

What would George Mitrovich say?

Border line shenanigans ■ Bedford's yacht dreams ■ Dvorak shames critic

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 44 | NO. 51 | DECEMBER 19, 2019

Reader

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week's free classified ads

More in the back of this issue

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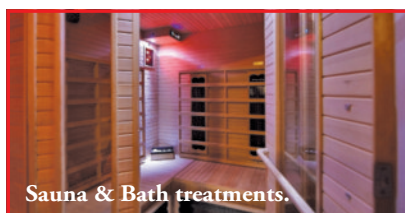
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LETTERS

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

Dog-eared beach battle

I don't have a "dog in this fight," but looking at the first two photos of the revetment, it looks like Ms. Mackin took advantage of the high tide to make it appear that the homeowners took the whole beach with the revetment ("Homes at end of Oceanside Blvd. claim emergency," Neighborhood News, December 10). It may be misleading to your readers. If an accurate comparison were to be made, I'm not sure it's as bad as she suggests.

Tony Marinucci
Oceanside Harbor

Feats of Clay

So, Ben Clay is to oversee the investigation of the death of the SDSU frat pledge ("Entry edifice complex," News under the Radar, December 4). He couldn't properly oversee as co-chair (with his wife) the Balboa Park Centennial Committee a few years back and that lack of his attention cost us taxpayers a whopping \$2,900,000 before it collapsed into oblivion. What will he cost us taxpayers via the SDSU budget to take on this task?

Lou Cumming
La Jolla

Bugged by insects

Chula Vista used to pride itself on its trees ("San Diego's changing bugs," Cover Stories, November 20). My house was built in 1890. The original owner, defining status and class with outstanding trees, planted 24 Canary Island Palm -- aka "Queen" -- trees. They fronted his 5-acre parcel, and marched down his 100-foot driveway. It was a huge financial investment. The poor remainder of 8 of them make me so sad. Two are now dead. Three are

dying. The others will probably die as well. Queen palms are not native to California, and in fact in some areas are considered an invasive species. In California, as in other areas, they were/are an exotic and beautiful import. It's a bug that is killing them. An invasive insect. I paid lots of money to a respected tree company who sprayed the ground around my now dying Queens; I was told it would protect them. But it has failed. I find it just heartbreaking to see all the dead and dying Queen palms, formerly so regal, now so despondent, with their crowns collapsed. I'm so angry at those bugs.

Susan D. Walter
Chula Vista

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

"Hike Carlsbad Beach, bluffs, & seawall from Buena Vista Lagoon to North Ponto Beach"

Roam-a-Rama
December 11

You accurately describe all of the detrimental environmental effects of grooming beach sand to remove detritus (if you ask the chamber of commerce) or beach wrack (if you ask someone in the know). California State Parks manages and operates all the beaches described on this great walk except the most northern section and CA State Parks does NOT groom the beach sand due to all of the accurate reasons that you describe. Sorry to hear SDNHMC won't be continuing these in the Reader...

—justrobin

"Why these nine Encinitas restaurants are closing"
Neighborhood News
December 9

The closing and opening of fast food casual businesses is ongoing. The closing of Noodles and Company was a company decision to shutter underperforming locations. Across the driveway was a Kentucky Fried Chicken now replaced by a Starbucks.

continued on page 4

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December 19, 2019

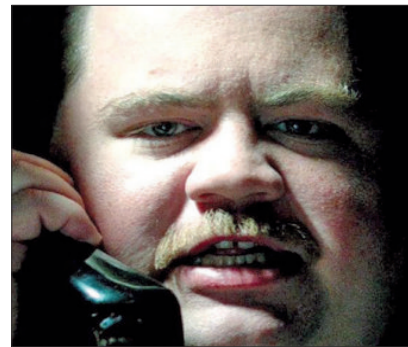


PHOTOGRAPH BY WESTERN DOUGHTY

Like a Tom Waits song — page 18



Not 1.21 Gigawatts, but still cool — page 12



Elated with Eastwood — page 47

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	53
Cannabis	56
Classifieds	49
Health and Beauty	22
Legal Solutions	11
Massage	50
Music	38
Research Studies	17
Restaurants	30

NEWS & FEATURES

Letters	1
City Lights	
Border line shenanigans could land you in jail, by Mike Madriaga	
News Ticker: Matt Potter ponders power politicians	2
Under the Radar: Carl DeMaio's prenuptial agreement	3
Neighborhood News	6
Ask a Hipster	
What the heck is hipster antitrust?	9
Golden Dreams	
Sardines at Seaport; a glimpse into the retro-future	12
Street Style	
Braids and bright statement pieces in Kearny Mesa	14
Unreal Estate	
Mediterranean charm in Mission Hills	16
What would George Mitrovich say?	
He claimed to be descended from Oliver Cromwell	18
News of the Weird	53
Puzzles	54

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,	
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures,	
Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness	25

Poetry

A Poem Like a Grenade, by John Haines	26
---	----

Restaurants

Tin Fork: Ed Bedford's Point Loma yacht dreams	30
Feast: Mighty meatballs, and more	32

San Diego Booze News

Grape vodka and heirloom corn bourbon	36
---	----

Music

Blurt: Merry Christmas from the Murderers of Love	38
Live Five: only a jackass would miss these shows	42
Immortal Beauty: Dvorak shames critic	44

Theater

Happy Holigays at Diversionary Theatre	45
--	----

Movies

Scott Marks says <i>Richard Jewell</i> is a gem	47
---	----

NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers



Mayor Faulconer finds an appropriate spot to discuss the green economy-city-of-san-diego.

The high cost of rate relief

It takes plenty of green to make a greener city

As local utility rates soared, the rush to dump San Diego Gas & Electric as the area's sole energy distributor grew into a political frenzy, capped by the October 2018 acquiescence of San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer, whose public career has long benefited from financial support from SDG&E and parent Sempra Energy. "San Diego can become a greener city, while at the same time lowering costs for our ratepayers," said the self-styled Republican moderate, announcing his blessing for a government-run alternative power utility. "The bottom line is that we are creating a fair and open marketplace."

But sticker shock may await those entrusting their hopes for rate relief to so-called community choice aggregation, a move requiring the creation of yet another government agency, complete with high-end staffers and well-paid consultants. So say skeptics, pointing to the benighted history of similar governmental entities, including the San Diego Association of Governments and Civic San Diego and the way they morphed into political footballs and unaccountable black holes of public spending.

A December 9 staff report to the board of the newly constituted San Diego Community Power — a so-called Joint Powers Authority governed by five local politicians, including San Diego city councilwomen Monica Montgomery — reveals plans to ramp up staff and spending in the coming year. As outlined in an organization chart presented with the plan, a raft of executives — including a chief executive officer, chief operating officer, and chief financial officer, along with general counsel — will

be necessary to run the show. "At the outset, it is assumed that [San Diego Community Power] will hire approximately 15-20 staff members," says a footnote, "growing to [approximately] 40 once key functions are brought in-house." The document adds that "most of the functions will be staffed/supported by external vendors until [San Diego Community Power] hires its own staff and transitions into full operations."

Just finding a chief executive will cost at least \$25,000 for a corporate head-hunter, the report continues, with job posting and open recruitment to begin in February, says an accompanying timeline.

The new arrangements will "allow better reflections of community interests and values than can be achieved through an investor-owned utility," says a business plan for the venture released in June by the city. The agency "will be committed to providing opportunities for citizens to provide input into its programs and policies," the study promised. But based on the track record of similar agencies around the state, the price could be steep. "Pre-launch funding requirements," according to the city's business plan, ranged from between \$2 million to \$5 million in Marin County to \$10 million to \$12 million in San Mateo County. In the case of the latter, the agency has "obtained a \$12 million loan with Barclay and almost \$9 million in costs and collateral."

In addition to San Diego councilmember Montgomery, the San Diego agency's board includes Chula Vista councilman Steve Padilla; La Mesa vice mayor Bill Baber; Encinitas councilman Joe Mosca; and Imperial Beach councilman Mark West.

Matt Potter



Gabriel got into trouble with police in Tecate after cutting into the middle of the line.



A man illegally moves oversized traffic cones which to direct traffic at the San Ysidro port of entry.

Border line shenanigans could land you in Mexican jail

Hours-long waits prompting bold — and illegal — action

By Mike Madriaga

Police in Tijuana have been getting involved in border line disputes as line-cutting tactics have grown more sophisticated, and extortion of Americans crossing north more prevalent.

"On our way back from

Ensenada we came back through Tecate and I cut in front of this lady," said Gabriel V. "The guy that was two cars in front called the Mexican cops."

"On you?" I asked.

"Yeah," Gabriel responded, "they showed up and

made me get the 'f' out of the line. They wanted me to turn around and [return to] the very beginning of the line — or go to the station with them."

Gabriel is a 50-year-old American that lives in Encanto and drives his "beat up SUV" down to Baja when he visits his racing-buddies and family in Rosarito and Ensenada.

"There's neighborhoods on the side streets over there by the border, so I pulled over, and the cop was waiting for me to turn into the closeby side street," he continued. "My car overheated and the smoke started coming up from the grill. The cop left; I waited for the car

Neal Obermeyer

to cool down, put some water in the radiator, and cut back in line to cross.”

Americans who cross the border have been blaming long waits — “up to 8 hours” one complained — at San Ysidro on Tijuana’s “confusing” signage and rerouted entrance points that haven’t been updated on certain GPS apps.

Eight hours is an exaggeration of the usual situation. As I write, the time to cross back into the U.S. via San Ysidro is 80 minutes through the seven open standard lanes; 70 minutes through the open ten Ready Lanes; and 15 minutes through the eight open SENTRI (Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection) lanes.

And through Otay Mesa, the wait is 40 minutes through the two standard lanes; 30 minutes through the five Ready Lanes; and no delay through the two SENTRI lanes.

Through Tecate, the wait is 60 minutes through the two standard lanes and on the Ready Lanes and SENTRI lanes here, it stated “not available.”

“The [San Ysidro] line starts to build at about 2:30 - 3:30 a.m. every workday,” said Russ P. in an October 31 *San Diego Union-Tribune* article shared on Facebook which was headlined: “Tijuana police arrest 90 for allegedly extorting U.S.-bound drivers.”

“I would hear the honking daily as people cut in line,” Russ continued, “and frequently see police actions against persons who moved barricades so people could enter the lanes in an advanced position with help of vendors or persons who appear to live in the [Tijuana] River.”

According to the article, the vendors were arrested by Tijuana municipal police on the morning of Halloween for “allegedly charging fees



A Tijuana police cruiser passes a concrete barrier that has been moved to allow access to the border line.

to move U.S.-bound drivers from the wrong traffic lane.”

“The problem are the people (some Americans) who pay the window cleaners,” said one Tijuana resident, “they should be punished too.”

Ramon from southeast San Diego, is one of these American “rule breakers” that pays the window cleaners.

“On Memorial Day, the Tijuana police blocked our normal routes back home,” he said. “And we kept going in circles for about six hours, until a man selling window shades with the suction cups suggested that we drive all the way to the Hospital General de Tijuana, and come back around and enter through the Ready Lane.”

Ramon tipped the solicitor, and requested that he hold back traffic, so that he could cut into the right lanes, which is a no-no, because only police officers or city approved hired staff can legally control traffic here.

“It wasn’t as bad as the cement [barriers],” he said. “I’ve had them do that before, too.”

In the last few months, videos were posted online of groups of men moving

large cement barriers that separate the lanes and lead into the San Ysidro Port of Entry. Some travelers reportedly get into the SENTRI lanes which are the least congested, then they pay people down the way to move the barriers so that they can move out into the standard or Ready Lanes.

“Non-members who attempt to cross the border in the SENTRI lanes may be subject to fines of up to 5000 (USD),” says the Baja Bound insurance website.

The website also provides detailed instructions, with photos, on how to return to the U.S. through San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

In May, I traveled to Ensenada to get our Toyota detailed and eat *mariscos* and *birria*. On my way back to the U.S., we were stuck in traffic leading to the San Ysidro Port of Entry for between three and four hours because of the closed off roundabouts by Plaza Rio. I was going in a circles by the Cinépolis movie theatre and the nearby roundabouts.

I was offered by a solicitor to cut into a different lane for \$20; I declined.

Another driver that I saw

continued on page 23

UNDER THE RADAR

DeMaio’s prenuptial agreement

Is it helpful to know the ropes around the House of Representatives to avoid disclosing your assets and income until the very last minute? Such seems the case with **Darrell Issa**, the ex-North County congressman seeking the seat now held by fellow Republican **Duncan Hunter**. Issa, who got rich in the car alarm business, received permission on October 23 from Democrat ethics committee chair **Theodore Deutch** and ranking Republican **Kenny Marchant** to delay his disclosure filing ninety days until January 30. That would give 50th District voters just over a month to peruse Issa’s long and complicated filing, which has in past years been full of trusts and byzantine financial trades.

Republican **Carl DeMaio**, who on September 1, got a 90-day extension until December 5 to file, came in on December 1 with an impressive list of income and assets. In 2018, the one-time San Diego city councilman and mayoral candidate pulled down \$236,400 from his talk radio gig with iHeart Media, according to the document. So far this year, as of the early December filing date he reports making \$182,300. DeMaio has a five-year contract with iHeart, beginning April 2018, but is currently on a leave of absence, the disclosure shows. His self-created performance institute paid him \$185,000 last year and \$35,000 so far in 2019.

