

Turncoat Maienschein's making money

Death row inmates, part 2 ■ Best classical concerts of 2019

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 44 | NO. 50 | DECEMBER 12, 2019

Reader



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week's free classified ads

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December 12, 2019



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

FireBirds takes flight — page 32



"Be awake to the gift of the moment" — page 14



Checking in again — page 50

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	56
Cannabis	60
Classifieds	52
Health and Beauty	21
Legal Solutions	11
Massage	53
Music	39
Research Studies	17
Restaurants	30

NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights

Not all Prius drivers are peace-loving hippies, By Eva Knott

News Ticker.....2

Under the Radar: turncoat Maienschein's making money3

Letters.....4

Neighborhood News.....6

Ask a Hipster

Christmas music is treacherous territory for pop stars9

SD on the QT

Almost factual news.....12

Golden Dreams

The Christmas card man; Just pedaled in from Canada14

San Diego's death row inmates, part 2

By Thomas K. Arnold.....14

News of the Weird.....57

Puzzles.....58

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,

Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures,

Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness23

Roam-O-Rama

Carlsbad beach, bluffs, and seawall24

Religion

That which is flaming, which is subtler than the subtle.....28

Restaurants

Tin Fork: everyone around me is sucking boba balls.....30

Feast! Now *that's* a chicken sandwich.....32

San Diego Booze News

The Ballad of Ballast point continues.....37

Music

Blurt: Pink Trio; Movie music.....39

Live Five: shows you shouldn't miss42

Immortal Beauty; best classical concert of 2019.....46

Theater

Scrooge sets up shop in San Diego.....48

Movies

Scott Marks checks in on 63 Up.....50

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers



Ms. Rybczyk put in time on behalf of Republican Congressman Mike “MAGA” Johnson, so this Faulconer gig should be easy-peasy.

Rebecca Rybczyk tackles Block job

Someone new to do Faulconer’s heavy lifting

With the final year of Kevin Faulconer’s term dawning, the revolving door at the San Diego mayor’s office continues to twirl. As previously noted, six-figure public relations guru Greg Block, who most famously grappled with spinning the mayor’s 2017 homeless hepatitis A meltdown, departed earlier this year to sign on with ThreeSixty Public Strategies. Run by Block’s wife Rachel Laing, the influence-peddling outfit reported in October that it had been paid \$18,000 by e-bike purveyor Wheels Labs Inc. of West Hollywood to push “a shared mobility service in the city of San Diego.” ThreeSixty’s website boasts that while working for Faulconer, Block was “responsible for developing the city’s first set of regulations of the shared dockless mobility industry.”

Block’s replacement, Rebecca Rybczyk, has already reported for work in the mayor’s office, city records show. Unsurprisingly to those who have called out the process of raw political patronage that Faulconer has relied on to fill the ranks of city staffers, the new hire is fresh out of Southwest Strategies, a local lobbying shop and significant source of financial support to a bevy of city campaigns, including the mayor’s. Southwest’s latest lobbyist disclosure report, filed with the city clerk October 11, runs an impressive 29 pages, and includes clients with some of the hottest issues pending before the mayor, including Cisterra Development, famous for muscling the Preserve at Torrey Highlands through city hall earlier this year. The project’s handling has since drawn a lawsuit from environmentalists and North City neighbors. Cisterra paid Southwest \$8000 to lobby the project in the third quarter of this year, says the disclosure report.

Additionally, \$17,000 was paid to Southwest in the quarter by the Port of San Diego Ship Repair Association, funded by the same multi-national military contractors which

paid the lobbying and campaign consulting company to crush the Barrio Logan community plan in 2014. Another Southwest client, Stockdale Capital Partners of Los Angeles, forked over \$11,000 to ease the developer’s plans to shutter downtown’s Horton Plaza shopping mall in favor of a yet-to-be built tech center. Southwest chief Chris Wahl lobbied ten city officials on Stockdale’s behalf, the disclosure shows, including Falconer and his chief operating officer Kris Michell.

“Rebecca joins Southwest Strategies after serving as Deputy Press Secretary in Congress where she held a dynamic role in the daily operations of active communications and legislative teams, transforming complex policy items into easy-to-understand messages tailored for a variety of audiences,” said a February 2019 news release from Southwest announcing Rybczyk’s arrival at the company. While at Southwest, Rybczyk — who formerly worked for Trump-friendly Republican congressman Mike Johnson of Shreveport, Louisiana’s Fourth District — was charged with providing

“strategic insight on public outreach and media relations for a variety of land use, transportation, water and energy clients,” per her page on LinkedIn.

Matt Potter



Robert Scott was a true comic book guy.

Great Scott!

Comickaze Comics founder remembered On December 4, longtime San Diego Comic-Con International principal Jackie Estrada posted on Facebook, “I was shocked to wake up to the news that Robert Scott passed away yesterday. Robert has been a foundation of the comics community in San Diego for decades, especially through his two Comickaze shops. He also ran a message board for comics retailers and other indus-

continued on page 21

Guns, rocks, and baseball bats

Not all Prius drivers are peace-loving hippies

By Cathy Cranston

The owner of the nice estate on Via de Santa Fe splurged on his Halloween decorations. Two years ago, in 2017, he bought \$15,000 worth of animatronic creatures from a high-end “prop” store. He shared his love of the holiday by placing his extravagant, moving novelties at the edge of his Rancho Santa Fe property nearest the

a baseball bat in his hand. He went straight to the Halloween decorations and smashed them for about 20



Scott Meehan, Border Patrol agent, testified, “I saw brake checking,” which prompted him to pull over both cars involved.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EVA KNOTT

Road exit in Camp Pendleton when, “I saw brake checking.” Meehan testified during a pretrial hearing on October 31, 2019. He explained that he saw two cars going back and forth, the car in front would brake suddenly and cause the car behind to swerve to avoid a collision, and this happened multiple times. The car in front was a red Toyota Prius and the following car was a gray Toyota Corolla. Agent Meehan said he was in a marked Border Patrol vehicle and he put on his lights and both cars pulled over to the side of the freeway. It was completely dark at that time, and agent Meehan used his flashlight when he



Highway Patrolman Brian Allen searched the red Prius and found a black gun.

road so that every passerby could enjoy them.

This homeowner had surveillance cameras on that part of his property. On them, he captured video of a man using a baseball bat to smash up his pricey decorations about 1 pm on October 14, 2019.

San Diego County Sheriff’s detective Stacey Rojas later reviewed the surveillance video. She saw a red, four-door Prius drive up and stop in front of the home. A bearded man got out of the passenger side. He had

or 30 seconds. While that was happening, the Prius drove a little forward and then stopped in the road, “It moved, and parked further up.”

The driver never got out. After the vandal’s unprovoked attack on the holiday decor, he ran back to the Prius and got back into the passenger side. The Prius immediately drove off. Detective Rojas said the video did not clearly show the license plate on the red Prius. However, she said that a neighbor who drove up did follow the Prius and took a photo of the car and its plates, but for some unexplained reason that evidence was not presented in court at a hearing two weeks later.

Brake checking

Later that same day, about 8 pm, a Border Patrol agent noticed dangerous activity on Interstate 5. Agent Scott Meehan testified that he was driving north on the freeway near the Las Pulgas



Detective Stacey Rojas reviewed video of the suspect baseball-batting \$15,000 worth of halloween decorations.

approached the cars.

Agent Meehan spoke with the driver of the Corolla first, that man claimed that the people in the Prius had thrown fist-sized rocks at his car; and then the Prius driver had threatened him with a pistol and then shot out a window on his car. The alleged victim claimed he was trying to get close enough to the Prius to get the license plate number, and that was when the Border Patrol agent witnessed the “brake check-



David Rodriguez, here in court with attorney Charles Millioen, was the passenger in the Prius that October night.



Christian Alexander Katuzin said he doesn't trust law enforcement officers.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EVA KNOTT

ing" on the freeway. Agent Meehan used his flashlight and saw that the right-rear passenger window of the Corolla was "spider-webbed and shattered."

Then the agent walked to the Prius, and when he got to the driver's door he asked the man in the driver's seat to lower his window. Christian Alexander Katuzin, 35, who was identified as the man in the driver's seat of the Prius that night, reportedly told the Border Patrol agent that he did not trust law enforcement. He refused to lower his window, and he pushed his driver's license through a half-inch opening.

(Katuzin has had previous court cases in San Diego County, starting in the year 2002.)

He found a black gun

Brian Allen, who has been with the California Highway Patrol for 20 years, was the first CHP officer to arrive. There were already three Border Patrol units on the scene, trying to extract the occupants of the Prius, when officer Allen arrived. The CHP officer was informed that there might be a gun in the Prius. Officer Allen looked at the damage to one window on the Corolla, and later he said, "It looked like a bullet hole. The window was not completely shattered out, there was a hole through it, and all the glass was in the interior of the vehicle."

In court two weeks later, officer Allen testified

that Christian Alexander Katuzin, 35, was taken from the driver's seat of the Prius. The officer testified that the man in the passenger seat was David Miguel Rodriguez, 26.

Officer Allen searched the Prius and he found a black gun, "It ended up being a pellet gun, but it looked just like a real gun." He said the pellet gun was completely black with no red part nor any indication that it might be a toy or just a replica of a 9 mm firearm. Officer Allen said he also found rocks on the floorboards of the Prius. And a baseball bat.

The driver of the Corolla had captured what officer Allen described as "dash-cam video." This video supported that driver's account that the person in the passenger side of the Prius threw a rock which bounced on the road and then struck the undercarriage of the Corolla. Then the Corolla accelerated up to the Prius (the driver said he wanted to get the license plate number) and then a pop sound was heard and then there were sounds consistent with a window shattering, (the Prius was not on-camera at that moment, the Corolla driver said the Prius was to his right rear at that moment). Officer Allen said he could hear the Corolla driver making remarks while his vehicle slowed down, near the end of that dash-cam video.

Halloween destruction unpunished

Jail records describe Christian Alexander Katuzin as 35 years old, and 6 feet 2 inches tall, and 182 pounds. At his court appearance he sported a thick red beard. The hair on his head was a darker red. Co-defendant David Miguel Rodriguez, 26, is described as 5 feet 11 inches tall and 180 pounds. Rodriguez had a thick mane of dark hair on his head and a full, black beard when seen in court. Each defendant is being held in custody in lieu of \$30,000 bail.

Prosecutor Robert Bruce asserted that both defendants are culpable of multiple felonies. The deputy district attorney cited aiding-and-abetting law which he said the driver, Katuzin, had violated.

Judge David G. Brown found an insufficiency of evidence to hold either defendant to the felony vandalism charge for destroying the expensive Halloween decorations earlier in the day. The judge also dismissed misdemeanor resisting-officer charges that had been filed against both defendants. But Judge Brown ordered both Katuzin and Rodriguez to face multiple felonies for throwing objects at a vehicle, plus assault with a deadly weapon.

Katuzin and Rodriguez both pleaded not guilty to all charges. The defendants remain in custody awaiting trial. ■

UNDER THE RADAR

Million-dollar lawyering Attorney **Cory Briggs**, a perennial target of local developers who is taking on San Diego city attorney **Mara Elliott** in next year's primary, owns at least a \$2 million interest in rental property in the city, according to his financial disclosure statement.

Bancroft Apartments, LLC, valued at over a million, yielded an annual income of between \$10,000 to \$100,000, the December 3 filing says. Another apartment property, valued the same, was also responsible for \$10,000 to \$100,000 in income for the attorney, the filing shows. Based on parcel numbers provided in the disclosure, addresses of the real estate are 4583 33rd Street and 4609 Bancroft Street in Normal Heights. The identity of the sources of more than \$10,000 in rental income from the properties, required under law, were redacted from the version of the disclosure posted on the city's website. The Briggs report values his Upland-based law firm above a million dollars, with an annual income of more than \$100,000. San Diego sources of income greater than \$10,000 for the firm are listed as the City of San Diego, the San Diego Unified School District, and the San Diego County Office of Education.

In September of last year, the county education office agreed to pay the California Taxpayers Action Network, represented by the Briggs firm, \$62,500 to drop a court case. The complaint alleged ex-superintendent **Randy Ward** and deputy **Lora Duzyk** had awarded themselves illegal pay raises. Briggs foes assert that such pre-trial settlements reached with plaintiffs' attorneys are overly costly for taxpayers; his defenders maintain the payouts are needed to encourage such whistleblower cases against miscreants in government. His wife, **Sarichia Cacciatore**, once an environmental consultant for the city who came under attack by Republican city attorney **Jan Goldsmith** during one of Briggs's showdowns with hotel developers on city-owned land, received between \$10,000 and \$100,000 from the Natural History Museum. She is listed as working as an educator there, and also got between \$1000 and \$10,000 from the Ocean Discovery Institute of San Diego, according to the filing.

Newspapering scrooge *Union-Tribune* editor and publisher **Jeff Light** is back with his annual message at the front of the paper's

yearly Making a Difference advertising supplement, which features local charities that purchase glowing paid promotions. "This sixth annual guide is a compendium of more than 25 organizations that are making a difference every day and need your help to continue their valuable

work," wrote Light in 2017. In 2018, Light employed an identical sentence but reduced the organization count to 17. This year, he recycled the same sentence, but left out the charity count altogether, which according to the section's table of contents, is now down to 16.



Cory Briggs owns at least \$2 million in San Diego rental property.

Toni Atkins gold

Democratic state senate pro tem **Toni Atkins**, up for reelection next year, filed a financial

disclosure statement December 2, revealing she got a February 7 free dinner and overnight stay worth a total of \$240 at the Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino in Coarsegold. Of late, the tribe has been in the news for a bitter dispute over cash from the tribe's gambling enterprise, resulting in the June expulsion of 60 members. Five years ago, an armed band of dissident tribal members stormed the casino after a disputed election and allegedly assaulted security guards. The invasion resulted in the shuttering of the operation by a federal judge for more than a year. "It's generational trauma for the Indian people of California," expelled tribal member **Cathy Cory** told *The Sacramento Bee*. "To have your birthright stolen by your own tribe is hurtful, ridiculous and unnecessary. It's all about the money and the power, nothing about the people."

Labor union dreams Freshly minted Assembly Democrat **Brian Maienschein**, who

deserted Republican ranks this past January, has been raking in impressive money for his 2020 reelection campaign fund from an assortment of labor unions. "As the Republican Party has drifted further right, I — and my votes — have changed," said ex-San Diego city councilman Maienschein in a statement marking his departure from the GOP that also bashed **Donald Trump**. "As a single father to two girls, I am guided by my hopes and dreams for their future."

Dreams of big labor cash now figure into the Maienschein equation. On November 13, the California State Council of Laborers gave

continued on page 22



U-T editor Jeff Light wants you to give to charities which give the U-T money.

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LETTERS

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

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

"San Diegans who entered death row in the last 16 years"

Cover Stories December 4

It's a travesty and an insult to every victim that Greusome Newsome would hold these murderers up and praise their lives' worth, making them more valuable than the victims' lives! That is just one indicator of the abject failure of liberal thinking today. I'm ashamed of this state these days, and I've watched it slide for most of my adult life.

—thomwessels

I remember the Erskine case and read about the day the SDPD solved it. Thank goodness for DNA technology. It has solved cold cases, and exonerated people

wongfully accused and convicted. Fellow Californians, do yourselves a favor and recall Gavin Newsome. He has been a disaster for the state. Just another uber liberal politician ignoring the will of the voters for his own political stature.

—elvishasleftsandiego

"Kebab Shop: Why They Called Alexander 'The Great'"

Feast!

May 18, 2012

Nooooooooooooo. Please revise ur article. Iskender kebab is actually founded by a chef named Alexander. But it wasn't refer to Alexander the Great and wasn't mean to put any tribute on his regards. You can rather check (at least) Wikipedia and correct me if I am wrong.

—Meelooodee

"City Heights' Newbom on ITSOKTOCRY, Xxxtentacion and other mumble rap"

Blurt Music News December 5

I've stopped listening to radio altogether mostly but while having a Lady and tryna to connect bluetooth to my car stereo I'll catch some and it's still shitty!

continued on page 22



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ESCONDIDO

All good in the agri-hood But Harvest Hills has yet to produce much proof

After many delays, the final environmental impact report for Harvest Hills — a much fought over, high-end housing proposal in rural Escondido — is expected as early as this month. In November, 23 environmental, climate, and community groups sent a joint letter of opposition to the Escondido city council, urging them to deny the project. Opponents took another shot the following week, when the city council approved a third amendment to the developer's contract, allowing more time to finish responses to the 800 comments received on the draft version of the report, plus a sphere of influence update. "Whether it's this iteration or the previous iteration that was denied, tonight is the night you can just say no," said resident



But really, who needs proof when you've got these sweet CG mockups?

Don Greene. "Let's kill this project now, and move on, and do something that's better and more adequate for the city." But a no vote wouldn't end it, said Bill Martin, director of community development. It would only mean the applicant would have to get its own consultant to finish the job, removing control from the city.

The report's release will trigger public hearings that promise to be as heated as the feedback on the draft version, which took far longer to complete than the estimated 52 days. Under the rules, each of the 800 comments requires a response. The public review period ended in January 2018, and the developer, Concordia Homes, has yet to unveil the "substantial" revisions made in an

effort to turn the 550-luxury home development into a carbon neutral, net zero energy agri-hood.

High on the list of concerns ever since the project was proposed in 2015 have been fire safety and evacuation, emissions from added vehicle trips, and wildlife habitat.

"Let's kill this project now, and move on, and do something that's better and more adequate for the city."

Concordia took those concerns and came up with a whole new mission. On July 30, they announced "a series of substantial design updates and a new name" for what was then called Safari Highlands Ranch. Now it was Harvest Hills. Each home would have solar paneling, an electric vehicle charging station, and a battery energy storage system. Harvest Hills would be a farm-to-table-style community with "gardens, groves and boutique greenhouses" knitting together seven distinct neighborhoods that would take up less than a third of the 1,098 acre development, leaving the rest as open space.

But the evidence for all this goodness hasn't been provided. Scott Graves, a member of the San Pasqual Valley Preservation Alliance, read from a memo by the consultant, Michael Baker International, that said Concordia intends to submit a "substantially revised specific plan." However, the consultant had not yet been given the opportunity to evaluate the extent of the project changes, as reflected in the updates, and "resulting need for revisions" to the environmental report. For example, while the project synopsis says it will be carbon neutral and net zero energy, no substantiating documentation has been provided. Surely, said Graves, "these never-before reviewed" environmental claims must be evaluated by public agencies and commented on by the public. "The real question today is, should the environmental impact report be recirculated in part or in its entirety? Harvest Hills must be brought into the city's sphere of influence, as called for by the Local Agency Formation Commission several years ago." The request to initiate annexation started

in April 2014, Graves said. "How is it, as we approach 2020, the developer is still making significant changes to the specific plan?"

Martin said the revised specific plan is expected within 30 days. The city also awaits more information about the agri-hood — about water usage; about the farmhouse, a community room that will be hardened for fire emergencies; and about the carbon neutral proposals — to find out just what everything means and how the developer will carry it all out. As it stands now, this is the final environmental report, said deputy mayor, Consuelo Martinez. Asked if that meant there would no longer be another amendment to the consulting agreement for this project, Martin replied they hoped it was the last. "What we're being told by the consultant is, this roughly \$63,000 (funded by the applicant) is enough for them to finish the document, and bring it to the council for certification. The individuals who are in opposition to this are the folks who live out



Aerial view above Orchard View Lane looking east towards proposed ridgeline lots.



View from top of proposed Harvest Hills development, looking down on San Pasqual Union Elementary School and the south end of San Pasqual.

in Rancho San Pasqual, Rancho Vistamonte. If it were me, would I like to have this massive fire break created that would protect my home down in the valley? Absolutely. It allows for greater ability to stop and protect [against] fires in areas further to the west."

Councilmember Diaz, the only vote against the amendment, said she went to many meetings early on. Of all the concerns, wildfire safety was central. "There's no solution in any report or version I've read. At this time, it would be hard for people in that area to even get fire insurance," she said. "If the San Pasqual neighborhood that's there today, if that were presented today, I would have the same objection to allowing expansion in that kind of fire-prone area."

SHEILA PELL

IMPERIAL BEACH

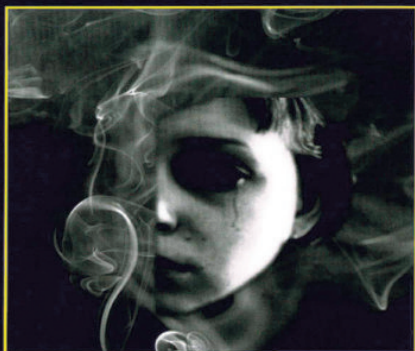
Surfrider seeks to silence sewage solution skeptics But what if facts don't care about your foundation?

A group of IB locals have received a letter threatening them with legal action if they don't stop taking the Surfrider Foundation's name in vain. The letter, signed by Surfrider Foundation chief operations officer Michelle Kremer, was sent to three officers of the grassroots group Citizens for Coastal Conservancy — including executive director Leon Benham. It told him that his public statements about Surfrider's proposed plan to clean up the storm water and sewage flows from the Tijuana River into the US are libelous to the group. Asked for clarification, Sur-

continued on page 8

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frider lawyer Angela Howe provided only a written statement: “Surfrider Foundation sent one Cease and Desist letter to an individual regarding inaccurate statements that have been made. Our legal team will take action to maintain the integrity of our organization and protect the ability of our chapters to do important work in the community.”

Benham and his group are opposed to Surfrider’s plan to construct large concrete basins in the area between Las Americas Premium Outlets and the Tijuana River Valley Open Space Park — just north of the border and east of the South Bay Plant and the International Sewage Treatment Plant. San Ysidro residents, who learned of the plans via the Citizens group, called the basins sewage ponds and objected strongly. The basins — similar to those constructed a decade earlier by state parks in Goat Canyon — would capture river flows and catch the tremendous amount of trash that comes into the U.S. during storms, or when pipes break, or when the pumping station fails. The flows would then be diverted



You say “sewage basin,” I say “giant toilet.” Potato, po-tah-to.

would see an increase to 100 million gallons a day under the proposed scenarios.

Surfrider objects to Benham’s statement that the group is “planning a 400 percent increase in Mexican sewage dumped off Imperial Beach.” In opinion pieces published in the *Coronado Times* and the *Coronado Eagle & Journal*, Benham warns that the plan “could result in the quadrupling of the amount of treated sewage being dumped off Imperial

The plan “could result in the quadrupling of the amount of treated sewage being dumped off Imperial Beach.”

to either or both the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant —which would be expanded from treating 25 million gallons per day to 100 million gallons per day — or to the city’s South Bay Wastewater Reclamation Plant, which would also need to be expanded. In the International Treatment Plant scenario,

Beach, from the current 25 million gallons a day to more than 100 million gallons a day.” Dane Crosby, a long-time IB resident, also received the letter — as did Valerie Acevez and Mitch McKay. “It’s a scare tactic,” Crosby says. “We responded with questions verifying what we’re exactly supposed to cease and desist



Waste from hospitals, industries, home construction, and tires flows through Smuggler’s canyon.

and got no response. The real reason was that Leon put out a letter that detailed how sewage dumped off IB would triple with the blessing of Surfrider and Wildcoast.” Wildcoast, a nonprofit run by IB Mayor Serge Dedina, did not sign off on the letters threatening legal action. Surfrider has been campaigning against border sewage since at least 2009. All of the proposed options cost

in the deep tens of millions of dollars, with ongoing maintenance costs of no less than \$2.5 million a year.

Area residents have been trying to deal with storm water and sewage from Tijuana since at least 1927. Benham, a senior project manager, has worked on environmental

and restoration projects, including projects where the sediment from the Tijuana River was tested and found to be safe before it was used for trails in the county park. The Citizens’ plan addresses two IB concerns: the polluted flows and the preservation of beach sand to protect city homes against sea level rise. The plan is simple: allow the river “water” to make its way to the ocean through channelization of the flood plain. Since the flows now leave behind mountains of sediment, in theory, the beach would be naturally replenished with sand. But it would require

amounts of money similar to the Surfrider plan, plus the political will to keep the river valley channels dredged and cleared. Experts are skeptical of both the costs and whether or not it would work.

Those in the San Ysidro neighborhood just north of the basins proposed by Surfrider were informed of the plan long after Surfrider began presenting it to select “stakeholders” that did not include the nearby residents or Citizens members. The U.S. Border Patrol, whose agents work in the areas where the flooding and other spills occur, remains opposed to installing more basins in the river valley, because the basins end up being a hiding place for people illegally crossing the border away from the ports of entry. Border Patrol agents sign waivers agreeing that they do not have to enter the river. But even they have been included in the stakeholder meetings, an agent confirmed, while the Citizens say their group of IB residents continues to be left out. Benham will be presenting their plan at the next International Boundary and Water Commission Citizens Forum.

“It’s kinda funny the hypocrisy of two nonprofits not wanting input from a local group that actually represents the people of

IB, and how they call themselves stakeholders while limiting who can come to their meetings,” Crosby said. “These groups are really about stolen stakeholdership, promoting ideas from state policy-makers or the California Coastal Commission.”

MARTY GRAHAM

OCEANSIDE

Bread of Life shuts shelter Plus: time for a change at Solutions for Change?

For the first time in 15 years, Oceanside, a city of about 180,000, will have no winter-time overnight shelter. Bread of Life, run completely by some 50 unpaid volunteers, operated a shelter which was open November through March. It had 30 beds for men, 20 for women. Dinner was served shortly after doors opened at 6 p.m. Guests had to be off the property by 7:30 a.m. Nightly breathalyzer tests and random urine tests made sure substance abusers weren’t part of the program. Bread of Life still distributes free food from its pantry and runs life assistance classes. But former client Michael says the shelter’s inability to reopen comes at a bad time. “There’s a lot of people living in the streets in Oceanside. It’s real, real tough when it gets cold and rainy.”

Michael, 54, says he hit rock bottom late last year. “I was in a bad way. I needed knee



Solutions for Change’s Escondido facility on Escondido Boulevard.

replacement. It was bone on bone. I was tired of living in the streets but I simply did not know what to do.” An Oceanside local, Michael says his meth abuse drove him to the streets, and his stealing led him to jail. He says his family had had it with him, but his life turned around once he limped into Bread of Life “three days after Thanksgiving last year. My [Bread of Life] advocate Norma even drove me down to La Jolla in her own car to get the [MediCal] knee surgery in March.” He says he is now financially stable, has an apartment in Vista, and happily volunteers at the Bread of Life thrift store. “I’ve come a long way.”

continued on page 59

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Dear Hipster:

It's getting to be that season, when I can't enter a retail establishment without having my ears bombarded by the same old Christmas songs I've heard over and over again for the past however many years. It seems really weird to me that we keep listening to the same songs, none of which seem much fresher than the Seventies, except for the Mariah Carey one from the Nineties. I would think this would be a prime area for a hipster takeover. Imagine a steady stream of entrepreneurial hipsters offering sustainable, artisanal, alternative Christmas music for retailers who are sick to death of hearing Burl Ives on repeat from Black Friday through December 26th. Now riddle me this, why isn't there new Christmas music, or at least a better variety of Christmas music that more accurately reflects the aesthetic of modern, urban America?

— JOE S.

Goofing around with Christmas music has proven bizarrely treacherous territory for pop stars. This year, John Legend and Kelly Clarkson tried to give “Baby It's Cold Outside” a less date-rapey makeover, and people made fun of them for it. Dean Martin's daughter, who is apparently a person we care about now, accused Legend of pilfering her dad's thunder, and challenged him to “write his own song.” On the one hand, that's hella mean-spirited for a septuagenarian coat-tail rider; but on the other hand, she kind of has a point about the lack of fresh Christmas tunes — why



don't we get Christmas music not targeted exclusively to grandmothers? With the notable exception of that one Pogues song British people love, we remain dreadfully short on hipster Christmas music.

For nearly a decade, I have been meaning to record an album of contemporary holiday jams featuring my own versions of popular Christmas songs. I have the concept all worked out. Every song would be a well known Christmas pop song, but all the lyrics would be replaced

with the word meow, sung by me and my friends in various registers and to the tune of the original song, so it sounded like a chorus of musical cats were meowing out holiday classics. The only backing music would be simple midi tracks recorded on a Casio keyboard I found in the back of a Goodwill. The album cover would feature all of the artists wearing cat-themed holiday sweaters, holding various cats (with at least one of them being one of those smash-faced cats that never look happy), and making super serious faces that clash with the Yuletide cheer. Those who could grow mustaches for the photo shoot would of course do so. I would call it *A Very Cat Christmas*, and, if it were successful (how could it be anything but a huge hit?), I would follow up with *A Very Cat Christmas 2: Meowlectric Boogaloo* the following year.

You might think that's a little too ironic hipster to achieve mainstream success, but let me remind you about how every year we are forced to listen at least once to “Dominick the Donkey,” an objectively terrible song by any measure, and which passed for ironic hipster parody in the 1960s when people didn't have to work nearly so hard to appear clever. So you see, even the most ridiculous hipster nonsense can find its place in the cultural canon if people will only open their hearts in the spirit of the season.

— DJ Stevens



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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Bankrupt Bee Flees to Sea

Convicted tuna CEO steals rival's ship, makes daring escape

Former Bumble Bee Tuna CEO Chris Lischewski raises a defiant fist as he slips out of San Diego harbor aboard the Chicken of the Sea in an attempt to elude authorities after being convicted for his part in a tuna fish price-fixing scheme. "Arrrh, there be no honor among thieves any more," he cried, in an apparent reference to Chicken of the Sea's escape from prosecution through cooperation in the case against Bumble Bee, which recently declared bankruptcy in the face of a \$25 million fine. "But as long as I've my trusty first mate Horatio by my side and this fabulous silver mane atop my noggin, you can rest assured that my days of raiding markets and plundering companies will go on, or my name's not Lischewski the Bumbler!"



Children of the Immaculate Hate?

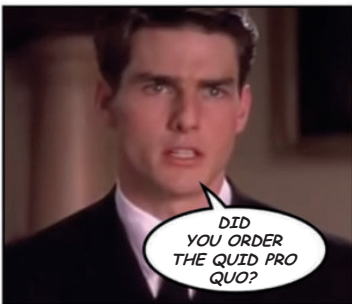
Sex-trafficked women rescued from horrors of rescue operation's regulated sexuality.



Pictured: Children of the Immaculate Heart founder Grace Williams, San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan, and two hate-mongering anti-LGBTQ Catholic priests whose faces have been obscured to emphasize their utter lack of humanity.

"The sad truth is that over 5000 women in San Diego County are forced into the commercial sex trade each year," says Roxanne Redlight, Chairwoman for the County Vice Department. "It's a dangerous, dehumanizing, despair-inducing, drug-infested world, and once you're in, there's no easy way out. All too often, a shortened life of sexual slavery is the only fate awaiting these young women. It's difficult to imagine the horrors they experience, sometimes being forced to service 15 or more johns a day just to be allowed to eat. But today,

we can rest easy knowing that at the very least, these tragic victims will never be forced to freely choose to enter into a rescue facility that not only aligns itself with the Catholic Church, but also refuses to host LGBTQ events, facilitate abortions, or provide hormones to transgender residents. We've made sure that these so-called Children of the Immaculate Heart won't be getting a license to operate here in California. They can try to sue us all they like - we're not letting them get their filthy hands on our precious little girls."

