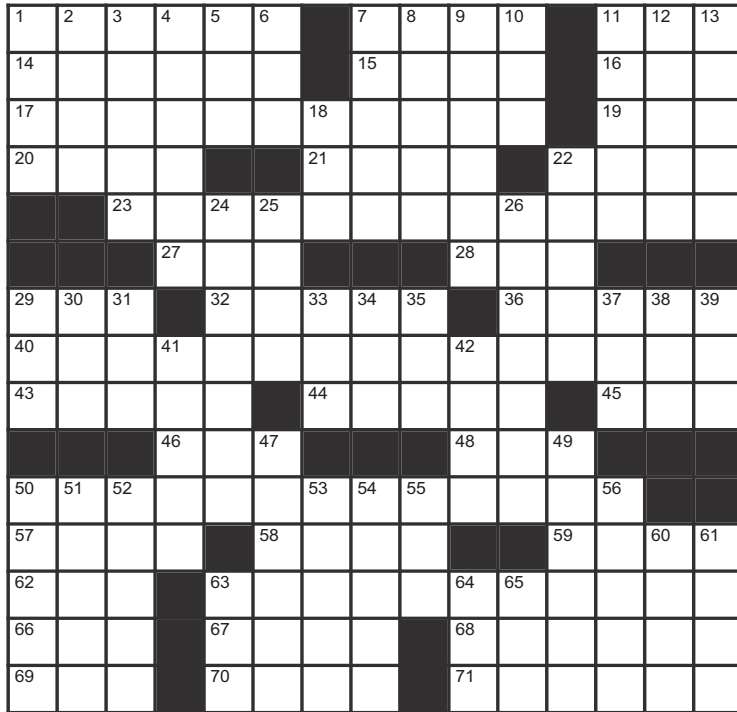
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CROSSWORD

"IX"



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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:

D	E	A	L	S		D	A	N	A		B	R	A	M			
A	R	N	I	E		I	M	A	Y		J	E	N	A			
Z	O	D	I	A	C	S	I	G	N		O	L	E	N			
S	O	Y		C	C	S		F	R	O	Y	O					
			H	E	L	L	O	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R		
			I	N	A	L	I	E		H	U	T					
			M	O	R	A	L	F	I	B	E	R		O	C	H	S
			O	L	D	T	O		V	E	E		I	C	H	A	T
			K	A	Y	E		T	A	L	I	A	S	H	I	R	E
							J	O	N		H	A	R	P	E	R	
			A	L	A	B	A	M	A	S	H	A	K	E	S		
			B	A	D	P	R		E	E	L		H	A	I		
			A	U	E	L		C	R	A	F	T	S	H	O	W	S
			F	R	A	U		P	E	R	T		T	O	T	O	E
			T	A	R	S		R	O	S	Y		A	I	S	L	E

Across

1. How one might keep something
7. "___ pronounce you ..."
11. Smucker's product
14. Cards that may be "wild" in poker
15. Prefix with -gon
16. Tiny
17. Like someone buried really deep?
19. Fifth qtrs.
20. James who sang "At last, my love has come along ..."
21. Papal name chosen 12 times
22. Has
23. Super-duper wide road?
27. Ending for glut-, deltoid- and other muscle names
28. One with pointy ears and shoes
29. San Francisco's ___ Hill
32. Ones wearing black eyeliner and ripped jeans, say
36. Outlet from the left ventricle
40. What multibillionaires earn?
43. Labor leader played by Jack Nicholson in a 1992 biopic
44. Noted architect who turned 100 in 2017
45. Deplete (of)
46. Swelled head
48. Weapon in medieval warfare
50. What a college sophomore might blow out on their birthday?
57. ___ piccata
58. Disney tune subtitled "A Pirate's Life for Me"

Down

1. "And if ___ before ..."
2. Barbershop call
3. Civilian attire
4. Aid in climbing a snowy peak
5. Melania Trump ___ Knauss
6. "Spring forward" letters
7. Belly button type
8. "Well, obviously!"
9. Tot's attire
10. Subject for "Dunkirk" or "Apocalypse Now"
11. "Snooki & ___" ("Jersey Shore" spinoff)
12. Corporate giant named for a mountain
13. Like drawn-out divorces
18. Bygone channel that aired "Veronica Mars"
22. Granny's "Darn it!"
24. It's checked before taking off
25. Not worth ___ (valueless)