Spouse **Jonathan Hale** picked up a salary of \$65,000 both last and this year from his Hale Media, Inc. Among 47 separate assets listed are a Discover Money Market account valued between \$500,000 and \$1 million and rental property at 3221 Old Bridgeport Way, a townhouse on San Diego’s Tecolote Canyon, also \$500,001 to \$1 million. Within the range between \$250,001 and \$500,000 DeMaio owns an interest in Direct Lending Income Fund, described as

“an arms-length investment in private fund that invests in Accounts Receivables held by Third Parties.” Stock and mutual fund holdings of between \$100,001 and \$250,000 include Amazon, American Funds Capital Income, American Funds EuroPacific, and American Funds New Perspective. Ranging between \$50,001 and \$100,00 are Facebook, Google owner Alphabet Inc. Class A, Apple, American Funds Small Cap World, American Funds Growth Fund, Ameri-

can Funds Fundamental Inv. Hale Media, Inc., a “marketing and event management company”, is valued at between \$250,001 and \$500,000, with annual income of between \$50,000 and \$100,000. “DeMaio has no interest in asset per prenuptial agreement,” per the filing.

In Hollywood’s lobby Stephanie

Faith Williams, a Washington-based staffer for North County House Democrat **Mike Levin**, took a free trip to Los Angeles and San Diego worth \$1189 in October, according to a disclosure report filed by Levin October 15. The tab was picked up by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, co-chaired by Republican ex-congressman **Philip English** of Pennsylvania, a senior government relations advisor at the law and lobbying outfit of Arent

Fox. Notes the firm’s website: “The Government Relations practice at Arent Fox is one of the most experienced, effective, and respected lobbying teams in the nation.”

Democratic ex-House member **Vic Fazio**, who works for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, another lobbying powerhouse in the nation’s capital, is the other co-chair. The junket was one in a set of regular trips with Members of Congress or senior House and Senate staff to high-tech and innovation hubs around the country to hear from company leaders about new developments and issues, and to participate in educational forums on IT and innovation policy issues,” the disclosure says.

The requisite gourmet meals and drinks were served to members of the tour at Off Vine in Hollywood and George’s at the Cove in La Jolla. At Universal Studios, owned by cable giant Comcast, the tour included “physical sets, post-production offices with demonstrations on digital editing, and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter experience at Universal Studios,” all

with the aim of “discussing the importance of protecting valued intellectual property.” Noted Williams on her disclosure form: “I did not take the return flight to Washington on October 4, as I stacked the trip with personal travel.”

Monsters of the airport

Beck+Col, a Los Angeles duo employing “humor and chaos to examine the cri-

continued on page 23



Carl DeMaio’s spouse Jonathan Hale owns a marketing and event management firm valued between \$250,000 and \$500,000.



Vic Fazio — just another congressman lobbying for a living.

LETTERS

continued from page 1

According to a Aug. 22, 2016 article by Ken Harrison in the *Reader* about the KFC: "The now-vacant location may be one of those difficult — as in jinxed — locations. While KFC operated for a long time, it used to be an Arby's and a Long John Silvers. In the same parking lot, next door, is Chipotle, which used to be a Boston Market." Across from the Swirls Frozen Yogurt and 2 Good 2 Be Bakery is what used to be the Evans tire company. That business moved farther north on El Camino Real, and construction on the vacated building may house a new restaurant. The closing of Chili's in the Encinitas Town Center is another corporate decision as the ownership has changed hands. Be more worried about the larger retail businesses in Encinitas. The car dealerships may vacate which would be a loss of a large amount of sales tax. Most of the city's income is from million-dollar houses that are built using density bonus. The mayor/council's main concern is narrowing and removing vehicle lanes for larger and wider bike

lanes.

—concernsofmany

You didn't mention the impact of minimum wage increases, probably the biggest reason for the coming closure of many more restaurants, and the loss of important entry-level jobs. California doesn't allow for the recognition of tips toward minimum wage, however, restaurant owners have to pay payroll taxes on those same tips. CA minimum wage policy forces restaurant owners, already working with very tight margins, to increase wages for "front of the house" employees that are already making well above minimum wage with tips.

—Scott Ashton

Same deal in La Jolla. Mainstay longtime restaurant neighbors on La Jolla Boulevard near Windansea -- Su Casa (Mexican) and Mandarin House (Chinese) are shuttered. Mandarin House had a fire months ago and has not re-opened at this writing and there's no sign of reconstruction or repair. Su Casa is permanently closed. Communities change for the worse in the wake of such losses.

—monaghan

continued on page 22



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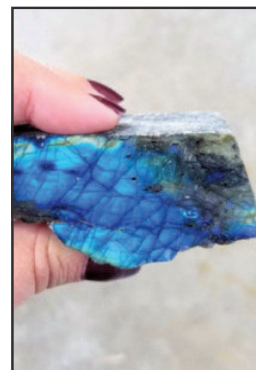
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Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITORS

Matt Potter, Matthew Lickona

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Ian Anderson, Ed Bedford, Robert Bush, Joe Deegan, Barbara Fokos, Dave Good, Moss Gropen, Dryw Keltz, Thomas Larson, Ken Leighton, Bill Manson, Cherie Peacock, Elizabeth Salaam, Jay Allen Sanford

CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER

Stephen Hatch

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Eduardo Bravo, Brett Flynn, Holly Micelli, David Phillipich, Randy Rice, Graeme Storey, Todd Westfall

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Tiffany Ferren-Cirino

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Kelsey Muma

AD/MARKETING COORDINATOR

Alyssa Prestidge

DIGITAL AGENCY MANAGER

Daniela Penkova

DIGITAL AGENCY COORDINATORS

Alexa Camarena, Matthew Dodd, Veronica Garcia-Gomez, Miranda Potmesil

DIGITAL SALES CONSULTANT

Verdette Konkol

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Amanda Stevens

ADVERTISING SUPPORT STAFF

Amanda Tascher

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Mike Brown

ART DIRECTOR

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ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER

Ruta Stecher

STAFF ACCOUNTANTS

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

SPRING VALLEY

App-rehended

Social media rolls up on wheel thief

At about 8:30 am on November 22, Vincenzo Cartiera hurried out of his Spring Valley home toward his 1998 Nissan 240SX; he was running late for his work as a commercial manager at a local auto parts store. Then he stopped. “Is that my car — where are the wheels?” he asked himself. “No. You gotta be kidding me.” But it was no joke. The Nissan — both his means of transportation and a work-in-progress “drifter/show car” — had been stripped of its rims and tires.



Cartiera's custom car, before the internet came to his aid.

told me to call the police and file a report.”

Cartiera said he was shaking as he snapped photos of the scene. Even though the \$2500 three-piece wheels were scuffed up, he reckoned they were still worth \$1200-\$1500, and that wasn't the only trouble. The perp(s) had initially propped the car on bricks to remove the wheels, but the makeshift jacks had failed, and the car had hit the cement. “They fucked up my Veritex bumper and side skirts. It may not look like much, because the car's in different colors (black and white), but that front bumper is from Japan” — the Japanese domestic market. “I waited forever for that bumper.” He posted the images to Facebook and Instagram, captioning them, “Everyone be on the fucking lookout for my Enkei Aegis wheels. Woke up to go to work to this [and] I'm so fucking pissed.”

The he reached out to Edwin, owner of the social media brand YOHB, which serves as a digital media hub for the local car scene. In the past, YOHB has helped in the promotion of the Extreme Autofest Lifestyle Festival car shows and the RaceLegal events at the former Qualcomm stadium parking lot; now, the account's pushing the “Cars 'n Paws” and “Cars and Elotes” car meets. “He shared my post on his Facebook and Instagram,” said Cartiera. “Even though it seems like it's a really small [deal] to re-share it — with how many people that view his pages and respect Edwin, that goes a long way. I can't even begin to tell you how many cars were recovered after YOHB posted [alerts] of a stolen car in our community. One time an Acura Integra was stolen then reported on YOHB; two hours later, it was found, though it had already been stripped.”

Cartiera recalled that “It took the sheriff's department about two hours after my initial call to show up and investigate. It wasn't a

regular sheriff; it was a community service officer. She was older and referred them as ‘tires;’ I had to correct her, saying, ‘They were rims and tires.’ But she was nice and professional.” But even before she arrived, he had received his first tip via direct message. “I was contacted about my wheels [allegedly] being for sale.” After filing the police report, he and his roommate drove around, following the leads that were being called in, texted and direct messaged to him. “People were messaging me, saying, ‘I think I found your wheels’ and ‘Call me ASAP.’ But not everyone was quite as supportive. ‘Why no lugs with a key?’ questioned a fellow-tuner,

if he's the one selling them, or if he's doing it for a friend, or if he's trying to trade them off. I was confused.”

At 3 pm, Cartiera received a photo of his stolen wheels. “By now, other people have found out who he is, and they've told me the the wheels were posted by a Xavier on the OfferUp app for \$1200 as well. I ask the guy on the other line, ‘Did you just post this?’ and then the OfferUp post goes down in like five minutes. He was like, ‘I can't see it anymore’ — that was a strange coincidence. I hit up the guy on OfferUp through Whatsapp, and my messages weren't going through. Then at like 7 pm, he started saying he's setting to meet up with the guy with my rims and tires. He asked me to meet at El Cajon, then at 43rd Avenue, then the YMCA in Alpine. I told him, ‘There is no YMCA in Alpine,’ and he said he would drop off the wheels in the alley by the dumpster at Viejas. It was like a wild goose chase for a few hours.”

Cartiera and three buddies continued driving around town — following the tipster's leads and other leads that were coming in from social media — until 4 am. “I was so tired; I texted him, saying, ‘If I don't hear back from you, I'll go back to the sheriff,’ and he keeps apologizing, saying he feels bad and he's trying to do what he can. He realized that he messed up. Whether it was him or someone else, he made a mistake, and he was trying to make good. It could be because he was the one who originally did it, and he realized he couldn't sell them or trade

“Even though the \$2500 3-piece wheels were scuffed up, he reckoned they were still worth \$1200-\$1500.”

“[You] should have just put a sign on the car that said ‘Free wheels.’” Commenter Bobby wrote, “Man, that's why I got locks on mine that are big enough you can't get anything around them while they're in the wheel, and they have a unique lock pattern.” Cartiera said that wheel locks slow down thieves, “but they can grind them off if they really want them.” And of course, there were the trolls. “I don't know why some people are posting shit about it being funny, I daily drive this car and I can't get to work until I get another set of wheels. But most were helpful. About ten individuals offered me their rims to borrow so I could go back to work; I didn't even know some of them.”

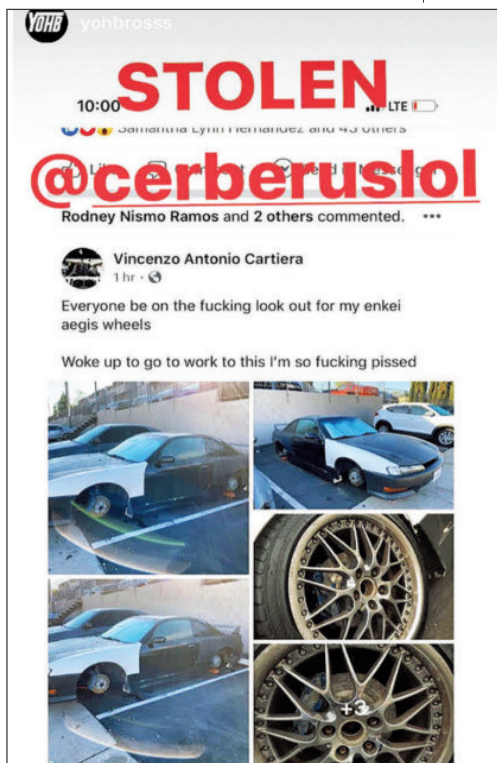
Cartiera's roommate drove him around while he talked on the phone with the police and the insurance company and fielded Facebook messages and texts. “Then I get a voice message: ‘Hey I believe these are them.’ Then he tells me the specs of them and the mismatched brand of tires. The guy tells me this [other] guy has them, and that they go way back in high school. He didn't want to give me the guy's name, and I'm thinking, ‘I dunno

them — especially if his name was going to be blasted all over the place about it. Finally, at about 10:30 am on Saturday, he Facetimes me standing in front of my wheels. Then at 11 am, he says he's putting the wheels in his car. At 1:40 pm, he shows up to the alley where my rims were stolen. He was like, ‘I didn't come with anyone, and I'm all by myself. If you guys need to beat me up, we can get down and scrape, but it'd be nothing. I just wanna let you know that I didn't take your wheels, and I will do what I can to clear my name and make good about it.’”

Cartiera got his wheels back. The two men spoke for about an hour and parted ways. “Now, I just want him or his contact to cover my \$1000 deductible — if insurance will pay for the damage,” Cartiera said. “If insurance doesn't cover it, I have to figure out how much the shop will charge to fix it.” He offered some parting advice to fellow builders. “You never post pictures of where you actually live. And never post your license plate; if you do, thieves can find out where you live.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

continued on page 8



“I can't tell you how many cars were recovered after YOHB posted stolen cars in our community.”

“I called my roommate down,” he continued. “I didn't want to leave the scene, in case the thieves were still around. The car had dew all over it because it was cold that morning, but the disc brakes didn't, so it looked like the rims and tires had just been stolen recently.” Too shocked and angry to be afraid of a possible confrontation, he began searching for the culprits. “I looked into car windows and a close-by truck. Sometimes, thieves hide tools or parts close by. When my roommate came down, I called my insurance and they



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NORTH COUNTY

Coastal cities remain a red light (camera) district But costs vs. crashes question caused countywide cancellations

While several cities in San Diego County have stopped using red light cameras — a photo enforcement tool meant to reduce accidents — Del Mar, Solana Beach and Encinitas, which installed the cameras in 2004, are keeping theirs. Two years ago, Solana Beach approved a five-year extension of its contract for camera enforcement; last year, Encinitas voted to keep its two locations, though with a shorter, 18-month contract; and most recently, Del



Robocop is still watching you drive in Del Mar.