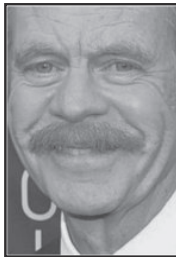


All for the Wall

San Diego makes surprise appearance as Trump takes the stand during impeachment deliberations.

WHO PLAYS WHO

AFOUL OF THE LAW EDITION



In *Fargo*, **William H. Macy** plays a man whose small crime brings about disastrous repercussions.



Navy SEAL **Eddie Gallagher**'s ill-advised photo with a corpse has resulted in Trump's firing of the Navy Secretary.



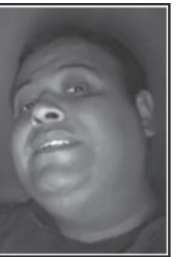
In *Booksmart*, **Jason Sudeikis** plays an administrative authority whose secret life brings a surprise encounter with young women.



Rep. **Duncan Hunter** pleaded guilty to misuse of campaign funds in order to avoid a public trial, which would have involved discussion of his affairs.



Gabriel Iglesias appeared in *A Haunted House 2*, a movie that featured a joke about a man joining the priesthood to get access to boys.



Toney Renteria, youth ministry coordinator at St. Peter the Apostle parish in Fallbrook, is under investigation for trying to hook up with a 14-year-old boy.

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Mail carriers all: John, Jason, Brigitte and friend

The Christmas card man

You could call John Drehner a Luddite, a technophobe, or just a grumpy old man. Except he's not grumpy. Ask him to imitate anyone from Bogart to Reagan to Trump. The guy has them nailed.

Drehner is the embodiment of Marshall McLuhan's dictum, "the medium is the message." He takes pride in having one ancient flip phone — "just in case I break down on some freeway."

But one thing he won't budge on is cards. Christmas cards. The actual printed kind. He insists on handwriting nearly a hundred cards to friends and relatives personally, and mailing them in one big pile at his Hillcrest post office. We're on his veranda. He has stacked his letters along the low balustrade. Seventy-six of them.

"I hate this electronic sending. It's so impersonal," he says. "I also hate form letters, the mailings of people who do a summary of their year. How little Johnny made it into the baseball team, and June is doing well in her first job. My cards are me writing to one person. We're actually talking to each other. And this is my handwriting, as crappy as it may be."

He says he writes three to four lines in each of them. "I used to have more people I wrote to, but I'm getting more cards returned each year."

But he persists, despite the fact that the old technology costs more. "I buy 100 Christmas stamps," he says. "That costs me \$55. The cards come free, because I give to charities like Ani-

mal Rescue and March of Dimes, and they all send me cards. I use them."

Justin, the letter carrier for this area, turns up with mail. So does Brigitte, walking her neighbor's dog. She is a librarian who also used to work for the postal service. It turns out Drehner has been a letter carrier most of his working life too, even though, with two degrees, he was over-qualified.

"The number of seasonal cards is down," says Justin. "I mean, there are still plenty to deliver, but not as many as before. I think it's older folks like Mr. Drehner who carry on the tradition."

So who are all these people Mr. Drehner's



John Drehner's 76 Christmas cards, ready for mailing

mailing to? A big chunk of them are old girlfriends. "This is Anna Marie Diekmann, Hanover, Germany. We have been corresponding since 1966. I met her through a thing called the 'Correspondence Catalogue.' Pen pals. She was 16, I was 28. She was too young for me. But we have been pen pals for 50 years."

Then there's Doris ("I used to call her 'Punky'") and Jane ("We were at high school together in '49").

Other cards are addressed to ladies in Malmö, Sweden; Ecuador; Fayetteville, Arkansas; and El Cajon.

"I also exchanged cards with famous people like Liv Ullman, the Norwegian movie star, and Julie Harris (think *The Haunting*)," he says.

"I even sent Julie Harris an audio cassette with me doing 25 voices, from Bogart to Greg Peck to Boris Karloff."

The problem: this would have been ten years ago, and by then, there were no more audio cassette players. Marshall McLuhan again.

Just pedaled in from Canada

"Whew," says Dan Laster. He flops into a chair at the Cafe Madrid in Coronado.

"Been walking?" I ask.

"Riding. Bike riding."

"Around the island?"

All the time I couldn't help singing 'This Land Is Your Land!' out loud. Last day, I started at 5 am in Redondo Beach, and I was determined to reach Coronado in one day. I did! Rode 120 miles."

The actual end came at the border. He insisted on riding through to Tijuana, and it was while he was coming back that he faced conflicting feelings. "I had the personal exhilaration of completing my goal. But when I was crossing the line back into the U.S., I passed all those people seeking asylum. Our country was so near they could taste it. And yet I was able to pass right on through. It was bittersweet."

"Last day, I started at 5 am in Redondo Beach, and I was determined to reach Coronado in one day. I did!"

"From Canada."

"Riding a bike from...Canada? How long did that take?"

Laster says it took him 27 days. "That was to ride 1750 miles, the route I took. Before that I rode up the East Coast, from Key West, Florida, to Montreal, Canada. That also took me 27 days, and yet I traveled 2140 miles, nearly 400 miles further. So yes, the West Coast is way harder. Especially Oregon to California. So tough. Those Santa Ana winds. At one point I was averaging 6 miles per hour. It should have been at least 20 miles per hour. Grit in my teeth drove me crazy. And the Olympic Peninsula: Cold! Driving rain. But then you come to, say, Malibu. It's way more beautiful on this coast."

So we chat on. The guy is 61. Law professor. And what a golden life. In his twenties, he lectured at Otago University in New Zealand. His thirties he spent protecting the Windows trademark and other Microsoft patents. In his forties, he restored old houses around Seattle and established a master's program in intellectual property law at the University of Washington. In his fifties he became general counsel for the non-profit Path health organization. The one bump in the road: A decade ago, "I realized I was gay. It was very tough for me, my wife, my kids. But I needed to be authentic."

I ask what his feelings are, having bicycled both coasts of the U.S. "I am in a state of gratitude that I did it. And what was so wonderful was that my son Zach rode with me from Canada to Oregon. Every father should do that. California was so tough, but incredibly beautiful. The Central Coast, the Redwoods.

His plans now? "I'll be running in my 20th Boston Marathon in April. And perhaps riding the Cape Epic in South Africa, what they call the *Tour de France* of mountain biking. Other than that, I'm waiting to see what the universe has to offer."

I want his life. Advice? His answer's straight out of a Gap ad, but honestly come by. "Be awake to the gift of the moment," he says. "And I want to ask you a favor: email me when you do something that's out of your comfort zone. And send a picture to prove it!"



Dan Laster

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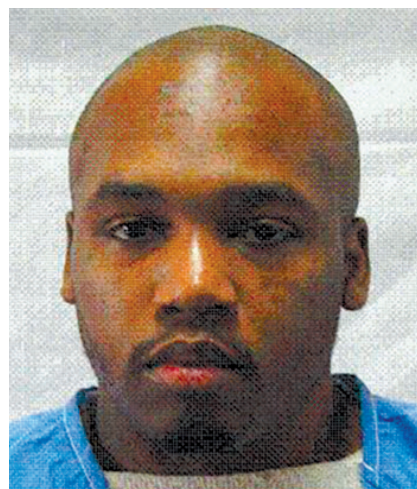
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Michael Flinner launched a campaign to allow inmates to donate organs.



Jean Pierre Rices showed no emotion when the jury voted to convict him.



At one point, Derlyn Threats was a sergeant in the Marine Corps. New recruits looked up to him.



At the time of sentencing, the prosecutor called George Williams “a poster child for the death penalty.”

San Diego's death row inmates

Continued from last week's issue...

**Michael Flinner —
condemned to die on March 29, 2004.**

Flinner, a landscaper from Alpine, was sentenced to death for killing his 18-year-old fiancée in 2000 to collect insurance money. Since his arrival on death row, he's written a book, *A Portion of Thyself: Essential Reflections from Death Row*, that was published in January 2010 by on-demand publishing platform BookSurge. On the back cover, Flinner

writes, “Who better than I, a convicted murderer awaiting execution on California's death row, to write about life and everyday living?”

Six years later, Flinner popped up in the news for launching a campaign to allow inmates to donate organs. He told the *Daily Mail Australia* that doing so would give condemned prisoners “a greater purpose” in life. In a 2016 interview on the TV show *60 Minutes*, he said, “There is a lot of evil that lurks [inside] prison walls, but I think an even greater evil is standing idly by out-

side the fish bowl... and letting other people die unnecessarily.”

THE MURDER

Flinner was sentenced to death for the June 11, 2000 murder of Tamra Keck. The two had met the previous year on a telephone chat line. At the time, Tamra was still a senior at West Hills High School in Santee.

Flinner took out a \$500,000 insurance policy on Keck and then hired one of his former employees, Haron Ontiveros, to kill her.

He called Tamra and told her Ontiveros was stuck somewhere and needed a jump. When the girl arrived at the remote Alpine cul-de-sac, Ontiveros shot her in the back of the head.

AFTERMATH

Flinner and Ontiveros were tried at the same time, but with separate juries. Both were convicted of murder and special circumstance allegations of murder for financial gain and lying in wait. Ontiveros was sentenced to life without parole; Flinner — who had a prior rape conviction — got the death penalty.

Flinner's case has been fully briefed on direct appeal before the California Supreme Court since July 7, 2014.

Flinner is a regular

poster on the Behind Bars website. His latest post, dated October 11, 2019, reads, "Be careful how you treat a good woman. She will love you more than anything, treat you like a king, be more loyal than the rest, put up with your shit for way too long, always be there when you need her, take you back a hundred times.... Then, one day, she won't anymore...."

Jean Pierre Rices – condemned to die on August 21, 2009.

Rices had a rough childhood. His mother was a drug addict and a prostitute. On trial for the execution-style slaying of two people in an El Cajon liquor store, Rices showed no emotion when the jury voted to convict him. After just two hours of deliberations, they subse-

quently voted to sentence him to death, ignoring the defense attorney's plea for leniency — and a life sentence — due to Rices' troubled upbringing.

THE MURDER

Heather Mattia and Firas Eiso, 22 and 23, worked at Granada Liquor in the 900 block of Broadway in El Cajon. On the night of March 1, 2006, they had just closed the store when Rices and another man confronted them as they were leaving just after 11 pm. Rices carried a 9-millimeter handgun and wore a mask.

Mattia — whose brother owned the store — and Eiso were shoved back into the store and told to get on their knees. Rices' partner, Anthony Miller, opened the cash register and grabbed \$1250 in cash,

which he shoved into a bag, along with several packs of cigarettes.

As the pair was about to leave, Rices turned and shot both victims in the back of the head.

AFTERMATH

Both Rices and Miller were promptly apprehended by police. Rices pleaded guilty and also admitted two special circumstance allegations — murder during a robbery and multiple murders — which made him a candidate for the death penalty. According to a July 2009 NBC San Diego news report, Mattia's sister, Evelyn, urged jurors to impose the death penalty rather than life without parole, maintaining, "Why should he live 80 to 90 years?" Apparently her words had an effect on

the jury; jurors took just two hours to sentence Rices to death.

Rices' direct appeal has been fully briefed before the California Supreme Court since September 22, 2016. In December 2017, the Supreme Court affirmed both Rices' conviction and his death sentence. In April 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down Rices' petition for a review.

Derlyn Threats – condemned to die on August 19, 2010.

At one point, he was a sergeant in the Marine Corps, stationed at Camp Pendleton. New recruits looked up to him. But on a warm summer morning in September 2005, Derlyn Threats was a cold-blooded killer who butchered a young mother in

Vista, all because he wanted a video game.

THE MURDER

On September 1, 2005, shortly after 8 am, Threats broke into a home on Diablo Place (now Via Angelica) in Vista, a family tract on the south side of State Route 78. He was in the process of stealing some video games when he heard a noise. It was 24-year-old Carolyn Neville, who lived in the home with her husband Stephen and their six-year-old son, whom she had just dropped off at school. Carolyn had lost her house key, so she had left the front door unlocked. She returned around 8:30 am.

No one knows for sure what transpired next except for Threats, and he hasn't talked. What is known is that around 9

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am, neighbors heard her screaming for help and a man ordering her back into the house.

Sheriff's deputies found Carolyn's bloodied body just inside the front door. They saw Threats in the backyard, clutching an Xbox video game console. Threats began to run, and deputies took off after him. After a short chase he was apprehended. His hands were covered with socks soaked in what was later identified as Carolyn's blood.

Carolyn had been stabbed more than 70 times, first with a knife and then with garden shears Threats had taken from her garage.

AFTERMATH

During the trial, deputy District Attorney Patrick Espinoza called the



Prisoners sentenced to death reside in the "Condemned Unit" at San Quentin State Prison.

murder "sadistic — just a level of horror (with) unspeakable acts." Chief Medical Examiner Glenn Wagner, who performed an autopsy on Carolyn the morning after she was attacked, testified that she

had 74 stab wounds and at least two markings from a stun gun. Nine of the stab wounds were potentially fatal, Wagner testified, telling jurors, "The victim was alive during each injury."

A jury ultimately convicted Threats of first-degree murder and special-circumstance allegations, including torture and robbery — which made him eligible for the

death penalty.

The jury voted in favor of death, and Vista Superior Court Judge K. Michael Kirkman followed the jury's recommendation, noting that the "unmerciful and repeated assault" to Carolyn's head made her nearly unrecognizable.

During the trial, her husband, Stephen Neville, said he has psychological scars from which he will never recover. "You took away my family," said Neville, who had remarried. "You tore us apart.... You do not deserve to see the light of day — ever."

Later, Neville successfully petitioned to change the name of his street from Diablo Place to Via Angelica.

Numerous delays held up the filing of Threats' appeal. The lat-

est: The Superior Court of San Diego County was directed to complete and deliver the clerk's and reporter's transcripts on appeal on or before December 2, 2019.

George Williams — condemned to die on February 24, 2005.

Williams, a construction worker originally from Indiana, had a long history of sex crimes when he was sentenced to death for kidnapping, raping, and strangling a teenage girl from Chula Vista, a crime he had committed nearly 20 years earlier. DNA led to his arrest in 2003. At the time of his sentencing, the prosecutor called him a "poster child for the death penalty."

Williams had already been convicted of several other sex offenses,

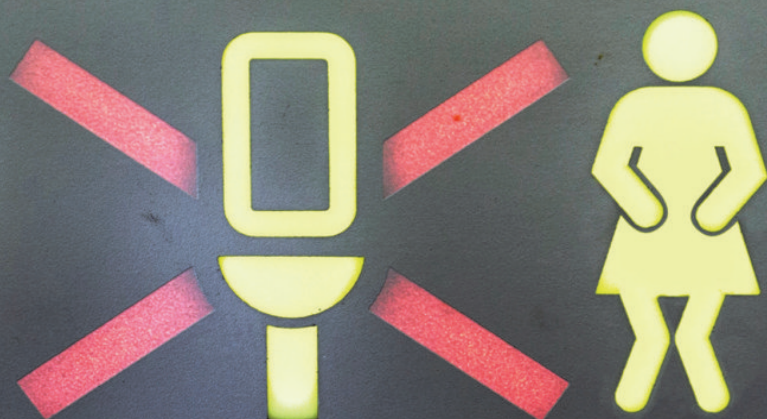
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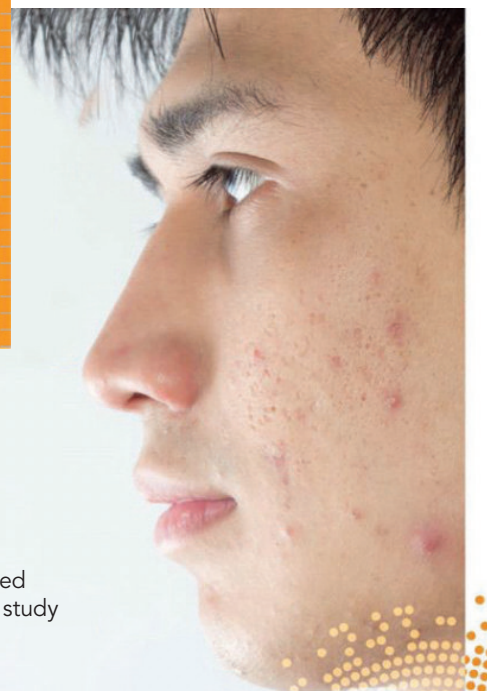
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including molesting
one of his own daugh-
ters — when she was
just 6. In 1986, he was
sentenced to 17 years in
prison for raping a San
Diego woman and her
six-year-old daughter.
He was paroled in 1998,
but promptly sent back
to prison for molesting
his 13-year-old nephew.

THE MURDER

Williams was sentenced
to death for the rape and
murder of Rickie Ann
Blake, an eighth-grader at
Bonita Vista Junior High
School who lived with her
parents and three other
children in a home on the
1500 block of Oleander
Avenue in Chula Vista.
Rickie Ann's mom, Alicia,
discovered the 14-year-
old missing on the morn-
ing of April 11, 1986. The
front door was open, the
TV was on, and the family

dogs were in the garage.

Shortly after 10 pm
that night, Rickie Ann's
battered body was found
by a motorist on the Main
Street exit ramp from In-
terstate 5 in Barrio Logan.
An autopsy found she had
been raped, strangled,
and beaten, and that in-
juries to her mouth and
gums suggested a bottle
had been bashed against
her lips.

As there were no
signs of a struggle, po-
lice surmised Rickie
Ann had known her as-
sailant. The girl's older
sister told them that she
had answered a phone
call around midnight
from a man who said
his name was George
and had asked to speak
with Rickie Ann, but his
identity was unknown.

AFTERMATH

Rickie Ann's funeral

service was held at the
Little Chapel of the Roses
in Bonita. Her favorite
Padres baseball cap was
placed upon the cas-
ket, which was draped
with a sash that read,
"We'll always love you,
Banana."

A week after Rickie
Ann's body was found, a
heavily intoxicated Wil-
liams raped his neigh-
bor and her six-year-old
daughter and then passed
out in their apartment.
He was still asleep when
police arrived. In ex-
change for a guilty plea,
he was given a 17-year
sentence, but was pa-
roled in 1998 back to his
hometown of Gary, Indi-
ana. Less than a month
after his parole, Williams
molested his 13-year-old
nephew, which led to a
sodomy conviction and
three more years in pris-
on. He was paroled for a

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final time in 2001.

In the meantime, the investigation into Rickie Ann's death had gone nowhere. But advances in DNA technology led authorities to take a second look at many old, unsolved murder cases. Williams' DNA had been swabbed just before his 1998 release from prison. In 2003, DNA from Rickie Ann's case was retested and entered into CODIS, the FBI's DNA database. Williams was a match. He was arrested in Indiana, and while he initially maintained he had never met the girl, he later told police he had had consensual sex with Rickie Ann.

The jury didn't buy it, and on November 8, 2005, Williams was convicted of first-degree murder, rape, and kidnapping. The death sentence was handed down after seven more days of jury deliberation.

Williams' attorneys didn't file their appeal until December 2013. In December 2016, California's high court affirmed Williams' conviction and sentence, and in June 2017 the U.S. Supreme Court declined his petition for a review.

— Thomas K. Arnold

CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

try folks, the Comic Book Industry Alliance. Robert was a wonderful guy with a wry sense of humor and love for our medium."

The former department store manager opened his Clairemont Comickaze store in the early '90s, an era when comic publishing, distribution, and retailing was seeing a resurgence, thanks to successful indie publishers and important mainstream comics that would later become iconic graphic novels and film fodder. Comickaze's locale formerly hosted the Pacific Comics store where Scott shopped (before Pacific's owners became successful publishers themselves) and, as of October 2015, Scott was also running a Liberty Station outlet. The latter shop, located across the courtyard from IDW Publishing's Comic Art Gallery, frequently holds community outreach events like Free Comic Day, *Walking Dead* Day, and coloring competitions. Open 365 days a year (and 366 during leap years), his stores often host well-known creators for signings, and hold special events and comic release parties for both major and indie releases. He also ventured into self-publishing with his own comic book, *The End*,

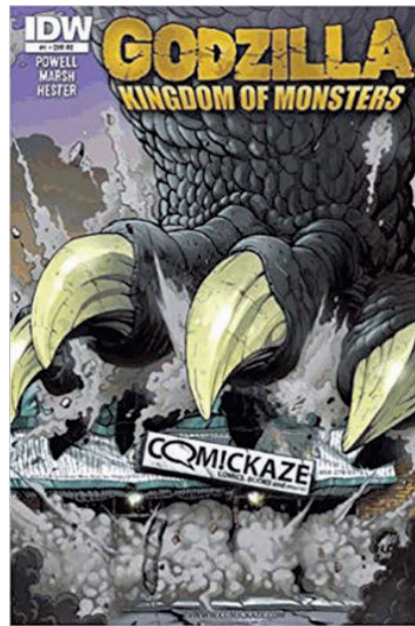
CITY LIGHTS

as well as co-publishing the novel *Wasting the Dawn* with local book and comic publisher IDW.

His retail savvy was impressive, if competitive. In the 1990s, I delivered flyers for San Diego Mini-Con to his Comickaze store near Comic Gallery. Robert told me he would stay open an hour later than Comic Gallery to give himself an advantage. In 2009, he would not let me leave flyers for Paul Martinez's San Diego Quarterly Con, saying that he did not want to support someone else's business. Martinez had worked for Comickaze — if I remember correctly, he may have started there at 12 years old. When I talked with Robert at San Diego Comic Fest, he said he unleashed Martinez upon the world.

There was a *Godzilla* comic book promotion in 2011, in which a comic book store owner could have his store stomped on by Godzilla on a variant cover. The condition was that 500 copies had to be ordered. Later on, all the covers were collected in a *Godzilla* publication, and I noticed two covers showing Comickaze Comics. Robert must have ordered 1000 cop-

CITY LIGHTS



Godzilla comic featuring Scott's Comickaze store on the cover.

ies! After discovering this, I nicknamed him Godzilla Man.

Jamie Coville of the comic history website *TheComicBooks.com* notes Scott's important role in organizing the Comic Book Industry

CITY LIGHTS

Alliance in 1997, which evolved into one of the first notable online comic shop owner coalitions. "Robert's retailer board had, I believe, a significant impact in shaping the current direct market. It was the first online meeting place where retailers and their business partners could communicate daily about common issues. Among the things that sprung forth, either in part or because of that board was the FOC, which allowed retailers to adjust their orders up or down just prior to the publishers' going

to press; Street Dates, proposed on the board by the late Paul Stock regarding using a fee-based system to pay for a secret shopper program to help police it; and ComicsPro, an organization

CITY LIGHTS

of comic pros that could speak to their issues with one voice. Comic retailers had often complained that when they brought up issues, they were often treated as if they were the only ones who had that problem. Meaning it wasn't a major problem that was going to get addressed anytime soon, if ever. Through the board, and later more formally through ComicsPro, that was quickly revealed to not be the case, and common issues were at least heard, and sometimes addressed, by retailers and publishers."

Jamie Gardner

Old journalists never die...

...they just get jobs in PR Facing at least two challenges in next year's rapidly approaching March primary, San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott has put former *Union-Tribune* reporter Lisa

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Petrillo on the city payroll as the office's assistant for "community outreach." (Petrillo arrived in the city attorney's office October 22, city records show, as attorney Cory Briggs — who announced in July he would challenge Democrat Elliott's bid for a second term — ramped up his campaign. Since then, defense attorney Pete Mesich has joined the fray.) "Award-winning news and science/tech writer/editor | Strategic communications and media relations professional," notes Petrillo's profile on LinkedIn. "Expert in delivering vivacious and scrupulously accurate content tailored to reach any target



U-T alum Gerry Braun knows there's more money to be made in comforting the comfortable than in afflicting the comfortable.

audience... Expertise in education, healthcare, science & technology innovation, and research and development marketing and communications. I am good at what I do, I learn fast and I never miss deadline."

Prior to arriving at city hall, Petrillo was a communications specialist at the

CITY LIGHTS

San Diego County regional airport authority for three months from August to October of this year, per her profile. Before that, she served a year-long stint at UC San Diego as a communications and media specialist and has done public affairs work for military contractor General Atomics, owned by the Republican Blue brothers Linden and Neal.

Petrillo joins fellow U-T alumnus Gerry Braun in Elliott's inner circle. Currently the city attorney's chief of staff, he received total pay and benefits of \$231,716 in 2018, according to the website Transparent California. That beats the still impressive compensation of Scott LaFee, another U-T veteran, who pulled down total pay and benefits of \$193,535 last year as director of communications and media relations at UC San Diego Health, per Transparent California.

As the once-mighty newspaper has shrunk its staff numbers through layoffs and buyouts, a host of U-T reporters have gravitated to similar government work. In addition to Braun, LaFee, and Petrillo, the roster of ex-U-T scribes on government payrolls include Mark Sauer, who went to work for city councilwoman Donna Frye and is now employed by San Diego State University-owned KPBS television. Now retired, John Gilmore served as communications manager for the San

CITY LIGHTS

Diego Port District. One-time U-T city hall reporter Tanya Castaneda became the Port's public information officer in 2012 before moving on this past January to the politically oriented PR firm of Manolatos Nelson Murphy, home of Tony Manolatos, another ex-U-T reporter.

Matt Potter

Under the radar

continued from page 3

\$9300, per state disclosure filings. On October 7, Pace of the California School Employees Association Committee came up with the same. The Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Political Action Fund also kicked in \$9300 on September 30 and \$5800 on September 16. On June 16, the California Nurses Association PAC came up with \$7300.

A few donors from the business world made four-figure contributions, including the gig economy's Lyft, Inc., with \$4700 on June 26 and the California Apartment Association, giving \$4700 in May. Rancho Guejito Corporation, the super-sized North County landholder that has been a stalwart of the longtime GOP-tilting Lincoln Club gave \$6980 in May. The Democratic Party of San Diego gave \$15,000 on March 16.

— 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/.

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Jumbo rap shouldn't even be a category in my opinion. It's not worthy of the stage that REAL RAP of the 80's into 99ish pushed out. Sure there were some idiots then but the "overall" was always easy to see because the "wacks" never outweighed the core rappers at the time unlike today lmfaooo. It was always known that if you ain't making sense, spitn sustenance, ryhmin your own style that's easy enough to follow and not too fukn confusing, stating facts alongside some comedy caps if You were tryna diss someone, then You ain't shit and wouldn't even make it to a stage unless you built one in yo backyard! From BigDaddyCane, SlickRick, Kwame and Special Ed to 2Pac, Biggy and early LL...don't even have to go into groups from NWA to the WU, that was that!!! There were no dumbass kids with rainbow hair making commercials for cabbage patch dolls and skittles putting out what ignorant youngins would buy A LOT of and call "rap"! Just cus these mofos makn money don't mean they've "arrived", WTF????...Rap was revered and never disrespected but when illuminati got a hold of it and made popup dolls lik nikki, igy and now cardi????.....Hanaka ass dizzy drake who's fukn name is aubrey and came off a kid channel????.....You kidding me??? If that's the case they should've signed

—optimist

"Who are Kings & Convicts Brewing, and what are their plans for Ballast Point?"

Booze News
December 5

It used to be viewed as a beacon of quality over quantity, so seeing it treated as a commodity is jarring. If, accepting the news at face value, the commodity was procured by business leaguers with an earnest appreciation for the commodity, maybe that's best case scenario. Anyway, if there aren't yet more tax benefits for (still very much raking it in) Constellation out of the arrangement, then everything we know about Trump era tax policy is a lie.

—Ian Anderson

"How the San Diego Airport is going to sneak in more flights"

City Lights
December 4

The airport has had construction going on for the last 20 plus years. We have not gotten it right in 20 plus years. All that has happen is lots of money was made by construction companies and the people who voted for it. It is one of the biggest rip offs going in San Diego. Let the visitors fly to LA and take a train down.

—Boemac

"Ex-U-T reporter Lisa Petrillo joins Mara Elliott staff"

News Ticker
December 5

You forgot to mention Maureen Magee, longtime public schools reporter for the *Union-Tribune*, now fronting for reclusive San Diego Unified Schools Superintendent Cindy Marten. I don't know what Magee makes at the school district, but her boss Marten makes a whopping \$350,000+.

—monaghan

"Smells bad on 30th and University Neighborhood"

News
December 6

I wonder what's going to happen when all the street parking is gone? I won't be shopping around that area anymore. So more empty buildings as businesses close shop because there are not enough people riding bicycles to their shops? Is there any visible tenant improvement activity going on at 3020 University?

—Ponzi

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Thursday | 12

WONDERSPACES VIRTUAL REALITY

Visitors begin their experience by sitting down to *Dinner Party*, a film based on the accounts of Betty and Barney Hill, the couple who experienced America's first nationally-reported UFO abduction in the 1960s. After exploring the Hills' otherworldly adventures, visitors are invited to two animated films by Tyler Hurd: *Old Friend*, an animated dance party set in a psychedelic squall of energy and color; and *Chocolate*, in which visitors are cast as a robot gods in a chrome-tinted world. The showcase finishes with *Transition*, a short film inspired by the music of Kettel & Secede.

WHEN: Monday through Friday, 4:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am. Through Sunday, December 29.

WHERE: San Diego Art Institute, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. sandiego.wonderspaces.com

THE SWINGIN' WITH DEAN SHOW

Stage veteran Dean Ratzman takes on piano, trumpet, trombone, and vocals, playing '40s swing, big band, jazz



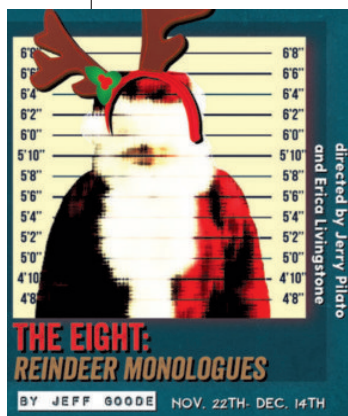
standards, '60s and '70s rock and soul, plus originals. His audience rapport, humorous twist, and arrangement style makes for a fun, Rat Pack-inspired performance.

WHEN: Thursday, December 12, 6 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: Ramona Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona. ratzpack.net

Friday | 13

THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES



Santa's reindeer tell all in this exposé of the North Pole. Through each reindeer's confession, the truth behind the shocking allegations becomes clearer and

clearer, and seems to implicate everyone, from the littlest elf to the tainted Saint himself. Intended for mature audiences.

WHEN: Friday December 13, and Saturday December 14, 8 pm to 10 pm

WHERE: Point Loma Playhouse, 3035 Talbot Street, Point Loma. pointlomaplayhouse.com

Saturday | 14

FROSTY FARM

Experience hands-on animal interactions plus holiday activities. Embark on an excursion led by a member of the crew to encounter live animals, make a holiday craft that is yours to keep, and enjoy a meet-and-greet with Santa, during which you can



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29: WONDERSPACES VIRTUAL REALITY

snap your own photo. Also, kids receive a gift.

WHEN: Saturdays and Sundays,



December 7 through 15, 9 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road, Rancho Santa Fe. animalcenter.org

Sunday | 15

SAN DIEGO BAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

The parade brings more than 100,000 San Diego residents and visitors to the shores of San Diego Bay to watch approximately 80 decorated boats go sailing by. This year's theme: "Comic-Con on the Bay." The parade starts at Shelter Island then proceeds to Harbor Island, the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, the Pier at Cesar Chavez Park, and ends at the Ferry Landing in Coronado. The boats take about an hour to pass any given point, and there are many waterfront viewpoints along the route.