26. Beyond slow
29. Org. behind the Human Genome Project
30. Big brand of kitchenware
31. #1 pal
33. Prefix with cycle
34. Fashion line?
35. Not guzzle
37. Motel units: Abbr.
38. Sweet ___
39. Nile viper
41. Sondheim's "___ Pretty"
42. Get excited about crosswords, say, with "out"
47. Cameo stones
49. 1980s supergroup that included Ricky Martin
50. Trump who wrote "The Best Is Yet to Come"
51. Pioneer in photocopying
52. Linguistic origin of "mulligatawny"
53. Terra ___
54. "I remember now"
55. ___ de plume
56. Instrument in "Norwegian Wood"
60. Fork-tailed bird
61. Inquires
63. "___ Ruled the World" (1996 Nas hit)
64. Alternative to Food Lion or Piggly Wiggly
65. Nonverbal "yes"

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

☛ **Mary Arana, Encinitas, 5.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

5	4							8
8				5		2		
9				1		3		
			5	6		7		
		6				5		
		9		7	3			
		3		9				2
		8		4				5
2							1	4

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.

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.

Name: _____
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

2	9	8	6	7	4	5	1	3
5	1	4	9	3	2	8	7	6
7	6	3	8	1	5	9	2	4
8	5	1	3	4	9	2	6	7
4	2	9	5	6	7	3	8	1
3	7	6	1	2	8	4	5	9
1	3	5	4	8	6	7	9	2
6	8	2	7	9	3	1	4	5
9	4	7	2	5	1	6	3	8

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.

☛ **Hiroshi Miyazaki, San Diego, 5.**

the tide rises, the same body of land is separated from the mainland, making it a bonafide island.

Since the 1990s, Willy of Clairemont has been running and walking at Mission Bay. "Yes, I have seen that pathway that leads from behind the bathroom to the island," Willy reported, "but not today."

According to Google Maps, Leisure Island is located at 2081 East Mission Bay Drive. The island, located inside Leisure Lagoon, has received five-star reviews. One reads, "It is just a tiny island with an area of like 50 square feet."

From my vantage point on the day I visited, the



"When the tide rises, the body of land is separated from the mainland."

island didn't have a connecting pathway. I parked behind the lifeguard tower and saw a Parks & Recreation Department employee loading up palm tree branches into his truck bed.

"I've walked to the island [via the path] a couple

of times," he said. "We even have these John Deere carts, and I've driven to the island. That's how low the tide gets... I've seen [the pathway to the island] a bunch of times, but it's usually when I have to go home, at around 3 pm."

"The tides are [the] lowest that I have ever seen," said Eddie from [Action Sports Rentals] at Mission Bay. "Yesterday, when I was leaving, I could've jumped off of the dock and walked in."

— Mike Madriaga

CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 29
city. But the power is with the council," he says.

Marty Graham

Real San Diego radio

"If you let DJs run the station, magic happens" January 20 was National Radio DJ Day. I asked some of San Diego's former radio voices to weigh in on past times in the local industry.

Pat Hahn had a groupie at the old Vista KML0 AM1000. A nightly caller, the groupie once found her way into the station. Working alone at night, Hahn says the lady, in her 70s, came out of a closet naked. "I almost fell out of my chair. I said, 'Get your clothes on, you're leaving.' She started crying saying she wanted to be with me," Hahn told. After the woman was escorted out the door, Hahn found a large, cake cutting-sized knife on a counter in the studio. "But no cake," he said. Months later he got a call from the woman . . . from a mental institution. "I was living *Play Misty For Me*."

CITY LIGHTS



Pat Hahn at KKSM.