Mar extended its agreement with Arizona-based Redflex for another three years. It's like adding "a virtual officer" for 24-7, 365-days-a-year enforcement, a Del Mar staff report said. But councilmembers have been on the fence about it for years. They questioned its benefits in 2014, and came close to dropping it in 2016, when they hit snooze on their contract to give time for a review by the finance committee.

Jim Lissner, an activist who campaigns against the cameras, bombarding city officials with documents and emails to try to sway their support from the program, then sent comments ahead of the fall meeting when the contract was renewed without discussion, saying the topic hadn't been addressed since 2016. "I cannot find any mention of a review by the finance committee," he said, referring to the staff report, which he also said failed to include "any review of safety statistics," except those from the meeting three years ago.

From the start, traffic enforcement was a high priority in Del Mar's Vision 2020 process, which advocated a more walkable city. But throughout the county, murky statistics, costs to review video data (which is done by the cities, and requires sheriff time), and lackluster results have served as reasons for removing the cameras. San Diego and Escondido abandoned theirs in 2013. El Cajon, Poway and Oceanside followed them in 2014. Vista began removing its cameras in 2016.

Did the cameras reduce accidents in the cities that scrapped them? Studies by the El

Cajon police did find overall citywide reductions in collisions when the cameras operated. So before taking them down, the city tested a six-month trial shutoff. Ten cameras had been placed at seven intersections in 1996. The question: would their absence after so many years wreak havoc? It turned out there were just three more crashes, which police considered statistically insignificant. Other cities found more positive effects. Poway installed cameras at three intersections in 2005 and took them down in 2014. A city report showed that during their use, the worst type of collisions, broadside, were reduced by half (though less damaging rear-end accidents increased eight percent, likely due to ticket-fearing drivers slamming brakes). Vista also claimed success: crashes caused by red-light violations reportedly went down 57 percent when the program was in place. But only two of five councilmembers voted to keep it going.

While the cameras were meant to increase safety, better driver behavior and fewer violations mean less revenue. In Del Mar, the program hasn't always been a moneymaker. The city paid \$56,790 per year to rent the cameras; the cost for a sheriff to review the photos added \$39,000. Ticket revenue usually exceeds costs, but not every year. Under California law, a ticket can only be issued if there is a clear picture of both driver and license plate, which older technology didn't always yield. And sheriff's safety data in 2016 showed only a modest drop in accidents. Councilmembers at the time referred to it as a pilot program that hadn't been very successful, and was at best moderately beneficial.

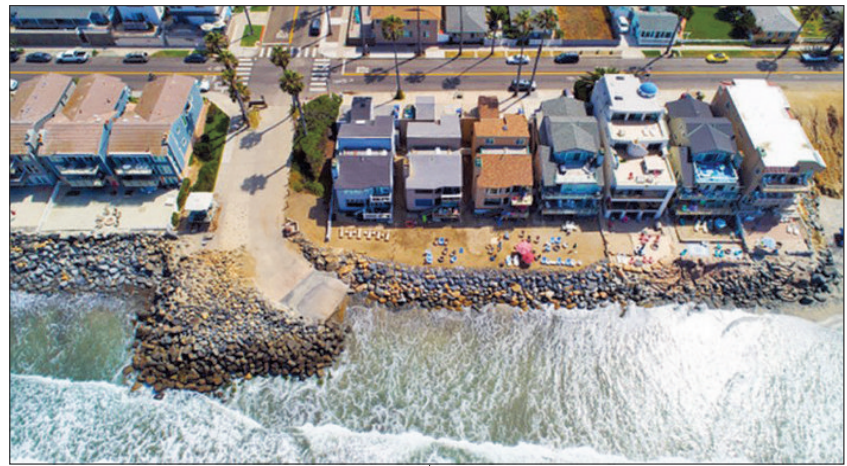
SHEILA PELL

OCEANSIDE

Rip rap repels riff raff Beach barricade supposed to foil floods, not preserve privacy

The California Coastal Commission is the state agency that is supposed to protect the coast and preserve public access to the beach. But what happens if a coastal city allows beachfront owners to dump tons of boulder-sized "rip rap" or revetment, in violation of the Commission's rules? Shari Mackin wanted an answer to that question, which is part of the reason she hired a drone photographer to help prove her claim that beachfront homeowners got city permission to expand their private beach without getting the mandatory Coastal Commission permits. "Emergency permits are only supposed to be issued if there is a real emergency," she says. "Only if the houses are falling into the ocean. And that is clearly not what is happening here."

Mackin, who made beach preservation



Luxury or emergency? Drone photo showing de facto private beaches.



Oceanside homes from California Records Project 2013.

a key issue when she served on the Oceanside city council, was talking about the row of houses just south of the western terminus of Oceanside Boulevard. She maintains that the homeowners had no real "emergency," but that claiming they did convinced the city of Oceanside to bend the rules. And she brought the matter up in a Power Point presentation when the coastal commission met in San Diego County last October. "The city never got approval," says Mackin. "They just started doing it. These homeowners had carte blanche to put as much rip rap as they wanted on a

The city of Oceanside OK'd the project. The coastal commission did not. "You don't want people just bringing down a tractor and dumping rocks on the beach," says Mackin. "And besides, so-called emergency repairs are only supposed to be there for two to three weeks."

Attempts to get a response from the residents in the four beachfront homes situated just south of Oceanside Boulevard were not successful. But two members of the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation did weigh in on Mackin's concerns. "Surfrider believes that all emergency work should only be temporary

"Emergency permits are only supposed to be issued if the houses are falling into the ocean. And that is clearly not what is happening here."

public beach. They might have been losing some sand in front of their houses. But none of these homes were in danger. What our staff did was, it waived the need to get all the necessary permits, which is unheard of. This has never been done before." The before-and-after photos she presented at the coastal commission meeting seemed to show the houses on the 1200 block of Pacific Street with a new, enlarged private beach area, thanks to a new embankment of rip rap installed this summer.

fixes," says Laura Walsh, policy coordinator for San Diego Surfrider. She says Mackin did the right thing by speaking to the 12-member Coastal Commission directly. "That's the first place you want to ring a bell. You want them to use their authority to make the right response. If [Oceanside] was violating its LCP [Local Coastal Program], we would have concerns as well." Most coastal cities have their own Local Coastal Program set up with the Coastal

continued on page 24

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Hey Hipster:

What the heck is hipster antitrust and why does it keep showing up in my news feed? I'm not even exactly sure what regular antitrust is (except I think it has something to do with Theodore Roosevelt and John D. Rockefeller), and I definitely had no idea there was a hipster version floating around now. Do actual hipsters have anything to do with it, or is this just a thing?

— T.S.

Well, this is the week I have to sing for my supper. I guess it can't always be "lol hipsters" and jokes about moustaches.

You could go Google "hipster" right now, but I'll save you the time and breakdown the results. The search will return 60 percent worthless listicles about "39 Times Hipsters Went Too Far!" and 39 percent ads for women's underwear. The remainder will consist of a link to this column (if I'm lucky that week), something to do with *Vice* news, at least one link to the story that won't die about the guy who mistook a stock photo of a hipster for himself, and at least one hit for something to do with hipster antitrust. It's out there, waiting to perplex your newsfeed.

Pop quiz. Hipster antitrust is:

(A) The new Diplo collab with Gustavo Dudamel;

(B) A theory of anticompetitive business practices focused on the economic structure of a given industry rather than the effects of monopoly power on consumer



prices; or
(C) Antitrust...
but with a moustache
(always room for a moustache joke).

I'll give you an example. Mainstream antitrust has no problem with Amazon, because you can get your Sloth hoodies and knockoff selfie sticks at borderline wholesale prices. Hipster antitrust doesn't care about how it's cheaper to get Oreos delivered by Prime than it is to go buy them yourself. Instead, it regards with deep suspicion the probable future where there is only one store that sells everything to everyone; because what could possibly go wrong with that?

You're probably hearing about it these days because Presidential hopeful and huge nerd Elizabeth Warren (who for sure has no idea who Diplo is or what he does) is all about some hipster antitrust.

To answer your final question, real hipsters had absolutely no part in coming up with this idea. They are too busy being hungry and complaining about Boomers. As near as I can tell, critics created the "hipster antitrust" moniker as an immediate way to signal their displeasure, and as a means of signalling to like-minded people that hipster antitrust should be immediately mistrusted, as if it were a guy trying to sell you an ASMR recording of artisanal keyboard sounds.

However, I think

there's delightful irony in all this. Hipster antitrust proponents would surely prefer an economy built on small, locally owned businesses dealing in a wide array of quirky trades and products that would go unprovided in a market dominated by businesses appealing to the lowest common denominator of competition. In that way, hipster antitrust is actually kind of hipster, even if the people who named it couldn't tell a real hipster from a hole in the ground. Even the proverbial blind squirrel finds a single-origin heirloom acorn every now and again.

— DJ Stevens



Warren: hipster antitrust nerd



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Who says you can't make art from sardines?

Something Fishy at Seaport Village

When Max Robert Daily ran Oslo Sardine Bar inside Logan Heights' Bread & Salt art center, visitors would ask, "Is this art?" Fair question. Now that he's setting up in a Seaport Village storefront, the question he hears more often is, "Is this a joke?" Again, fair question. The signs in the window are straight out of a supermarket circular, except the word "Fresh" has been crossed out of "Fresh Fish, 99 cents," the tinned tuna is billed as "Pre-Fukushima," and the word "Expired" in "Expired Sardine Cans" has been replaced with "Antiqued." "We'll stand outside and invite people in, but they don't trust us," says Daily. "And if they do come in, they keep waiting for the reveal, until they realize, 'Oh, you really are just selling sardines!'"

Granted, even that could be seen as a high-concept joke: a bar devoted to serving cans of tiny fish from overseas hard by the spot where San Diego's tuna fisherman unload their fresh, comparatively enormous catches. *You're paying to dine on bait fish!* But it's not a joke, not really. "I want to turn this into a real thing," says Daily. "I saw little places like this all over the place while I was traveling in Spain and France. I'd walk in, and it was all color," thanks in large part to the packaging. "I thought, 'I want to get into this,' and the only way I knew how was art."

The Bread & Salt installation won him a

San Diego Art Prize, which was enough to get him on tour in a crate-sized establishment: New York, Miami, Santa Fe. After that, the Port invited him to set up shop as part of the Village's Thursday night Seaport Sessions, running from 5 pm-8 pm. (Also included: free live music and community-minded talks. Do go visit.) Opines Daily, "I think this is the middle step between the Bread & Salt installation and something like a craft beer bar, but with just two beers — light and dark — and a huge array of fish." Daily may be an artist, but artists have to eat, and he's got King Oscar brand sardines acting as a patron. "They said, 'We don't know how you're getting people to eat sardines, but you are.'"

Not even the signage is entirely whimsical. "Like fine wine, sardines improve with age," says Daily as I fork up a mellow, meltingly tender hunk of Portuguese sardine (\$10) and let the lemony olive oil it was packed in drip off

before easing it onto my cracker. "The French call it antiquing. They don't open the tin until it's past the expiration date." I don't check mine.

Instead, I pay my five cents — well, four; maitre d' Ryan Severance covers my shortfall — and seek more conventional thrills: crawling through a hatch in the wall into the darkened room that houses the bar's electric shark. Well, shark lit by electricity. "Richard Dreyfus from *Jaws* gave it to us," says Daily. He's still not joking.



Max Robert Daily tending his bar.

Benardo's electrified Beetle illuminates memories

"What year is this?" asks the gentleman passing David Benardo on his way into the Bali Hai on Shelter Island. He has noticed Benardo's pristine white Volkswagen Beetle convertible parked outside, and as he leans in, he says, smiling, "I had a '78 Super Bug." Benardo has just finished telling me that old Volkswagens are conversation starters. "You're immediately approachable. You're kind of like the good guy. People have a lot of memories attached to these cars."

"Well, it's sort of a '65," he answers. "But look." He lifts the rear hood, revealing a 100-horsepower electric motor where the "maybe 40-horsepower" gas engine used to be. The \$62,000 retrofit — which brings the fully restored Beetle's price up to \$110,000 — is the work of Zelectric Motors, the San Diego-based business he runs with his wife Bonnie. "It sounds crazy," he says, "but we put in 300-400 hours on each car," and there have been "zero issues" with the 25 cars — Beetles, Things, VW buses, and Porsches — that Zelectric has produced over the past seven years.

Excited, the gentleman calls to his female companion. "Come see this! it's electric!" She declines, saying, "I don't know nothing about no cars," but another passerby *does* know. "I used to tune these," he says, marveling. "Well, there's nothing to tune here," says Benardo. "My wife and I have always loved

"How fast will it go?" asks an old-timer from the window of a passing '58. "As fast as you'd want to go in an old Volkswagen," replies Benardo. "Over 100. Wanna race?"

"I had a '66 for a lot of years," says a woman



Zelectric's David Benardo (left) chats with a former VW mechanic.

as she passes. "Candy apple red, black ragtop." This one has red leather inside to match the rim on the wheels, and was recently won by a woman who lives outside Atlanta after it was used as an incentive by the fundraising platform Omaze.

"I had one right out of high school in '67," says another woman, stopping with her Bali Hai-bound date. "Then another in '72. Then a convertible in '77. Sold it because I couldn't get over the mountains" — something Benardo's version can do with vigor. ("It's not a sports car, but it's much more sporty than it was.") "We're



Zelectric recently put a Tesla motor into a Porsche 911, with dramatic results.

these cars — they make you feel happy driving them — but not the upkeep to keep them running. The driving force was to drive the car as often as possible and not have to work on it. It was a personal project that kind of evolved into a business." Right now, he's booked through the next 18 months. His clients, almost exclusively Boomers, pay a nonrefundable \$5000 deposit to hold a place in line.

baby boomers, but we're joining these younger people in the environmental movement, like little Greta — she's our heroine. We've reduced our air conditioning, stopped eating red meat, and this" — going electric — "is our next step."