WHEN: Sunday, December 8 and Sunday, December 15, 5 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: San Diego Bay, Shelter Island to Ferry Landing. sdparadeoflights.org



ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

CARLSBAD BEACH, BLUFFS, & SEAWALL

Explore the worlds of the ocean intertidal zones.

Driving directions: From downtown San Diego, take I-5 north about 36 miles to exit 50, Carlsbad Village Drive. Turn left onto Carlsbad Village Drive and go 0.8 mile. Turn right on Ocean Street and go 0.5 mile to Public Beach Access at 2445 Ocean Street. **Hiking length:** 4.25 miles one way, 8.5 miles round trip. Allow 2.5 -5.0 hours. 280 feet elevation gain/loss. **Difficulty:** Easy one-way and moderate round trip, relatively flat, sometimes wet. A tide table will be useful for timing your hike. Walkers, hikers, runners allowed. Sandy areas, road crossing. No dogs on the beach.



Terra Marr cliff shows the results of wave undercut

This beach hike extends from North Carlsbad Beach and Carlsbad State Beach to North Ponto Beach. Along the way, notice our natural beach ecology, especially the intertidal zone, its plants and wildlife, along with the impacts of human activities.

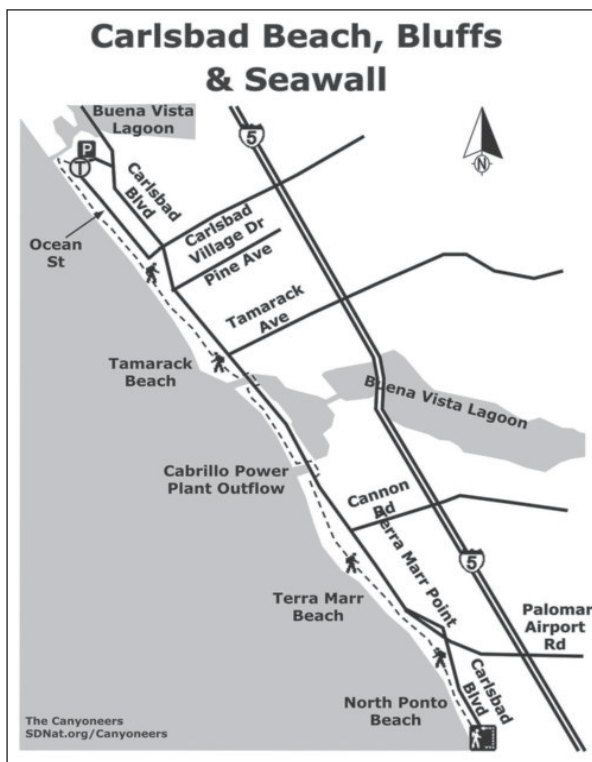
To reach the starting point, go down the stairs at the Rue des Chateaux Beach Access, and walk

north toward Buena Vista Lagoon's inlet to the sea, a distance of about 300 yards. Notice that the lagoon doesn't have full access to the sea because it is blocked by a weir, a kind of dam, which holds the lagoon waters at a level 6 feet above mean high tide, thus preventing sand carried by Buena Vista Creek from reaching the beach, which causes erosion over time.

From the weir, start hiking south down the beach toward the Pine Avenue beach access point, a distance of 0.8 mile. Here, you come to an area where bluff erosion is a serious threat to Carlsbad Boulevard, which here runs along the top of the bluff. Native plants, including coast cholla, have been planted on the bluff to stabilize it and discourage foot traffic. In addition, a concrete seawall walkway has been built between two parallel sea-walls at the bluff's base, extending for about 0.8 mile between Pine Avenue and Tamarack.

Notice the "groomed" beach; the sand is regularly raked with machines to "clean" it, but the raking also removes natural beach wrack, an accumulation of driftwood, crabs, dead fish, kelp and other sea weeds washed onto

continued on page 60



The Canyoneers
SDNat.org/Canyoneers

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

Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

Pet owners and their adorable companions are invited to deck the halls in the festive costumes of their choice and step out on the town during this jolly promenade and free pet holiday market. Sunday, December 15, 11:30am; **free**. Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, 401 K Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ART

Holiday Magic Offering a non-frenzied, gift buying experience, the Gallery will host a reception which highlights the work of its member artists and includes a silent auction fundraiser. Light refreshments will be served and DMAC Gallery artists will be available to meet with guests. Friday, December 13, 5pm; **free**. Del Mar Art Center Gallery, 1101 Camino Del Mar Suite AA. (DEL MAR)

San Dieguito Art Guild Holiday Bazaar Enjoy yummy treats, raffle, silent auction, and art for sale by artists: paintings, jewelry, photography, glass, ceramics, mosaics, fiber art, cards, prints, and more. Saturday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. (ENCINITAS)

BEER

5th Annual Ales N' Rails is all about ugly holiday sweaters, model trains, and craft brews. All museum exhibits will be running for the public to experience. Be sure to wear your most abundantly adorned, cheesy, and downright hideous holiday sweater

for a chance to win a prize. Plus, live music with Tikitronic, items for raffle, food, games, and more. Saturday, December 14, 6pm; \$30-\$35. 21 and up. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Toast of Gaslamp The Toast of Gaslamp features a seasonal self-guided walking tour that will have you tasting, toasting, and shopping with 20 sips, 20 bites, and 20 shopping deals. Saturday, December 14, 1pm; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BOOK SIGNINGS

A Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region: Then and Now

A free public book launch for *A Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region: Then and Now*. Authors Mike Wells and Marie Simovich will present the story of how the desert landscape and organisms that inhabit this desert area evolved to their present state and what the future may hold for these desert lands. Books will be available for purchase and refreshments will be served. Saturday, December 14, 4pm; **free**. Steele Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, 401 Tilting T Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

A Christmas Carol Bring the family to enjoy the holiday classic adapted from Charles Dickens' timeless tale of hope and redemption. Wednesdays, 7:30pm; through Sunday, December 29, \$30-\$65. Cygnet Theatre, 4040 Twigg Street. (OLD TOWN)

Blue Christmas Service The Christmas season can be a painful time for some. Knowing that our lives, our hearts, our spirits are in many different places as we enter into this Christmas season, La Jolla United Methodist Church is offering a Blue Christmas Service to reach out in love and support to

those who find this season difficult. Sunday, December 15, 7pm; **free**. La Jolla United Methodist Church, 6063 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Breakfast with Santa Gather round in Le Fontainebleau for a bountiful breakfast buffet featuring seasonal favorites where little ones will be treated with a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Prices are \$70 for adults, \$35 for children ages 4-12, and complimentary for children 3 & under, tax and gratuity not included. Reservations via (619) 238-1818 or visit online. Saturday, December 14, 9am; **free**-\$70. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Christmas City USA Join us for the first annual "Christmas City USA", for four fun and festive nights filled with carolers, food, vendors, festive decor and a giant tree lighting ceremony. Saturday, December 14, 6pm; Sunday, December 15, 6pm; **free**. Mission Valley Resort, 875 Hotel Circle South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Christmas Holiday Macrame

Learn the art of creating your own unique macrame wall hanging with a holiday twist. We will have all the supplies ready to make your personal macrame creation including sticks, rope, beads, feathers, and other holiday embellishments. Thursday, December 12, 6:30pm; \$40. Craft House, 4101 30th St., Suite C. (NORTH PARK)

City Ballet of San Diego: The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker is the classic Victorian-era story of the adventures of Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Herr Drosselmeyer and the Sugar Plum Fairy told through a magical theatrical experience to Peter Tchaikovsky's famous score. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 14, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 15, 2pm; \$34-\$93. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Eat, Drink & Be Merry Holiday Celebration

Enjoy a fun evening of shopping, live music, dinner and drinks. Dinner will be followed by festive music and dancing. Reservations required. Complimentary valet parking starting at 5:30pm. Friday, December 13, 5pm; **free**-\$15. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)



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Family Friendly Holiday Nights

Enjoy three family friendly nights of holiday events: Snow Sledding with real snow, Letters to Santa, S'mores Roasting, Cookie Decorating, Holly Trolley Rides, Live Entertainment, and more. Thursday, December 12, 5pm; **free**. Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific. (CARLSBAD)

Frosty Farm This festive event in San Diego combines hands-on animal interactions with family-friendly activities, which makes it the perfect place to create new memories. Saturday, December 14, 9am; Sunday, December 15, 9am; \$10-\$20. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Holiday Happiness Chocolate Making Class Learn the art of making fantastically flavored chocolates and bark over the course of two hours while creating nearly 1.5 pounds of confections. Saturday, December 14, 12:30pm; \$40. Sweet Petite Confections, 3582 Mt. Acadia Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

St. Nick at Night This family event is festive, yet relaxed, and is the perfect place to escape the hectic holiday happenings. Enjoy cookie decorating, hot cocoa, beautiful lights, animal interactions, a craft, and group story time with Santa. Friday, December 13, 5pm; \$5. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Lip Balm Making Class Lip Balm Making Class focuses on simple lip balm making procedures for consistent and effective lip products, including lip tubes and balms in pot style jars. Lecture information includes vegan alternatives to bees wax, natural ingredients to make a shiny lip gloss, and oil phase vitamins and nutrients for lips and skin. Sunday, December 15, 1pm; \$57. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Macrame Garland Using cotton cord in the square knot pattern, learn this simple macrame and bunting technique. Just in time for the holiday gift giving season! All levels of ability are welcome and all supplies included. Please register in advance. Thursday, December 12, 3pm; \$58-\$67. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Wine & Canvas Holiday Painting Class: Moonlit Snowman Gift the experience of art therapy and empowerment. Bring as many guests as you'd like as you all follow a local artist's step-by-step instructions and recreate "Moonlit Snowman." We supply the canvas, easel, paint, brushes, apron and entertainment. Saturday, December 14, 6pm; \$35. Mimi Cafe, 5180 Mission Center Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

COMEDY

Gene Pompa As seen on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson", Comedy Central and more. Saturday, December 14, 7:30pm; **free**-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Nerd Comedy Night Scientist turned comedian Tim Lee, who got his PhD before realizing where his true talents lie, blends science talk (complete with PowerPoint presentations) with comedy. Thursday, December 12, 7pm; \$10. El Tejate, 3050 Pio Pico Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Nick Offerman Saturday, December 14, 7:30pm; Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

HustleCraft HustleCraft is a new quarterly event where vendors sell their wares and gain exposure. In addition to being able to shop a dope mix of cutting-edge goods, attendees can grab a coffee and pop a squat for a conversational panel from prominent local designers, craftspeople, movers, shakers and/or business leaders. Sunday, December 15, 10am; \$25. Guild Hotel, 500 West Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

FOR KIDS

All About Owls Join the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the Living Coast Discovery Center for an interactive presentation about owls. Registration to this family-fun event is required and limited to 50 persons. SDRVC ana@sdrvc.org or 858 755 6956 Saturday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

The Reason for the Season In partnership with the Encinitas Community Resource Center this Holiday Season in an effort to give back to those in our community, we will be collecting items to benefit the CRC Holiday Baskets Drive for underserved & low-income teens, ages 12-18. Saturday, December 14, 9am; **free**. Magdalena Ecke Family Skate Park, 200 Saxony Rd. (ENCINITAS)

Tree Planting Event for Kids Enjoy a family-friendly tree-planting event. We will have special activities so kids can take a hands-on role in restoration of this special creek. After we plant trees, our educators will be on hand for a guided exploration of the site, and kids can help with frog monitoring and download the wildlife camera. RSVP Required, and space is limited. Email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or call (619) 297-7380 Saturday, December 14, 10am; Boulder Creek Preserve, 14652 Boulder Creek Road. (DESCANSO)

LECTURES

Dragons, Myth & Reality In "Dragons, Myth and Reality", Courtenay McGowan, Asian art collector and longtime member of the Asian Arts Committee at SDMA will explore the history of dragons worldwide, and challenge us to question how these creatures of great mythological strength came to be. Saturday, December 14, 1pm; **free**. Chuang Archive and Learning Center, 541-B Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

NATURE

Gaze at the Winter Stars Come to MTRP to observe the December skies. A high-powered telescope will be set up at the Kumeyaay Campground day use parking lot by Trail Guide, George Varga. Come view the beautiful nighttime sky in this low-light area with a knowledgeable star gazer to help identify the stars and planets. Bring your own telescope if you like. Saturday, December 14, 5pm; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Harbaugh Seaside Trails Restoration This fall, you have the opportunity to restore native habitat with a stunning backdrop of ocean views. Volunteer to be part of the historic restoration of Harbaugh Seaside Trails. Volunteers will help Nature Collective

biologists to install native plants that will attract pollinators, such as birds, bees and butterflies! Register online. Saturday, December 14, 9am; **free**. Harbaugh Seaside Trails, 2965 Highway 101. (SOLANA BEACH)

Nature's Holiday Traditions Get the facts behind the mysteries of mistletoe and learn about other plants that showcase Southern California holiday traditions. Meet by flag poles at Kumeyaay Campground Entry Station. Saturday, December 14, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Stars in Your Eyes A high-powered telescope will be set up at the Kumeyaay Campground Day Use Parking Lot by Trail Guide, George Varga. Come view the beautiful nighttime sky in this low-light area with a knowledgeable star gazer to help identify the stars and planets. The Campground is located at the north end of Father Junipero Serra Trail/Road. Saturday, December 14, 5pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Why Are Plants Green? Stop by the Discovery Table in the Visitor Center Lobby from 10 am to 1 pm to learn about "The Wonders of Photo Synthesis" from MTRP Trail Guides. Discover how plants make their own food out of thin air! Tables feature hands on science activities for children of any age. Especially kids ages 5-12. Saturday, December 14, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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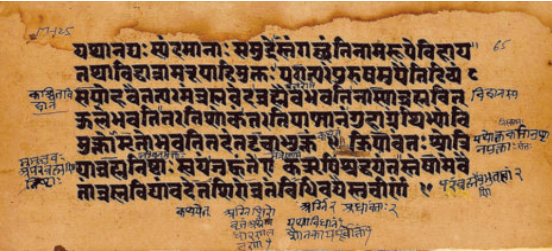
Mundaka Upanishad

Manifest, [yet] hidden; called “Moving-in-secret”: The great abode!
Therein is placed that Which moves and breathes and winks.
What that is, know as Being (sad) and Non-being (a-sad),
As the object of desire, higher than understanding,
As what is the best of creatures!
That which is flaming, which is subtler than the subtle,
On which the worlds are set, and their inhabitants
That is the imperishable Brahma. It is life (pradna) and It is speech and mind.
That is the real. It is immortal. It is [a mark] to be penetrated.
Penetrate It, my friend! Taking as a bow the great weapon of the Upanishad,
One should put upon it an arrow sharpened by meditation.
Stretching it with a thought directed to the essence of That, pen-

etrate that Imperishable as the mark, my friend.
The mystic syllable Om (pranava) is the bow.
The arrow is the soul (aimari).
Brahma is said to be the mark (laksya).
By the undistracted man is It to be penetrated. One should come to be in It, as the arrow [in the mark].

– from the Mundaka Upanishad

The Mundaka Upanishad, one of the sacred Sanskrit texts of Hinduism and Buddhism was written in 64 verses in the form of mantras for teaching and meditation purposes. This particular scripture attempts to explain the “Higher Knowledge” and the “Lower Knowledge,” noting that knowledge alone frees the soul, while prayer and gifts to deities are vain and do nothing to alleviate suffering in this life or the next. As the above text indicates, the Mundaka Upanishad declares Brahma



the first of gods, the creator of the universe and the embodiment of Brahman, the foundation of all knowledge as ultimate reality, eternal principle, and cosmic soul.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship

Church Christmas Services

ESCONDIDO

Emmanuel Faith Community Church invites you to Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm and 7pm
Christmas songs, video, candle lighting, and a special message by our new pastor Ryan Paulson.
639 E. 17th Ave., Escondido, CA 92025
www.efcc.org/Christmas
760-745-2541

EL CAJON

Shadow Mountain Community Church
2100 Greenfield Dr, El Cajon, CA 92019
(619) 440-1802
shadowmountain.org/
December 7th/8th - The Joy of Christmas
Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.
December 24th Candlelight Services: Tuesday 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 pm
December 14th/15th - The Spirit of Christmas
Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.
December 21st/22nd - The Glory of Christmas
Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

CLAIREMONT

Northminster Presbyterian Church
4234 Clairemont Mesa Blvd San Diego, CA 92117
Services: Sundays @10 am and Christmas Eve @5 pm

LA MESA

United Church of Christ of La Mesa
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 7-8PM
5940 Kelton Avenue, La Mesa 91942
tableucc.com

CHULA VISTA

Concordia Church and School
Family Service: December 24, 4PM
Classic Hymns & Carols: December 24, 6PM
1695 Discovery Falls Drive, Chula Vista 91915
concordiachurch.com

ENCINITAS

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services: December 24, 2PM; 3:30PM; 5PM
1831 S El Camino Real, Encinitas 92024
redeemersd.org

BLACK MOUNTAIN RANCH

Wave Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: December 24, 4PM & 5:30PM
Willow Grove Elementary, 14727 Via Azul, San Diego 92127
wavechurchsd.com

SCRIPPS RANCH

Canyon Springs Church
Christmas Eve Services: December 24, 1PM; 3PM; 5PM
9700 Avenue of Nations, San Diego 92131
canyonsprings.org

VISTA

New Community Church
Christmas Eve Gatherings: December 24, 3PM & 5PM
165 Eucalyptus Ave, Vista 92084
sdchurch.com

VISTA

North Coast Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: December 24, 6PM & 8:30PM
Spanish Christmas Eve Service – Servicio de Noche Buena: 24 de Diciembre a las 6pm, en “The Edge”
2405 North Santa Fe Avenue, Vista 92084
northcoastchurch.com

VALLEY CENTER

Valley Center Community Church
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 3PM; 4:30PM; 6PM
29105 Valley Center Road, Valley Center 92082
vccc.org

SAN MARCOS

Meadowlark Church
Christmas Eve Family Worship Service: December 24, 4PM & 6PM
1918 Redwing Street, San Marcos 92078
meadowlarkchurch.com
All Campus Locations
Rock Church
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 4PM
sdrock.com

RANCHO SANTA FE

Christmas Eve Service schedule
Family Service with Children’s & Youth Choir: December 24, 2PM
Traditional Candle Light Service with Chancel Choir, Bells & Brass: December 24, 4PM & 6PM
Traditional Candle Light Service with Communion: December 24, 11PM
6225 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe 92067
villagechurch.org

OCEANSIDE

Grace Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 3PM & 5PM
1602 S El Camino Real, Oceanside 92056
gracesd.tv

ESCONDIDO

Emmanuel Faith Community Church
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 2PM; 3:30PM; 5PM; 7PM
639 E 17th Ave, Escondido 92025
efcc.org

ENCINITAS

Seacoast Community Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 2PM; 3:30PM; 5PM
1050 Regal Road, Encinitas 92024
seacoast-church.org

DEL MAR

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
Family Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 5-6PM
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 7-8PM; 11-11:59PM
Christmas Service: December 25, 10-11AM
334 14th Street, Del Mar 92014
stpetersdelmar.net

CARLSBAD

Christ Church Presbyterian
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: December 24, 5 & 7PM
7807 Centella Street, Carlsbad 92009
Christ-pres.church

CARLSBAD

Redeemer by the Sea
Christmas Eve Contemporary Service: December 24, 5-6PM
Christmas Eve Traditional Service: December 24, 7-8PM
Christmas Day Traditional Service: December 25, 10-11AM
6600 Black Rail Road, Carlsbad 92011
redeemerbythesea.org

SAN DIEGO

City View Church
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 5PM
8404 Phyllis Place, San Diego 92123
cityviewsd.com

LA MESA

Vista La Mesa Christian Church
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 6PM
4210 Massachusetts Avenue, La Mesa 91941
vlmcc.org

ENCINITAS

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 6-7 PM
552 S El Camino Real, Encinitas 92024
stmarkchurch.net

NORMAL HEIGHTS

United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, 7–8PM
4650 Mansfield Street, San Diego 92116
nhunited.org

LINDA VISTA

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p. m.
Peace Lutheran Church / Iglesia Luterana ‘Peace’
6749 Tait Street, San Diego, CA 92111
(858) 268-4688

SANTEE

Sonrise Church
Christmas Eve Service 5pm
8805 N. Magnolia Ave., Santee, 92071
sonrise.net

CLAIREMONT

Clairemont Lutheran Church
4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117
(858) 273-7423 clairemontlc.org
Christmas Worship Gatherings
Sunday, Dec. 22
Festival of Lessons and Carols
8:30/10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
4:30/6:30/10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 25
Christmas Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.

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3520 Alpine Blvd.
Alpine, CA 91901

Encinitas

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 A.M.

Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24 @ 5:00 P.M.

845 Santa Fe Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024

North Park

SUNDAYS @ 10:00 A.M.

Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24 @ 5:00 P.M.

3844 Georgia St.
San Diego, CA 92103

South Bay

SUNDAYS @ 9:00 & 10:45 A.M.

Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24 @ 4:00 & 6:00 P.M.

960 Fifth Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91911

SHADOWMOUNTAIN.ORG

Steamed burger

Everyone around me is sucking boba balls

I sip my Kyoto Summer.

I look down. A steamed burger?

It comes out blanched, like a ghostly version of America's favorite sandwich, but stuffed with a golden-crumbed chicken slab, Swiss cheese, and kimchi, and bleeding a scarlet sauce.

Not your mama's burger. But hey, we're not in Kansas any more. This is deepest National City, where Manila-based eateries like Jollibees and Tita's Kitchen-ette reign.

Fact is, I was just looking for a coffee as I walked past Plaza Square. Saw on their big sign something called "Good Moments Tea Bar." Liked the thought. Saw this guy inside with black shirt and fedora who was obviously in charge and gave the place a cool, poetic atmosphere.

So I get inside and see it's basically a boba tea joint.

Lots of kids sitting round laptoping. The back wall is a pretty impressive Keith Haring mural. (Remember him? He's the pop artist who took graffiti mainstream.) In the middle of the room, a nice square dark-plank table. Interesting electronic music playing softly. Black acoustic ceiling tiles dampening any clattery dishwork going on. I order a cup of Japanese green tea. Actually it's what Bernie Ann, the gal at the counter, recommends, because I'm lost in the endless lists of tea possibilities. She passes me this cup of dark tea. "It's not *matcha*," says the guy in the fedora. (Turns out he's Klin, the Thai-American owner.) "This is *hoji-cha*. *Hoji* means roasted in Japanese, and *cha* means tea."

I like having tea with no sugar, no milk, when I eat Asian food. So I try it here. But it's tough,

on its own. This is strong green tea. Besides, I really want something to chow down on with it. And there are a bunch of snacks and sandwiches listed on the wall. Hmm. "Stuffed sandwiches" come with ham, sausage, pepperoni; then there are "salmon melts;" spinach and cheese; bacon, egg, and cheese; avocado, bacon, and pepper; each \$2.75. (Last two are a dollar more.) And they've got savory crepes like "Kalifornia Love" (krab, mayo, avo); "Bangkok Invader" (Pork Sung - fluffy fine-shredded pork - mayo, roasted chili); and "When In Rome," pepperoni, tomato sauce, mozzarella. They all sound interesting enough. All cost \$6.95.

But the two that really catch my attention are the "bunbuns." Uh, bunbuns?

They're only \$5.55 each, so I'm not holding out great expectations for them. But definitely curious, because they look, well, burgerish.

The "Samurai" *bunbun* has angus beef, honey teriyaki, *kewpie*, chicharon, and green leaf.

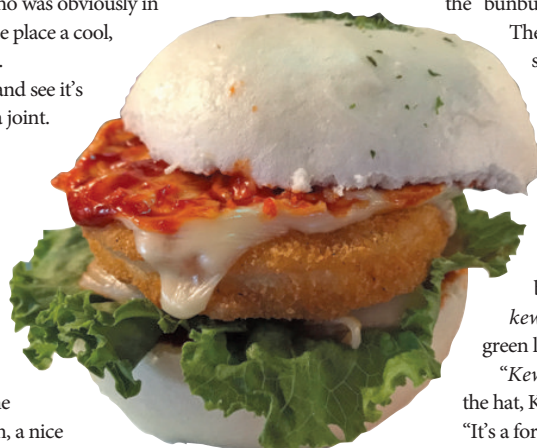
"*Kewpie*?" I ask the guy in the hat, Klin.

"It's a form of mayonnaise from Japan, made with rice vinegar, and using egg yolk only, instead of the whole egg," says Klin. "Crazy popular there. It's a kind of creamier mayonnaise." And yes, it's also named after the *Kewpie* doll.

The other *bunbun* is the "Seoul." Korean-style, *natch*. Has a crumbed chicken patty, *gochujang* (which is a slightly hot, sweet, and savory Korean red chili paste), plus chili powder, sticky rice, *meju* powder (*meju*? Dried, fermented soy beans), *kewpie* and *kimchi*, and a lettuce leaf.

I order one up and head for the table.

Soon enough, Bernie Ann comes out from the kitchen with the neat, burger-shaped sandwich



The white stuff is rice, the red stuff is Gochujang



Kyoto Summer, The boba drink



Jann and Klin

with a very white split bun. "It's a Chinese steamed dumpling,

except there's no meat inside," says Klin when I ask him. "My idea was to create something American and Asian. So the chicken or beef is American but nestled among Asian flavors."

Huh. So it was his idea. Name "bunbun" is his too. Could become the burger of the Asian century! I take my first bite. The flavors leave no doubt: *Gochujang* and *kimchi*. That red chili/fermented cabbage thing is big. The chicken patty plays second string to them. The bun has a feathery rice aura. Garlic and ginger are definitely in the mix, and I'm getting that same fermented feel you have in the aftertaste of a lot of beers. The *hojicha* tea leaves the same aftertaste. It's like they all evolved from the same family.

Maybe they did.

Of course, I can't leave well enough alone. Now I want something sweet, and everyone around me is sucking boba balls through giant straws. The drinks are awesomely colored.

"It's *matcha* tea," says the other server, Jann. She says *matcha* is a green tea, but the whole leaf is finely

shredded and becomes part of the drink, so you get twice the the health benefits of the tea. *Matcha*'s also what they use in the Japanese tea ceremony.

"Gimme something colorful," I say. "How about 'Kyoto in Summer'?" she says. And she points to a picture of this red, white, and green drink. It's \$5.05, including boba pearls and the big fat straw you stab through the plastic lid to suck them up with.

The red at the bottom is strawberry, the white is organic milk, the green top layer *matcha* green tea.

I start sucking from the bottom. Ayee! Extra sweet. Top's unsugared *matcha*.

"Uh, mix it together first," says Jann. Oh Man. Now I'm looking at a *Bing Su* (Korean for "shaved ice") dessert. Costs \$6.95. Just for the color, I go for the purple *ube-bae* Okinawan yam flavor, and what you get is this li'l coconut cream shaved-ice Mt. Fuji capped with yam topping and surrounded by chunks of actual yam. Tastewise, not spectacular, but nice, sweet, and mouth-freshening. Klin says *ube-bae* has a kind of double meaning, "because when you taste it, you go, 'Ooh baby!'"

Fusion? That's it right there.

The Place: Good Moments Tea Bar, in Plaza Square, 1453 East Plaza Boulevard, Lincoln Acres, National City, 858-230-4235

Hours: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm, daily (till 10 pm, Friday, Saturday)

Prices: "Stuffed sandwiches," including ham, sausage, pepperoni, salmon melts, spinach and cheese, \$2.75; bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich, \$3.75; avocado bacon and pepper sandwich, \$3.75; "Kalifornia Love" savory crepe with krab, avocado, \$6.95; "Bangkok Invader" crepe with pork, chili, \$6.95; "When In Rome" crepe (pepperoni, tomato sauce, mozzarella), \$6.95; Samurai bunbun (angus beef, honey teriyaki), \$5.55; Seoul bunbun (chicken patty, gochujang), \$5.55; "Kyoto In Summer" matcha tea, \$5.05; Bing Su dessert, e.g. ube-bae Okinawan yam, \$6.95

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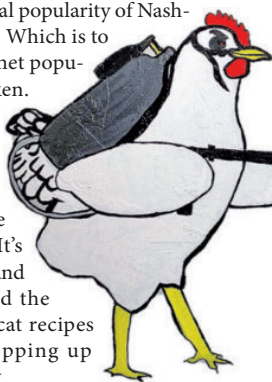
Now *that's* a chicken sandwich

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

FireBirds Chicken is hot out of the gates

FireBirds Chicken; 4155 University Avenue, City Heights. For a restaurant in City Heights, FireBirds Chicken has come up a lot in local foodie conversations over the past several weeks; especially surprising because that's about how long the place has been open. There's a good reason for this instant notoriety, and it has everything to do with the national popularity of Nashville Hot Chicken. Which is to say, with the internet popularity of hot chicken.

The spicy brand of butter-milk brined fried chicken has been a go in Nashville since the 1930s. It's been long known and celebrated around the South, with copycat recipes occasionally cropping up in further flung parts of the country. Then, in 2013,



A chicken with a flame thrower at FireBirds Hot Chicken.

FEAST!

the James Beard Foundation recognized Prince's Hot Chicken Shack, the Nashville eatery credited for first creating the dish, with an America's Classic award. In 2014, the fried chicken genre started accumulating national press coverage; by 2015, it started fully trending, with all the usual

web restaurant boosters rushing in with a hot chicken take.

Just like that, hot chicken wasn't just a thing you made a pilgrimage to Nashville to eat, but something you line up for in your own city. To wit: our nearest and hottest example sees ludicrous demand at its small shop in L.A.'s Chinatown: at Howlin' Ray's, a 30-minute wait time to order Nashville hot chicken means you beat the crowd. People have lined up there so consistently since 2015, you'd think the chicken was being served with free

Coachella tickets.

And now, right on schedule, FireBirds shows up as San Diego's first dedicated Nashville hot chicken restaurant. And people are talking about it. Because if are only two things food-obsessed web addicts can agree on, it's that fried chicken is awesome, and hot spice is more awesome.

Given this automatic cachet, I expected

something slicker than what I found. The young entrepreneurs behind the restaurant plan to turn FireBirds into a West Coast chain, but apparently they're starting out on a limited budget. Hence the City Heights real estate, and a crude paint job punctuated by murals of cartoon chickens doing such things as driving a red convertible or shooting a flame thrower.

There's plenty of underdog charm to this unfussy approach, which lets the place more closely resemble the low budget Nashville restaurants that made hot chicken famous than the California fast casual chain it aspires to be.

However, the chicken itself doesn't so closely

resemble the Nashville hot chicken style, which applies its cayenne, chili powder, and paprika spice via a baste of lard-based paste. FireBirds uses a squeeze bottle to dress its chicken with zigzags of an aioli style sauce. I won't claim this slathering of sauce ruins the experience, but it does change it — part of the appeal of the spicy baste is that it's supposed to let the chicken's fried batter remain crispy for, hopefully, as long as you take to eat it. With this approach, you'll want to eat fast.

Whichever chicken you order, FireBirds lets you choose your level of spice, from mild to hot to "daredevil." I didn't find a great differ-



The Big Ol Sandwich at FireBirds Chicken.



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FireBirds lets you choose your level of spice, from mild to hot to “daredevil.”