Jeff Gelder's most poignant memory was filling in for Sam Bass' show on KyXy, on, of all days, 9/11. "Not fun," said Gelder. "But so glad I could be of service to the community." Before his 15 years on KyXy, Gelder has memories on Carlsbad's KKOS/KUPR where, "up and coming celebrities were swinging through the door weekly," he said. Gelder reminded me of KKOS' Back Porch concerts, hosting Sheryl Crow, Jewel, Hootie and the Blowfish, Brain Setzer, and Richie Havens on the patio of the studio, overlooking the Buena Vista Lagoon.

Kathie Berger had a career working at two radio stations at the same time, in order to earn a full time salary. She reported news overnights until 6 am on Vista's all-news KVSD, and

CITY LIGHTS

then drove to Carlsbad's KKOS, where she transformed herself into one-half of the morning funny duo, Rome n' Burger.

Many DJs worked for San Diego's English language hit music stations that were broadcast on a Mexican-owned frequency. In those days, DJs had to drive into Tijuana to broadcast their shows. Berger, working for 90.3, remembers when undercover DEA agent Enrique Camarena was tortured and killed. The border waits got so long the stations had air personalities park on the U.S. side.

"A single woman walking across the border at 1:30 am? I was insane to do that. I started sneaking through a convenient hole in the fence where a Tijuana cab would pick me up in the dark," Berger said.

My own DJ story . . . On the air, on Super Bowl Sunday, during the game, on FM107 KAVO in Fallbrook, which was then the smallest powered station in the county. I had four free passes to Disneyland to give away

CITY LIGHTS

to the first caller. It took me an hour and a half to give them away.

Ken Harrison

Under the radar

continued from page 3

Delivery was set for March 29, 2019, but since the January announcement, bidding has been cancelled, at least for now. The rig was to have been used by the sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail aka SWAT, which furnishes "tac-

FISH REPORT
continued from page 36

bass have been biting best on bait; either squid or sardine on a dropper loop with enough weight to get it down in the current. Those who are fishing plastics are getting the bass to bite, but a strip of squid added to the grub or swimbait will go a long ways toward putting more fish in the gunnysack. Some of the sand bass coming up are true "grumpies." They get that nickname for the grumpy appearance of the larger fish, and there have been some nice-sized sand bass caught.

When fishing sand bass, it is important to check the line for twisting. These particular fish tend to twirl as they come up. Often, I have added a swivel and used a three foot or so leader when catching and releasing a lot of smaller sand bass that fight less and twirl more. The majority of sand bass are being caught low in the water column in 60 to 80 feet of water along the beach in sandy areas. Rockfish are coming from the edges in La Jolla Canyon and Scripps

Canyon for the half day boats.

It is maintenance and repair season for the fleet, but there are available trips other than the local 1/2 day runs or long range trips. If you want to target Mexican waters this time of year, 1.5 day boats usually depart on Friday and fish Saturday. Boats offering those trips include the Pacific Queen out of Fisherman's Landing, the Old Glory out of H&M Landing, and the Tribute out of Seaforth Sportfishing. 1.5 day Baja coast trips require a passport and run around \$350. The Josie Lynn out of Point Loma Sportfishing is offering a full day combo trip that fishes rockfish in Mexican waters during the day and finishes up lobster hoop-netting back on the US side. That trip is \$250, plus Mexican permit, FMM travel visa, Lobster report card, and California fishing license.

After being pushed back due to the new ramp at Shelter Island, weather forced another rescheduling of the San Diego Anglers Open Bay Bass Tournament. The new date is Saturday, February 16th. That may change; as of this writing the long range weather looks a bit sketchy for that date but better for the following day. The good news is that with all the inclement weather passing through the San Diego area, sand bass and spotted bay bass tend to bite during and after storm fronts. So here's hoping the predicted rain and wind passes through early enough to allow the long put-off 23rd edition of the popular tournament to finally happen. For tournament entry or updates, go to: <https://www.sandiegoanglers.com/tournaments/open-bay-bass/>

tical support, high-risk warrant service, directed patrol investigative support, chemical agent support, crowd control, specialized training, crowd control, dignitary protection, detentions support, court services support, and special events," says the section's webpage.

— 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/.

Fish Plants: Feb 8, Santee Lakes, trout (1,000), Feb 11, Lake Jennings, trout (1,500), Feb 12, Lake Cuyamaca, trout (1,200).

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