Benardo smiles on their beefy forbearance. "That's a bigger step than this," he says, gesturing at the Beetle. "This is the fun part."

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Street Style

BY MIRANDA POTMESIL

Braids and bright statement pieces in Kearny Mesa

Milk tea — I'm one of its biggest fans. Any night of the week, you have a good chance at finding me fulfilling a craving at a tea spot on Convoy. On one such night, I made my way to Up 2 You Cafe, where I ran into Naomi Sounds, an R&B singer-songwriter originally from the Bay Area.

Naomi's bright energy was reflected in her bright blue



NAIOMI'S BLUE WINDBREAKER STANDS OUT AS THE OUTFIT'S FOCAL POINT



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windbreaker (Target, \$30). Underneath, she wore a white tank top with the Lightning in a Bottle logo (online, on sale for \$12) — it's a music festival held annually in Buena Vista Lake, CA. Her bottoms were a pair of new black leggings she received as a birthday present from her sister, and the

black helped her white Fila sneakers pop (Journeys, \$65).

"Sometimes, I'll wear a really uncolorful outfit so that I can wear bright earrings or a bright jacket," the singer explained when I asked her what inspired her outfit that day.

I commented that her golden braids

stood out too, and she replied, "I feel like it gives me a whole new identity! I was meant to have blonde hair." Naomi had just recently gotten her braids done by a stylist named Mimi in El Cajon (Braids Plus, \$180).

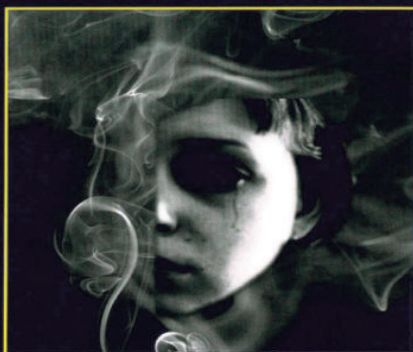
Accenting her outfit were three stone bracelets (all gifts), as well as a stone necklace (\$2) she acquired from a street vendor while walking along the beaches of the Gili Air Island in Bali this past summer. On her right hand, she also wore a small sun-moon-and-waves gold ring that her mother passed down to her.

When asked for shopping tips, Naomi offered up thrifting as an alternative. "You can get good quality stuff for very cheap. I could go to Target and buy a pair of jeans for \$20, or I could go to a thrift store and get 3 pairs for the same price — and they could be nicer than the Target pair."

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

The 4300-square-foot Spanish Mediterranean mansion at 4334 Avalon Drive, "located in the sought out neighborhood of Avalon Heights" hasn't seen the public market in more than 25 years, according to listing information retrieved from *Realtor.com*.

The nearly century-old home sits at the northern edge of Mission Hills, looking down on Mission Valley and across what would have been False Bay at the time of its construction, toward the



The home's high siting maximizes both views and privacy.

Pacific Ocean a few miles distant. Original design work was performed by Richard Requa, who studied under the legendary local architect Irving

Gill before striking out on his own and eventually being commissioned Master Architect for the renovation of Balboa Park prior to the 1935 Califor-

nia Pacific International Exposition, the last of San Diego's world fairs. More recently, contemporary architectural designer Wallace Cunningham is

reported to have overseen a modernization of the facilities.

Sited high on the lot to maximize privacy and the view potential, entry to the home is through a grand foyer leading to a living room with exposed-wood-beam ceilings and "a grand Roman brick fireplace." Elaborate Spanish tile mosaics frame and flank a gated entrance just outside. The "stunning dining room," kitchen, and adjacent family room are highlighted by unique curved beam arches. The main floor is also home to a library, an office or game room, and a pair of bedrooms - one is an ensuite, suitable for use as a second master.

The primary master suite is accessed by "a whimsical staircase" landing at the entrance

to a private second-floor view deck. The owner's retreat has its own wood-burning fireplace along with a "spa-style bathroom" with pedestal tub, separate shower, and spacious walk-in closet.

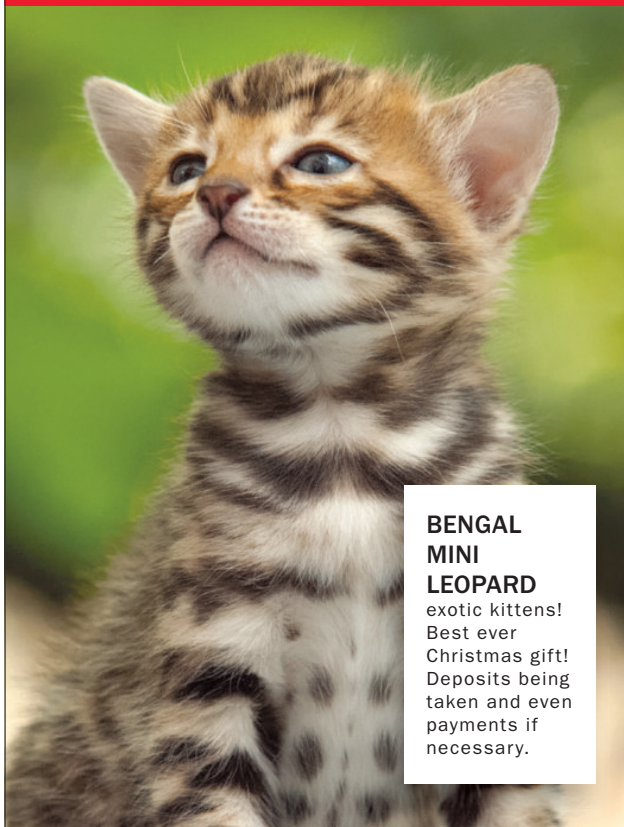
Upgrades to the property were performed keeping the home's historical nature in mind, and include newer paint and flooring (though much of the original hardwood seems to have been preserved). Updates to the kitchen and baths include a large stone-topped center island. The upgrade also added central heating and a multi-zoned air conditioning system.

A sun room downstairs leads out to the solar-heated, Pebble Tec-lined pool and spa, while a handful of other decks and balconies, along

continued on page 22

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George on a hot day in August 1994. He's wearing a red-and-white *matelot* jersey and navy shorts. This is at an informal meet-and-greet for former Senator Eugene McCarthy.

What would George Mitrovich say?

The weirdest thing the late George Mitrovich ever told me was that he was descended from Oliver Cromwell.

He hadn't nailed down the exact genealogy, apparently, but said it was family lore. What piqued my curiosity wasn't whether or not it was true — did Cromwell even have any descendants? — but why George would claim such an unsavory

character as a remote forebear. If you're going to pick an unlikely family tie, why not someone a little more obscure and less off-putting?

George told me that Cromwell story around 1992, and a few months ago, I was still wondering about it. I decided to call him up and ask. But as we hadn't spoken in some years, first I thought I'd do a little legwork on my own, through the modern magic of the internet. And turns out Cromwell did indeed

have descendants — scads of them; thousands roam the earth today. As for George's end of the genealogical tree, I found that he was Virginian and English on his mother's side, with a large extended family arriving in San Diego in the early 20th century after a short spell in New Mexico. My research, unfortunately, fades out in the mists of mid-1700s Virginia, where forebears are countless and hard data are few. So I never quite tied up the connection be-

tween George Mitrovich and the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth.

And, alas, I never got around to phoning him up. And then in late July, I read that he'd passed on.

Suits and eyebrows

When the obits came out, the cliché about George was that he was “the man who knew everyone.” Exactly what he did, however, was never clearly explained. Even George had trouble describing himself. His thumbnail bio, accompanying his occasional contributions to *The Huffington Post* and other journals, was “San Diego civic leader.” Whatever that may be.

He ran a City Club in San Diego, but he also had one in Denver, and some kind of writers' forum connected with the

Boston Red Sox. He was a Republican, except if you thought he was really a Democrat; he was happy to go along with that, too. Fundamentally he was a facilitator, a booster. A public-relations consultant. He was your go-to guy who knows a guy who knows another guy.

Here is a story from many years ago, when I naively imagined that somebody who knew everybody could probably get anybody a job. I had this shy friend, and brought her along to meet George. She was a recent (though somewhat superannuated) San Diego State graduate whom I knew from a terrible temp job on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

We got together for lunch at some outdoor café downtown. George tried to ferret out what

sort of job my friend was looking for, but my friend couldn't really say, beyond “someplace where the people are really nice and interesting.” In the end, she just sat there looking at him while George's and my conversation drifted into political trivia: for example, what it was like working on the Bobby Kennedy campaign in '68?

This could have been the uncomfortable lunch from hell, but it was ludicrous fun, and George was always the gentleman. Later, I asked my friend what she thought of him.

“He cuts his eyebrows.”

And so he did. Or rather, the barber did. Like many men of a certain age, George had some unruly, ambitious eyebrow hairs, and these

got trimmed as part of his regular haircut.

But why would one notice something like this? For that matter, why did George's eulogists like to mention his “exquisite suits” or whatever? That's rather like saying a 50-year-old actress takes really good care of her skin. He'd been a Capitol Hill press aide, for goodness sake; a smart appearance went with the job. When the Age of the Slob and Casual Friday descended on us three decades ago, it came far too late to affect George's grooming.

Not to say George was never casual. I have a mental picture of casual George on a hot day in August 1994. He's wearing a red-and-white *matelot* jersey and navy shorts. This is at an informal meet-and-greet

for former Senator Eugene McCarthy. We're at George's canyon-backed house in Kensington, and the still-gangly but paunchy McCarthy is giving his talk in sweaty shirtsleeves and necktie. Beside him is our host Mr. Mitrovich, dressed like Gerald Murphy at Cap d'Antibes in 1925.

“Tell George he still owes me that thousand dollars!”

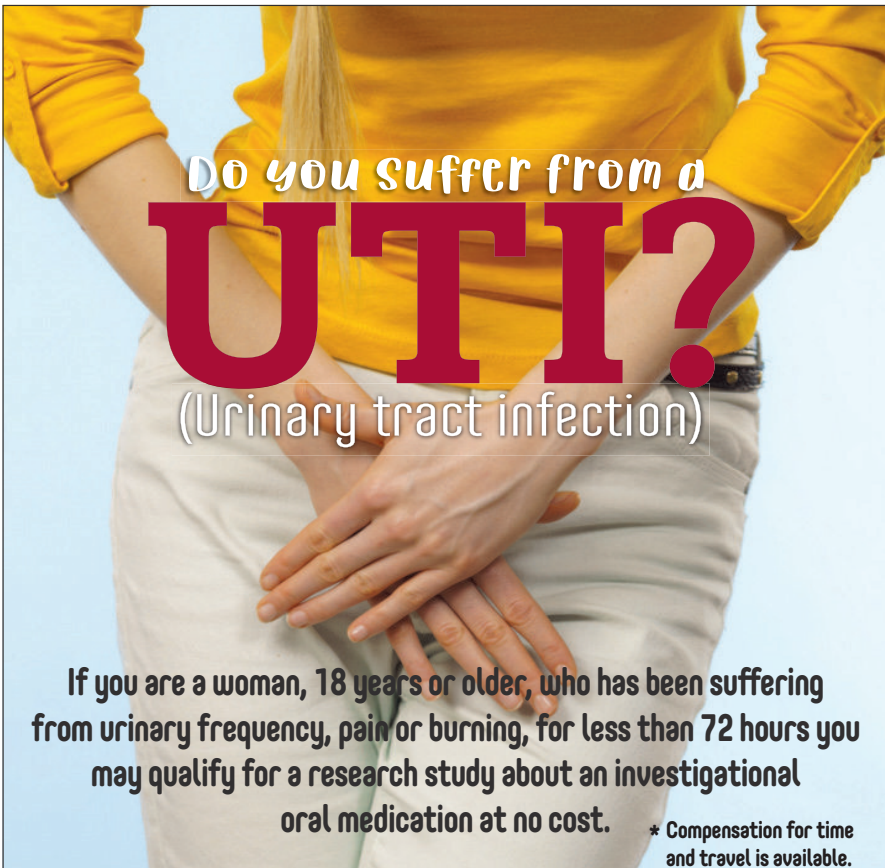
Around the San Diego Press Club in the early 1990s, there was a public relations whiz and congressional in-law who would make jokes about George Mitrovich. Lots of people did, of course, but this guy was good.

The PR hotshot liked to do an imitation of grandiloquent George introducing a speaker at the City Club: “Of course

it should be noted that, as the renowned English journalist (and personal friend of mine) Peregrine Worsthorne once confided to me, ‘There is oft a slip twixt cup and lip,’ an observation I am not prepared to gainsay. But much the same might be said of this month's City Club's speaker. And so let me introduce—.”