Pasta ribbons with a stew of rabbit, duck, quail, and chicken.

ence between medium and hot. There was a bigger jump between hot and daredevil, though, as the latter included a second splash of a more traditional looking orange-red hot sauce. It made my order of the restaurant's Big Ol Sandwich (\$9.50) a lot messier, and a good deal spicier. That said, this is San Diego, where Mexican food has trained us to withstand quite a few degrees hotter. If you consider yourself to have a high heat threshold, don't be afraid to go daredevil for now. I've learned FireBirds is preparing to up the ante with an even hotter sauce sometime soon, likely due to tough guys such as yours truly finding more pleasure in the

bird than the fire.

And, however the above statements sound, there is a lot to enjoy here. Considering the restaurant's on its wobbly first legs, it's serving tasty food while it continues to expand and evolve the menu. For example, the two chicken breasts stacking that Big Ol Sandwich to Dagwood proportions, will likely be replaced with a single, large chicken breast. A safer bet is an order of two chicken sliders (\$8.50), each of which tops a pair of Hawaiian sweet rolls with chicken tenders and coleslaw. And, like everything Nashville Hot Chicken, there are pickles on it.

by Ian Anderson

Fine casual pasta shapes at Ciccio Osteria

Ciccio Osteria; 2233 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan. I don't know whether San Diego has gone through some sort of culinary looking glass, but we seem to have entered an era where Little Italy is flush with great non-Italian restaurants, while every other urban neighborhood suddenly has a fine Italian place to call its own. In Barrio Logan, the place is Ciccio Osteria, a pasta-making oasis that opened earlier this year on Logan Avenue with a painted floor medallion promising, “casual fine Italian cuisine.” It's a contradiction in terms that

nearly makes sense on these blocks, where we're more likely to find a line out front of custom Chevys with tricked out paint jobs than the valet line of German cars typically seen outside fine dining restaurants.

The “casual” here is easy to spot: rather than be seated upon arrival, customers must stand in line to order and pay for food from a service counter. Once your order is in, the staff will seat you at a table, either inside or on the homey dining patio, and from that moment forward, you'll receive table service (meaning if you decide order a second round of drinks, or dessert, you'll need to pay for those separately). Usually, I'm not much a fan of such attempts

to mitigate the costs of service, but even on a busy Friday night it seems to work here. I suspect because, from management to staff, everyone working is so friendly and upbeat, and most likely Italian.

As for the “fine” half of the equation, I have to assume that starts with bread service that includes onion focaccia and a dipping ramekin of mascarpone, ricotta, balsamic vinegar, and calabrian chili. In terms of pasta, “casual fine” results in simple \$13 plates featuring both pastas and sauces you're unlikely to encounter at other restaurants. For example, the Sombrero pasta, which puts saffron, house-made sausage,

mascarpone cheese, and a light bell pepper sauce over tube pastas twisted up to look like little hats. At the top of the pasta menu there's Ubriaca: it's also made with sausage (plus ricotta and shallots), but most distinctive because its gemelli pasta has been cooked in red wine, resulting in purple noodles and an earthy tang.

There is a lot to choose from, including stuffed pastas and interesting sauces, the likes of which never made the menu at 20th century Italian American restaurants. Think: pear ravioli with gorgonzola sauce and walnut, or celery root stuffed capelli with brown butter, pancetta, and pine nuts.



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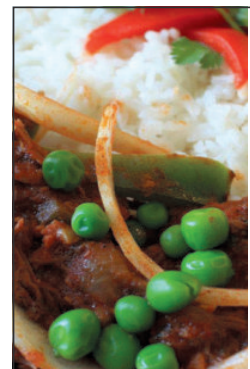


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A comfortable, casual patio in Barrio Logan.

The restaurant's top seller sees a dry stew of chicken, quail, rabbit, and duck served over the wavy ribbon pasta *mafalde*. The wavy ribbons of this pasta lend a distinctive and satisfying chew that almost overcomes the slightly gamey sauce as the most memorable part of the dish.

While I've enjoyed tasting through the pastas at Ciccia Osteria, following several visits I am torn. Most of these dishes have shown me something new, interesting, even unexpected. For a lifelong spaghetti eater, just having a chance to sample so many variations at a reasonable price makes lining up at this pretty Barrio Logan patio worthwhile. But I must confess, the best thing I've tasted here was the least surprising. Ciccia

Osteria's fettucine Bolognese offers everything I want in a meat sauce, and it's already one of my favorite pastas in town.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Country Brunch Country Brunch Live is a multi-sensory experience of food and music that will kick-start folks' weekend vibes. No Cover For Entry. Free Live Music. Walk-Ins Welcome. Brunch reservations recommended. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 29, **free**. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Gospel Brunch Join us for House of Blues' new Gospel Brunch experience which includes local talent performing both traditional and contemporary Gospel songs. Before

and during the show treat yourself to an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring breakfast favorites plus tender carving stations, southern specialties and mouth-watering desserts. Sunday, December 15, 11am; \$31-\$49. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Neighborhood Wine Night Enjoy featured wine flights and light bites for only \$20. Hosted on the third Sunday of each month. What better way to end the weekend than with friends, food, and wine? Drop by and pay at the door. Sunday, December 15, 4pm; \$20. 21 and up. Amici's Ristobar, 5980 Village Way. (DEL MAR)

Peninsula Shepherd Center Wine Tasting Fundraiser The Point Loma Assembly will be hosting a wine tasting fundraiser benefiting the Peninsula Shepherd Center. 70+ wines from dozens of wineries. The wines tasted will be offered at a special one-day only pricing for those wishing to place

an order. Chef-prepared appetizers. Thursday, December 12, 5pm; \$25. 21 and up. Point Loma Assembly Hall, 3035 Talbot Street. (POINT LOMA)

San Diego Dim Sum Tour You'll learn about dim sum's Silk Road roots, flavorful teas, and traditional Southern Chinese etiquette while brunching on a variety of classic dim sum specialties. After the meal, we'll take you on a walking tour through the heart of Asia-town and end at a popular Asian supermarket for some quick shopping. Trip length of 2 hours with a walking distance of 1-2 miles. Sundays, 10am; through Friday, December 27, \$69. Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, 4609 Convoy St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

Special Ingredients Series: Winter Truffle Grant Grill is wrapping up this year's Special Ingredient Tasting dinner series with a delectable truffle-centric prix-fixe tasting dinner and special standalone menu items by Executive Sous Chef John Duran. Thursday, December 12, 6:30am; Friday, December 13, 6:30am; Saturday, December 14, 6:30am; \$85. Grant Grill, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Uncork & Unwind The Spa at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe is pleased to host Uncork & Unwind - a monthly, 80-minute yoga class with integrated wine tasting. Class is tailored for experienced yogis & newcomers alike, ensuring a fun, fit and informative class for all. The Spa at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe - The Spa at The Inn is a serene sanctuary and holistic healing destination for body & mind, infusing native and raw ingredients into treatments. Sunday, December 15, 3pm; \$40. 21 and up. Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

HAPPY HOUR

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Garage Kitchen + Bar: Monday, 4-7pm: \$5 mules, \$12 burger and beer, 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Football specials after 3pm: Bud Light draft \$2.50 pint or \$7 for 34ounce stein, \$20 five domestic beers (Bud, Bud Light, Mich Ultra), \$30 five specialty beers (Golden Road Wolf Pup IPA, Golden Road Mango Cart Wheat, 10 Barrel Cucumber Crush Sour, Truly Wild Berry or Grapefruit), \$7 wings, short rib fries, Bob's sliders. Tuesday, 4-7pm: \$5 margaritas, Cazadores Blanco, \$15 five Corona beers, \$2 carnitas taco, 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Wednesday, 4-7pm: \$10 select wine bottles, \$3 off flatbreads, 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Thursday, 4-7pm: \$4 bottles of beer, \$6 coffee and donuts dessert, 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Football specials after 3pm: Bud Light draft \$2.50 pint or \$7 for 34ounce stein, \$20 five domestic beers (Bud, Bud Light, Mich Ultra), \$30 five specialty beers (Golden Road Wolf Pup IPA, Golden Road Mango Cart Wheat, 10 Barrel Cucumber Crush Sour, Truly Wild Berry or Grapefruit), \$7 wings, short rib fries, Bob's sliders. Friday, 4-7pm: Half price bombers, 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Saturday, 4-7pm: 51% off appetizers and select drinks. Football specials all day: Bud Light draft \$2.50 pint or \$7 for 34ounce stein, \$20 five domestic beers (Bud, Bud Light, Mich Ultra), \$30 five specialty beers (Golden Road Wolf Pup IPA, Golden Road Mango Cart Wheat, 10 Barrel Cucumber Crush Sour, Truly Wild Berry or Grapefruit), \$7 wings,

short rib fries, Bob's sliders. Sunday, 4-7pm: 51% off appetizers and select drinks. All day: \$4 Refuge cans, \$5 Fireball, \$10 bottles of champagne. Football specials all day: Bud Light draft \$2.50 pint or \$7 for 34ounce stein, \$20 five domestic beers (Bud, Bud Light, Mich Ultra), \$30 five specialty beers (Golden Road Wolf Pup IPA, Golden Road Mango Cart Wheat, 10 Barrel Cucumber Crush Sour, Truly Wild Berry or Grapefruit), \$7 wings, short rib fries, Bob's sliders.

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

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.

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

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

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

KEARNY MESA

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: Monday-Tuesday, Sunday, 4-6pm: \$5 all draft beers, bourbon slushies, premium wells, weekly craft cocktail specials. Texas style BBQ prepared fresh daily with other Southern delights. Drink specials all night. Wednesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$5 all draft beers, bourbon slushies, premium wells, weekly craft cocktail specials. Texas style BBQ prepared fresh daily with other Southern delights.



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Farmer's Table: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 beer on tap, \$6 house red or white wines by the glass, \$8 cocktails. Appetizers \$6-\$14.

The Hills: *Monday-Friday, 2-5pm:* \$4 drafts, \$6 specialty cocktails.

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

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$1 off all draft beer, wine, and cocktails, \$3 off wine bottles, \$1 off a la carte tacos. *Saturday-Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$4 Bloody Marys.

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.

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.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

The Rabbit Hole: *Monday-Friday, 5-7pm:* \$5 select local drafts, \$6 glass of wine, specialty cocktails. *Saturday-Sunday, 9:30am-2pm:* \$4 Busch Michelada, \$5 bloody Mary, \$10 bottle Champagne.

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, Wednesday-Friday, 11am-7:30pm:* \$1 off everything. *Tuesday, 11am-7:30pm:* \$1 off everything, Miller High Life bottles \$3. *Saturday-Sunday, 10am-7:30pm:* \$1 off liquor.

Dunedin New Zealand Eats: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$5 on select wines and beers. \$5 pretzel bites & jalapeno cheese, chicken skewers (fried or grilled), pita and hummus, lamb sliders, calamari & peppers.

HOPE 46: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off select wine by the glass, \$4 wells and draft beers.

Splash: *Daily, 4pm-6:30pm:* \$4 select bottled beer, \$6 white and red wines, bubbles, 40% off all bottles to

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

The Ballad of Ballast Point continues

How did a suburban Chicago nanobrewery wind up buying San Diego's famous billion dollar craft beer icon? That's the question that crashed the web site of **Kings & Convicts Brewing** when news broke December 3 that the little known beer company — established in 2017 in Highwood, Illinois — had agreed to purchase Ballast Point Brewing.

The seller, Mexico beer importer **Constellation Brands**, is most famous locally for paying one billion dollars to buy Ballast Point in 2015. While the price Kings & Convicts will pay hasn't been disclosed, it's known to be considerably south of a billion. In four years since buying one of San Diego's most successful craft breweries, Constellation has seen the brand wither. It has shuttered breweries and halved production. Meanwhile, Constellation's flagship brands, **Corona** and **Modelo**, continue to thrive (5.4 million barrels sold in the U.S. last year).

By comparison, the buyer,

Kings & Convicts, produced a mere 600 barrels of beer last year, sold exclusively in Illinois and Wisconsin. The differences couldn't be more stark.

At first glance, the Kings & Convicts story appears little different from that of 7000 other small breweries now making beer across the U.S.. Homebrewing hobbyists Chris Bradley and Brendan Watters pooled their resources and reached out to friends and colleagues to invest in a brewery. The big difference is that both men had already built lucrative businesses (Bradley was a partner at New Zealand's **Navman Wireless**, Watters founded **Boomerang Hotels**), meaning they had access to a lot more capital than most beer startups.

"I was trying to work out my next venture, and got into home brewing," recounts Watters, an Australian expat with both a CPA and MBA. After his first homebrew, he says, "My wife kicked me out of the house. She said, 'You're not doing that again.'" So he started brewing with Bradley, a British expat, and the two wound up starting Kings & Convicts, a playful reference to the British crown's original establishment of Australia as a prison colony.

Apparently, brewing wasn't the greatest strength Watters brought to the partnership. "Chris kicked me out of brewhouse about a year ago," he laughs. "Told me to 'Go and do something...'" This is what I've done, I bought Ballast Point."

To do so, he tapped his circle of private investors — not a private equity group concerned solely on return on investment, he stresses. "This is just private individuals, intent on bringing this company back to independence."

The process started in July, with a casual offer made over beers with a Constellation executive. But Kings & Convicts' expansion was already

in motion. In August, it broke ground on a 51,000-square-foot restaurant and production brewery in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, just



Kings & Convicts founders Chris Bradley (left) and Brendan Watters

across the Illinois border about 50 miles north of Chicago. That brewery will now produce and distribute Ballast Point beers in addition to Kings & Convicts — not insignificant, because Ballast Point's 300-barrel Daleville, Virginia brewhouse was not included in the Constellation deal.

Conversely, Watters says Ballast Point Miramar will eventually produce Kings & Convicts beers for the San Diego market, and will also piggyback on Ballast Point's existing distribution channels to send its beers to Australia and New Zealand.

In the near term, Kings & Convicts will focus on making the leap from being a suburban brewery with nine employees to a global entity employing 560. Watters met with Ballast Point employees in Miramar Wednesday to boost morale, to "try to give them some comfort that their job's not going anywhere. 'You're now

owned by a nanobrewery, but hey, no problem!"

Watters has been in San Diego about a month, and will continue to oversee the transition in Miramar, eventually relocating here full time.

However, when it comes to operations, he plans to lean on the experience of Ballast Point's beer industry executives, including vice president and specialty brewer Colby Chandler, the company's longest tenured remaining employee.

"One of the things that we're acquiring is a truckload of knowledge and understanding," says Watters. "I'm going to be guided by Colby, quite frankly."

Re-establishing Ballast Point as an independent local brand

could take some time, though. Its sale to big beer sapped the good will of the local brewing industry, which struggles daily against the competitive advantages of macro beer entities. Consequently, while under Constellation ownership, Ballast Point lost its charter membership in the San Diego Brewers Guild, a dismissal that rankled Chandler, and which Watters would like to rectify.

Asked whether Ballast Point would be readmitted under its surprising new ownership, the Guild was circumspect, issuing a sort of prove-it challenge with the following statement: "We look forward to hearing how Kings & Convicts Brewing Co. will support our local brewing community as an independent craft brewery arriving from out of state."

For more craft booze news, see sandiegoreader.com/news/booze-news

PACIFIC BEACH

710 Beach Club: *Tuesday*, Open until close: All you can eat taco bar, two for one tequila, \$5 margaritas. *Sunday*, Open until close: & frozen blood orange margaritas, frozen mango mules.

Ambrogio15: *Daily, 4:30-6pm:* \$4 local craft beer or house wine, \$15 biodynamic (organic) wine flight. Appetizers \$4 to \$10.

Backyard Kitchen & Tap: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3 Bud drafts, \$4 Modelo drafts, \$5 select local drafts, house wine, well drinks, \$7 featured craft cocktail. Appetizers \$5 to \$11.

Bare Back Grill: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$6 craft beer, house sangria, mules. \$6 munchies including chicken tenders and shrimp skewers.

Barrel Republic: *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm:* All taps 20% off. *Wednesday, 3-9pm:* All taps 20% off.

Cabo Cantina: *Daily, 4-8pm:* Two-for-one drinks.

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

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

Tidal: *Daily, 4-6pm:* \$6 draft craft beers, \$8 glass of wine, cocktails.

The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: *Tuesday-Sunday, 6-7pm:* \$4 draft wines, \$5 draft beers, well drinks, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$3 patatas, \$5 huevos de toro and fish tacos, \$6 fritti misto.

Waterbar: *Monday-Friday,*

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

POINT LOMA

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

Banzai Bar: *Monday-Friday, 2-5pm:* \$4 drafts, wells, wine. \$2 sliders.

Harbor Town Pub: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 drafts, house wines, Ballast Point spirits, \$2 BBQ sliders.

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

Old Venice: *Monday-Tuesday,*

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Thursday-Sunday, 4-6pm: \$5 select drafts, house Chardonnay. Wednesday, 4-6pm: \$5 select drafts, house Chardonnay. Half off select wine bottle priced under \$40.

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

Seaside Pho & Grill: Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off all drafts, \$4 to \$7 wines by the glass.

Shanghai Bun: Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off all draft beer, \$3 house wine, \$4 sangria, \$5 well drinks, \$6 Tito's or Jack Daniel's.

The Wine Pub: Daily, 4-6pm: \$5 craft beers on draft, \$5 select red and white wines, \$5 toasted Levain with caramelized onions, blue cheese, and sausage, Cheese of the Day, arugula salad, three-cheese crostini.

POWAY

Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off wells, beers, and wine by the glass. \$6 cocktails, \$7.00 shaker

margaritas. \$7 appetizers, \$10 baby back sampler.

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.

ROLANDO

Effin's Pub & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off mules, \$4 wells, 25% off drafts and appetizers.

Ugly Dog: Monday, Thursday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$1 off full pours, \$2 off pitchers. Tuesday, 4-8pm: \$1 off full pours, \$2 off pitchers. Ladies receive 50% off a full pour (of equal or lesser value) when they buy another full pour.

SAN CARLOS

Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant: Daily, 3-5:30pm: \$5 house wine glass, \$11 Ravenswood merlot carafe, \$6 Estancia glass, \$4 Coors pint, \$8 Coors pitcher, \$6 draft beer pint, \$14 draft beer pitchers. \$5 plates: buffalo wings, bruschetta, mozzarella sticks, small torpedo, cannoli, pizza fries. \$8.50 sampler platter, choose two of buffalo wings (5), bruschetta, mozzarella sticks,

small torpedo, cannoli, pizza fries.

SAN MARCOS

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

SANTEE

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

SOUTH PARK

Del Sur: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$3 beers, \$5 sangria (\$25 pitcher), \$6 margaritas (\$30 pitcher), \$7 cocktails, \$7 apps. Wednesday, 4-close: \$3 beers, \$5 sangria (\$25 pitcher), \$6 margaritas (\$30 pitcher), \$7 cocktails. \$7 apps (until 6pm).

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

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

Piacere Mio Ristorante Italiano: Monday-Thursday, 5-6pm: \$3

draft beers, \$5 wines, \$5 appetizers.

The Rose: Monday-Wednesday, 4:30-6pm: \$2 off glass of wine, draft beer, and cider, \$5 corkage on retail bottles. Select flatbreads \$2 off. Thursday-Friday, 11:30-6pm: \$2 off glass of wine, draft beer, and cider, \$5 corkage on retail bottles. Select flatbreads \$2 off.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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

Cueva Bar: Tuesday-Sunday, 4-6pm: \$5 tapas and select beer and wines.

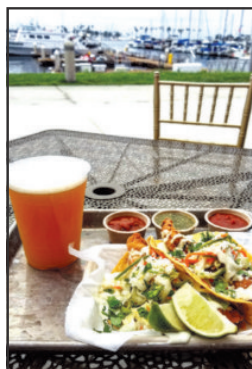
Great Maple: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: \$4 drafts, \$5 cocktails.

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

Park & Rec: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 10pm-2am: \$4 PBR or Tecate, \$6 margarita, oldie, mules, uh escape, all wines, \$7 dealer's choice.

Small Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts, well cocktails. Saturday-Sunday, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts, well cocktails. 10am-2pm: \$15 to \$18 brunch menu.



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the inside track blur



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISABELLA GREGGIO

Pink Trio has gig at Union Cowork in L.A.

Homework on the drive to L.A. One of San Diego's most promising musicians is pianist Brenda Greggio, a high school

sophomore at the School of Creative and Performing Arts in Paradise Hills. She makes the daily trek down from her home in Poway.

In addition to playing in the school band, Brenda performs with the Young Lions Jazz Conservatory ensemble New Soil and travels every Monday night to downtown L.A. to study at the Colburn School, to which she earned a scholarship, and where she plays in a combo.

On top of all that, she's the "unofficial" leader of the Pink Trio — an all-female band that's been playing around San Diego for four years featuring Greggio (15), bassist Dharma Dorazio (17), and drummer Alyssa Wishnuff (13.)

"Dharma and I met at the Francis Parker Jazz Camp in the summer of 2015," Greggio recalls. "Right about that time I started studying with Gilbert Castellanos and he offered me a gig — but I didn't really know anyone. I remembered Dharma, and we found Alyssa who was studying with Duncan Moore. We're still playing together, and we actually have a gig next month at Union Cowork in L.A."



Does she believe that women get the respect they deserve in the jazz world?

"Well, not quite yet," Greggio demurs. "But I think it will happen. It is developing slowly. People do sometimes ask me how it feels playing jazz when it's mostly played by males — which is a weird question to me — after all we're all just human beings.... I am definitely planning on a career in music, and I don't see any obstacles because I'm a woman. I really believe that if I work hard, I'll be respected."

But Greggio doesn't plan to jump straight into a

career after high school. "I would certainly audition for Juilliard, if I get the chance," she says. "But that's a long shot for sure. I'm also interested in the New School in New York City and the New England Conservatory."

With such a busy schedule, where does she find time for her non-musical studies?

"I do most of my homework in the car on the drive up to L.A.," says Greggio. "So I'm doing fine."

Meanwhile, she is grateful for several important San Diego mentors. "Gilbert (Castellanos) is definitely one of my biggest influences. He created a path for

me, and I look up to him a lot. And I learned a lot from Kamau Kenyatta as well."

— Robert Bush

Movie shot at Ken Club, Whistlestop, Black Cat Besides managing The Casbah, Ben Johnson has played in local bands (The Long And Short Of It, Hostile Combover, Grammatical B), and he's authored a couple of books (*A Shadow Cast In Dust* and *Blood Silver*.) As if all that wasn't enough, he dabbles in acting. In March of 2016, he was finishing up a short film with Grant Reinero. They were shooting at Cabrillo

(continued on page 40)

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National Monument when Johnson pitched the idea to work on something with more girth than the short films they had been concocting.

Johnson said, “This is all cool and everything, but what do we have to do to make a feature-length film?” And then Grant goes through this exhaustive list and I said ‘Okay, how about you guys just show up with your cameras and I will write the script, cast it, produce it, and I will do everything.”

Johnson got to work and churned out the script for what would become *Fanboy* in a month. The story revolves around an all-star band (Xenos) made up of three local music scene veterans and a drummer that bankrolls the project. Once Xenos hits the road, they learn that their drummer is useless in the drumming department. Johnson’s character, Fred Proehl (AKA Fanboy), learns about their rhythm dilemma and tries to insert himself into the mix. That’s about all Johnson would reveal, but he said that it’s a crime-drama-thriller — so it’s safe to assume that the arrival of Fanboy solves one

of the band’s problems while simultaneously creating new ones.

Concocting a story that revolved around musicians was no accident.

“I’m a real path-of-least-resistance sort of person,” Johnson explained. “We don’t have any money, so what are the things that we can use that would cost other people money but would not cost us any money? That’s musicians, musical instruments, and musical venues. All of that is totally free.”

Johnson worked his Rolo-dex and managed to secure free shoots at six local venues including the Ken Club, the Whistlestop, and the



Ben Johnson: “path of least resistance”

Black Cat. A 16-hour-long shoot at the Soda Bar almost resulted in a mutiny early in the production. Johnson reconfigured the production schedule so that the actors (who were working for free) would continue to show up. “We’re going to go for four to six hours and then we’re gonna cut, and then we’re out,” he said. It was a successful tweak.

“It got to a point where we were showing up on a Sunday for two and a half hours and just nailing it,” he said.

It’s also of note that Xenos recorded four original songs for the film. Johnson said that there’s a chance that the band (which includes members of Scary Pierre and Hostile Combover) could play a

live gig at some point. For now, Johnson is working to finish post-production by the end of this year, set-up a premier, and start the process of getting the film into festivals.

— Dryw Keltz

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

<p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 11 KOLARS THE SOFT WHITE SIXTIES</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 13 CHOIR BOY • BOAN PANTHER MODERN LOWER TAR • O/X</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 14 BLOCKHEAD • ELIOT LIPP</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 15 3PM FILM SCREENING GARY HEFFERN'S LAST WALTZ DOCUMENTARY + LIVE SET BY GARY'S KIDS RAY BRANDES CINDY LEE BERRYHILL DAVE FLEMINGER KEVIN RING DAVE DOYLE JOEL KMAK</p> <p>7PM THE SLEEPWALKERS BRAWLEY THE COWPOKES CHLOE LOU AND THE LIDDELLS</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 16 MIDNIGHT MONUMENTS DOOM BLOOM RUNS DEEP</p> <p>TUESDAY • DEC 17 BODY SALT SHANE HALL • JUNIPERO</p> <p>casbahmusic.com facebook.com/CasbahMusic instagram.com/casbahsandiego</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 619-232-HELL • casbahmusic.com</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 18 AMERIKAN BEAR THE SURREALISTICS SYCAMORE</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 19 ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS ELECTRIC WARRIOR 13 BATS</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 20 CASBAH HOLIDAY PARTY - FREE THE LOONS CREEPXOTICA THE SHANGHAIS</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 21 MAINSAIL STATE TO STATE MACHINE POLITIK SWEET MYTHS • PINKEYE</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 22 EL VEZ MERRY MEXMAS ALVINO & THE DWELLS PONY DEATH RIDE</p>	<p>MONDAY • DEC 23 GLASS SPELLS • MRCH FAM BLOOD</p> <p>TUESDAY • DEC 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD.</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 26 EL VEZ TRIBUTE TO THE SCREAMERS BLOOD PONIES JEAN CAFFEINE</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 27 DRUG HUNT DANI BELL AND THE TARANTIST CUMBIA MACHIN • LEFTIES</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 28 BIG SANDY AND HIS FLYRITE BOYS DEKE DICKERSON AND THE WHIPPERSNAPPERS</p> <p>TUESDAY • DEC 31 THE SCHIZOPHONICS THE CREEPY CREEPS WILD WILD WETS SCARY PIERRE</p> <p>THURSDAY • JAN 2 T.S.O.L. • THE DETOURS</p> <p>FRIDAY • JAN 3 SUREFIRE SOUL ENSEMBLE THEE SACRED SOULS DJ MIKE WALLACE</p>
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LIVE *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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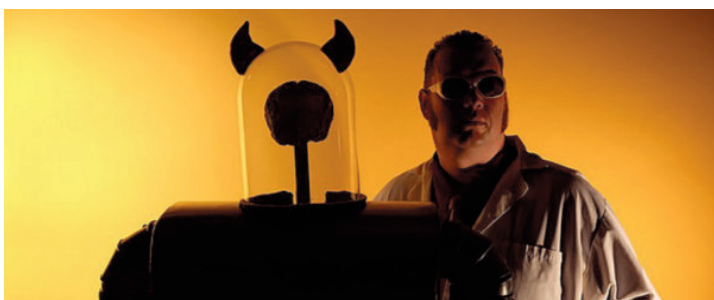


SECOND CHANCE BENEFIT at Black Cat Bar

DEC 13

Second Chance San Diego will be raising funds and awareness to stop the cycle of incarceration and poverty with a packed bill that includes Deep Sea Thunder Beast, Hurricane Kate, Black Cat Sabbath, and headliners the Fictitious Dishes, who organized and will host the event. Founded in 2014 and based in North Park, the Dishes are an all-female, non-fictitious band whose members have played in local groups like the Dirty Legs, Revenge Club, and the Unruly Bangs, as well as Mandarin Dynasty (now in Portland, OR) and Love Lashes. "As far as musical stylings go," says the band, "the general indie pop/rock descriptor is probably the easiest to apply, though we have been described as 'femmepunk.'"

An album called *You Could Never Be Enough* was released in 2015, followed last year by their *Frontier Literature* EP. Only 50 physical CDs were made for the latter release, each with a unique design hand-created by the band members. "The collage-style artwork features a lot of cats, because Taryn [Poppellewell, vocals and guitar] likes them," says Liz Malloy. "Jacquie [Bazinet, bass and vocals] is more of a dog person. I'm allergic to both. Maggie [Sleeper] plays drums. The art also includes imagery relating to the record content." Admission is \$8 or three full-sized hygiene products, with all door proceeds going directly to Second Chance San Diego.

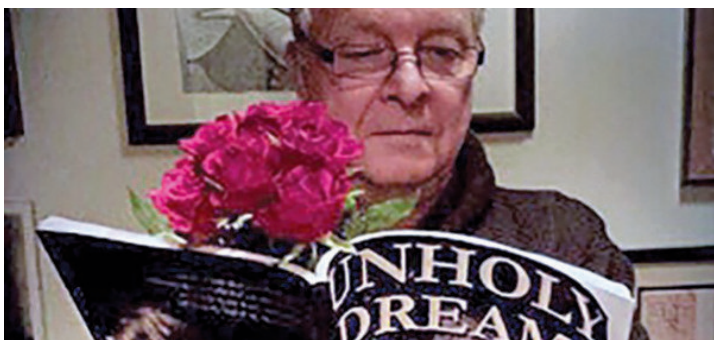


SATANIC PUPPETEER ORCHESTRA at Vinyl Junkies

DEC 14

In 1996, SDSU English Department alumni Michael Buchmiller, aka Professor B. Miller, created the Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra, an electro-experimental duo pairing him with a singing robot he calls SPO-20. He's still using old Windows XP programs to synthesize SPO-20's vocals, so that the diode duo can cover Andy Kaufman, Talking Heads, Kraftwerk, They Might Be Giants, Blues Brothers, the Cure, Devo, and Spinal Tap. They also perform original conceptual sci-fi- and horror-inspired works like "I Stole Your Daddy's Time Machine," "What

Is the Most Expensive Way To Feed A Zebra," "Wolfman Rides a Unicycle," and "Haunted Rental Car." A self-titled four-disc set was released in 2008, and they were nominated Best Electronic at the 2009 San Diego Music Awards. Subsequent albums have included *Experiments with Auto-Croon* and last year's *Stop by the Supermarket* EP. Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra will debut their newest album *Go Caroling*, and the evening will also feature Lion Cut's release party for *World Cat Domination*.



GARY HEFFERN'S LAST WALTZ SCREENING at Casbah

DEC 15

It been almost exactly a year since the frontman of local punk heroes the Penetrators convened an all-star ensemble for what was billed as his farewell performance, Gary Heffern's Last Waltz, where he was backed by Cindy Lee Berryhill (returning to the scene after a long hiatus while caring for her late husband, rock journalist Paul Williams), Ray Brandes (Tell-Tale Hearts, Mystery Machine), David Doyle (Unknowns), David Fleminger (the Answers, Alvino & the Dwells), Dylan Brown (Vaginals, Chinese Rocks), and Kevin Ring (the Shambles, Manual Scan). A film of the event will make its debut at the Casbah. Heffern made his local mark in the 1970s with Mono-

tone & the Nucleoids but rose to prominence during his stint with proto-punkers the Penetrators, which included several future Beat Farmers, including Country Dick Montana. His solo albums have included guests such as Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder and REM's Peter Dinklage, as well as Steve Berlin (Los Lobos), Alejandro Escovedo, and Peter Case. Heffern, who currently lives in Finland near the Arctic Circle, won't be in attendance, but performers include Last Waltz vets Gary's Kids, with Brandes, Berryhill, Ring, Fleminger, and Doyle joined this time by Penetrators drummer Joel Kmak (also of the Farmers and Powerthud).