In the fullness of time (as my good friend Lyndon Johnson used to say) I discovered that the names George dropped were people he did indeed know, even if they were not always quite his best buddies. It went with the territory. His main occupation at this point was running the City Club, and his job was to keep snagging people like Richard Reeves, Ben Bradlee, Tom Wolfe, Pat Buchanan; any hack

RESEARCH STUDIES

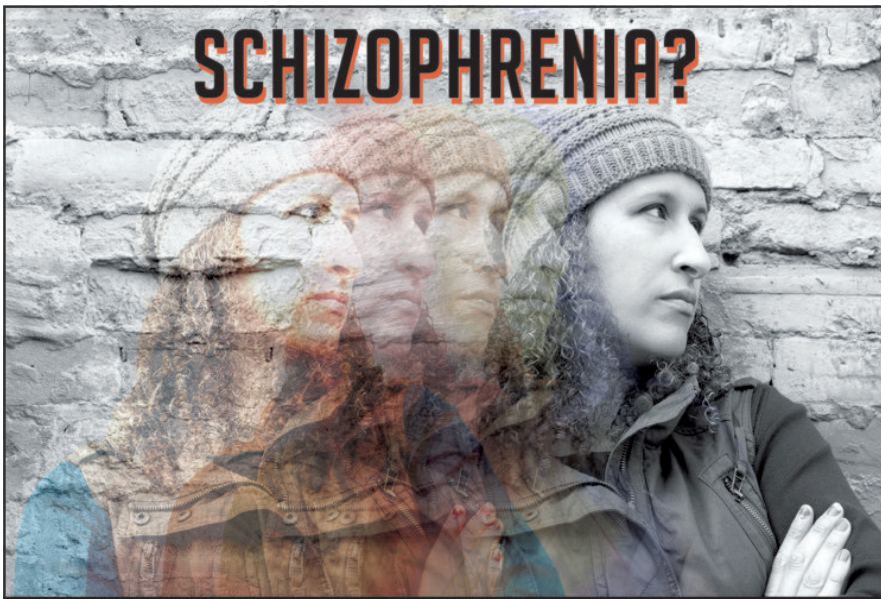


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politician who'd written a book, any distinguished English journal who was in the vicinity. He'd started running these lunchtime speaker forums when working as a press secretary in DC in the early 1970s. Twenty years later, his Rolodex was quite full.

So when my company sent me to London for a few years, on and off, and I thought I'd make a little pin money freelancing for *The Spectator* or *The Oldie* or whatever, I decided to ring up George. And George gave me a whole string of names of "close personal friends" who might be of use.

The former D.C. correspondent from the *Daily Telegraph* seemed a bit peeved when I mentioned George's name. No, he said, he couldn't

see me, because right now he had to go have lunch with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. So I worked my way down the list, and soon found a friendly voice — someone apparently fond of George, and eager to take me to lunch on the *Guardian's* expense account. This was Simon Hoggart, who had been the *Observer's* U.S. correspondent in the 1980s, where he did a sort of Alistair Cooke turn writing mildly amusing explanations of American customs for the Brits while turning up regularly on CNN or National Public Radio to explain Great Britain to the American cousins.

It was Simon, more than anyone else, who spread the word about how Joe Biden in the 1988 primaries plagia-

rized a speech by Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, telling how he was descended from impoverished coal miners and was the first in his family in a thousand generations to go to university. ("Because there were no universities 25,000 years ago," Simon pointed out.)

It was about this time, 1988, that Simon first came to speak at the City Club. He and George got on like a house afire. The only snag was getting paid. Somehow the \$1000 speaker's honorarium never reached Simon.

"Tell George he still owes me that thousand dollars," said Simon during our first lavish lunch with wine. (We usually did two bottles.)

And this went on for years. Whenever I saw Simon, usually at a restaurant, once in the

Commons press refectory (lunch was always on the *Guardian's* chit), and once at my house, he'd always ask after George, say how wonderful he was, and tell me to remind him about that thousand dollars.

"Oh, no, no," George would always say upon receiving said reminder, sounding mortified. "I'm sure we paid him."

I assume this issue was eventually cleared up, because Simon spoke at the City Club of San Diego once more, and the next time I saw him, he made no mention of the debt.

I'm pretty sure it wasn't George who was in error. The City Club once paid Tom Wolfe \$60,000 when he came to speak. Obviously, Simon just lost the check.

The Great Goodell

My dossier on George was spotty and lopsided, missing all kinds of key elements. Until he died, I had no idea, or else had completely forgotten, what a baseball fanatic he was. Which raises the idle question: how do you acquire a passion for the National Pastime when you're growing up in San Diego in the 1940s, and the nearest Major League team is in St. Louis? And yes, I do realize Don Larsen (Point Loma High School) somehow managed it, as did Ted Williams (Hoover High School); and George apparently played ball when he was at Helix High School and Pasadena College.

And speaking of lineups: back in the 1990s, it completely eluded me

that George had been a featured player in the J. David Dominelli scandal. That was the Ponzi-scheme deal that brought down the political career of Mayor Roger Hedgecock. I wasn't living in San Diego in the mid-'80s, and the only reason I even knew about it was that *60 Minutes* once did a segment on it.

The *LA Times* stories about the 1985 Hedgecock trial make hilarious reading today. The prosecutor was accusing mild-mannered George Mitrovich — PR director at now-defunct J. David & Co. — of being a "co-conspirator" and "bag man." He suggested that George had been funneling illicit contributions from the J. David firm to the Hedgecock campaign in 1983. Furthermore, according to the prosecu-

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tor's theory, this Mitrovich fellow was also using his so-called City Club of San Diego as a "front" to ensnare the well-heeled and gullible.

Not surprisingly, the judge disallowed this line of argument. And a potential media circus — or train wreck — was avoided.

But George had been witness to a far worse career tragedy 15 years before the J. David matter, and this was something he did like to talk about: the sad story of Charles Goodell, U.S. Senator from New York (and father of current NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell). Charlie Goodell was George's *beau ideal* and everlasting hero.

Young George Mitrovich had been an aide to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at the time when RFK was assassinated in 1968. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller appointed Goodell, an upstate Republican congressman, to fill the Senate seat, and in due course, George became Goodell's press secretary. Now, Goodell had been a popular, if rather conventional member of

the Party of Lincoln — at least according to the standards of 1959, when he first entered Congress. That is: generally a moderate on domestic issues, but wary of overseas interventionism and what Dwight Eisenhower called the "military-industrial complex." Such were Republicans in those bygone days — consider Bill Scranton, George Romney, or even Richard Nixon. (Nevermind Rockefeller; he was as fierce a hawk as any 1960s Democrat.)

Accordingly, Charlie Goodell was no fan of the Vietnam War. He supported Richard Nixon for President in 1968 because Nixon was the guy who said he was going to get us out of that quagmire. But Nixon didn't end the war, at least not immediately; in 1969 and 1970, he looked to be escalating it. So Goodell proposed a bill to cut off funding if the troops weren't pulled out within a year. The Nixon Administration read this as disloyalty, and set about maneuvering to wreck Goodell's elec-

tion chances in the next senatorial election.

That 1970 Senate contest emerged as a three-way, neck-and-neck horserace among Goodell, a downstate Democrat named Ottinger, and a Conservative Party candidate by the name of James L. Buckley (older brother to William F., Jr.) Candidate Buckley started gaining in the polls, siphoning so many Republican voters away from Goodell that the Democrat was near-certain to win.

But then, a few weeks before the election, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew stepped in and began hammering Goodell. Agnew characterized Goodell as a turncoat who'd flipped on all his old policies; Goodell's about-face was so drastic it was like he'd had a sex change. This last, tasteless metaphor was a masterpiece of political oratory (authored by Pat Buchanan). Crude and mean-spirited, but it did just what it was supposed to do. It brought out the sympathy vote for Goodell, pumping just enough Democrats



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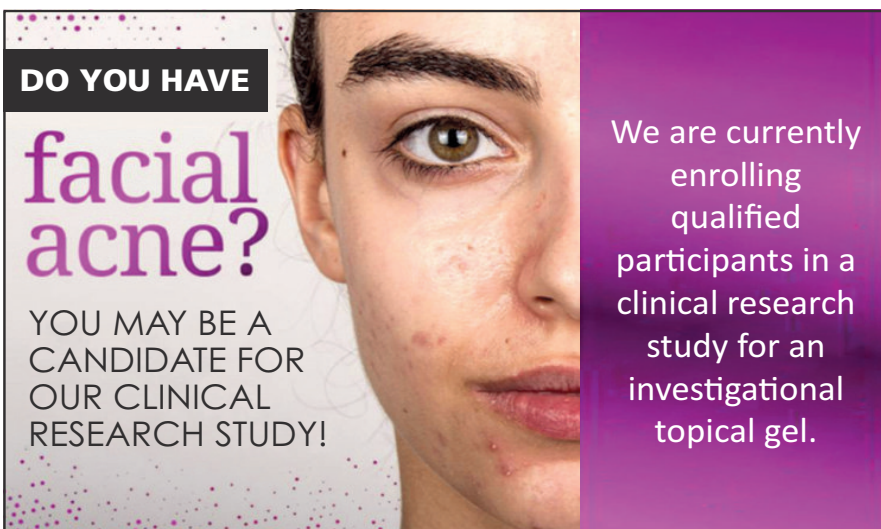
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into the Goodell column to give third-party Buckley a narrow win. Goodell came in a distant third, and Agnew cackled with glee.

“We got that son of a bitch,” Agnew said.

And after that, Charles Goodell “had a very bad time,” George used to tell me. I didn’t know the specifics until I found a feature article from the *Buffalo News* (February 3, 2018), the Goodell hometown paper. In that piece, George and a fellow aide recall that the senator was so devastated after the election that he had a “mental breakdown.”

In the article, George is quoted as describing this outcome as the price Goodell paid for taking a difficult and lonely stance: “The ramifications for that moral decision by [Goodell] were

severe... The immediate effect was he wound up in a hospital. Those of us who loved Charlie Goodell were very concerned. I’m sure there was a medical diagnosis, but many of us thought it was the strain of a challenging campaign, and then you lose, and all the things you cared and fought for, particularly to a guy like Buckley, were lost.”

Charles Goodell eventually recovered, wrote a book, and in 1975 visited San Diego, where he was the City Club’s very first speaker.

The oracle of normalcy
There’s a concept in political science called the Overton Window: an imaginary space that describes the range of opinions considered permissible in public

discourse. The reason George Mitrovich was so persistent a presence is that he grasped this concept intuitively. George knew exactly what could and could not be said at any given time. He hewed to the middle-ground of acceptable opinion, and this gives us an interesting look at how the view through the Overton Window has changed through the years.

Example: Back in the mid-’90s, there was a lot of open debate on such issues as race-and-IQ, curbing illegal immigration, and the dangers of the “global economy.” This was the era of Pete Wilson’s governorship, Proposition 187 (denying public services to undocumented aliens), Peter Navarro’s mayoral candidacy (“Prevent Los An-

gelization Now!”), Prof. Charles Murray’s *The Bell Curve* (1994), and *Forbes* editor Peter Brimelow’s anti-immigration book *Alien Nation*. George Mitrovich rode the wave of this discourse, bringing in Brimelow and Navarro to speak at the City Club, and also hosting former Sen. Eugene McCarthy to talk about his 1992 political memoir, *A Colony of the World; America’s Senior Statesman Warns His Countrymen*. In that book, McCarthy, a frequent City Club visitor, apologized for having helped to sponsor the Hart-Celler immigration act in 1965. He voiced deep regret over the damage it had done.

During a reception at George’s house, McCarthy put the blame for the immigration crisis on the agribusiness lobby, which longed for cheap quasi-slave labor. “Their message always seemed to be that we need to bring in millions of Mexican workers, because we can’t live without cheap Mother’s Day carnations.”

But that was then. Today the *bien pensants* would consider such talk to be beyond the pale. The gracious and witty Gene McCarthy is long dead, while Peter Brimelow’s 1995 appearance at the City Club is nowhere to be found in the club’s list of past speakers.

And where is the midpoint of acceptable opinion these days? Who’s the likely Democrat nominee for 2020? What would George Mitrovich say?

Well, George was very fond of Joe Biden, who has long held the lead position as City Club speaker — 20 appearances to date. My guess is that George would be placing a safe bet on Joe.

— M.E. Burns



If your beams aren’t curved, why even have them?

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 16

with a turf lawn, offer outdoor entertaining opportunities with “breathtaking views of the water and Sea World fireworks” across Mission Bay.

Public records indicate the Avalon estate last sold in 1994 for a reported \$780,000 to the Meyer family. Patricia

Meyer is a local lawyer and well-liked professor at San Diego Mesa College; her parents Alfred and Catherine were the last open-market buyers.

After a quarter-century off market, the home was listed for the first time this century in late April. The original asking price of \$2.5 million was subsequently reduced to \$2,350,000 in October, and the home remains available. ■

LETTERS

continued from page 4

“Labor union dreams” Under the Radar December 11

The “Big Labor” money does NOT come from dues it comes from members who voluntarily give to the labor PAC which supports politicians that back working men and women. The money generated by these labor PAC’s pale in comparison to the money raised by corporations to back politicians that put the corporations interests before the worker.

—AlexClarke

“Children of the Immaculate Hate?” SD on the QT December 13

Don’t even know where to start with you, Mencken. First of all, this isn’t even a news report but a rant in the form of a preachy quote. Secondly, Redlite purposely confuses human traffick-

ing with sex trafficking which the San Diego Public Defender, CLEARLY made a distinction at a recent workshop. And thirdly, eye - mote -beam. I strongly urge you, Mencken and Redlite, to read Camile Paglia, if you have the courage, and get off your horse, it’s TOO high.

—SalULLoyd

“Bread of Life closes overnight homeless shelter in Oceanside” Neighborhood News December 3

It’s really sad that Bread of Life can’t offer an overnight shelter this winter. The reality is that unless you own your land — either as a business or a resident — space is getting more scarce and more expensive. There are a handful of big churches with lots of land, but no stand-alone nonprofit in North County equivalent to Fr. Joe’s, with a big budget, donor base and assets.

—SaveSouthO

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Facebook

Border shenanigans

continued from page 3

in my rearview mirror took the offer and he was escorted through an area sectioned off with caution tape wrapped between delineator posts. Another female driver with California license plates allowed a solicitor to jump into her back seat — I assumed to help her navigate through the side streets to return to the U.S.

“It happens all the time,” Noel said on a Facebook post, “[you] gringos are easy targets and willing to pay to cut the line.”

Gabriel, the American driver who was almost busted in Tecate for cutting a woman off, said he pays solicitors to speed up his return-travel to the U.S.

“I’ll pay them \$5 and they stand in front of another car,” he said, “and they would get honked at, but it’s just enough [time and space] for us to get a quarter of the car into the lane. I also pay the *elote* cart guys: I’ll order a cup [of corn, sour cream, and parmesan cheese] and throw in an extra tip for them to move their cart in front of a lane I want to cut into.”

In April, a Tijuana resident went onto Twitter and posted a photo of man by the San Ysidro Port of Entry and captioned it: “Report this person, he is charging people to pass through the

SENTRI, and enter into the Ready Lane.”

When I was returning into the U.S. in May via the Ready Lane, I saw groups of people carrying and sliding the cement barriers; I also saw a man carrying a large plastic barrel that once guided traffic.

On May 19, multiple Mexican news outlets reported that the Tijuana municipal police busted 35 individuals from “causing nuisance to citizens queuing to cross into the United States.”

Ramon recounts when he, his wife and two kids, drove their Lexus down to Ensenada to pick up their *abuelita* (grandma). “Coming back home to the U.S. was a nightmare,” he said. “The line was backed up at the Vía Rápida at the old and abandoned tourist shops; I thought we had enough gas at less than a quarter tank.”

Three hours passed, and Ramon said his SUV had moved less than a half-mile.

“Then the freakin’ gas light turned on,” Ramon said. “I was panicking because the lines were not moving and my wife kept saying: ‘I told you so — you should’ve stopped at that Pemex gas station.’”

Ramon added that their kids in the back grew restless because they had to “pee pee,” their Kindle devices ran out of battery power, and *abuelita* was asleep

and snoring.

“I then saw a guy holding up a gas container and I thought to myself: ‘What if that gas had other ingredients besides gas: like water or sugar,’ Ramon said. “Do I risk it?”

Ramon said he placed the Lexus gear shifter in the park position, looked down, and saw that the gauge needle was resting on the last indicator line.

Ramon said at this point, his wife stopped with the “Pemex is back there” comments, and gave him the go ahead to buy the gas being peddled for “\$20 U.S. dollars a gallon.”

“I honked the horn, but the ‘gasolinero dude’ was gone,” he said.

Instead, a guy ran up and began cleaning their Lexus’s windows and paint finish with dirty rags.

“I asked him how much it would cost to move the cement barriers, and he said: ‘\$20,’” Ramon continued. “My wife pulled out a \$20 bill, and the guy whistled [enlisting] three others to help: one walked behind and stopped traffic, while the other three lifted and dragged the cement barrier and moved it out (in an angle) so we could drive in. I paid them and we barely made it to Pemex.”

The closest gas station to the Ready Lane is the BP station located at Avenida de la Amistad. It’s within eyesight on the way back

to the U.S., although the route to get there is about 2.5 miles from the Ready Lane. There’s also a BP gas station on Avenida Melchor Ocampo and a Pemex on Vía Rápida.

According to the U.S. department of energy, “Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner use.” And although the site suggests to “Turn off your engine when your vehicle is parked [because] it only takes about 10 seconds worth of fuel to restart your vehicle,” it also states as a best practice to “Limit engine starts to about 10 times per day on average — unless your vehicle is equipped with a start-stop system; occasionally exceeding this limit should not cause excessive starter wear.”

The energy site makes the suggestions for Americans in the U.S., but here

waiting at the borderline, most refrain from shutting the cars down for fear of batteries draining leaving the car unable to start.

If your vehicle dies in Mexico on the way back to the U.S, there are U.S. tow truck companies that can pick you and your vehicle up and bring you back to the U.S.

“We charge about \$250 if you’re stuck in Tijuana and need a tow to Chula Vista,” said MJ of A & D Towing, “and about \$350 from Rosarito. It’s common for Americans to call us that are stuck down there.” ■

Under the radar

continued from page 3

ses brought about by human exceptionalism,” has been chosen 2020’s performers in residency at the San Diego International Airport. “Through

costume-based performance and video, they explore alternate universes populated by monsters. The monsters are silly and playful, and at once musical and raucous,” says an October 8 airport staff report. Whether beleaguered passengers will approve remains to be seen. “Only able to communicate through exaggerated gestures and operatic vocalizations, the monsters interact with the travelers passing through the airport, engaging them in an aural and visual spectacle. The immersive combination of installation, costumes, performance and operatic soundtrack reflects the Wagnerian spectacle of opera — it is extravagant, gestural, ceremonial, and performative.”

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

Commission. And Jim Jaffee of Solana Beach says on behalf of Surfrider, “Emergency work requires an emergency permit and a follow-up permit. No emergency permits were ever used [for this project].” He says that the city of Oceanside appears to have “illegally” issued its own OK to dump rip rap on the beach.

Mackin says she hopes the Coastal Commission will administer appropriate penalties and force the removal of the rip rap if it finds the big rocks were installed outside of the commission’s guidelines. And Toni Ross, staff planner for the San Diego office of the Commission, says that Mackin’s power point did motivate the 12-member commission — at least a little bit. “They asked the staff to do a follow up, and that is what we are doing now.” But Ross is not forthcoming about what could happen or when. “We’re aware of what happened there,” she says. “I’ll just leave it at that.”

Russ Cunningham, principal planner for city of Oceanside, admits the houses on the 1200 block of Pacific Street were granted an “exemption” to install the boulder dam in front of their homes. “In most cases,” he says, “revetment work requires the issuance of a coastal development permit by the California Coastal Commission. Unfortunately, revetment work is often done without the benefit of permits or exemptions... Unpermitted revetment work actually increases the risk of coastal hazards (e.g. when concrete is poured into voids in the revetment)... this can exacerbate wave run-up.” But he does not respond to specific questions about the alleged “emergency” nature of this project, or about why the city did not contact the Coastal Commission.

The 12-member Commission board usually holds two meetings a year in San Diego

County. The next local meeting is on July 8 through 10 at the Island Palm Hotel and Marina on Shelter Island.

KEN LEIGHTON

ENCINITAS

Restaurant reduction, researched

Corporations, conflagrations, competition causing closures

What’s happening to restaurants on Encinitas’ El Camino Real? Over the last two months, eight restaurants have closed in the ten blocks between Encinitas Boulevard and Leucadia Boulevard. The latest shuttering came on November 25; the owners of the Greek American Family Restaurant, open since the 1980s, reportedly wanted to retire. Gone are franchised or corporately owned restaurants Noodles and Company, Subway, and Firehouse Subs. Also vacant and up for lease are the former locations of locally owned Pie Craft, Swirls Frozen Yogurt, and 2 Good 2 Be Bakery. (The McDonalds in the Encinitas Ranch Town Center was closed three weeks ago due to fire, and is expected to reopen.)

Steve Amster — who has owned Golden State Bagels, situated across the street from three



Will a Trump reelection restore restaurant-goers’ appetites?

to cover the increase, and it forces businesses to leave.” Tim Lee, whose Subman sandwich shop has been open since 1980, suggested that the two joints near him that went under did so because of “too much competition. Too many restaurants around.”

In the case of the closed franchise restaura-

loss from the discounted price. “We still have to pay our employees, buy the products from the company at their franchisee pricing, and all the other expenses.”

Long-time restaurateur Gerry Sova, owner since 1970 of Captain Keno’s Restaurant on Coast Highway 101, says he believes the reason for the closures is that the economy is not as good as we are being told. Amster and the 7-Eleven owner agree with him; the 7-Eleven owner says, “My store is worth half of what it used to be. We couldn’t sell it if we wanted to.” And Amster believes the closures may also be a sign that a recession is coming. But, he added, “If Trump stays in office, it won’t be as bad as 2008,” thanks to the continuing rise in the stock market and low unemployment rates.

And as of press time, a ninth El Camino Real restaurant has announced it is throwing in the towel. Chili’s Bar & Grill, located at the Encinitas Ranch Town Center on the corner of Leucadia Boulevard, will be closing on January 3.

KEN HARRISON

“Every time a center is sold, the Prop 13-controlled property taxes reset. Rents go up to cover the increase, and it forces businesses to leave.”

of the closures, for 23 years — says the reason is rapidly raising rents. He says that even in a high real estate market, shopping centers are being bought and sold, and “every time a center is sold, the Proposition 13-controlled property taxes reset. In his 16-unit center, which changed hands recently, the new owner’s property taxes were adjusted upward radically. “Rents go up

rants, a nearby 7-Eleven owner says the corporations may also be to blame. “They [the franchisors] take their franchise fees off the top, whether or not the owners are making money.” As an example, she mentioned 7-Eleven’s long-running 79-cent Big Gulp soft drink promotion, pointing out that the corporation doesn’t give a discount or credit to help the owners cover the

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Thursday | 19

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Catch a glimpse of gray whales as they migrate from their feeding grounds in Alaska to calving lagoons in Baja California and back. This 3.5-hour tour will have live narration from your captains and volunteer naturalists from the San Diego Natural History Museum. Enjoy both top deck and climate-controlled indoor seating, a snack bar of hot food and full bar, and views of over 50 San Diego landmarks.

WHEN: Everyday, 9:15 am and 1:15 pm. Through Sunday, April 19.

WHERE: Hornblower Cruises, 970 North Harbor Drive, Downtwon. hornblower.com

THE TUBES

Theatrical art-punk rockers the Tubes are just a couple of years shy of their 50th anniversary, one of the few classic bands still



“She’s a Beauty”.

WHEN: Thursday, December 19, 8 pm

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

Friday | 20



NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ANZA-BORREGO REGION

The Anza-Borrego Foundation is sponsoring a book launch for *A Natural History of the Anza-Borrego Region: Then and Now*.

Authors Mike Wells and Marie Simovich present

the story of how the desert landscape and organisms that inhabit the area evolved to their present state, and what the future may hold for these starkly beautiful lands.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21: ENCHANTED VILLAGE

WHEN: Friday, December 20, 3 pm
WHERE: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs. parks.ca.gov

Saturday | 21

LIGHT TUNNEL, SLEDS, AND SANTA

San Diegans can explore acres of holiday lights, sounds, decorations, and foods. The Village will have hundreds of giant candy canes, a forest of Christmas trees, Candy Land, nightly appearances

by Santa, a photo booth and photo ops, a light tunnel, and a sled run with real snow.

WHEN: Friday, December 20, Saturday, December 21, and Sunday, December 22, 4:30 pm to 8 pm

WHERE: Noah Homes, 12526 Campo Road, Spring Valley. enchantedvillage.org

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 Agustín 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.

WHEN: Friday, December 20, and Saturday, December 21, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Don Powell Theatre, 5500 Campanile Drive, SDSU. tff.sdsu.edu

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ANIMAL FRIENDS

Winter Break Camp for Kids

Each day is full of hands-on animal encounters plus themed activities, crafts, and games. Please feel free to reach out with any questions: (858) 756-4117 x 318, education@animalcenter.org. Friday, December 20, 9am; \$58-\$77. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

BEER

Winter Warmer Brew Day

Our monthly Learn to Brew with Chuck is welcoming in the winter season with a favorite holiday style - a Winter Warmer! Grab a beer and then join Chuck in the brew house to see how this small batch seasonal style is made. Sunday, December 22, 3pm; **free**. 21 and up. Longship Brewery, 10320 Camino Santa Fe. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

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 Twiggs Street. (OLD TOWN)

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. Friday, December 20, 6pm; Saturday, December 21, 6pm; **free**. Legacy

International Center, 875 Hotel Circle South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Feast of Seven Fishes This holiday season celebrate the traditional Italian Feast of Seven Fishes, also known as Festa dei Sette Pesci or La Vigilia, an annual Italian celebration that leads up to Christmas with seven days of coastal dish classics. Thursday-Sunday, December 19-22, 11:30am; \$65. Catania, 7863 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Hanukkah Celebration Spend one or more evenings during Hanukkah for an unforgettable dining experience. Sunday, December 22, 5:30pm; \$60-\$120. A.R. Valentini, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Tea Spend an afternoon amidst the timeless glamour sipping loose leaf teas, toasting with a welcome glass of champagne, and savoring sweet and savory treats and pastries. Please call 619-744-2046 to make a reservation. Saturday, December 21, 1pm; Sunday, December 22, 1pm; \$35-\$65. U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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 20, 5pm; \$5. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Ugly Sweater Party Welcome Holiday Cocktail, Light Appetizers & Christmas Cookies, DJ & Dancing, Ugly Sweater Contest, Full Premium Cash/Credit Bar Available. Friday, December 20, 8pm; \$25-\$35. 21 and up. Handlery Hotel and Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Winter Wonderland The holidays are magical at Fairmont Grand Del Mar. Skate under the twinkling palms. Take a ride on the Ferris wheel and carousel. Enjoy fireside s'mores and traditional refreshments in the Garden. Thursdays, 3pm; Fridays, 1pm; Saturdays, 1pm; Sundays, 1pm; through Wednesday, January 1, Fairmont Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems by John Haines

Fairbanks Under the Solstice

Slowly, without sun, the day sinks toward the close of December. It is minus sixty degrees.

Over the sleeping houses a dense fog rises—smoke from banked fires, and the snowy breath of an abyss through which the cold town is perceptibly falling.

As if Death were a voice made visible, with the power of illumination...

Now, in the white shadow of those streets, ghostly newsboys make their rounds, delivering to the homes of those who have died of the frost word of the resurrection of Silence.

A Poem Like a Grenade

It is made to be rolled down a flight of stairs, placed under a guilty hat, or casually dropped into a basket among the desks of the wrongheaded statesmen.