KIEFER SUTHERLAND at Belly Up

DEC 16

Some may think Kiefer Sutherland's all-time greatest performance was that time he got drunk and tackled a Christmas tree to death in a viral video that threatened to do to his career what all the bad guys in TV Land couldn't do to 24's Jack Bauer. However, much like his action alter ego, Sutherland keeps bouncing back for one more run, with new TV shows and even a handful of moderately well received music releases. As far as thespians-turned-troubadours go, he's no Johnny Depp, but his gravelly delivery and onstage intensity make for a more entertaining evening away from the boob tube than you'll get from any number of Quaid, Crowe, Paltrow,

or Bacon Brothers. Having made his recorded full-length debut in 2016, his sophomore album from earlier this year, *Reckless & Me*, is a country-ish singer-songwriter showcase drowning in honky-tonk, with a distinctly Canadian take on gospel blues that favorably compares with geographical contemporaries such as Levon Helm and The Band. He's earned Americana radio play with recent singles like "Open Road," "Something You Love," and "This Is How It's Done," with a rowdy black and white performance video for the latter track that looks like a cross between vintage MTV-era ZZ Top and the country bar chicken-wire scene in *The Blues Brothers*.




HELLYEAH at House of Blues

DEC 17

Dallas-bred heavy metal screamers Hellyeah went almost unnoticed back in 2015 when they opened for Slayer and King Diamond in Chula Vista, but they've gone on to become one of their genre's leading and loudest lights. They've steadily been moving up the local venue hierarchy, from Brick by Brick to Observatory North Park and now this, their sophomore appearance at downtown's House of Blues. This time, they'll again be augmented by

guitarist Tom Maxwell, who had to bow out of last summer's tour due to a hand injury. The group is supporting their sixth studio album *Welcome Home*, released in September along with a single for "Black Flag Army" and featuring drum tracks recorded with the late Vinnie Paul before he died in 2018. The HOB show will see Paul replaced by Stone Sour drummer Roy Mayorga, who is now apparently doing full-time double-duty with Hellyeah.

WED., DECEMBER 11 UNEARTH Darkest Hour, Thrown Into Exile, Blackcast		SAT., JANUARY 4 GODHAMMERED Londons Falling, Deep Sea Thunder Beast, Eyes of Perdition
THU., DECEMBER 12 KHEMMIS Un, Garth Algar		FRI., JANUARY 9 GOOD RIDDANCE Youth Brigade, The Last Gang, PSO
SAT., DECEMBER 14 JONAH MATRANGA (FAR) Fake Figures, Open Hand	SAT., DECEMBER 21 DAMAGE, INC. Domination CFH, Woke Up Dead	FRI., JANUARY 10 96 BITTER BEINGS The Native Howl, Locust Grove, Deathboys
SUN., DECEMBER 15 THE FALL OF TROY Strawberry Girls, Dead American, Andres, The Undertaking	SUN., DECEMBER 22 CATTLE DECAPITATION Atheist, Primitive Man, Author & Punisher, Vitriol	SAT., JANUARY 11 RED HANDED DENIAL Samsara, He Films The Clouds, The Unsung, Blackcast
WED., DECEMBER 18 (SOLD OUT) THURSDAY Chris Conley	SAT., DECEMBER 28 IGNITE Pulley, Chaser, Roman Watchdogs	TUES., JANUARY 14 THE OBSESSED Gutter + special guests

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Friday Dec 13th Sue Palmer		Saturday Dec 14th Missy Andersen	

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<p>ERIC RACHMANY SUNDAY, DEC 22</p>	<p>POOLSIDE SATURDAY, DEC 28</p>
<p>SAINT MOTEL SATURDAY, JAN 25</p>	<p>AMERICAN AUTHORS AND MAGIC GIANT SATURDAY, FEB 1</p>
<p>THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS TUESDAY, FEB 4</p>	<p>ATMOSPHERE WEDNESDAY, FEB 5</p>

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Aztec Brewing Company:
Sunday, 5pm — Aztec Holiday Jazz Jam. **Free.**

BNS Brewing & Distilling:
Saturday, 6:30pm — West of 5. **Free.**

Balboa Theatre:
Sunday, 7pm — The Colors of Christmas.

Bar Pink:
Sunday, 4pm — Pony Death Ride.

Beaumont's:
Saturday, 9pm — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, 8pm — Thievery Corporation and Brazilian Girls.
Friday, 8pm — The Young Guns.
Sunday, 8pm — Blind Boys of Alabama and Nicki Bluhm.
Monday, 8pm — Kiefer Sutherland.
Tuesday, 8pm — Chris Isaak. \$99-\$174.
Wednesday, 8pm — The Venice Christmas Show.

Black Cat Bar:
Friday, 9pm — Benefit Show for Second Chance. \$8.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, 8pm — Khemmis and Un. \$15-\$18.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Etienne Charles: Creole Christmas. \$35-\$55.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Carols by Candlelight Concert Sings for a Great Cause. \$69-\$87.

Carvers Steak & Chops:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Miss Demeanor.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — Bayside and Capstan.
Friday, 8pm — Snail Mail and Ceremony.
Saturday, 8pm — Blockhead and Eliot Lipp. \$15-\$18.
Sunday, 8pm — Gary Heffern's Last Waltz Film Screening. \$10.

Cheers:
Friday, 7pm — Miss Demeanor.

Cheers Bar & Grill:
Saturday, 9pm — Good Company. **Free.**

Club M:
Saturday, 8pm — Winter White Party. **Free.**

Coronado Library:
Sunday, 3pm — Annual Holiday Sing-along. **Free.**

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Saturday, 2pm — Flipside Burners. **Free.**

Cuyamaca College:
Sunday, 3pm — Jason Vieaux. \$5-\$15.

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, 8pm — Teaser.

Ebullition Brew Works:
Friday, 6pm — Adam Eros Holiday Craft Beer Sing-Along. **Free.**

Grossmont College:
Sunday, 6pm — Electric Oud Trio. \$5-\$10.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Sunday, 4:30pm — Allison Adams Tucker Quartet. **Free.**

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:
Friday, 8pm — Thee Dark Ages.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:
Friday, 9pm — Tony Cummins.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:
Tuesday, 6:30pm — Kathleen Murray.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Touché Amoré, La Dispute, Empath.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Aquadolls.
Sunday, 11am — Gospel Brunch. \$31-\$49.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Hellyeah.
Tuesday, 7pm — Robin Henkel. **Free.**
Wednesday, 7pm — Stoney B Blues. **Free.**

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.

Josie's Hideout:
Saturday, 11:30am — Fleetwood Bigmak. **Free.**

La Jolla Community Center:
Wednesday, 4:30pm — Holiday Sing-A-Long. \$10.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Saturday, 7pm — Anna Danes & Friends. \$25.
Sunday, 5pm — An Evening of Holiday Magic. \$59-\$99.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
Sunday, 2pm — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, 9pm — Nemesis. **Free.**

Moonshine Beach:
Friday, 8pm — Young Guns.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — James Allen. **Free.**
Friday, 8:30pm — Restless Natives. **Free.**
Saturday, 4pm — Jerome Dawson & Wazabe Blue. **Free.**

Saturday, 8:30pm — Naked Shorts. **Free.**

Music Box:
Friday, 7:30pm — Space Yacht.
Saturday, 9:30pm — Kool Keith. \$20-\$22.
Sunday, 7pm — Easy Wind: A Very Jerry Christmas. \$16-\$18.
Sunday, 12pm — Rockademy.

My Yard Live:
Friday, 7pm — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Nate's Garden Grill:
Sunday, 10am — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

North Clairemont Library:
Wednesday, 6:30pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. **Free.**

Observatory North Park:
Friday, 7:30pm — Allah-Las. \$25-\$30.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Chon and Between the Buried & Me.

Orfila Vineyard:
Friday, 3pm — Tim Yancey. **Free.**

Panama 66:
Sunday, 5pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**

Phantom Lounge:
Thursday, 9pm — Artist Appreciation Night. **Free.**

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:
Sunday, 3pm — The Palomar Pacific Music Men Chorus. **Free.**

Poway Library:
Saturday, 2pm — The Swingin' with Dean Show. **Free.**

Poway's Irish Pub:
Friday, 9pm — The Celebrities. **Free.**

Ramona Library:
Thursday, 6pm — The Swingin' with Dean Show. **Free.**

San Diego Humane Society: Airport Road:
Friday, 6pm — Holiday Benefit featuring the Forecast Jazz Duo. \$10-\$1000.

San Diego Maritime Museum:
Saturday, 8pm — Tim Flannery & Friends. \$55-\$85.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:
Sunday, 2:30pm — Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Choir. **Free.**

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — Ariel View.
Saturday, 8pm — Motel Radio. \$12.
Sunday, 8pm — Omni. \$14.
Tuesday, 8pm — Mark Diamond.
Wednesday, 8pm — L.A. Takedown and Brokeback. \$10-\$12.

Soma:
Friday, 7pm — SiR.
Saturday, 6:30pm — As I Lay Dying and After the Burial.

St. Tropez Bistro:
Saturday, 10am — Adrienne Nims. **Free.**

Tin Roof San Diego:
Saturday, 8pm — Reviverfest: Thompson Square, more. **Free.**
Vinyl Junkies Record Shack:
Saturday, 7pm — Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra and Lion Cut. **Free.**

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A close-up, high-contrast portrait of Kieffer. He is looking down with a serious expression, his right hand raised near his face with fingers spread. He has a tattoo on his right forearm. The background is dark and textured.

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City Ballet of San Diego: The Nutcracker The Nutcracker is the classic Victorian-era story of the adventures of Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Herr Drosselmeyer and the Sugar Plum Fairy told through a magical theatrical experience to Peter Tchaikovsky's famous score. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 14, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 15, 2pm; \$34-\$93. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway.

Disney in Concert: Mary Poppins ARTIST'S Ted Sperling, conductor ABOUT Five-time Academy Award-winning Disney film — Mary Poppins — unfolds on the big screen with the San Diego Symphony orchestra performing The Sherman Brothers' charming and delightful Oscar -winning musical score. Featuring unforgettable performances by Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, hum along to family favorites like Best Original Song winner "Chim Chim Cher-ee," "A Spoonful of Sugar" and "Let's Go Fly a Kite." Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; \$20-\$100. Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street.

Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale Grossmont College Music Department presents, Grossmont Symphony Orchestra and Master Chorale Guest Artist: Michael Sokol, baritone. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; \$5-\$15. First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon, 500 Farragut Circle.

Handel's Messiah A combined Choir and Orchestra performance of Handel's Messiah, one of the best-known and most popular choral works of the holiday season, will be presented. The performance will feature the Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and guest soloists, under the direction of Dr. Leon Kelley. The public is invited. There is no charge. Open seating. A reception to meet the performers will follow. Sunday, December 15, 3pm; **free**. Christ United Presbyterian Church, 3025 Fir Street.

Jason Vieaux On December 8, Grammy-winning classical guitarist Jason Vieaux is presented by the ECHO Chamber Music

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Top three (or four) concerts of 2019

Since we are at the end of a decade — depending on how you count decades — I'm feeling an obligation to name the top concerts I've experienced in the past 10 years. That's a lot of pressure, so I've decided to ease into it by sharing the three best concerts I witnessed in 2019.

In years past, the three best concerts were clear. This year, the best concert was head and shoulders the best concert, but two and three weren't as obvious. Really, there aren't a second and third but rather two very different yet equal concerts tied for second.

The first of the two was the Miró Quartet at the La Jolla Music Society Summerfest on Saturday, August 11, 2019. The all-Beethoven concert, featuring an early, middle, and late quartet by the master, was all anyone could wish for in a con-

cert experience.

The setting was intimate and elegant at The Conrad, in the heart of La Jolla, and the house was full. The programming was intelligently planned. The playing was both accurate and expressive. This concert had all the elements of greatness.

In 2019, The San Diego Symphony finally gave us a Vaughan Williams symphony. It is the second of my tied-for-second concerts, despite the fact that the first half of the concert was underwhelming as a consequence of the repertoire. It was Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, which is, by far, his weakest piano concerto. I even harbored some doubts as to whether or not the conductor, Robert Spanos, was going to exhibit any personality.

My doubts were dispelled during Vaughan Williams's *Symphony No. 2*. Maestro

Spanos exhibited a magisterial conducting personality which led to one of the most satisfying concert experiences I've witnessed at Symphony Hall. This one could be on the all-decade list.

My top concert of the year was also a tie between two at The Mainly Mozart Festival. Full disclosure, I am an employee of the festival, but I've expounded upon the merits of the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra since long before I became an employee.

Beethoven is, yet again, a player in this narrative. The final concert of the 2019 Mainly Mozart Festival included Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6*. No one exceeds the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra and music director Michael Francis in



Augustin Hadelich at Mainly Mozart

this repertoire.

Earlier in the festival, Francis programmed Mozart's *David Penitente* with Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*. The *David Penitente* is Mozart's reworking of his unfinished *Mass in C Minor*. Mozart adds some spectacularly difficult solo sections for soprano, mezzo-soprano, and tenor for *David Penitente*. The trio assembled by Mainly Mozart handled their business.

Augustin Hadelich might

be the greatest violinist in the world. The argument can certainly be made. With that in mind, it is difficult to imagine anything exceeding his performance of Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* with Mainly Mozart.

All the requisite elements aligned to perfection in this concert. The orchestra, Maestro Francis, Hadelich, the venue, and the audience were in such harmony that The Muse herself decided to grace the concert with her presence.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Series at the Samuel M. Ciccatti Theatre at Cuyamaca College. Vieaux's program is a global guitar journey including selections from his 2015 Grammy-winning album, *Play: Domenico Scarlatti's Sonatas in A major*, K. Sunday, December 15, 3pm; \$5-\$15. Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway.

Jazz Vespers Each Jazz Vespers service begins with a 30-minute set of live jazz, blues, and gospel, featuring the Archie Thompson & the Archtones and guest musicians. Saturdays, 4:30-6pm; every Saturday, **free**. First Presbyterian Church Chapel, 1740 4th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Jazz Vespers San Diego Jazz Vespers at Christian Fellowship is a creative collaboration between jazz our artists and liturgists. Our Jazz Vespers is a

unique ecumenical experience of worship—come and experience the power of God's Spirit in worship with us at Christian Fellowship UCC. Sundays, 5pm; through Tuesday, December 31, **free**. Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, 1601 Kelton Road. (EMERALD HILLS)

Noel Noel: A Family Concert The holidays are a family affair, and that's why the San Diego Symphony is hosting a special *Noel Noel* concert specially dedicated to families. In one short afternoon concert, the orchestra will perform holiday favorites alongside the San Diego Master Chorale, the San Diego Children's Choir, and a certain jolly North Pole resident. Sunday, December 15, 2pm; Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street.

North Coast Symphony: A Symphony of Carols The orchestra will perform festive holiday music, including A Celtic Christmas Overture by Daniel Semsén, A Carol Symphony by Victor Hely-Hutchinson, Fantasia on "Greensleeves" by Vaughan Williams, and many more. Friday, December 13, 7:30pm; \$8-\$10. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive.

Nutcracker. No Sugar A world-premiere of ballet "Nutcracker" will make its debut at The Conrad, featuring a twist on the traditional classic. While it has all the elements of a traditional "Nutcracker", this version offers an unexpected look at the beloved holiday ballet, including spotlighting karate students from Eagle Martial Arts

of La Jolla. In "Nutcracker. No Sugar" the focus is on Marie and her transition out of childhood and into the complicated emotions of young adulthood. You'll meet Marie as a young girl, just five-years-old, and watch her grow up through the years, meet-up magical fairies and friends along the way. Tickets available at (858) 459-3728 or online. Sunday, December 15, 1pm and 4:30pm; \$16-\$43. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

San Diego Festival Chorus: Glory, Joy & Wonder The San Diego Festival Chorus and Orchestra are proud to present their annual holiday concert under the leadership of their new Director, Yewon Lee. The concert will express the joy and diversity of the holiday season, beginning with Vivaldi's Gloria, a work which celebrates life through soaring melodies. This will be followed by a variety of seasonal songs drawn from various cultures including Jewish, German, and English. Saturday, December 14, 3pm; \$5-\$20. Faith Chapel, 9400 Campo Road.

The Baltimore Consort: A Glorious Light The San Diego Early Music Society welcomes the Baltimore Consort to celebrate the holiday season. Going strong after four decades of making music together, the legendary Baltimore Consort enters their 40th season of "sprightly and cheerful" performances of popular music from earlier centuries. Saturday, December 14, 7:30pm; \$10-\$45. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Andaz San Diego: Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Rooftop New Years Eve Party. \$30-\$2500.

Balboa Park Club & Ballroom: Monday, Dec. 30 — Auld Lang Syne Ball. \$10-\$15.

Balboa Theatre: Thursday, Dec. 19 — Mariachi Sol de Mexico: A Merry-achi Christmas. \$35-\$68. Friday, Jan. 3 — Willie Nelson & Family.

Belly Up Tavern: Thursday, Dec. 19 — The Tubes. \$32-\$62. Friday, Dec. 20 — Cash'd Out Christmas. Saturday, Dec. 21 — Betamaxx. Sunday, Dec. 22 — Groundation. Monday, Dec. 23 — Abbey Road Christmas. \$16-\$18. Thursday, Dec. 26 — Lies N' Roses and Way Cool Jr. Friday, Dec. 27 — Stick Figure. \$51-\$89. Saturday, Dec. 28 — Stick Figure. \$51-\$89. Sunday, Dec. 29 — Donavon Frankenreiter and Tom Curren. \$30-\$53. Monday, Dec. 30 — Donavon Frankenreiter and Tom Curren. \$30-\$53. Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Steel Pulse. Friday, Jan. 3 — Queen Nation and Graceband. Saturday, Jan. 4 — 10th Annual Beat Farmers Hootenanny. Sunday, Jan. 5 — Just What I Needed: Cars Tribute. Wednesday, Jan. 8 — David

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Lindley.
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Chadwick Stokes & the Pintos.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:
Sunday, Dec. 29 — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

Blind Lady Ale House:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Robin Henkel Band.

Brick by Brick:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Cattle Decapitation and Atheist.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Ignite and Pulley. \$15-\$20.

Brown Cup:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Soto Six Holiday Jazz Extravaganza. **Free.**

Capri Blu:
Friday, Dec. 27 — Jennifer Klein.

Carvers Steak & Chops:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Miss Demeanor. **Free.**

Casbah:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Jade Jackson and Jason Hawk Harris. \$10.
Sunday, Dec. 22 — El Vez and Alvino & the Dwells. \$25.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Big Sandy & His Flyrite Boys and Deke Dickerson.
Saturday, Jan. 4 — Petty 2: Tribute to Tom Petty. \$20.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:
Friday, Dec. 27 — Songs For A Winter Night. **Free.**

Ché Café:
Saturday, Jan. 4 — World of Pain and Take Offense. **Free.**

Courtyard by Marriott El Cajon:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Boogie Oogie NYE Party. \$85.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Miss Demeanor.

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, Dec. 20 — FX5.
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Riot Scene.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Diana & the G-Strings.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Cheap Date.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — NYE With Bam.

Encinitas Library:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Nathan & Jessie: A Holiday Special. \$14.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve Party. \$40.

Famous Mexican Village:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Ferry Landing Marketplace:
Sunday, Jan. 5 — Miss Demeanor.

Fluxx:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve & Day Masquerade. \$40-\$80.
Wednesday, Jan. 1 — New Year's Eve & Day Masquerade. \$40-\$80.

Four Points by Sheraton:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — The Finale NYE. \$35-\$50.

Grant Grill:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Mercedes Moore. **Free.**

Handlery Hotel and Resort:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Ugly Sweater Party. \$25-\$35.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Ian Buss Trio. **Free.**

Sunday, Dec. 29 — Mary Ann McSweeney Quartet. **Free.**

Hard Rock Hotel:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — NYE 2020. \$60-\$500.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Jamacha Project.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Tony Cummins.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Raney/Butler.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Camino Paz.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Flophouse Playboys.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:
Tuesday, Jan. 7 — Kathleen Murray.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Jerry "Hotrod" DeMink. **Free.**
Friday, Dec. 20 — Jerry "Hotrod" DeMink. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Phantom Planet. \$25-\$30.
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Graham Gillot. **Free.**
Thursday, Dec. 26 — Kayla Ray. **Free.**
Friday, Dec. 27 — Holiday Hangover.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Holiday Hangover.
Sunday, Dec. 29 — Gospel Brunch. \$31-\$49.
Sunday, Dec. 29 — Patrick "Bluefrog" Ellis. **Free.**
Monday, Dec. 30 — The Sea Monks. **Free.**
Monday, Dec. 30 — L.A. Guns.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Y3K. **Free.**
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Brian Jones Rock 'n' Roll Revival. \$5.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.

Saturday, Dec. 21 — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.

Saturday, Dec. 21 — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.
Wednesday, Jan. 1 — Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert. \$33-\$129.

Joan B. Kroc Theatre:
Saturday, Jan. 4 — The Outsiders: Back To The Sixties. \$46-\$52.

Kraken:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

La Jolla Community Center:
Thursday, Jan. 2 — Carlos Velasco & Friends. \$10.

La Mesa Wine Works:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Robin Henkel & Dave Castel de Oro.

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — NYE Bash: The Roaring 2020s. \$45-\$80.

Loft:
Wednesday, Jan. 8 — Cedric Burnside. \$9-\$30.

M-Theory Music:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Pony Death Ride.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour.
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Art Garfunkel.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Danielle Forsgren & Joe Savant. \$25.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Ty Herndon. \$125.
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Clint Holmes. \$45.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Miss Demeanor.

Mission Trails Regional Park:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Winter

Solstice Native American Flute Concert. **Free.**

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, Dec. 20 — Alter Ego. **Free.**
Friday, Dec. 27 — Safety Orange. **Free.**

Moonshine Beach:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — California Country Christmas.
Friday, Dec. 20 — Steven Cade. *Saturday, Dec. 21* — Brodie Stewart Band.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — The Outliers.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Yankton.

Moonshine Flats:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Steven Cade.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Three Chord Justice. **Free.**
Friday, Dec. 20 — Blue Light. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 21 — The Resinators. **Free.**
Thursday, Dec. 26 — The California Rangers. **Free.**
Friday, Dec. 27 — Charles Burton Blues Band. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Sophia Alone. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Hazmatt. **Free.**

Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Red Hot New Year's with Cadillac Fringe. **Free.**
Thursday, Jan. 2 — The Sickstring Outlaws. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 3 — Mojo Strut. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 4 — John January & Linda Berry. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 4 — Sound Vault. **Free.**

Music Box:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Berkley Hart Christmas. \$30-\$35.
Friday, Dec. 20 — Infected Mushroom. \$27-\$30.
Saturday, Dec. 21 — The Grouch and Murs. \$22-\$25.
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Andrew

McMahon in the Wilderness (Acoustic). \$39.
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Mud Slide Slim. \$22-\$27.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Full Crate.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — The Crystal Method and Keith Sweaty. \$25.
Sunday, Dec. 29 — The Steely Damned 2. \$38.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — The Floozies and Maddy O'Neal. \$45-\$50.
Friday, Jan. 3 — Red Not Chili Peppers and Vitalogy. \$12-\$15.
Saturday, Jan. 4 — The Winehouse Experience. \$20-\$22.
Thursday, Jan. 9 — KT Tunstall and Charlie Mars. \$28-\$30.

Musicians Union Hall:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Juketones New Year's Eve Party. \$39-\$49.

My Yard Live:
Wednesday, Jan. 1 — Dante Fire.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Wednesday, Jan. 1 — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

Nick & G's:
Friday, Dec. 27 — Tim Yancey. **Free.**

Observatory North Park:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Rebelution.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Poolside and Neil Frances.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

Orfila Vineyard:
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Steven Cade.

Parq Restaurant:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Ball on Broadway: NYE 2020. \$10-\$50.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration. \$19-\$24.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Robin Henkel & Nathan James.
Friday, Jan. 3 — Flipside Burners. **Free.**

Rosie O'Grady's:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church:
Sunday, Jan. 5 — La Jolla Renaissance Singers: An English Christmas. **Free.**

Seaport Village:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Amelie Simpson.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Dec. 19 — Jade Jackson and Jason Hawk Harris. \$10-\$12.
Friday, Dec. 20 — Matt Embree. \$18.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Twin Ritual and Paper Foxes.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Elektrik Voodoo and Boostive.

Soul of Yoga:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — Diáne Mandle & Richard Rudis Yuletide Concert. \$30-\$40.

Sycuan Casino:
Friday, Dec. 27 — Big Bad VooDoo Daddy and Bonneville 7. **Free.**

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:
Sunday, Dec. 22 — Il Divo: Holiday Song Celebration.

Til-Two:
Monday, Dec. 23 — Pony Death Ride.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, Jan. 3 — 3 Car Garage. \$10.

Tower Bar:
Thursday, Jan. 2 — The Picturebooks.

Viejas Casino:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — NYE Bash: A Roaring 20s Night to Remember.

Westgate Hotel:
Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Latin New Year's Eve. \$165.

WildWood Crossing:
Saturday, Dec. 21 — West of 5. **Free.**



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WED 12/11	DANCING AND COCKTAILS W/ THE JAZZ POCKETS
THU 12/12	GINO AND THE LONE GUNMEN THE JOINT IS JUMPIN THURSDAYS
FRI 12/13	THE SIERS BROTHERS
SAT 12/14	DETROIT UNDERGROUND
MON 12/16	SEXY SALSA AND SENSUAL BACHATA. LATIN DANCE NIGHT
TUE 12/17	THE TOURMALINERS ANNUAL SURFIN CHRISTMAS PARTY BENEFIT FOR PACHECO MISSION

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Sat 12/21	Barbwire
Fri 12/27	Chosen Arrows
Sat 12/28	ALICE Insane W/ Rage AGAIN
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Friday, December 13 Summer of Love

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RnB and Soul w/ DJ Stack Aly

Thu, Dec. 12 STEAKSAUCE MUSTACHE
Braggers · Jumped In Corporate Citizen

Fri, Dec. 13 THE CRAMP'D
13 Wolves · Wake the Dead

Sat, Dec. 14 THE QUARANTEDS
Radarmen · Los Muertos Busted Coffins The Trampers (Punks 4 Change Benefit!)

Mon, Dec. 16 ROCK, SHIMMY, AND SHAKE BURLESQUE

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Ha! Humbug

There's a reason it's not called A Christmas Carol

The holiday season is a fine time for recalling the way that familiarity breeds... well, if not contempt, then comfort. If a thing sticks around long enough, it's easy to forget the revolutionary, shocking, or even just moving aspects that made it sticky in the first place. It becomes commonplace. You could start with the Nativity and its notion of a virgin giving birth to a human who is also God, but there's no need to get all theological about it. *It's a Wonderful Life* has been a holiday

TV staple since the '80s, and oh yes, that's right, it's the story of a depressed and ruined family man preparing to end his life on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas, everyone! And then there's *A Christmas Carol*. My first encounter with Charles Dickens' famous ghost story was the 1984 TV movie starring George C. Scott; not the greatest version, but when The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come pointed his bony finger toward the snowy gravestone, I was properly terrified right alongside the old miser Ebenezer Scrooge. Spoiler alert: the grave awaits. Live accordingly.

That was 25 years and at least a dozen viewings of *A Muppet Christmas Carol* ago. (Talking of which: *that* version casts a splendid spell: the simple presence of Kermit & Co. adds a dollop of whimsy and a heaping helping of wonder to

keep the story from getting too familiar. If you loved the Muppets as a child, you never quite cease to experience the story the way a child might: wide-eyed and defenses down. *Yeah, yeah: Ok Xer.*) So, what's a modern theatrical production to do with a story most everybody knows by heart? Just now, San Diego offers a range of responses to that question. There's the

straight-up *A Christmas Carol* at Old Town's Cygnet Theatre. The presumably nostalgic *A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play*

at Oceanside's Sunshine Brooks Theatre. The naughty Victorian farce *Scrooge in Rouge* at the Ocean Beach Playhouse. And somewhere south of the first but north of the last, *Ebenezer Scrooge's Big San Diego Christmas Show* at the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theater.

Playwrights Steve Rosen and Gordon Greenberg (Greenberg also directs) have decided that if some familiarity is good, then more is better, and set Scrooge's story right here — on the very spot where the theater stands today. And while they keep the setting in olden-days 1919 — the better to preserve the mutton chop facial hair, the top hats, and the lack of furnace heating — they're happy to go present-day for the sake of a joke. (Not for nothing does the Ghost of Christmas Present exhort Scrooge to "live in the now, girl.") Ghosts are described



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM COX

Ebenezer Scrooge's Big San Diego Christmas Show: The Ghost of Christmas Present drags Scrooge into the now.

Ebenezer Scrooge's Big San Diego Christmas Show, by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen
The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theater, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
Directed by Gordon Greenberg, cast: Robert Joy, Orville Mendoza, Dan Rosales, Cathryn Wake, Jacque Wilke; scenic design, Adam Koch; costumes, David Israel Reynoso; lighting, Amanda Zieve; sound, Bart Fasbender; music director, Orville Mendoza; stage manager, Anjee Nero
Playing through December 29, Tuesdays through Fridays at 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 pm and 7 pm.

as hard to find, "like parking at Trader Joe's." Society dames are presented as Lady Footlocker and Lady Antebellum before the revelers at Fezzi's Wigs are encouraged, "Let's get wiggy with it." They go meta, they go silly, they go clever — they go for the funny bone.

Except when they don't. Because while you can play Tiny Tim for laughs by making him a puppet with a live human head — just one clever bit of prop work in a production that makes the absolute most of a few crates, chairs, ladders, and window casings — there's only so much humor a feel-good show can get from the plight of a dying child. Or, for that matter, the haunting of an old man's loveless heart. The cast here is thoroughly professional, and it's to their great credit that they're able to execute the massive shifts in tone when the rim-shot rat-a-tat of jokes must subside and let the story's pure sentiment shine through. (No matter how madcap the proceedings, lead Robert Joy keeps Scrooge a character and not a punchline.) But it can be a bit disconcerting for the audience.

Unless. Unless Rosen and Greenberg are terribly smart about what it is they're doing, and I'm just an old fuddy-duddy. Unless they're right that what the audience wants is not to go on the emotional journey of *A Christmas Carol*, but rather, to curl up under the weighted warm blanket of comfort that comes from seeing a comedic riff on something familiar, made even *more* familiar by the local color of the comedy. The play has to keep the sincere moments, but really, they're just part of the scaffolding that supports the narrative, which in turn supports the jokes. It's no accident that the show ends the way it does: not with the redemptive end of Scrooge's story, but with a celebration of theater and the community that makes it possible, gaily decorated with seasonal songs and finery.

Oh bah, humbug — which the show posits as French for "Get a life." Reading over what I've just written, I sound a little Scroogelike to myself. Stingy and exacting. It's the holidays! It's a good time at the theater! It's exactly what you would expect from a play advertised by the image of a man in formal dress gazing out to sea with a surfboard under his arm. Did I leave with visions of Charles Dickens' spirit returning to lurk in the shadows created by the center-stage Ghost Light and curse the show that made merry with his story? No. I left smiling. A little bemused, but smiling. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith unless otherwise noted. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A Christmas Carol

Bring the family to enjoy the holiday classic adapted from Charles Dickens' timeless tale of hope and redemption. This production features original music, stagecraft, puppetry, and live sound effects.
 CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play

Based on the classic by Charles Dickens Join us in the studios of WOTC radio as we broadcast the Charles Dickens classic tale of miserly curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge and his visits from the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. An OTC original adaptation. Family-friendly.
 SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-8900. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAY.

A Christmas Story

Nine year old Ralphie Parker wants one thing for Christmas, an official red ryder range model carbine action

Critic's Choice
 "Robert Joy makes for one of the flat-out best Scrooges I've seen. His fidelity to the spirit of the Charles Dickens original is all the more remarkable given the bonkers comic energy swirling around him."
The San Diego Union-Tribune

EBENEZER SCROOGE'S
BIG
SAN DIEGO
CHRISTMAS SHOW

By Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen
 Based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Gordon Greenberg

Now Playing Through December 29

THE OLD GLOBE (619) 23-GLOBE TheOldGlobe.org

Jacque Wilke and Robert Joy. Photo by Jim Cox.

BB gun. There's only one problem: everyone else is convinced he'll shoot his eye out. Undeterred, he begins his saga of convincing all the necessary players, from his sweet and protective mother, to his straight-laced teacher, Miss Shields, all the way to Santa Claus himself, that he needs that gun for the protection of his loved ones, and maybe even a little cowboy glory to call his own. Ralphie's vivid imagination conjures up several numbers, from "Ralphie to The Rescue" in which he defeats every foe a young boy can think of (robbers, mustache twirling villains, and of course, the school bully), to thrilling tap routine performed by a gun moll-esque Miss Shields, who sheds her sweater set and romance novel for a glittery red gown and a whole lot of moxie.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Christmas Story: Reaching Out & Reaching Back
The Children/Youth Drama Department presents *A Christmas Story: Reaching Out and Reaching Back*, a story about families in the past and families in the future. While reaching out to help others, let's not forget to reach back, to help bring those in need along with us.
COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., OAK PARK. 619-581-2634. 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

Around the World in 80 Days
The story of Victorian Phileas Fogg, who has determined, with mathematical precision, that the world can be circumnavigated in 80 days — and he has wagered his entire fortune on it. Joined by his trusty, acrobatic valet, Passepartout, Fogg sets off aboard steamships, locomotives, sleighs and pachyderms. Along the way, he meets the beautiful and self-assured Aouda, who joins him on his voyage, and he is pursued at every step by the unrelenting and bumbling Inspector Fix, who believes Fogg to be a notorious bank robber, and who will stop at nothing to cut his journey short.
NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Cambodian Rock Band
This play/rock concert thrusts us into the life of a young woman trying to piece together her family history thirty years after her father fled Cambodia. Featuring a cast that performs a mix of contemporary Dengue Fever hits and classic Cambodian oldies, playwright Lauren Yee brings to life the Cambodian rock scene of the '60s and '70s, a movement cut short by the Khmer Rouge's brutal attempt to erase the music (and musicians) once and for all.
LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS.

Celebrate the World: A Holiday Variety Show
Explore other countries and cultures' holiday traditions through music, dance and personal stories. The journey ends in America where some familiar holiday music will be performed.
POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. 3PM &

7PM SUNDAY.

Christmas Past
"The Long Christmas Dinner" showcases the lives of the Bayard family over nine generations. In this one-act, characters age before us from childhood to old age in one continuous ribbon. The same cast will create a dramatization of Dylan Thomas' nostalgic look at memories of his childhood in Wales, "A Child's Christmas in Wales."
LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 2PM SUNDAY.

Cirque Dreams Holidaze
Over 300 costumes, 20 acts, singers, original music and seasonal favorites celebrate Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas and New Year's in a two hour spectacle. Audiences of all ages can enjoy acrobatics, gravity defying feats and theatrical production numbers.
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 7:30PM TUESDAY, DEC. 17 & WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18.

Ebenezer Scrooge's San Diego Christmas Show
All the traditional elements of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* are intact—including the iconic ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Future—but with a local twist. Ebenezer Scrooge rediscovers the Christmas spirit in this Dickens mash-up set in "wintery" San Diego. Please note: No performances Dec. 6 and Dec. 25. No 7 pm performance on Dec. 29. No 2 pm performance on Dec. 11 and 18. Extra performance on Dec. 26 at 2 pm. Performance on Dec. 24 will be at 2 pm.
SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 2PM & 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues
Santa's reindeer tell all in an exposé of the North Pole. With each deer's confession, the truth behind the shocking allegations becomes clearer and clearer and seems to implicate everyone from the littlest elf to the tainted Saint himself. Intended for a mature audience.
POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

For The Sender Holiday Show
Artists present songs and stories of love, loss, redemption and hope, all inspired by real-life letters. As a special holiday offering, *For The Sender* will be accepting personal letters from attendees, turning those stories into songs, and performing them live at the show. Partake in the event and send your stories to forth-sender@gmail.com for a chance to be featured in the show.
LA PALOMA, 471 S. COAST HWY. 101, ENCINITAS. 760-436-7469. 7:30PM SATURDAY.

Holiday Tales VI: Tis The Season
Original cabaret style show bringing together a few stories and skits mixed with familiar holiday music... and some not so familiar. Designed after holiday shows of the past, where special guests would show up suddenly at the door and sing a tune.
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LA

JOLLA, 1216 CAVE ST., LA JOLLA. 858-459-5045. 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Based on the classic Dr. Seuss book, this production features the songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," and "Fah Who Doraze," the carols from the animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. See a snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. Please note: There will be no performances on Dec. 6 and Dec. 25. Extra performances on Dec. 18th at 4 pm and Dec. 24th at 11 am and 2 pm. The following dates will have 5 pm performances only: Dec. 20, 23, 26, 27 and 28.
DONALD AND DARLENE SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 2PM SATURDAYS, 11AM, 2PM, & 5PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

I'll Be Home For Christmas
Set between Thanksgiving and Christmas 1941, this is a story of faith, family, hope, and a nation about to enter World War II, against a backdrop of music and news broadcast over the family home radio. The music highlights the sounds of the '40s, including swing, lush ballads, and big band songs interspersed with reenactments of radio broadcasts during that time.
VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6225 PASEO DELICIAS, RANCHO SANTA FE. 858-756-2441. 7PM FRIDAY, 1PM & 5PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

La Jolla Theatre Ensemble: Lighting the Way
Enjoy a staged reading of one dozen short plays and stories. The program will include climate change-themed pieces by playwrights who hail from Australia, Iraq, Los Angeles, New York, New Zealand, Oklahoma, Portugal, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.
LA JOLLA COMMUNITY CENTER, 6811 LA JOLLA BL., LA JOLLA. 858-459-0831. 7PM SUNDAY & TUESDAY, DEC. 17.

The Laramie Project
In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, severely beaten, and left tied to a fence in the middle of the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. His body was not discovered until the next day, and he died several days later in an area hospital. His name was Matthew Shepard, and he was the victim of this assault because he was gay. Members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half, in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Some people interviewed were directly connected to the case, while others were citizens of Laramie. *The Laramie Project* is a collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.
POINT LOMA HIGH SCHOOL, 2335 CHATSWORTH BL., POINT LOMA. 619-223-3121. 3PM & 7PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

Linda Libby's HoliGay Storytime
Join the indomitable theatre icon Linda Libby after hours for some

queer holiday cheer. Grab a drink in Fritz' lounge and saddle up with Linda fireside as she regales us with readings of holiday stories and songs that put the holly in your holiday.
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Mamma Mia!
In this popular musical, based on the songs of ABBA, Variety Donna lives on a Greek island where she runs a small hotel. Her daughter, Sophie, is preparing for her wedding, dreaming of her father walking her down the aisle. One problem: she doesn't know who he is! Jennie Gray Connard directs and choreographs for the Coronado Playhouse.
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Merry Wives of Windsor Open Reading
You are invited to sharpen your cold reading skills by reading Shakespeare out loud. Open to actors and anyone who enjoys speaking and hearing wonderful poetry. All ages are welcome. Recasted after every scene for more chances to read. Casting is non-gender specific. If you'd like to just listen that's okay too.
BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSTORE ESCONDIDO, 810 WEST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 760-480-2760. 6:30PM TUESDAY, DEC. 17.

Natale; Journey to the North Pole
The circus-style show and Christmas-themed village is a nostalgic holiday experience with acrobatic performers and dancing animatronic polar bears, the show traces Natale as she sets off to the North Pole on a quest to find the World's Greatest Toy Store. Along the way, she encounters enchanted creatures that help her overcome the many challenges she faces crossing the polar cap. When Natale finally arrives, and is ready to choose her present, she discovers the true spirit of the season. Adjacent to the big top, the South Promenade will be converted into a "Holiday Village"
LIBERTY STATION SOUTH PROMENADE, 2850 ROOSEVELT RD., LIBERTY STATION. 6:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 3PM & 6PM SATURDAYS, 12PM, 3PM, & 6PM SUNDAYS, 6:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

The Nutcracker
Over 100 performers from Southern California Ballet's academy and pre-professional company alongside world-class guest artists Stephen Hanna (ex-principal dancer with New York City Ballet) and Mary Beth Hansohn. Southern California Ballet alumnus and musical theater star Victor Wisehart also returns to dance with members of the pre-professional company in the role of "Snow Cavalier."
POWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 15498 ESPOLA RD., POWAY. 858-748-0505. 1PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 1PM SUNDAY.

Pastorela 2.0
Every year for nearly three decades, the Mercado Nochebuena has put on a traditional pastorela, complete with a script that was allegedly written over a hundred years ago by a groundskeeper from the Convent of San Agustin in Acolman, Mexico.

Led by the grocery store's owner, Edgar Nochebuena and his daughter Alice, the Mercado Nochebuena community has faithfully executed the pastorela, making no changes to the script and continuing to use many of the same players that have participated in the show year after year. The show has become a symbol of hope for the community and a signature showpiece for the grocery store. But times are changing. The Mercado Nochebuena is struggling to keep tradition alive while competing with a brave new world where groceries are bought online and communities are forged through social media.
DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

Ritual Solstice: Immersive Winter Solstice Celebration
An immersive winter solstice celebration inspired by our Northern ancestors as told through the art of belly dance.
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE, 1313 PARK BL., EAST VILLAGE. 619-388-3400. 7PM & 9PM SUNDAY.

SDCC Winter Show: Footprints
Footprints is meant to represent making footprints – the trail you leave behind, following leaders, peers and making a change of direction on your own but remembering your past. Remembering those that you have followed and mentoring people that follow you. San Diego Circus Center offers classes of varying intensity levels for all age groups, each focusing on a different skill or apparatus.
SAN DIEGO CIRCUS CENTER, 2050 HANCOCK ST., SUITE A, MISSION HILLS. 619-487-1239. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 3PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY, 4PM SUNDAY.

SILA (The Arctic Cycle)
Sila is the Inuit concept of the breath that connects all life. With a blending of Inuit mythology and and realism, this play exposes the consequences of human beings losing their connection to the natural world and ancient wisdom. Set in the Baffin Islands, just inside the Arctic Circle, eight characters – including a climatologist, an Inuit activist and two polar bears – find their values challenged as they grapple with a rapidly changing environment and world. The personal, political, mythical and ecological intertwine as crisis, danger and death shatter the world, only to reveal the possibility of healing.
PALOMAR COLLEGE, 1140 WEST MISSION RD., SAN MARCOS. 4PM THURSDAY, 7PM FRIDAY, 5PM SATURDAY.

Scrooge in Rouge
This quick-change, cross-dressing version of the Charles Dickens classic is set in a Victorian music hall. The Royal Music Hall Twenty-Member Variety Players are beset with a widespread case of food poisoning. This leaves only three surviving members to soldier on through a performance of *A Christmas Carol*. The undaunted trio gamely face missed cues, ill-fitting costumes, and solving the problem of having no one to play Tiny Tim. Done in the style of British Music Hall, *Scrooge in Rouge* abounds in bad puns, bawdy malapropisms, and double-entendres.
OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream
As one of Shakespeare's most popular romantic comedies, this play interweaves reality and magic, love and hate, chaos and order. Three distinct worlds are the focus: The Athenians, The Fairies and The Players. Chaos and comedy ensue when they all cross paths. Angry parents, rebellious teens, eloping young lovers, unrequited love, a natural world asunder, mischievous fairies, magical potions, mistaken identities, struggling young actors, wedding revelries, and an ass. Contrary to Shakespeare's original, this production takes place during modern times in the Mediterranean region. The addition of ethereal dances and orchestral accompaniment augment this "dream-like" play.
STEELE CANYON CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, 12440 CAMPO RD., SPRING VALLEY. 619-660-3500. 7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Angels
A new case is brought to the world's greatest detective, told with faint echoes of classic holiday tales you already know. A cast of 20 brings Christmas (along with a head-scratching who-dunnit) to every Holmes fan. The production is embellished by colorful period costumes, holiday music and dancers, and distinctive Victorian Era dialogue of Holmes' England.
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 7PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Welkcome Home For The Holidays
Family friendly musical, Broadway blend with newer holiday influences. This show is a love-letter to the rat pack TV holiday specials of the 1960s. You might even spot a jolly old heavyset fellow in red.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM THURSDAYS, 1PM & 8PM SATURDAYS.

UPCOMING SHOWS

The Aging Magician
An aging clockmaker's passion project (a book he is writing about an aging magician) is stuck at a crucial point. Reality and fiction blur as he tries to complete his story.
BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. MAR. 13 THROUGH MAR. 14.

Cirque du Soleil: OVO
Since 2016, the arena tour has traveled in 22 different countries, including Germany, Brazil, United States, Canada, Argentina, France, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom and Chile. The cast of OVO is comprised of 52 performing artists from 14 countries specializing in many acrobatic acts. OVO features over ten different acrobatic acts such as foot juggling & Icarian games, hand balancing, contortion, aerial straps, slackwire, Russian cradle and a signature final act mixing trampoline, tumbling and rock climbing.
VIEJAS ARENA, 5500 CANYON CREST DR., SDSU. 619-594-6947. MAR. 5 THROUGH MAR. 8.

63 Up: Grow old along with me

The late '50s-early '60s proved to be a wellspring of worldwide experimentation in documentary realism. Banking on unscripted reactions to outrageous situations as his key to success, American television personality Allen Funt tucked his Candid Camera from public view. In Paris, Francois Truffaut's *The 400 Blows* introduced us to Antoine Doinel, a continuing character who Jean-Pierre Léaud would play in five-and-one-third of the director's films. And Michael Apter, a young apprentice at Granada Television in Manchester, began his career as a researcher on what would become a lifelong commitment, the ninth installment of which, *63 Up*, opens Friday at Landmark's Ken Cinema.

It was originally intended as a one-off documentary on the British class system for the topical news series *World In Action*. Apter (*Coal Miner's Daughter*, *Firstborn*, *The World Is Not Enough*) was operating under the belief that a child's social class determines which road of life that child takes. Canadian director Paul Almond was the show's originator, but as Apter later told the *Radio Times*, "It was Paul's film... but he was more interested in making a beautiful film about being seven, whereas I wanted to make a nasty piece of work about these kids who have it all, and these other kids who have nothing."

Using the Jesuit motto "Give me a child until he is seven and I will give you the man" to guide him, Apter chose to chart the growth of his fourteen subjects, starting at age seven and followed by incremental updates every seven years. The *Up* series has emerged as the world's first and longest-running reality television show. The 56 years after its inception find the show alive and well, with the latest installment still managing to find a theatrical playdate.

21 Up was the first of the series that I recall seeing projected on a screen. (The original 16mm 4x3 format has since given way to digital 16x9.) This was long before the advent of camcorders allowed family members to chronicle — as a time-lapse photographer would the blossoming of a rose — their child's every precious movement. At first glance, the film played as somewhat of a novelty. That was over forty years

ago. Today, it stands as one of cinema's greatest achievements, a use of the medium that's at once blatantly logical and profoundly affecting.

The popularity of the series played a hand in robbing many of the participants of their anonymity, but at least one of them doesn't seem to mind. Tony likes to joke about the time Buzz Aldrin hailed a ride in his cab. "Can I get an autograph?" a passerby asked. Tony was about to hand the astronaut the pen and paper until the fan said, "Not his. Yours!" Of the fourteen original participants, only eleven remain. Peter, who quit after *28 Up* only to return for *56 Up* specifically to promote his band, is once again on board. Charles Furneaux, who went on to direct *Touching the Void*, signed off for good after *21 Up*. After years of threatening to leave the series, Suzy finally decided to sit this one out. And death, as it must to all continuing works of genius, finally caught up with *Up*. Lynn, the first participant in the series to die, passed away one year after the release of *56 Up*.

It would be foolish to assume that you can know a person strictly on the basis of spending a few detached hours in the dark with them every seven years. But given the amount of time any completist devotee has invested in the series, it would be impossible not to feel attached to these people. Why else return? If the *Up* series were published in book form, I'd begin each installment by cracking it open to the chapter headed "Nick." He always struck me as the funniest, most down-to-earth member of the group, the one I most looked forward to catching up with. Damn the luck if he hasn't come down with throat cancer. It was so much more fun when they... we were young. There were many characters that I grew up watching, but few that I literally grew up with.

Though each film tries its best to bring new viewers up to date on the character backstories, for the uninitiated, it can feel akin to walking into a picture two hours after it began. If at all possible, it's advised that curious newcomers binge-watch at least an episode or two before visiting The Ken.

—Scott Marks

MOVIES



63 Up: Michael Apter's latest look at what's...going on.

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.

63 Up — Reviewed this issue.

2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (LAND-MARK KEN)

The Addams Family — They had me at Uncle Fester's nipples. And kudos to Nick Kroll for restoring Jackie Coogan's insensitive lisp to the character! Much closer in spirit to Charles Addams' ghoulishly byzantine etchings (Lurch was indeed an escapee from a home for the criminally insane) and the '60s sitcom it spawned than Barry Sonnenfeld's sleepy and pukey remodelings. The Addams clan is gathering for what is essentially Pugsly's Bar Mitzvah. But if a home improvement guru has her way, Casa de Addams will be leveled in the name of neighborhood improvement. For a pleasant change, the lesson to be learned here about non-conformity isn't condescendingly spoon-fed. The children and adults in the audience may not have been responding to the same jokes — who knew that Morticia's parents were SCTV's Kate Hepburn (Catherine O'Hara) and Irving Cohen (Martin Short)? — but darn if there wasn't laughter from one generation or the other throughout. Sumptuously designed in both setting and character, this one is definitely worth a trip to the Maul. Directed by Greg Tiernan and Conrad Vernon. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Ford v Ferrari — Come for the metal, stay for the mettle. Because as only-American-to-win-LeMans Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) tells you at the outset, once you get your snarling, straining beast of a race car up over 7000 rpms, you go to the Race Place, where everything fades away and you're left with the question — the only one that matters, mind you — "Who are you?" Well, if you're autophile and superdriver Ken Miles (Christian Bale, skinny and sweet), you're the hero, the

man of artistic vision and unsullied integrity (plus impatience with those who lack it) who is all but doomed in this rotten world. If you're Henry Ford II, you're the thin-skinned titan of industry who needs a genius if he's going to stick it to that painfully successful Eurosnob Enzo Ferrari. And if you're Carroll Shelby, you're the guy who has to get the Man and the Money Man to cooperate, despite the best efforts of corporate snake Leo Beebe. Director James Mangold indulges himself with this tale of American manhood (152 minutes and an awful lot of auto racing), but he knows he can afford it — he's got Bourne and Batman as brilliant, brawling best buds battling the bastards. Think Iron Man and Captain America, only it's a (mostly) true story and what's at stake is not the fate of the universe, nor even an auto race, but the glorious, endless pursuit of perfection. 2019. — M.L. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Frozen II — Let's start with the biggest and happiest surprise about Disney's followup to what was, before the *Lion King* remake, the biggest animated film ever: Olaf the Snowman is considerably funnier and more useful to the story this time 'round. His ridiculous recounting of the first film's events to some folks who need catching up is a meta delight, in contrast to the studio's usual self-commentary — and this installment's own jab at its use of a super-creepy, sleep-killing lullaby as story setup. Other positives: Elsa's ice powers make for some spectacular visuals, and the animators have outdone themselves when it comes to depicting water. (Speaking of which: the invocation of Travis Bickle's "real rain" — the sort that will wash not only the scum off the streets but the streets themselves off the face of the earth, along with the stain of original sin that made those streets possible — in an all-ages film is gutsy, if nothing else.) But it's not much gain against a good deal of loss. The tension between Elsa and her sister Anna this time around is...unconvincing, as it has less to do with "Don't shut me out," and more to do with, "Where I am going, you cannot follow." The story, which concerns a disturbance in the elemental spirits and a mystery in a misty wood, is both dragged out overall and rushed through in crucial moments to the point of neglect. And the songs range from underwhelming ("Into the Unknown") to cringingly silly ("Lost in

the Woods"). Directed by Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck. 2019. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Honey Boy — Shia LaBeouf's self-penned biopic turns out to be the biggest surprise of 2019. With expert assurance, the opening shot yanks us into the action without even bothering to use a stunt double. A simulated blast sucks tethered movie star Otis (Noah Jupe, age 12; Lucas Hedges, age 22) deep within the frame. When symptoms of PTSD emerge, the cauterized headliner can barely lift his voice to mutter, "From what?" Along with the pyrotechnics, a walking trauma case of an old man (LaBeouf) who infects all who cross his path with a sense of fear and self-loathing, that's what. There's but one typical aspect to dad's otherwise unpredictable nature; a resentful stage father jealous of his son's success in every way. At its heart, a film about a boy who both wants and deserves a better father and the inescapable reality that he will never get one. When it comes to cinema as therapy, LeBeouf put his time (and ours) to superb use here. Almost all is forgiven. One more like this and we'll consider *Disturbia* permanently expunged from the record. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Irishman — During his fight against the Nazis, Frank Sheeran (Robert De Niro) forced a pair of enemy soldiers to dig a hole that, in the few seconds it took to fire off a few rounds, became their eternal resting place. Little did the soldier know at the time, but this "follow orders and you're rewarded" mentality was preparing him for a career in the mob. Speaking of following orders, Scorsese hops in bed with Netflix for a return to the genre that has brought him the most amount of box office success. It's great to see the old guard together again, with Scorsese newcomer Al Pacino noisily stealing the show as Jimmy Hoffa. When he goes, much of the energy gets buried with him. The tale of the teamster who wacked the hand that fed him is never boring, but at this stage in his career, one expected something more than a small screen gangster epic from the man who redefined the genre. He knew all along that the majority of viewers would come to the film on television, so he shot accordingly. A betting man would wager that well over half the picture was composed in TV-safe closeups and reverse angle shots of well-paid actors talking, the

impact of which would not be lost on a flatscreen. I liked it better when Scorsese, not the medium, dictated shot size. 2019. — S.M. ★★★ (LA PALOMA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Jojo Rabbit — There's a deep and sincere sweetness in the work of writer-director Taika Waititi. It's a kind of relentless and innocent good cheer that persists in the face of horror — to the point where the horror is obscured, or maybe defanged. That sweetness is in full effect in this story of a little German boy who makes an imaginary friend out of *Der Führer* to help him on his way to becoming a proper Hitler Youth, only to discover that his Mom has been keeping a secret while Dad's away at war: his dead sister's Jewish best friend is hiding upstairs. The result is reminiscent of Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful*, another film that used the horrors of the Holocaust as the backdrop for a little kid's big adventure. It's clear that in both cases, the intentions are entirely good; no one's looking to exploit or ignore the nightmare atrocity, just to find glimmers of light and love amid the darkness and hate. And maybe find a way to laugh in spite of everything. Look at Hitler! Isn't he silly, with his little mustache and his need for adoration and attention? After all, it's not the kid's fault the world around him has gone mad. He just wants, as his Jewish housemate notes, to belong to a club. And if the club leaders tell him that Jews are inhuman and that someone should write a book about their wicked ways, well, he's just a clumsy, insecure kid. Some will find his gradual journey toward empathy and love an utterly charming fable, complete with deadpan Sam Rockwell as a nonplused Nazi. Some will find it a borderline apology for haters, a softhearted attempt to find good people on both sides. And some will find it ping-ponging awkwardly between the two. There's a reason the poster proclaims the film "an anti-hate satire" — it wants to make sure you don't get the wrong idea from what's on the screen. 2019. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Joker — If there is a meaningful difference between performing and acting, Joaquin Phoenix surely exemplifies the former here, creepily contorting as the Clown Prince of Crime in Todd Phillips' timely, toxic take on the Making of a Murdering Madman. (Timely because it seeks to tap into festering resentment on the part of the have-nots, toxic because it has those have-nots rallying behind a guy who shoots three douchebros on the subway. True, they were harassing a woman and assaulting the shooter, but while the audience knows that, the onscreen Army of Clowns does not.) Phoenix begins the film as Arthur Fleck, a sweet soul so pummeled by life that his chest is actually concave, a dutiful son who somehow provides for himself and his addled mother by clowning. He'd like to be a comedian, but as Mom reminds him, "Don't you have to actually be funny for that?" Still, no harm in fantasizing, and while you're at it, why not dream up a sympathetic neighbor lady who gets your vibe? (The lady is real enough; the relationship is...questionable.) But reality has a way of stepping in and stomping down on Arthur; Evelyn Vaughn's phrase "a blow upon the bruise" comes to mind as disaster follows discovery follows deception follows disaster... you get the idea. But here's the funny part: the worse things get for poor Arthur, the straighter he stands, until finally, even his mental condition of laughing mirthlessly in stressful situations drops away. Good thing he stopped taking those meds that were denied him by an unfeeling system! One weirdly unbelievable ending is followed by another,

this one not quite as unbelievable, but decidedly more disturbing — a little like the old Aristocrats joke. *I endured that for this — ha ha?* 2019. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Knives Out — Writer-director Rian Johnson sure is having fun these days. They let him into the Star Wars sandbox, and he built a monument to feminine genius that enraged a measurable portion of the fanbase and still managed to make over a billion dollars. (Sure, it was half of what J.J. Abrams managed with his reboot/remake, but it weren't no fan service, that's for sure.) Now he's pulling a reverse Netflix — slapping a TV-style Family Mansion Murder Mystery, the sort so ably handled by our British cousins, up there on the big screen — and turning it into a critique of American anti-immigration sentiment. The immigrant in question — actually, it's her mother who is undocumented — is Marta (Ana de Armas) the caregiver for a fabulously successful mystery author (Christopher Plummer). An author who, as it happens, is also the victim. The presumptive heirs — a splendid collection of wretches, none of whom can remember exactly what country Marta hails from — were already gathered for Dad's 85 birthday, so they stick around for the reading of the will, and also the investigation spearheaded by Daniel Craig in full Southern accent, for some reason. The goal here, besides solving the mystery in suitably clever fashion, seems to be to provide families gathered for Thanksgiving with both a rollicking good time and something to argue about at table. (A measurable portion of old white relatives may be enraged.) You can practically see Johnson's mischievous grin in every frame. 2019. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Marriage Story — Nicole (Scarlett Johansson) is the type who will reflexively engage in conversation with the petitioner outside the Ralph's supermarket, a nurturing soul who abandoned a potentially successful career in Hollywood to move East and work with her husband Charlie's (Adam Driver) fledgling theatre company. Her star waned, he became the family's top draw, and in no time, they're lawyering up for divorce. Given the number of Awards voters whose marriages end in splitsville, films like this not only function as entertainment, they double as cheap, much needed audience therapy. That was certainly the case for

Noah Baumbach, who patterned the film after his breakup with wife Jennifer Jason Leigh. (She'd have made a much better Nicole than Johansson.) As Johansson's counsel, Laura Dern grabs the camera by the turret, painting the screen with swag-ger, even going so far as to call Charlie a "smart cookie." That applies to the character, not Driver's performance, his most rank and file work to date. We wait for Charlie to explode, which he does, as if on cue. 2019. — S.M. ★★ (LA PALOMA; ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY AT HAZARD CENTER)

Midway — What happens when producers do double duty as screenwriters? Midway through *Midway*, it hit me. First-timer Wes Tooke, guilty on both counts, makes it so the special effects are more interesting than the characters and events they were meant to update for contemporary audiences. The cast, on the other hand, looks old-school sharp in their full dress blues — Woody Harrelson could be dangling a Spencer Tracy biopic, and damn if Joe Jonas isn't the spitting image of David Niven. The Dolby Atmos-enhanced battle sequences rocked the theatre, but without any semblance of conviction, the film barely sticks to the green screen. Director Roland Emmerich is an old hand at this type of derivative, effects-driven hooah (*Independence Day*, *Godzilla*, *White House Down*) — so old, in fact, that it's beginning to show. The digitized combat looks like something traced and transplanted from another war, one that took place in a galaxy far, far away. Universally panned at the time of its release, and with reason, your time would be much better spent watching Richard Fleischer and Kinji Fukasaku's *Tora! Tora! Tora!* 2019. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Pain and Glory — Here is the privilege of artistic reputation: even your fallow periods may serve as fertile ground. When we meet filmmaker Salvador Mallo (Antonio Banderas, low-key and soulful as the stand-in for writer-director Pedro Almodóvar), he is floating underwater, eyes closed, motionless, not even a bubble escaping his nostril. An artist, suspended in stasis after being betrayed by his failing body? Or a new creation just waiting to be born, if only something would bring on the ordeal of labor? Why not both? The first contraction comes from mining the past: someone has cleaned up

one of Mallo's early works, and they'd like him to present it to the adoring world. He hits upon the idea of bringing in the film's star, to whom he has not spoken since the premiere. Said star is still doing the heroin that caused the rift (the director preferred the energy conferred by cocaine), and Mallo finds that joining him in "chasing the dragon" helps to ease the pain — and also to bring on the dreamy memories of youth! And what do you know, he's also written a monologue about losing his most beloved lover to the stuff, and the actor stumbles upon it... There's plenty of artfulness on display in the intertwining of life and what gets made of it, but also a fair helping of artifice. Art imitating life, but also improving it a bit. 2019. — M.L. ★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Richard Jewell — The latest installment in Clint Eastwood's exploration of American heroism. Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2019. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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)

Tremors — Pablo (Juan Pablo Olyslager), an Evangelical Christian and father of two, was recently outed by his family. "You thought being a faggot would be easy?" asks his lover. "We're not in Luxembourg." Try Homophobia-ville, a Guatemalan burg where everyone knows everyone else's business. It's a cliché that filmmaker Jayro Bustamante puts to good use. Unlike its conversion therapy-bashing American counterparts (*The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, *Boy Interrupted*), *Temblores* is more than just a statement of the obvious. His script actually encourages the most unlikely set of characters to intermingle. It's one of those rare films in which each player, no matter how seemingly insignificant, is given their moment to contribute to the complexity. Pablo and the father of his young daughter's best friend share the same brand of aftershave. Missing him terribly, and looking to reclaim a piece of the relationship, the girl pockets the bottle. Bustamante has a knack for dreaming up layered characters right before our eyes, but even that can't get us through the last half-hour where Pablo, inspired by Pastora (Sabrina De La Hoz), an Exorcist in Cruella De Vil clothing, consents to the "cure." — S.M. ★★★★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Waves — One doesn't expect to find a continuous 360 degree pan — the type generally associated with a declaration of true love — inside a moving car, let alone at the head of a picture. When, later in his tale of a suburban family in mid-crisis, filmmaker Trey Edward Shults takes another spin of his camera, he does so in a manner meant to amplify, not overmilk, a gimmick. He knows when his characters should speak, but more importantly, he knows when to shut them up and let the camera do the talking. (The exception being a soundtrack more interested in showing off a director's record collection than underscoring action.) The steep tonal leap from one character arc to another is seamless. And we're not likely to find a more impressive ensemble this year, starting with Sterling K. Brown as the demanding patriarch who's in over his head. As his onscreen daughter, Taylor Russell is assigned the unenviable task of playing a kindly character. (She aces the part!) But after biting off one father and son reunion too many, the film that commenced with such a resounding bang ends on a meandering, artificially upbeat whimper. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

FILM FESTIVALS



Gremlins: You better watch out...

the scene where Mom microwaves a mogwai — and one of the Indiana Jones pictures that gave rise to the PG-13 rating. **ROOFTOP CINEMA CLUB AT THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT: Wednesday, December 13 at 9 pm.**

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007)
A muddy, overphotographed "feel good" film about human suffering. Phooey! If Julian

Schnabel truly wanted to stir empathy within us, why did he treat his lead character like the Frankenstein monster? He stops just short of panning up from the feet to reveal...well, an actor buried underneath so much makeup that it's hard to call what Mathieu Amalric does a performance. Or is it a supporting performance? Borrowing liberally from the *Dark Passage* school of subjective cinematography, Schnabel sees to it that the sight of our hero's face — he's just recently snapped out of a coma brought on by a massive stroke — is withheld for a good twenty minutes. Why add humiliation to injury by transforming a character's physical condition into an overused element of suspense? On top of everything else, it was produced by Kennedy/Marshall and photographed by Janusz Kaminsky. This thing has Spielberg's fingerprints all over it. But I love Faye Gersh for making it the Hemlock Society's movie of the month. No one else in this town has her way of taking movies I hate and making sense out of them. **MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY: Friday, December 15 at 1:30 pm.**

Cult Classics come to Grossmont
What was the best-attended picture revived during Grossmont Cinema's year-long series of Musical Mondays? Believe it or don't, it was *The Music Man*. Which of 2020's festival of Cult Classics will be the Grossmont's top performer? Let's see... *Spirited Away*? How come Bugs Bunny can walk and talk at the same time, but Miyazaki's characters can't? Having yet to see a movie with the word "Jurassic" in its title makes it impossible for me to pass judgement there. What else? *Pulp Fiction* and a *Holy Grail*, *Rocky* in 4K, Prince, and an extended cut of *The Exorcist* with even more shocks to absorb. Given the choice, I'd vote either *Eternal Sunshine* or Richard Lester's *A Hard Day's Night*, by far the comeliest pick of the litter. However, given my proven track record of imprecise prognostication, it will probably be *Casablanca*. The films screen every second Monday of the month at 7 pm. For more information, visit www.readingcinemasus.com/grossmont.