As it tumbled on the carpeted stairs or settles quietly in its wire-wicker nest, it begins to unfold, a ragged flower whose raw petals burn and scar...

Its wastepaper soil catches fire, the hat is blown from its hook. Five or six faces are suddenly, permanently changed...

There will be many poems written in the shape of a grenade - one hard piece of metal flying off might even topple a government.



John Haines (1924-2011) was an American poet and poet laureate of Alaska from 1969 until his death. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Haines moved to Washington, D.C. before moving to Alaska, where he homesteaded from 1949 to 1969, at which time he moved to San Diego, only to return to the Land of the Midnight Sun several years later. Having published nine books of poetry in his lifetime, Haines wrote mostly about nature — based on his experiences as a trapper, hunter, and homesteader. Much of his poetry reveals the influences of Alaska — full of stark imagery and often set amid the wilderness beauty of his adopted state.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

FOR KIDS

Cookies for Santa Decorating Party Join us for a fun afternoon of hands-on sugar cookie decorating. Ticket includes two sugar cookies to decorate, one souvenir cookie, a treat bag, pizza, and a drink. Saturday, December 21, 1pm; Herringbone, 7837 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Junior Science Club: Gingerbread Engineering Students in grades 1-4 can build a gingerbread inspired structure that can withstand moving earth, elements, weight and examine what forces can make these structures strong. Members \$13 Nonmembers \$15 Saturday, December 21, 11am; \$13-\$15. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

Mountain Lions 101 Mountain Lion Foundation Field Representative Robin Parks will present on mountain lion biology and behavior, with safety tips and misinformation about the species. Signs of these animals are routine in nearby Mission Trails Regional Park, and education is key to ensuring the protection of these native big cats. Friday, December 20, 2pm; **free**. San Carlos Library, 7265 Jackson Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

NATURE

Festive Berries in the Park Join a Mission Trails Regional Park Nature Guide as you experience the many ripening berries this time of year. Learn about the winter adaptations plants and animals employ to make their home in sage and chaparral communities on a fun and engaging nature exploration. Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday-Sunday, December 21-22, 9:30am; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kobey's Swap Meet Fridays, 11am; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Monday, December 30, Kobey's Swap Meet, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Gem Faire Fine jewelry, crystals, gems, beads, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Over 100 exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & ring sizing while you shop. Friday, December 20, 12pm; Saturday, December 21, 10am; Sunday, December 22, 10am; \$7. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

SPOKEN WORD

VAMP: Home for the Holidays VAMP is So Say We All's monthly curated storytelling showcase, featuring incredible nonfiction stories on a theme, on the last Thursday of each month at Whistle Stop Bar. December's theme is "Home for the Holidays," this year with the sub-theme "Black Sheep." Writers have interpreted the theme however they like; that's the beauty of VAMP. But they're all true stories. Thursday, December 19, 8:30pm; **free**-\$5. 21 and up. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Free Fitness Yoga Non heated, 60min Hybrid Vinyasa Flow. Class Style: Urbanoga Tone Applies the basic foundations of Vinyasa styled flow that challenges the whole body by using your body weight to tone, build & strengthen. Included: Free mat, towel rental limited supply please select upon registration. Saturday, December 21, 12:30pm; **free**. 18 and up. Dorothea Laub Dance Place Studio, 2650 Truxton Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Karma Classes \$5 Karma Classes: This donation based class is an all-levels heated yoga class. Bring yoga mats, towels and lots of water. Fridays, 7pm; through Friday, December 20, \$5. Modo Yoga San Diego, 3091 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

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Church Christmas Services



EL CAJON

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

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Gethsemane Lutheran Church
2696 Melbourne Dr.
San Diego 92123
www.gethsemanesd.org
'Carols, Communion, & Candlelight.'
Christmas Eve @ 5pm

SAN DIEGO

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve
Noon MASS (St. Mary Chapel)
10:30pm Musical Offering
11:00pm Solemn Vigil Mass
12:00am CChristmas Eve Cookie Party
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day
10:00am Low Mass with Hymns
625 Pennsylvania Ave.
San Diego 92103
Church Parking Lot Corner of 7th & Pennsylvania Ave.
allsaintschurch.org

CLAIREMONT

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

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.

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Ner Tamid Synagogue
Contact: 12348 Casa Avenida, Poway 858-513-8330 www.ner-tamidsd.org
Membership: 140 families
Rabbi: Sammy Seid
Age: 31
Born: Mission Viejo
Formation: University of California-Santa Cruz; California State-Fullerton; Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies-American Jewish University, Los Angeles
Ordained: May 2019

San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?

Rabbi Sammy Seid: The term in Hebrew is *chesed*, which most closely translates as "loving kindness." If we increased the amount of loving kindness in the

world, it would be a much better place, and we would be much better people for it.

SDR: Why Judaism?

RS: Judaism is an action-based religion. Faith is important, theological discussions are important, and grand philosophical ideas are interesting and engaging. But at the end of the day, Judaism says, "Great! But now what are you going to do?"...

My wife converted to Judaism as an adult and she once said something that really threw me off: "I think, when I look at it, it's easy to live life as a Jew." That blew me away. I'd never heard anyone say it was easy being a Jew. I told her I thought she was missing something — being a Jew isn't easy. She said, "No, I didn't say being a Jew is easy; I said living life as a Jew becomes easy, because Judaism provides a sort of instruction manual." And she was right. In some ways, what is made available is a "How-To" guidebook that comes with life if you choose to live as a Jew.

SDR: What's the mission of your community?
RS: Our mission is to connect

Jews to Torah and each other. That really sums up what I hope to be able to do, and what is successful here. We have a range of events and community gatherings offered. We have Schmooze Night, where we get together to chat and play cards. We also have serious learning sessions, including our "Year to Learn" adult education series where we engage each other in learning and studying texts. These aspects of the community help us live out our mission.

SDR: What one book has had an impact on your ministry?

RS: *God of Becoming and Relationship* by Rabbi Bradley Artson. He provides us with a particular theology about God, not as being,

but as becoming. It's this idea that we're in constant flux — God is not static and we're not static; our experience of God and the world is dynamic and changing. That has helped guide my experience of the

world—to recognize how things change from one moment to the next.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

RS: The short answer is I don't know. The longer answer, which Judaism puts forward, is that there are two worlds — this world and the world to come. Some people say Judaism doesn't have much of an opinion about the afterlife; but

there's a lot in our tradition that talks about what might happen after one dies. However, I don't think it's concretized. There's even a line that says the sages are not in the world to come but the world to come is in the sages. It's a mindset to understand this peaceful existence, this peaceful place after death. All that is to say, I don't really know. I know I'm here in this world, I know I have to do things that are upright and good in this world, but I don't know what happens next.... Ultimately what matters is *chesed*, treating each other with loving kindness and dignity.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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Alpine, CA 91901

Encinitas
SUNDAYS @ 10:45 A.M.
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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

A very happy hour in Point Loma

"I've got a yacht I could sell you," says Joni.

Blame my friend Annie for this. I mean I've been around, but she zips about in dizzying circles, social circles, the kind you read about in the glossy magazines.

This day, I just had to show her an ancient schooner at the Southwestern Yacht Club in Point Loma. I mean, did anyone see *Captains Courageous*, that 1937 classic movie starring the kid Freddie Bartholomew and Spencer Tracy? Featured a fleet of fishing schooners off the Grand Banks. This boat looks just like them. Was built in 1932.

"Our next boat," I say. "Let's go halves on it. Sail to Tahiti!"

"How much?"

"Three-fifty."

"Three hundred and fifty dollars?"

"Three hundred fifty thousand."

She looks at me. "My poor boy. You're going delirious. Hunger. I'm taking you to eat. Right here."

Turns out, she's a yacht club member. Why am I surprised? Also turns out this night's a special member-cooked dinner. The main dish is jambalaya, and it's good. Spicy! Andouille sausage, shrimp, chicken, ton of rice. Turns out the commodore, Jeff, is Cajun, from New Orleans. He cooked it.

Basically it's tons of melted butter, rice, chicken, andouille sausage, shrimp. Deelish. Also fantastic: the N'Orleans-style bread pudding dessert the commodore really soaked in a "very good" bourbon.

'Course, next time I'm in Point Loma, no way I can eat here. Members and guests only.

Still have to eat, though. I wander lonely as a cloud around a dirt waterside path bordering La Playa anchorage. You pass trees laden with nesting Great Blue Herons. I head up towards Rosecrans. On Cañon, I hesitate outside a gray-and-cream place I wouldn't normally look at because it feels way too classy. But there's a sign

outside. "Happy Hour, 4 - 6 pm daily."

"Best in town," says this tall gent heading

in. Looks like Joe Biden. Rick.

I notice it's exactly four o'clock. Guess he knows what he's doing.

What the heck.

I follow him inside, into this atmospheric

place called "Old Venice." Wow. Really cool, with a beautiful brick patio out back. Why haven't I seen this before?

"You guys new here?" I ask the barkeep.

"Kind of," he says. "Only 30 years."

Uh, okay. Not a good start. I'm sitting up to the bar with Rick. I can see he's done this before. We're both perusing big plastic menus. And, okay, the normal prices can be, well, up there. Steamed mussels are \$17, *linguini calvario* goes for \$21, chicken Florentine is \$29, Australian lamb, \$33. I mean there is plenty of stuff cheaper, like pasta with meat sauce (or marinara or garlic oil) for \$12, but still, we're not talking greasy spoon prices.

"Stick to the happy hour," says Rick. "And don't forget the salads. They're huge."

I see the menu says "Happy Hour, half off select appetizers and Gourmet Greens." "Select" means items with an asterisk. And there are quite a few. Baked artichoke with prosciutto normally goes for \$14, so that would be \$7. Deal! Meatballs or sausage are \$10, which means five.

"And that's big meatballs, with the marinara and parmesan," says Rick. "It'll fill you on its own." "Magic mushrooms," with snow crab, shrimp, and provolone, ends up being \$7. Brussels sprouts with crispy prosciutto will be \$6. And the soup (veggie tonight) will be \$2.50 small, \$3.50 bowl. "So if you have the meatballs and small soup, you're paying \$7.50," says Rick. "If you're having, say, the house salad, which is \$3 in

happy hour, and the soup, you're out \$5.50."

Rick says he usually has the soup — you get bread with it — and one of the salads. "Like, tonight I'll



Ed, Linda, \$8 focaccia pizza



Shrimp and artichoke, \$8

have what I usually do, soup and the walnut gorgonzola salad. Full price is \$14, so \$7. So I'm out ten bucks."

Similar prices go for the Caesar (\$7.50) or the chopped Greek (\$7.50).

Sounds good to me. "I'll have what he's having," I say. I also get my new go-to un-drink, lemonade (\$2.50).

The great thing about the soup is the big garlicky swatch of bread that comes with it. And then the Gorgonzola salad! It really is big, fresh, generous. They drop a big snake pit of caramelized grilled onions on top, plus big chunks of gorgonzola cheese, roasted red potatoes, and walnuts, also caramelized. I pour the thick blue cheese vinaigrette over everything, and have at it. Really scrumbo. And good for you.

I notice people around me ordering from the same HH menu. Skip, to my right, fifth-generation Point Loman, gets the luscious-looking shrimp and artichoke dish, with capers, tomato, basil, and white wine. Normally \$16, now \$8. And Linda and Ed, fresh in from Henderson, Nevada, are splitting a focaccia pizza (\$8, HH). "This is where we always come, soon as we get in," says Ed.

Now Rick's over at the window, talking with a couple of glamorous gals drinking wine, Ginnie and Joni. Ginnie sells BMWs. Joni, yachts.

"Hey, my new friend here wants to buy a yacht, right?" says Rick. Everybody looks at me.

"Pipe dream, but I was kinda pining for this schooner," I mumble.

"I've got a yacht I could sell you," says Joni.

"Only twenty-four."

"Twenty-four?"

"Twenty-four million. A steal!"

"I'll bring the check Monday," I say.

Man. I'm definitely coming back here.