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PERSONALS

SEEKING KATY we were at UC Berkeley together in the mid-80s. You had a dog named Sam and you drove an old VW. I'm Paul the furniture refinisher. We had a couple of wonderful years together and I was sorry to lose contact with you. Please reply to this posting.

JULIAN CAFE & BAKERY I was having dinner with my two kids on Saturday 11/30 around 8pm and you and your family were sitting next to my table, and you asked me about the soup I ordered. I felt a connection and I wished to have exchanged contact info to get to see your beautiful smile.

MY MOTHER DEFAULTED on a storage unit in 83-83 in Fontana. In it was an oil painting my grandmother did of me in the photo around 1970 something. I'd love to recover it. Please email me if you see it: <http://bit.ly/grandma-oil>

YOU REALLY LIKED THE NORTH PARK neighborhood. You came to look at the apartment I have for rent. I told you I was offering a discount, in exchange for yard work. You had a short trimmed beard and wore a red beanie. I'm considering your offer. Where are you?

MY HEART AND SOUL Kerie, I owe you everything! You make every day worth living. The best part of me is you!

BRENDA ASKED ME to tell you to never text her again. I'm sorry about frank.

MR. SANDMAN Bring me a dream; make him the cutest that I've ever seen; make him high class - not afraid to buy a lady a drink; tell him that his lonely nites are over.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE God's children. We are here to

serve as one. Won't you come and sing along? - The Vaquitos

JIMMY ON KITE STREET in North Park. You were the best roommate I ever had. We had so many good times at Pecs. The number I have for you doesn't work anymore. I moved and if you want to be my roommate again, you can live in the granny flat behind my house. If you still have my number, it's the same

SEEKING CHRISTMAS CAROLERS Help us change the world of nursing home patients by changing how nursing homes entertain their patients! We are hoping to recruit enough musicians and singers to put a 5 to 7 person band together. 213-388-8500

YOU RESCUED US in North County. Thank you to the very kind man in the extended cab Dodge Ram who gave me and my dog a ride when my old F150 with out of state plates truck broke down. I must've seemed like a total goof, lol, I'm usually not so frazzled. I wish I had got your number so I could thank you properly, maybe make you dinner.

WISH EVERYONE A GREAT CHRISTMAS Roger from Escondido

BIRTHDAY CHEERS Rachael is 30 in Jan and loves getting b-day cards. Help make her big 30 special. 7615 Othello Ave Ste. A San Diego, CA 92109

FRIENDS OF JAMES HARPER (JIM) Please call Jim's family (619)917-6975

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SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY members needed. We are in search of preserving our Italian culture together and looking for members in the San Diego area. We are the oldest Italian-American organization in America. Please call Sal at (760) 717-7981.

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0303. Please leave your phone number on message machine if I miss you. Thanks! Be grateful for everything!!!!

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UCSD EEG RESEARCH STUDY Paid Brain Wave Study seeks healthy participants, age 65-85, Drug Free, No Psych History. EEGStudy@ucsd.edu (619)543-7201

CANDY CIRCUS New candy store in El Cajon, CA 92020. Remember retro candy? Remember Buford the O.B. "Candyman"? Call 760-443-2293

OLD SCHOOL AND R&B SATURDAYS Every weekend. Four Points by Sheraton 8110 Aero Dr. SD. 92113. Info 619-246-2993 for the Mature party crowd.

RENT VENUE at Women's Club of Escondido, for a variety of events. Plenty of parking. Main hall approximately 70' x 40'. Seating for up to 170 people. Raised stage with additional 2 bathrooms at the back of stage. (760) 743-9178

I AM ACCEPTING DONATIONS for the homeless and others in need, please call 619-259-6993.

COME WORSHIP WITH US Study to show yourself approved. 2002 Granger Ave. Wed 7:00 pm Bible Study Sun 10:00 am Bible Study National City Church of Christ National City, Calif. Contact: Mrs Miramontes (619) 931-8645.

RB VISTA HIGH SCHOOL Wind Ensemble concert Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM. St. Thomas More Catholic Church 1450 South Melrose Drive Oside.

FRED "DA CAT" NEEDS HELP! Fred needs a \$3500 operation to remove a head cyst. Looking for a cat lover willing to help. Call or text Eric 619-538-9814

BEREAVED PARENTS SUPPORT Helping Parents Heal - free meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 3:00-5:00. For details contact HPHSanDiego@gmail.com

CARRIAGE HILLS Breakfast Club Thursday 915am Bonita. Peace love 80's rule!

YIDDISH-THEMED EVENTS We offer Yiddish-themed events, dinners, and parties for all ages. jana@yaaana.com

RESEARCH STUDIES AVAILABLE in Oceanside for schizophrenia, bipolar or major depressive disorder patients. You will be compensated if you qualify. Contact Travis 619-761-2102, this is a referral number.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING/LECTURE CLINIC Free reading for new visitors 7:30pm, the last Wednesday of the month. 1/29/2020, 2/26/2020, and 3/25/2020 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Intuitive Program Graduates. 4455 Moreno Blvd. Ste. 108, San Diego, CA 92117. 858-509-7582

WIDOW OR WIDOWER? Interested in friendly activities? Please join our social club, Widows or Widowers (WOW) of San Diego. Web: www.wowsd.org

UCSD ALZHEIMER'S STUDY \$ Ages 50-80 with Alzheimer's. FDA approved medication free for 24 weeks plus payment. AlzheimerStudy@ucsd.edu (619)471-9455

VOLUNTEER@ITSUNCOMMON.COM Are you a student that needs to complete community service hours? Let us help you learn valuable skills and \$

UCSD EEG RESEARCH STUDY This research study involves using an FDA-approved medication and EEG. Call (619)543-2314 or email eeglearning@ucsd.edu.

PEN PALS WANTED Older man, currently hospitalized, no internet desires pen pals. Write to Dave DiMino 3102 East Highland Ave #21 Patton, CA 92369

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CLASSES/LESSONS

VING TSUN AND WING CHUN KUNG FU LESSONS in Rancho Penasquitos. I've been a practitioner of Ving Tsun for over 25 Years and have been certified with completion of the system by Grand Master Moy Bah Hugh/ Pete Pajil. <http://bit.ly/ving-tsun>

MUAY LAO BOXING classes in Mountain View. Muay lao is a traditional unarmed martial art from Laos. It incorporates punches, kicks, elbows and knee strikes. For more info call: (619)203-1827

SNOWBOARDING OR SKIING LESSONS 1/2 off, at Bear Mountain. Let's carve the mountain, and hit some rails, and jumps. Not ready for rails and jumps? No worries, I will get you there faster than you think. Instagram @ Tboification

COUNTRY LINE DANCE LESSONS I can teach country line dancing to individuals, couples, or groups at a social event/party. Call or text Steve at 330-814-7442

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY CARE CLASSES include how to: feed, potty train, wash, socialize, exercise and get your puppy to sleep at night. Meet our 4 breeding females and go for a walk on our park-like 118 acre ranch. Phone: 209-814-6804

LEVEL 1 REKI TREATMENT Reiki Mater student looking to enhance reiki energy. 5-10 min sessions are free, 20-30 min sessions \$30, 30-1hr \$100. ktoomer223@yahoo.com

START YOUR OWN CBD BIZ Info sessions held daily @ San Diego Central Library @10:30. Email ktoomer223@yahoo.com to RSVP. bit.ly/livefreeopportunity

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES, Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

FORGIVENESS MINI-WORKSHOP Workshop Sun Dec 15, 3-4:30 on what gets in the way of forgiveness, from NLP perspective. JaneCohenCounseling.com/events

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RESCUE BATH for rescue bath and kitchen sinks. Text Chace 619-944-7744

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LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT with own bathroom for around \$450/month please give me a call. Helena 619-259-6993

ROOM FOR RENT Several available. Beautiful Home in Orange Park acres. Private entrance, pool/jacuzzi, storage available. Available now! Come see it! 619-358-2219

NEED A ROOM TO RENT ASAP I am a female looking to rent a room with only females. I am quiet and keep to myself. \$600/ month 619-227-7659

ROOM FOR RENT \$575. Linda Vista home with mature males has small room for rent for single adult includes all utilities deposit \$250. No drugs. 619-344-7336

MILITARY RETIRED MALE heart and lung outpatient needs separate granny flat or mobile home in vicinity of VA, no SDA/40 years local. Guaranteed rent and bonus, need very soon. 1-858-722-2964

SAN DIEGO \$557 FURN BDRM 1 adult only + utilities paid + security deposit + WIFI + no smoking. Share: house + bath + kitchen + washer/dryer +. Text code: 557RA or call: 858-367-0533.

UNFURNISHED BEDROOM/ SHARED BATH for rent in Clairemont near town Square. Utilities, WiFi included. Kitchen privileges. Walk to stores and MTS. Near freeways. No drama or overnights. Must love dogs. Call Kay Dean at 858-272-1164

SANTEE, \$675 2/2 manufactured home w/ F homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. 619-373-4662

AS IF SANTA CLAUS CAME EARLY! We are looking for two new roommates in our house in Mission Beach. We are two exchange students and we describe ourselves as a pair of calm and easy-going guys. We are willing to share room with another person; female, male or other — it does not matter. The rent is \$740 a month (all utilities

included+parking spot), which is really a steal considering the location. Facebook.com/philip_jonerup

SHARED ROOM \$700/each and next to the beach! Me and my boyfriend, both from Sweden, are studying at SDSU and are living in Mission Beach in a 2 bedroom/2 bathroom apartment. Our roommates are moving out and we need to find two new roommates. Send me a DM: Facebook.com/Linn.Rosenqvist.9

BAY PARK, \$725 close to bus. Furnished large back room, separate entrance. Flat screen TV with internet. All utilities paid. On cul-de-sac. No drugs or smoking. For quiet working person. 858-272-1594

ISO ROOMMATE IN LITTLE ITALY w 2 Bed / 2 Bath. It's a great location near everything you would want and walking distance from downtown. It comes with an underground parking spot, and the place has a gym and a pool. Feel free to reach Facebook.com/Dan.Rosin.9

LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY TO TAKE over lease. The house is close to SDSU and you would be living with 3 wonderful girls! I am also willing to sell my furniture in the room for a very low price! The rent is \$750 plus utilities. Please PM me: Facebook.com/Amanda.Osborn.50

SDSU STUDENTS! I'm looking for a female to take over my lease from Jan-July 2020. It's in an all-female house, walking distance from SDSU. Parking available. You'd be sharing the bathroom with only one other girl! It's \$840 a month w/ patio access, double closets, and a huge space. Feel free to message me: Facebook.com/Jessica.Mok11

I WANT TO RENT a large, furnished room ASAP. Sweet and quiet lady, East County, please call Ms. Carmen 619-227-6797.

ROOM WANTED 61 yr. old young single no family Virgo healthy, never married, clean SoCal native low income male, high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in house Solana Beach, Cardif, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Clemente. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

CHULA VISTA, \$650 One room for rent in condo, shared living room and kitchen. Male preferred. No pets. Deposit \$300. Available now, any questions call 619-869-5814 or 858-397-3687.

NATIONAL CITY, \$550. 1BD+shared bath including utilities. \$275 deposit, no smoking indoors, drugs or pets. No visitors after 9:30pm. Single occupancy only. Call Quiten 619-993-1671.

OCEAN VIEW HILLS 92154 \$700 1 bedroom with private bath in South Bay house, utilities, internet, and cable included, full kitchen use, no smoking, no drugs, no pets. New community, friendly, close to freeways, female preferred, single occupants only. Call or text Hector 619-259-8184

RENTALS

BAY PARK 1 BEDROOM \$1475 Great location! I-5 / Balboa, Mission Bay. All appliances, parking, washer, dryer. Use of back yard, spa, BBQ. Stand alone unit, private, residential neighborhood. USD, UCSD, Mesa College, conveniences and shops nearby. Walk, play at MBay. Call 858-344-5517 or 858-997-7165.

FRNSHD 1BD CONDO \$1995/ MO Plaza condominiums 1st floor 650 sq ft 1bd/1bath condo furnished with 1 prking spot. Txt 858-334-5123 for showing. Check Zillow.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2850. 3BD+2BA; stove, refrigerator; laundry hookups; fireplace; hardwood floors; large attached 2-car garage plus driveway parking; back patio; water and gardener paid; no dogs; available 1/18/20; 3970 Honeycutt Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.



DOWNTOWN, \$250-495. Artist work spaces: Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call 619-234-4165 or 619-269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH \$1625. 1BD+1BA; large updated 2nd floor unit; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; sparking pool; elevator; coin laundry; parking; no pets; available 12/15/19; 1433 Oliver Ave. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-212

PACIFIC BEACH \$2475. 2BD+2BA; xtra large unit on top (3rd) floor; lots of windows for bright, sunny, airy view; remodeled with vinyl plank floors, new cabinetry; stainless appliances; sparking pool; elevator; coin laundry; balcony area; parking; central heat and air conditioning; no pets; available

now; 1433 Oliver Ave. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-20712.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1850. 2BD+2BA; large upstairs unit in Crown Point area; stove, refrigerator; balcony; parking; coin laundry; close to stores; EZ freeway access; available 1/1/20; 1768 Thomas Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2171.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1545. 1BD+1BA; large downstairs unit in Crown Point area; remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; coin laundry; parking; available 12/10/19; 1768 Thomas Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$450. 2BD+1BA house in Northeast PB; huge remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; living room plus den; front lawn plus back patio; water and gardener paid; parking and coin laundry; close to stores and EZ freeway access; no pets; available 12/14/19; 1859 Chalcedony Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

LA JOLLA, \$3075. 3BD+1.5BA townhome; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; washer/ dryer in unit; fenced backyard area/patio; double garage plus driveway parking; fireplace; water and gardener paid; near Windansea Beach; available 1/15/20; 6641 Tyrian Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1775. 1BD+1BA quiet unit in 4-plex in North PB; stove, refrigerator; large fenced patio; laminate floors with carpet in bedroom; single car garage; large shared fenced front lawn area; coin laundry; available 1/15/20; 1011 Opal Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

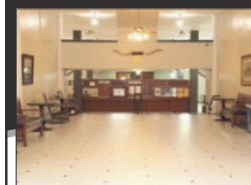
PACIFIC BEACH 2BR + 1.5BA full kitchen, patio, 1/2 locked garage. All electric, landlord pays water bill. Yearly lease. No pets. \$2350/month. 1943 Emerald St. Cell phone 307-214-6482

PACIFIC BEACH 2BR + 1.5BA unfurnished, full kitchen, balcony, side yard, carport, landlord pays water bill. Yearly lease. No pets. \$2220. 1949 Emerald St. Cell phone 307-214-6482

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BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN, \$1150. Studio+1BA efficiency studio. Water, trash, gas and electric included! On-site laundry. Street parking. Near Balboa Park / Hillcrest. 1758 6th Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN, \$1375-1425. STUDIO+1BA. Some new fixtures, granite countertops. Gated building. Coin operated laundry on site. Street parking. All utilities paid. No pets. 1747 5th Avenue, Agent, 619-298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

DOWNTOWN, \$573-825.

Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. 619-239-3808.

LA MESA, \$1395. 1BD+1BA downstairs apartment in La Mesa/Lake Murray. Small, quiet complex near lake. Patio, stove, refrigerator, A/C, dishwasher, laundry, parking. No pets. 7490 Collins Avenue #4. Add Realty, 619-232-6811.

LEMON GROVE \$1,000 MONTH

Charming one bedroom available in January. Apartment is spacious with an open living room & kitchen floorplan and balcony too! Close to Lemon Grove entertainment from dining, to shopping and even the trolley. Sorry, no pets. Please call for your private viewing (619)916-9187.

LEMON GROVE, \$1,400 MONTH Remarkable value. Unbeatable location. 2 bedroom apartment available today! Newly renovated spacious apartment

with open concept floorplan, spotless clean, and tons of storage. You are just steps away from dining, shopping and transit. Sorry, no pets. Call for your private viewing (619)916-9187.

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3BD+2BA (\$2090) and 2BD+1BA (\$1699) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable, Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. 619-646-8670.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$2875. 2BD+2.5BA 1400sqft. split-level condo. All brand new kitchen appliances. Bright and airy, hardwood floors, balcony, laundry, 2-car garage, lots of storage. Pets considered.

4740 Arizona Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

SOUTH PARK, \$1750. Lovely 1 bedroom apartment perfectly located near Downtown San Diego and Balboa Park. 1/2 off first month with 1-year lease! Easy 5-minute commute to work. Secured building, fireplace, hardwood floors, laundry on site, street parking only. 2329 C Street. Agent: 619-298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

MISSION HILLS, \$1550.

1BA+1BA Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 W. Washington . Agent, 619-298-7724.

MISSION HILLS, \$1425.

STUDIO+1BA Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 W. Washington. Agent, 619-298-7724.

HILLCREST, \$1995.

1BD+1BA; 100 year old vintage unit in 4-plex on the park; 900 square feet with formal dining room; remodeled kitchen and bath with all new appliances; small garage fit for a carriage without the house; cat OK with extra deposit; available 12/14/19; 1634 Upas Street; Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

NORTH PARK \$2000 3339 North Park Way. Nicely renovated 1100 SQ FT house with fenced yard, private parking, no pets. Call 619-808-4674

REAL ESTATE

LA JOLLA VILLAGE TOWNHOME 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$629,000. (760) 525-6703, DRE 01413422

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Condo by the beach for sale. \$399,000, at 4950 Coronado Ave #6. Literally 1/2 block to the water, by dining, coffee, shopping, and the pier. <http://bit.ly/snowbird-condo>

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\$249,000, centrally located in the city of San Diego. Simple and open floor plan with wood laminate floors, dine-in kitchen and granite counter tops. Complex is gated and secure. <http://bit.ly/sd-condo-sale>

ALPINE CONDO \$355,000 2 bedroom / 2 bath / 1,430 sq./ft., high ceilings. Laura Lopez 760-457-5112

PINE VALLEY VACANT LOT \$249,999 The .92 vacant lot is nestled on a quaint cul-de-sac offering direct access into the Cleveland National Forest riding/ hiking trails. Ready to build. Lorraine Tapia 760-806-3135

EL CAJON CONDO \$257,000, 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom at 745 E Bradley Ave # 48, El Cajon.

Gated community. Email: Alex@BuySDhomes.com

CHULA VISTA HOME \$330,000, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with a 1-car garage. Email: BCH.HUERTAS@GMAIL.COM

3 BEDS/2 BATH \$259,900, 235 50th St #26 San Diego, 92102. Call for showing or details 619-277-7612

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2 LOTS/PROPERTIES

ROSARITO I'm selling 2 wonderful lots with panoramic views to the ocean, island and town. One is 2376 Sf, other 1935 Sf. \$16 sf. peskayak@hotmail.com

BABY IT'S COLD OUT THERE! New homes 3 hours from San Diego from \$80k. 55+ Community where the sun always shines! 928-255-3275

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ELECTRIC OUD for sale in Clairemont. \$350. Middle eastern string instrument. Text Mike 619-813-2343

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FUSION professional guitarist available for gigs, tours, recordings. CD/Tour credits. Dale Hauskins <https://www.bandmix.com/dalehauskins/> (858)401-2973

DJ LESSONS

in Point Loma. I have over 6 years of DJ experience. I teach at my house on a DDJ SZ controller. <https://www.facebook.com/DjCabo10/>

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Monthly creative band musicians lock-out rehearsal private practice AC studios now available. Half off first month rent. (858) 401-2973

MUSIC REHEARSAL STUDIO.

Upscale facility, Kearny Mesa. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. Adder Studios, 858-522-9505. www.adderstudios.com.

DARBUKA DOUMBEC TABLA

DRUM for sale. Animal skin head, ceramic, and in very good condition. Call David at 1-760-746-5422

PETS

NEED PET PORTRAITS?

Each of my highly detailed portraits are hand drawn w over upwards of 40 hours and completed using archival black ink. Check my: [Instagram.com/art.by.apollo](https://www.instagram.com/art.by.apollo)

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60/70 lbs., vet checked and one remaining female out of eight. Call 858-256-8386

FRENCH BULLDOG BOSTON

TERRIER puppies. Will have first shots and deworming. 760-644-3300

ROSCOE WAS FOUND

running down the middle of the freeway in Mexico. He was infested with ticks and extremely emaciated. He is extremely loyal and learns quickly. He is motivated by praise and treats. Contact us with any questions or to arrange a meet and greet. Any questions or comments contact us at: 805-835-3949, Cassandra

BOXER PUPPY

4 months, female boxer, beautiful, and she have all shots. Great with kids and other dogs. Please call at 619-481-1361 rehoming fee.

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES

AND KITTENS Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.

WIENER PUPPIES

We have beautiful mini dachshund puppies, male and female, with

first shot and deworming done. 858-264 5584

FOUND FEMALE TABBY

cat on 11/27 in City Heights, about 5 yrs old and weighs 9.2 lbs. Call 619-299-7012

LOST HUSKY ESCAPED ON

THANKSGIVING Last seen near Point Loma Street and Alexandria Street in Point Loma. Please call if found! 978-303-5907

BABY CHINCHILLA

looking for a family. My phone number is 760-920-1794

SIAMESE CATS

Flame point males, chocolate point females, lynx point females. All vaccinated/wormed, clean, healthy, no fleas, eating dry solid food, litter box trained, and very well socialized. 702-536-0740

HUSKY/SHEPHERD PUPPIES

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frames and components in El Cajon. Call or email us for a quote. Phone: 619-596-6769

ANTIQUE VICTOR 1887 HIGH

WHEEL PENNY FARTHING BICYCLE \$8000, in Carlsbad. <http://bit.ly/victor-1887>

PINK BEACH CRUISER

Susan G. Komen, \$150 in Chula Vista. Comfortable saddle, Shimano gears, u-brakes front and back. Call 619-206-1382

BURLEY RECUMBENT

BICYCLE HepCat Silver Anniversary Edition and is brand new, only ridden 10 miles by me. Shimano 27 speed, disc brakes. \$500 in Mira Mesa. Text me 760-718-2768

SHIMANO TIAGRA A 50W

Cover original box, brand new, never been used. Two speed, Cabela's list \$659.99. Asking \$550 or best. 858-228-6044

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electric mountain bike, medium size with 500 miles on it. Shimano xt with di2 electronic shifting. Bike retails for \$5500 and batteries retail for \$700 each; first \$2500 takes it. 619-339-0363

DIAMONDBACK RESPONSE

Sport Bike, 20", Solana Beach, \$195. Awesome mountain bike, used very lightly, never in dirt, has disk brakes front and rear, always garaged and original owner. Chris 858-378-4741

CENTURION ROAD BIKE

14-speed, Araya rims, Schwinn seat, tuned and ready to roll, \$200, 619-300-3364

MOUNTAIN BIKE

by Specialized, \$125, in Clairemont. Call 858-263-5049

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Mini Scrambler Stingray bike. Very nice, 70s all original and unrestored. \$350. In San Marcos. Call Ron at 858-243-0887

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MOTORCYCLES

CUSTOM CHOPPER MOTORCYCLE KC Creations custom built soft tail chopper. This bike was never ridden per se, it has just been a show bike to win at shows. The cost when built about 12 years ago, was \$76,000. It has a \$10,000 dollar paint job. Price: \$19,995 Call: 858-270-7532

1983 TRIHAWK Harley-Davidson sports cycle, 2-pass. (Side-by-side) sports car, but licensed as a motorcycle. It has a rigid steel-frame w/rollbar — so no helmet required by Cal.-DMV, nor is any smogging required. Sadly, nearly only 100-made \$16,995 http://bit.ly/trihawk-for-sale

BSA VICTOR 1970 \$9000, in Carlsbad. Bike is currently titled and nestled in a warm flat sipping hot tea over Castrol biscuits. Call John Z at 619-980-9802

2004 SUZUKI RM65 \$1500, in El Cajon. Awesome starter bike or transition off of a pee wee. 619-715-2847

2007 BMW POLICE BIKE \$3200, R1200RTP California Highway Patrol, Chula Vista. Call at 619-213-3138

'07 GT60 VESPA for \$6495 The scooter came in exactly one color: Vespa's 1947 prototype gray, and only 250 were exported to the U.S. Call TC or Alex at (619) 280-1718

'01 YAMAHA R6 for \$600 Engine turns over but wont start. May consider parting out. In Chula Vista. 619- 621-9353

'07 BUELL FIREBOLT XB-12R with lots of upgrades. Selling motorcycle for my husband. Selenne 760-580-6909

VINTAGE MOTORCROSS COLLECTION I have spent decades collecting 1990 Yamaha YZ125, 1982 Husqvarna 250 WR 1978 Maico MC400 Magnum, 1974.5 Maico 440 GP, 1973 Bultaco 250 Pursang and 1976 Bultaco 250 — Guy (541)521-8156. I'm in Ramona.

SUPERMOTO SCHOOL includes: instruction, track fees, bike rental, gear rental and professional photography. Whether you usually ride a sports bike, dirt, or cruiser motorcycle, you will become a better rider and have an absolute blast. www.SoCalSupermoto.com or call: 619-224-6686

AUTOMOTIVE

2010 BLK FORD FOCUS SES Blk ext + tnt. In good condition. Easy driving + great gas mileage. 118K miles. \$4300/OBO. Call/txt 808-954-5280.

2010 MINI COOPER - \$4300 Pepper white/blk top. 2-dr. 124K miles. Great gas mileage. Ext + int look pristine. Fun to drive! Call/txt 858-518-5204.

2004 LEXUS ES330 very good condition, 192k miles, automatic, cold AC, rear view camera, excellent stereo 6 disk CD player. Registration good until Dec 28th 2020. \$2300 619-591-6944.

1994 PONTIAC FIREHAWK This classic Firehawk has a factory option was upgraded by street legal performance, \$7500. Amyk@pacbell.net

FLATHEAD V8 AND CLASSIC AUTO PARTS in North Park. Have drop axles, numerous car manifolds, three speed transmissions, etc. Call retired Navy veteran 619-987-4351 any time, will return all voicemails.

2010 JEEP COMPASS \$6500. One owner, all receipts. Call 619-992-0634.

WANTED CHECKER MARATHON any condition, please call Robert 207-265-6640.

LEXUS 2004 beautiful red SC 430, 72k original miles, must see to appreciate. Please call 619-390-2222, price \$15,000.

1981 CHEVY EL CAMINO in nice shape. Not a beater. Always garaged, \$9,000 obo, serious buyer please. Text due to many call scammers 619-631-9258.

1999 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 130,000 miles, white, smooth ride, north San Diego. 760-443-2723, asking \$4,795.

LOOKING FOR A 2009 OR 2010 ELANTRA non smoking, no salvage, good condition. 805-341-6551.

VAN FOR SALE Chevrolet van, 350 engine, one ton, with 20 ft long automatic trans. 1981, last July 2018 rebuilt engine, new tires, new brakes, new battery, that van is in excellent condition, worth \$5,000, selling for only \$2,600. Located in Rancho San Diego, ask for Armand 619-660-0299.

1972 VW BUG North County Message only: 760-500-1090. Serious inquiries only.

1981 CHEVY EL CAMINO nice shape, 231 Buick. About 1,000 miles on rebuilt trans \$9,000 obo. Serious buyer please. Text due to many call scammers 619 631-9258

ATTENTION FAST AND THE FURIOUS FANS 1988 Toyota Supra for sale in Spring Valley, \$450. Project car. Lost interest. It ran when parked. No papers, bill of sale only. http://bit.ly/supra-for-sale

HELP WANTED

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ MANAGER Own office, phone line! \$ & times negotiable. Must have own transportation, by UCSD. mikegarlicguy@yahoo.com

DELIVERY DRIVER JOBS Make up to \$17 / Hour. Must use your own Mini-Van or Cargo Van. Pass Drug, Background Check. PT / FT avail. 858-444-2350

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) in San Diego is looking for volunteer drivers to help pick up donations from food banks, grocery stores, and restaurants and deliver them to our interim housing facility. PATH provides breakfast and dinner to 100-135 individuals in need every day of the year. Weekly, monthly, and substitute drivers are needed. This is a great opportunity to support our community members in need and decrease food waste. For more information call Sigrid at 619-810-8606 or email sigrids@epath.org

REGISTERED CAREGIVERS Immediate work. Hourly/live-in available. Must have reliable transportation. Assertive Care at Home, 8893 La Mesa Blvd., Ste B, La Mesa. 619-466-6890.

HOME CARE ASSISTANCE - CAREGIVERS NEEDED Come work for the best! Home Care Assistance is San Diego's leading home care agency. We offer 12 hour shifts and competitive wages. For more information please call 858-842-1346 or stop by our office at 7521 Fay Avenue in La Jolla 10am-4pm Monday - Friday or call our North County office at 760-635-3646. Get started by applying online at http://www.HCAmatch.com

MONEY 4 THE HOLIDAYS Collect signatures for political petitions. \$100 - \$200 / day. Paid 3x/week. Start immediately. Great immediate cash flow. All Areas. Call Jerry at 619-819-7700.

PART-TIME IN DRY CLEANERS Part-time in the mornings, available Monday thru Saturday. Will Train. Call 760-433-1984

OPPORTUNITY FOR A SOCIAL WORK student to assist with a pilot study to help a consumer self help group become evidenced based. 858 610-7401

EBAY POWER SELLER/ LIQUIDATOR sought by Encinitas resident. Truck/ van owner preferred for one weekend sales effort at Kobey's. Respond with qualifications to derekembree@gmail.com

SALES REPS. \$160,000 PT. B2B Pallet Wraps + Food Manu. No Exp. Flex sch. Lifetime residuals + bonus income. Text: 561-686-0000 Web: ParisPlastics.com

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS The Yiddish Arts & Academics Assn. of N. America is looking for volunteers and interns. Contact 619-719-1776, jana@yaaana.com

CONSTRUCTION RENTAL FENCE Temporary rental fencing yard maintenance, service, repair and installation. Will train. (619) 499-7799

Have a Spare Bedroom?

Earn a competitive stipend caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home. Minimum requirements: Spare bedroom, proficiency in English, driver's license and high school diploma/ GED. Call today! www.MentorsWanted.com. 858-694-0120.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS WANTED: The Children's Corps- AARP Experience Corps is currently recruiting volunteers ages 50+ to tutor during the

after school learning programs in Central San Diego, Southeast San Diego and Lemon Grove. By volunteering as a The Children's Initiative AARP Experience Corps Volunteer Tutor, you will help change the course of students' lives. Experience Corps is a proven reading program made up of tutors who work with readers in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to help them with their literacy skills. To learn more and attend an information session please contact An Das or Kristin Shea at pdas@theci.org or call 858-581-5887, 858-581-5880.sstruben@theci.org or call 858-581-5880.

VOLUNTEER TO READ TO KIDS Want to make a difference? Join us every weekend to read to a child in need in one of our StoryTents. Visit travelingstories.org/ volunteer today!

SANDWICH ARTIST. Temporary to possible permanent. Restaurant experience. Quick learner, like to work/keep busy. Be prompt, positive, have food handler's card, 32+ hours. Resume to: cden enterprises9@aol.com

MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST: Collect & analyze data on markets, economic trends in our industry. SAN DIEGO, CA. Mail Resume — SGR Events LLC, 9950 Marconi Dr., Ste. 105, San Diego, CA 92154

JUNIOR SALES POSITION Hi-tech satellite tech company seeking technical sales employee in Rancho Bernardo area. hr@spacemicro.com

JOBS WANTED

WOULD LIKE LAWN MOWING or bush trimming jobs in lemon grove only. Currently without auto so need close to home. Mow only \$10pr yard 619-631-9258.

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will shop, clean, drive to app'ts. provide companionship, personal ass't. Call Carol @ 858-525-1154.

SEEKING WORK Hi my name is Zaina and you can text me at (760) 818-9353. I'm looking to make some extra money. Maybe starting like at 10 am in the morning. My only problem is that I do not have a car, so therefore I use our public transportation system here in Escondido. I'm 39 and healthy. I hope to hear from you.

DRIVER/COMPANION You are active, but don't drive anymore, or just temporarily can't due to an injury? I am here to help!! I can stay with you as long as you need me, or I can just drop you off. I have reference letters, background check, TB test, CPR/AED first-aid certification, and a clean driving record. Marianna (619) 665-1122

INDIAN, BOLLYWOOD, PUNJABI HIP HOP DJ for hire.

My name is DJ Vish. I am a registered and insured DJ. I will be glad to rock at your event. I cover the entire San Diego County. 253-632-4556

NEED SOME HELP? In Chula or IB? Offering- Home care/ baby sitting, pet sitting/walking/ boarding. Handy man skills! Painting, etc! Amber & Darrell. 619-289-1648.

PET SITTING/HOUSE SITTING great Holiday prices! Call Edna 858-842-4249

MEALS FOR ROOM & BOARD Retired professional chef looking to exchange cooking for room & board. Call Chef Andre 760-717-2627 or chefandre10@yahoo.com.

HOUSING IN TRADE FOR SERV Guest house-granny flat-cottage. Experienced have a lot to bring to right arrangement Ms. Jessie G 619-204-8647.

WANTED/TRADE

WANTED FREE LAWNMOWER electric or battery powered, would need delivered. Please text due to many scam callers 619-631-9258.

HELP AN AUTISTIC ADULT New to San Diego & have a real tough time finding work. Please help visit www.gf.me/u/w47h5 for donation & story details, TY.

IF YOU HAVE FREE GRAVEL or river rock that you need to dispose of. Need delivered cannot pick up. Text only please 619-631-9258

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES Rock and Roll. I buy 1950s-1980s concert posters, flyers, handbills, used-

unused tickets, programs. Pls call 619-522-0283. Private party.

NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE WORKER Seeking health care office/legal/ compliance. Local, state, federal exp. Avail ASAP 619-457-2545

NEED HELP with 1x womens clothes, girls 2Toddler clothes, infant boy 6 months clothes, 12 month boys clothes. Please, your unneeded clothes are a blessing! digosneys@gmail.com

WANTED VW BUS FRONT BUMPER and seat for 1966 Split Window. Call 619-279-7833.

BOB BUYS LIONEL TRAINS Yours, your father's or grandfathers trains stored in a box in the garage for years, call Bob. Lionel, MTH, Amer. Flyer Cash at your location Call Bob 760 579-2234 Thank you, Bob Shultz (sent with Gentle Effect).

WANTED San Diego Reader back issues with covers pertaining to the San Diego Chargers. Contact: Joe 619-929-4407

WANTED : L.A. RAIDERS HOME PROGRAMS 8/24/85, 9/8/85, 8/22/86, 11/16/86, 10/15/89, 8/18/90, 9/1/90, 10/31/93 Joe 619-929-4407.

WANTED VIETNAM WAR ITEMS Buying US military items from the Vietnam War. Uniforms, headgear, insignia, patches, lighters, etc. 858-335-9963

STEREO GEAR/ LP RECORDS. Cash paid! Vintage/ newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables. McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Pre-recorded reel tapes, jazz/ rock records. John, 619-889-5237.

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FISHING TACKLE Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, & misc. by Heddon Creek Chub, Pflueger, South Bend, Shakespear to name just a few. Call or text pictures to: 619-972-3488.

WANTED Homeless guy needs running car/truck/van/RV or boat. Please help me get back on my feet, God bless. Brett 858-250-9898

WANTED. Cash for Walt Disney autographs, items, paper, original animation art, old Disneyland items, any type comics all before 1970. No Prints or videos. 619-890-1390.

WANTED: NEW HF HAM RADIO
Will trade for my \$800 violin. Please text 619-393-2253

INDIAN ARTIFACTS
WANTED Indian arrowheads/ artifacts wanted for personal collection. No interest in modern reproductions. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

WILL PAY CASH.... For Records, CDs, DVDs, and clothes. Professional Singing Lessons available. Musicians Wanted. Call Jeff Clark, 858-382-7396.

WANTED: Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 1(619)-303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

WANTED Homeless guy needs running truck/van. It's cold at night and I can sure use and

appreciate it. Thank you. Alex (619)451-4881

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE IN SPRING VALLEY By appointment and all must go. Please message for address so I know you are coming. Thank you.
http://bit.ly/garage_springvalley

SUNDAY MORN INDOORS SALE Stoneware, glass, mid-century furniture, Xmas & Easter decor, ceramic lamps, women's leather & clothes, rugs, pottery, art! December 15th 9321 Crest Drive, Spring Valley, Ca 91977.

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ANDY WARHOL LONGBOARD in Vista, \$150. Brand new never been used. Any questions, please call or come and see it. Phone: (760) 941-6962

SKATEBOARD / BMX HALF PIPE in Carsbad \$4500, it's 32" X 16" with skatelite, height is just over 6 feet with a 4-foot section about 8 feet tall, almost vert. Built by Jim Bell; for an extra cost, he will remove and install the ramp. Serious buyers only. Call Andy at 760-201-6438

JIMMY PAGE SURFBOARD BY SEASIDE for sale, \$150. 6'2" x 18 1/2" tri-fin surfboard. It's also signed by the artist. Call David at 1-760-746-5422

HIKING TREKKING POLES / STICKS by Leki "Super Makalu," \$45. I live in Escondido, but drive for Uber, so flexible about meeting at locations. <http://bit.ly/Leki-Poles>

ANTIQUE CRYSTAL DOOR KNOB Crystal glass doorknobs from a 1920's home. 3 available, \$25 ea. (858)864-2708 North Park.

STARBUCKS HOLIDAY MUGS Starbucks coffee mugs, vintage to new. Mostly Holiday theme, starting at \$15. LG QTY. (858)864-2708

GOLF CLUBS AND BAGS Basic starter set with bag, \$50. Lynx irons only - \$35. Others too. Most golf bags \$ 35 (858)864-2708 North Park.

WAREHOUSE LADDER W WHEELS Rolling warehouse ladder. 7' tall with deck. \$350 Inventory stock carts available too. Can deliver (858) 864-2708.

BEER TAPS AND GLASSES 10 beer taps Budweiser Coors, microbrews. Most 15-25. Bud beer glasses new \$4 each (858)864-2708 North Park.

FINE CHINA NORITAKE LENOX Several sets of fine china, starting at \$300. Service for 8 or 12. Deposits OK. Ideal for Holidays. pix too (858)864-2708.

ANTIQUE CLAY POKER CHIPS Set of 200 clay chips from the '40's. \$65 North Park (858)864-2708.

TERRARIUMS for sale in Escondido, reptile / amphibian tanks (12"x12"x18") 1 was for a

crested gecko and 1 was for frogs (has water pump). \$70 each or \$120 for both. 760-807-4727

PIXMA PRINTER new, 619-222-4565.

ANIME MOVIE BLOW OUT Thousands of new movies and movie sets. Collectibles including t-shirts and figurines. Everything must go, crazy low prices. 807 N Santa Fe Ave. Vista CA 92084

LADDER It's in excellent shape. I salvaged it and it's been fixed up to completely brand-new. It's an \$1100 at ladder. I want \$150 or best. She's totally restored, beautiful, got all the safety stickers. Call 760-802-3971. Just ask for Tim.

AMPEX REEL TAPE PLAYER Old wood grain reel tape player and AM/FM radio with 2 large speakers. \$285. 619-491-1613

SELLING TOOLS retired carpenter selling tools. Drill motor with bits, and countersinks. Also saws, nail guns, plus nails and miscellaneous hand tools. 619-443-0730

82" MITSUBISHI REAR PROJECTION HD FULL 3D TV Model-WD-82838. Good condition comes with 5 glasses & remote. Asking \$135 text 760-450-2666

INNOVA DUAL FUNCTION folding upright recombinant bike, very good condition. \$125 OBO 858-525-2339

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PAIR OF WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS By very famous artist, Miriam Sowers. See her bio on the internet. Beautiful matting and framing, \$2000. 619-427-3350.

SWAP MEET STUFF will sell it all. Bog savings, call now! John 760-433-1297.

2 ORIENTAL WHITE FLOOR LAMPS tall ones, 2 for \$20; a back pack too \$5. Nancy 858-505-0685

POWER CHAIR Like new Jazzy sport Power chair. Asking \$1200. Contact Michael 858-208-7729

WHEEL CHAIR Everest and Jennings Traveler. Clean, works well, \$35. Oceanside, 714-722-0420

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First-World Solution

— When Victoria Amith, 18, headed to college last fall, she couldn't take along her beloved cats, Tina and Louise. And her dad, Troy Good, 43, couldn't keep them at his new apartment in San Jose, California. So rather than abandon them, Good did what any doting daddy would do: He rented them an apartment of their own. Tina and Louise now live the good life in a 400-square-foot studio apartment behind the Willow Glen home of David Callisch, who told *The San Jose Mercury News*: "They're very quiet, obviously. The only problem is they stink up the place." Good pays \$1,500 a month rent, and Callisch stops in every day to feed and play with the kitties. Sounds puuuurrrrrfect.

Social Media Fail

— Game Warden Cannon Harrison, 24, is well known around his area in Oklahoma, so when he filled out a profile for the dating app Bumble, he didn't include his profession. But when he "matched" with a woman nearby in December, he was surprised when she messaged him that she had just bagged "a bigo buck." "I thought ... it was someone who was messing with me because they knew who I was," Harrison told *The Washington Post*. Deer season had ended, although hunting with a crossbow was still legal, so he decided to play along. He wrote back, "Hell yeah, get em with a bow?" When the unnamed huntress demurred, he asked her if she had been "spotlighting" -- an illegal technique that involves shining a light into the animal's

eyes to stun it before shooting it, and she replied, "Yeahhhh." Next she sent Harrison a photo of herself with her trophy, and Harrison went to work. He tracked her down on social media, and the following morning, game wardens appeared at her door. The woman paid a fine and will avoid jail time -- and probably a date with Warden Harrison.

Unclear on the Concept

— Three customers and staff of a Wells Fargo branch in Solana Beach, California, were stunned on Jan. 3 when 35-year-old Clint Gray entered the bank shortly after it opened and yelled, "This is a robbery! Everybody get on the ground!" a witness told *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. But Gray, who was unarmed, didn't follow through. Instead, he stripped down to his underwear and sat in a chair near the front door, asking bank employees to call law enforcement. He also kindly told one female customer that she could sit in a chair instead of lying on the floor. A sheriff's deputy arrived shortly, and Gray surrendered without resistance; he was later charged with attempted robbery.

Least Competent Criminal

— An unidentified 39-year-old wannabe carjacker hit a bump in the road on Jan. 7 when he approached the driver of a Chevrolet Volt in San Diego, reported *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. The thief demanded the driver's keys and mobile phone around 6 a.m., according to San Diego police, and tried to drive off in the ve-

hicle. But he couldn't figure out how to operate the hybrid car, and in frustration he ran away, discarding the phone and keys. Police located the carjacker a short distance away and arrested him on suspicion of carjacking and robbery.

Recurring Themes

— The first clue for police that Craig Wistar, 51, of Warren, Ohio, shouldn't have been driving was that he was behind the wheel of a car facing east in a westbound lane around 2 a.m. on Dec. 4. The second was the woman in the back seat, who mouthed "Help me" to officers as they questioned Wistar, who had a bottle of vodka at his feet. When asked what he was doing, Wistar replied, "I'm Ubering," reported WFMJ-TV. Officers moved the passenger to their patrol car and administered a field sobriety test, during which Wistar admitted, "I'm plastered. I'm talking hammered. I confess I'm drunk." Wistar's Uber passenger got a ride home from police, and he pleaded guilty on Jan. 14 to driving under the influence. Most important, he will no longer be able to drive for ride-sharing apps.

Promises, Promises

— On Jan. 1, Curtis Brooner filed a lawsuit claiming a Burger King in Wood Village, Oregon, reneged on its promise following a traumatic incident on Dec. 15. KATU-TV reports Brooner was having lunch at the fast-food joint that day when he became locked in the restroom. Employees provided him with a flyswatter to use to wrench the door open, but Brooner cut his hand

on it, and the lawsuit says employees laughed at Brooner from the other side of the door. It wasn't until an hour later, when a locksmith arrived, that he was set free. "To make things right," said Brooner's attorney, Michael Fuller, "the Burger King manager offered (Brooner) free food for the rest of his life" at that restaurant -- and followed through for a few weeks. But eventually the regional manager stepped in and ended it. Brooner's suit seeks damages of \$9,026.16 -- the price of one burger meal per week for the next 22 years. "There are funny elements of the case," Fuller told KATU, "but there is nothing funny about being locked in a dank bathroom for an hour."

Great Art!

— Namibian artist Max Siedentopf, 27, has placed an installation in the ancient Namib Desert, consisting of six speakers attached to an MP3 player projecting the song "Africa" by Toto -- over and over and over, for all eternity. The song, released in 1982, has enjoyed a resurgence of popularity, and was one of Spotify's "Top Throwback Songs" in 2018. Siedentopf told the BBC that solar batteries will keep the song playing forever: "I wanted to pay the song the ultimate homage and physically exhibit 'Africa' in Africa ... but I'm sure the harsh environment of the desert will devour the installation eventually."

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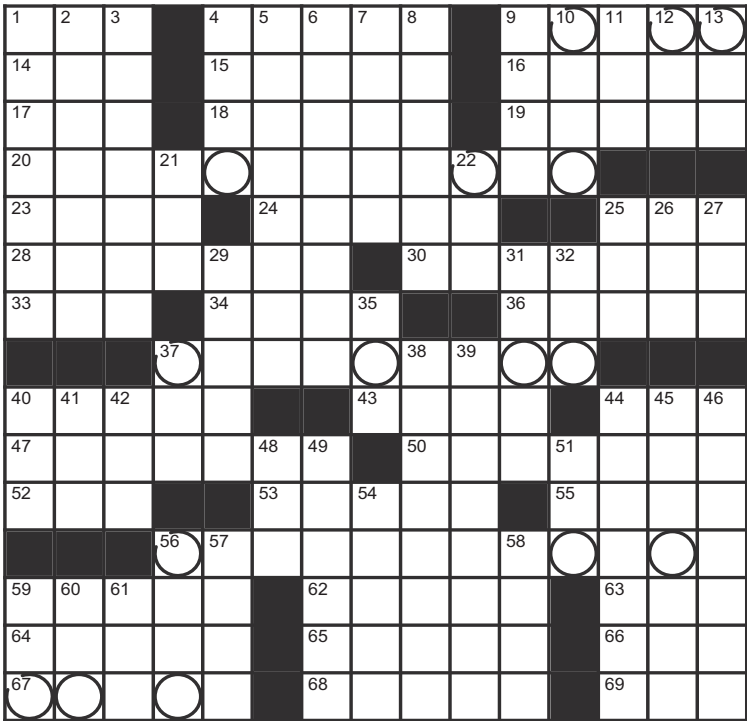
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A	N	A	I	S		K	A	L		R	A	R	E	S		
P	O	R	C	U	P	I	N	E		A	B	U	M	P		
L	I	P		P	U	B		O	C	T	O	P	U	S		
E	L	S	E		M	U	Y		R	I	O	T	S			
				C	H	A	M	E	L	E	O	N				
A	M	T	O	O		L	A	T		N	A	M				
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S	L	C			L	I	S			I	D	T	A	G		
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K	N	I	F	E		C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E		
T	O	S	E	A		C	O	D		P	A	G	A	N		
S	E	E	E	M		E	T	A			M	S	G	S		

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. 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:
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- 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Across

1. Org. implicated in the Snowden leaks
4. Shutterbug's setting
9. Before it merged with Exxon, its tagline could have been "You can't spell [this answer] without [circled letters]"
14. Take part in an auction
15. Site of some Chicago touchdowns
16. Chilling
17. Lumberjack's tool
18. Florida senator Marco
19. Verbally
20. Hasbro brand whose tagline could be "You can't spell [this answer] without [circled letters]"
23. Inner tube?
24. Blinking and sweating, in poker
25. Assumed name lead-in
28. Amounts to fry
30. Entered gradually
33. Spanish Mrs.
34. Whole bunch
36. Lakshmi of "Top Chef"
37. Anheuser-Busch brand whose tagline could be "You can't spell [this answer] without [circled letters]"
40. Gender-neutral possessive
43. One poker chip, perhaps
44. _____ mai (Asian dumplings)
47. Like some diets
50. Moves a little unsteadily
52. Animal seen on every carton of

- Ben & Jerry's ice cream
53. Duck with soft feathers
55. Symbol gotten on a PC by typing CTRL + ALT + E
56. Food brand whose tagline could be "You can't spell [this answer] without [circled letters]"
59. Novelist Joyce Carol _____
62. Outside the city
63. Part of a tuba's sound
64. Choreographer Twyla
65. Stick out like _____ thumb
66. Brian who composed "The Microsoft Sound," which, ironically, he wrote on a Mac
67. Toyota model whose tagline could be "You can't spell [this answer] without [circled letters]"
68. Choreographer Cunningham
69. _____ Jones industrial average

Down

1. Standout hoopsters
2. Like a U.S. senate term
3. Legendary soprano _____ Patti
4. Defense in a snowball fight
5. Went back and forth
10. The first "O" in YOLO
11. A few lines on one's Twitter profile, say

12. Post-OR destination
13. Played the first card
21. Like Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony"
22. Costa Rica's _____ Peninsula
25. Tack (on)
26. Most common Korean surname
27. Santa _____ winds
29. "Star Trek" officer who famously kissed Kirk in 1968
31. _____ demon
32. Listen here!
35. Fried rice legume
37. Wite-Out seller
38. Common way to exit a haunted house
39. Curve with rising action
40. "No Scrubs" singers
41. "Yoo-____!"
42. "Barf!"
44. Ate noisily, as soup
45. Familia member
46. Morale-boosting mil. event
48. Kind of room or center
49. Style of yoga in a heated room
51. Org. in "Breaking Bad"
54. Put out, as a fire
56. Frau's mister
57. Kid's game with a rhyming name
58. Get out of Dodge
59. Like Benadryl: Abbr.
60. "I have an idea!"
61. Scot's headwear

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk Monday-Friday between 9-11am or 1-3pm.

☛ Carol Georges, Poway, 13.

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

HARD:

8				1		2		
		6	2				7	9
		4	6					
	3		1					4
		2				3		
9					5		8	
					2	7		
2	9				6	1		
		7		8				3

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☛ Galen Lo, La Mesa, 1.

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

7	5	3	6	4	1	2	9	8
2	6	9	7	3	8	1	4	5
4	1	8	2	9	5	3	6	7
9	8	2	4	7	6	5	3	1
1	4	7	3	5	9	6	8	2
6	3	5	1	8	2	4	7	9
8	2	4	5	6	7	9	1	3
3	9	1	8	2	4	7	5	6
5	7	6	9	1	3	8	2	4

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

Two blocks west of Bread of Life, non-client Walter has been camping out on a sidewalk near Oceanside Boulevard. He stays prone in his tent-like shelter most of the day. "A lot of people come by and give me money or food. But every day, I get a ticket from the police. They treat people like shit. They never ask if I might need a bedpan." His mood swings from emotional to confrontational when he goes into rants about how he wants to sue the police chief, the city of Oceanside, and even Bread of Life, "because they don't calibrate their breathalyzers."

Tim Yzaguirre, executive director for Bread of Life, explains that the two rooms previously used for the shelter are now used for a new life skills academy which helps clients find jobs, learn how to speak English, or how to balance a checkbook. He says there were plans were to use three different rooms in another building for this winter's shelter.



Walter: "Every day I get a ticket from the police."

"But the building is so old, and so much would have been needed to invest in fire sprinklers and retrofitting. The owner didn't want to modify, and we can't blame her." He says Bread of Life will carry on, even though it saw a 40 percent increase in rent this summer.

Homelessness support organizations like Brother Benno's and Bread of Life struggle as they take on more clients. Plus, they get



Michael: "I was tired of living in the streets, but I simply did not know what to do."

blamed for attracting the jobless to neighborhoods. And now comes a challenge caused by a renegade non-profit, Solutions for Change. The Vista-based outfit provides long-term, live-in residence for homeless people

struggling with addiction (as opposed to a shelter, which is done night-by-night). On November 6, Solutions took an unusual step for a non-profit and bused in over 50 employees and clients wearing matching green T-shirts to an Oceanside city council meeting. They were showing support for North River Farms. The project, which will plow under 215 acres of agricultural land for 585 new houses, was approved on a 3-2 vote. Solutions founder Chris Megison said he proudly supported the project because the developer, Integral Communities, has long supported Solutions for Change. Only problem: non-profits are prohibited by law from doing this sort of thing.

"How is a non-profit doing these things and getting away with it?" asks Alex Maitre, a homeless advocate and 25-year Navy



Chris Megison said the North River Farms developer has long supported Solutions for Change.

veteran. He points out that the Solutions for Change Escondido facility on Escondido Boulevard has subleased space to Carl DeMaio's campaign for Congress. "I would have expected that space to be used for job counseling or help with transitional housing. For Megison to now claim that Solutions is a legitimate 501c3 is laughable when he is so closely aligned with Republican politics, conservative ideologies, and developers. Solutions is a superb organization, but they need to cut [Megison] loose." He says that most every other non-profit group serving the homeless in North County is part of the eight-city Alliance for Regional Solutions, but not Solutions for Change. "Chris pulled out several years ago because he thinks the rest of us are a bunch of enablers. He is on an active campaign to hinder and

cripple every organization that is not Solutions for Change." A spokesman for Megison texted that the founder was too busy to answer questions.

The closest homeless shelters for Oceanside homeless now are La Posada in Carlsbad, Casa Raphael in Vista, and Haven House in Escondido. The Interfaith Shelter Network is a group of churches which provide shelter for up to a dozen people, two weeks at a time. That network is countywide.

KEN LEIGHTON

OCEANSIDE

LetGo leads to GetBack Alleged thief apprehended via app

According to testimony on November 25, when Oceanside police officer Christopher James approached Christopher Lee Hill and told him the items he was trying to sell were stolen in a burglary, Hill replied, "I'm a dumbass." Officer James had arranged to meet Hill after the burglary victim said he saw his

stolen items offered for sale on the LetGo app. When James and Hill met in the parking lot of a nearby shopping center, Hill was wearing the stolen Metallica shirt and red Vans skate shoes seen in surveillance video from the burgled apartment, James testified. He added that the burglar in the video had a distinctive overbite and profile, which matched the suspect he met in the parking lot. When Hill was shown a still photo taken from the video, recalled James, "He said, 'Well, it looks like me; I must have a doppelganger.'"

The victim claimed that \$9000 worth of name-brand goods were stolen from his apartment near Oceanside Boulevard and Coast



Confronted by cops about selling stolen stuff, Hill replied, "I'm a dumbass."

Highway. The items ultimately recovered included Yeezy shoes, Louis Vuitton purses, a Gucci duffle bag, red Vans Skate shoes, Dolce & Gabbana cologne, several tablet computers, a Kindle and iPad. James asked Hill about the computers, who said they belonged to a friend and that he was trying to repair them. When James asked about the other pricey items, he testified, Hill "initially told me that he was given the items. Then his story changed to one in which he purchased the items for \$20 each."

Hill, 52, was arrested by Oceanside police. At the time, Hill was on probation for a prior DUI, and he is now held without bail. He denies all charges through his public defender, and reportedly told police that he had a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) and that he was "in an interesting place in his life" while he explained why he was selling the items.

EVA KNOTT



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ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 24

the beach, homes to many living things.

Sandflies breed and live in these piles of kelp, providing food for birds such as black phoebes and other fly catchers. Decaying wrack also releases nutrients that help support the life of a wide variety of invertebrates that live in the intertidal zone.

Stay on the beach by walking in or just above the intertidal zone, where a wide variety of invertebrates live, including isopods, sand crabs, and clams, all invertebrates which also provide food for birds.

In the fall and winter, watch for flocks of small white birds, sanderlings or other sandpipers, chasing waves, looking for sand crabs and other animals that are uncovered by the rushing water. Larger fall and winter visitors include long-billed curlews, marbled godwits, and whimbrels, also feasting on these intertidal, sand-dwelling animals.

Gulls in general are the most successful group of shorebirds, largely because they are not highly specialized in their diet. In fact, they often benefit from interactions with humans. Herring gulls are more often seen at fast food restaurants and landfills than at the beach. A mixture of gull species is often found gathered together near the intertidal zone, sleeping or watching the sea. These may include the California gull, Bonaparte's gull, Western gull, ring-billed gull, or Heermann's gull, depending on the season.

After hiking about 1.7 miles, you arrive at Tamarack State Beach, part of the Carlsbad State Beach and a surfer's favorite. Jetties flanking the Hedionda Lagoon inlet extend for several hundred feet into the sea. At this point, you must go up the stairs to Carlsbad Boulevard and use the highway bridge to cross the lagoon inlet.

Carlsbad Boulevard continues down a narrow, elevated sand spit separating the lagoon from the ocean. The seawall continues as a single wall along the highway, protecting it from blowing beach sand and from flooding during high tides and storm-driven waves. Once you cross the lagoon inlet, leave the highway and head back to the beach to continue hiking south near the intertidal area. There is more wrack on this beach because the state park does not groom it — and possibly as a result, more sea life.

At about 2 miles from the start of your hike, you arrive at the Cabrillo Power Plant outflow. A fence that blocks public access from two jetties and water outflow is also protecting bird-nesting sites, in particular the snowy plover, an endangered species which lays its eggs directly

on the sand.

Resume your beach walk beyond the power plant outflow on the bluff. Here are remnants of coastal sage scrub, but the area is heavily eroded. As erosion has occurred, the sand below has washed away, and rocks have accumulated at the high tide line below the bluff. The further down this beach you go, the less likely you are to find a sandy beach, except at low tides.

At about 2.5 miles into your hike, houses begin to appear on the bluffs and the beach essentially disappears at high tide, with the waves breaking near or on the rocks. Depending on the tides at the time of your visit, you may not be able to go further without getting wet.

The mesa that rises up here is known as Terra Marr Point, and the beach below it, when it appears, is Terra Marr Beach, accessible at low tide. If you have timed your visit right, you can walk around Terra Marr Point on the intertidal beach with only wet feet. Low tide also reveals beds of red and green algae, as well as wrack, including fragments from the more deeply rooted *Macrocystis*, a brown alga. You also will see how the waves, which can hit the rocky cliffs with a force of nearly 6000 pounds per square inch, are undermining them.

If you have not timed your visit with the tides, go back up to Carlsbad Boulevard and continue south on the roadside trail for about a quarter of a mile.

You can get back down to the beach by using the Cerezo Beach access stairs if the tide has receded sufficiently, but at high tide the waves will crash directly into the cliff here and there is no beach. If the tide is high and you can't hike the beach from here, take the trail south on top of the Cerezo bluffs.

If you are unable to continue your beach walk below the Cerezo bluffs due to high tide, you should consider hiking south on the trail beside Carlsbad Boulevard. This trail has great ocean views and some native coastal sage scrub vegetation. It also gives you a view of bluff erosion from above. At 4.25 miles from the hike's start, you reach North Ponto Beach, the turnaround point for the hike.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the Roam-O-Rama columns over the past eight years written by the San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneers. This is our last entry for the *Reader*. Come hike with us — every weekend September through June. Check the hike schedule: www.sdnat.org/canyoneers.

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

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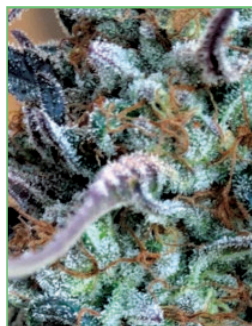
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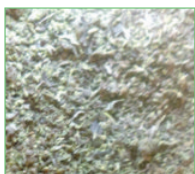
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