The Place: *Old Venice*, 2910 Cañon Street, Point Loma, 619-222-5888

Hours: 11am-4pm, Thursday to Saturday for lunch; dinner, 4-9pm, Sunday to Thursday; till 10pm Friday, Saturday; happy hour, 4-6pm daily

Prices: Steamed mussels, \$17; *linguini calvario*, \$21; chicken Florentine, \$29; Australian lamb, \$33; pasta with meat sauce, \$12; baked artichoke with prosciutto, \$14 (\$7 in happy hour) meatballs or sausage, \$10 (\$5, HH); Magic Mushrooms (with snow crab, shrimp, provolone, \$14 (\$7 HH) Brussels sprouts, prosciutto, \$12 (\$6, HH); soup of the day, \$5 small, \$7 large (\$2.50/\$3.50); walnut gorgonzola salad, \$14, (\$7 HH); Caesar salad, \$15 (\$7.50 HH); chopped Greek salad, \$15 (\$7.50 HH); shrimp and artichoke, \$16 (\$8 HH); focaccia pizza, \$16 (\$8, HH)

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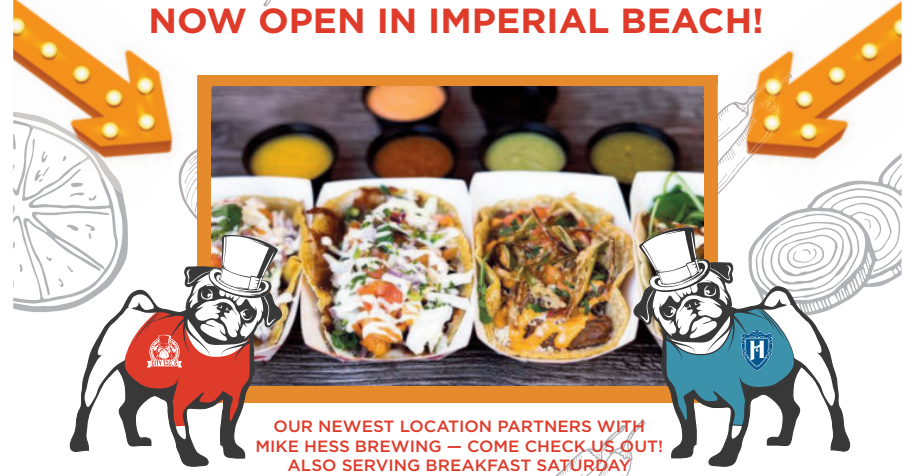
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Mighty meatballs

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The heart, and chicken parm, of Sisters Pizza

Sisters Pizza; 3603 Fourth Ave, Hillcrest. I heard about a place that uses chicken parmesan as a pizza topping. Lucky I did, because

Sisters Pizza operates in a part of

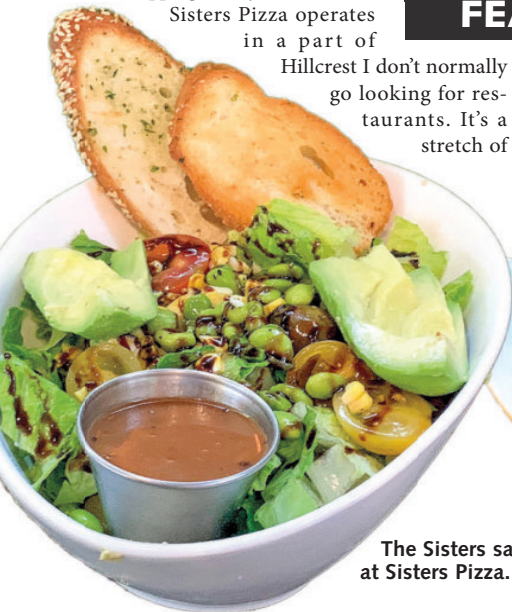
Hillcrest I don't normally go looking for restaurants. It's a stretch of

FEAST!

Fourth Avenue people go to find private practice lawyers, CPAs, and health practitioners, not pizza by the slice.

And serve by the slice it does, though to describe Sisters that way feels as if I'm underselling it. The place feels like more than a mere pizza counter, and not just because it serves hot sandwiches, salads, and a handful of pasta dishes. Sitting on a corner spot, in a charming, Mission-style building with terra cotta shingles and large front windows, the storefront is framed by a dining patio distinguished by planters and green shades. It's the sort of place you'd want to hang out, the sort of restaurant you'd want in your neighborhood, within walking distance.

But it's



The Sisters salad at Sisters Pizza.



Large meatballs are served a la carte, on a sub, or over spaghetti.



Family photos, and a slice of chicken parm pizza.

inside where you'll discover how much love truly went into this place. Friend and family photos hang in frames throughout the restaurant, and if you look at them closely, you'll see many of them depict cherished moments in the life of Kate Green, the proprietor's departed older sister. According to the Sisters web site, "[Kate's] younger sister, Emily, decided to open a community-focused pizza restaurant in her honor."

The tribute tugs at the heartstrings, no doubt. Here I see an adorable shot of the two Sisters pos-

ing together as children. Elsewhere they are teens, then on again into adulthood, their hairstyles changing but never the bond. But the smiling and happy memories depicted in those photos mostly lend a sense familial warmth, a hominess to the small restaurant.

As if on cue, the first members of a birthday party trickle into the place. But now, I'm a little distracted because my \$3.50 slice of chicki chickie parm parm has arrived. That's the pizza topped with strips of breaded chicken and basil. The server delivering to my table brings plastic ramekins of ranch dressing, because a lot of people like to dip this pizza. He also gives me a spicy aioli,

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because that's where some prefer to dip the outer crust.

Sisters makes good pies. They call it East Coast style, meaning the large slices on a thin crust. When I order a whole 16-inch pepperoni (\$19) through a delivery service, it's got those small, coin-size sliced of pepperoni, which tend to curl up and char at the edges. It goes over great with my friends.

Sisters makes nearly tennis ball-sized meatballs, serving them on a sandwich (\$13.50), on spaghetti (\$16), or just on a plate, sitting in a pool of marinara, topped with melted mozzarella and a dusting of parmesan. To balance the health appeal of my meal, I order the Sisters salad (\$12), which tops chopped romaine and tomatoes with avocado, roasted corn, and "blistered edamame." It's a simple salad, but pretty; glowing with a balsamic glaze and buttery, sesame encrusted croutons. It's one of three salads — not forgotten — on the menu.

by Ian Anderson

The Latin Chef still cooks in Liberty Station

Latin Chef Liberty Station; 2820 Historic Decatur Road, Liberty Station. A Pacific Beach restaurant called Latin Chef closed earlier this year, following a good 13 in business. I never visited the Peruvian and Brazilian eatery, but it sounds like

I missed out — it was mostly spoken of fondly, and closed not due to disinterest so much as it was allegedly forced out by a new landlord.

Make that, I almost missed out. Fortunately, at least one of the chefs responsible for its success wasn't done bringing authentic Peruvian meals to San Diego. By the spring, chef and Latin Chef alum Tony Kanashiro was already back and



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Pesto spaghetti and grilled top sirloin.



Lomo saltado, a classic Peruvian dish influenced by Chinese stir fry.

changing. You'll know you're close when you see the Le Parfait Paris bakery counter. For those of us new to Kanashiro's cooking, consider it worth seeking out. At least, I can vouch for the beef.

Like most of the market, this space is ultra casual with community seating, but because The Latin Chef is removed from the main hall, this stall feels closer to an enclosed restaurant, with plates delivered to you after you've ordered at the counter and taken a seat. Sitting on a bar stool at the counter, you can just catch a glimpse of the chef at work over a flaming grilltop in a partially open kitchen.

The sight makes me go off script, and rather than try the signature Peruvian dish, *lomo saltado*, I opt for the *tallarín verdes con bistek*, a top sirloin steak with pesto pasta. And when the \$15 dish comes out, it's just that simple: grill marks on a medium well steak sitting beside a pile of basil green spaghetti noodles, all of it with a light dusting of parmesan. It couldn't be less complicated, but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't thoroughly satisfied.

But I would make a return for that *lomo saltado*. Whereas the pesto reveals the influence of Italian immigration on Peruvian cuisine, *lomo saltado* takes cues from Chinese stir fry. Strips of beef sautéed in a with onions, tomatoes, and — get this — French fries. It's served with a scoop of rice, all

cooking up many of the same dishes in a corner suite off the main hall of Liberty Public Market, with a restaurant counter named The Latin Chef.

The Latin Chef sits off the southwest corner of the public

market proper, in a sequestered suite it shares with (as of last week) a waffle cone ice cream counter. I wouldn't call it hard to find, except there's always lots of turnover in the public market, so the landmarks keep



In a room at the back of the Liberty Public Market.

of the above steeped in a pool of savory soy sauce-based pan jus. My plate came with a small squeeze bottle of spicy green chili sauce made with *aji amarillo*, a favored chili pepper in Peruvian cooking. Spicier the better for yours truly, but with or without, this was my favorite meal yet within Liberty Public Market.

by Ian Anderson

up. Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Avenue #200. (HILLCREST)

Community Day Free Coffee

Enjoy a complimentary cup of house drip coffee and breakfast treats at this new Mission Hills venue. Friday, December 20, 8am; free. Julep Cafe, 1735 Hancock St., Suite C. (MISSION HILLS)

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)

San Diego Dim Sum Tour You'll learn about dim sum's Silk Road roots, flavorful teas, and traditional Southern Chinese etiquette while

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Street Food Tour

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DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

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

Coin-Op Game Room Gaslamp: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 of all draft beer, \$6 wines. \$2.50 pizza slice, \$3 BBQ pulled pork slider, quinoa slider, \$7 chicken wings, nachos with chorizo/avocado/sour cream, \$10 burger and beer of the day.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: Five cocktails, five wines, and five appetizers, \$6 each.

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,

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Grape vodka and heirloom corn bourbon

With its December 5 grand opening, **Pacific Coast Spirits** (404 S Coast Hwy, Oceanside) has officially made the city of Oceanside home to an urban distillery. For the past two years, the craft spirits producer has been transforming the 12,000-square-foot former home of a furniture shop into an active distillery, tasting room, and scratch restaurant.

Most of the work has been done by the people behind the effort, led by founder and distiller Nicholas Hammond. "We built this whole place," he says, "We swung the hammers, we built the tables, built the benches, the planters; we put the I-beams in." Part of the hands-on approach is a function of being funded by family, friends, and small business loans. But part of it is an ethos growing out of

Hammond's approach to producing liquor.

Take his vodka, for example. For any boozemaker of this size (one working on a 300-gallon still), buying and redistilling a mass-produced neutral grain spirit proves more cost effective than producing one from scratch. And since vodka is traditionally defined as lacking flavor and aroma, this practice is fairly common, even among self-described craft spirit labels. But to Hammond's thinking, it's boring.

"If we wanted to make rubbing alcohol, we could just buy that and bottle it," he contends, "It's not fun for us to do that. We want to have a little residual flavor there." Rather than potatoes or grain, he produces vodka from California-grown grapes. Along with that hint of flavor, he says it adds more character in other ways. "You have that silky mouthfeel with the fruit that you don't get with grain."

That vodka provides a base for Pacific Coast gins, which he infuses with botanicals using a separate, 80-gallon still. He opened with a dry gin, infused with traditional gin botanicals including juniper, angelica root, and coriander, plus lavender and a decidedly non-traditional addition. "We threw in some hops," Hammond reveals, "kind of a nod back to our location in a beer mecca."

Moving forward, he expects to produce six different gins, including a California gin featuring citrus and desert sage. Perhaps most intriguing is the plan for "seaside gin," infused with seaweed and *katsuoibushi* — bonito flakes.

Hammond's background includes winemaking, and apprenticeships at distilleries around the country, experiences he applies to production of brandy and both *reposado* and *anejo* agave spirits



Pacific Coast Spirits serves food, so there are no limits on ordering spirits at the bar

Hence, Pacific Coast Spirits was able to open with a pair of four-year-old whiskies, which most new distilleries can't do, for obvious reasons. One of those whiskies is the American Single Malt, produced with an all-barley-grain blend built around Golden Promise, the malt base of many a renowned Scotch. But the main attraction has to be the California Bourbon, produced entirely from grains grown in California, including organic heirloom yellow corn. The whiskey future looks even more colorful: Hammond's already got a blue corn whiskey with two years in barrels, plus younger spirits made with white corn, and a red corn dubbed Bloody Butcher.

But that's only half of Hammond's ambitions. He wants to secure an alternating winemaking license at the same location, in part to revive his family's tiny wine label, Climbing Monkeys (currently on hiatus). And next year, he hopes to install a one-ton malting floor, which will allow him to malt his own barley. "We'll be able to start building our own single malt, that's distinctively ours," he says, for whiskey production that's truly "grain to glass."

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

\$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. Sunday, 4-7pm: 51% off appetizers and select drinks. All day: \$4 Refuge cans, \$5

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.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, \$12 bottomless mimosa until 1pm.

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

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

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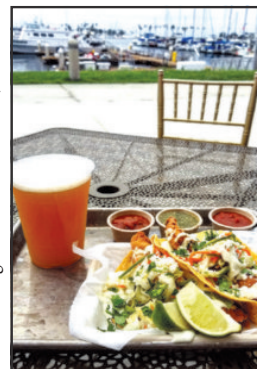
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Quad Alehouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 off select drafts and all whiskey, \$3 specialty cocktails. \$3 off appetizers.

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

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

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

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

HILLCREST

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

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

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

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

Hundred Proof: Daily, 4-6pm: \$7 cocktails.

The Project Bar & Grill: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 beer, wine, wells, half off wings. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$5 beer,

wine, wells, half off wings. 6pm-close: \$5 keep-the-pint-glass while supplies last.

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

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

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: Daily, 2:30-5pm: \$6 beers, sangria, margaritas, cosmos, mai tai, and wines by the glass. Appetizers \$6-\$10.

The Salty Frog: Monday-Thursday, 2-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts and \$3.50 wells, 10% military discount. Friday, 2-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts and \$3.50 wells. Sunday, \$5 Make-your-own Bloody Mary bar, 10% military discount.

KEARNY MESA

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

LA MESA

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

LITTLE ITALY

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

MIDWAY DISTRICT

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

NORTH PARK

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.

Jaynes Gastropub: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: \$1 off draft beer,

\$3 off regular cocktails, \$5 Guinness. \$6-\$8 appetizers.

Polite Provisions: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$5 bourbon draft shot, \$6 cocktail, sparkling wine.

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

Tajima North Park: Monday, 3-7pm: \$2 Sapporo. Tuesday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$2 Sapporo. Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 Sapporo. 10pm-midnight: \$1 small house hot sake. Saturday, 10pm-midnight: \$1 small house hot sake.

True North Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$4 well drinks, domestic drafts. El Jimador margaritas, \$5 house wines.

Waypoint Public: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 drafts, \$7 select wines by the glass.

PACIFIC BEACH

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

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.

Moray's Lounge: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 drafts, \$5.50 wells, \$6 wine. \$10 appetizers.

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

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

RANCHO BERNARDO

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

SAN MARCOS

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

Pizza Nova: Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off drafts, house wines, and well drinks, \$4 beer of the month. \$2 off all appetizers.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza San Marcos: Daily, 4-6pm: \$2 off beer and wine by the glass.

Slater's 50/50: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 cocktails and house wine glass, half off wine bottles. \$4-\$8 appetizers.

SANTEE

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

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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.

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



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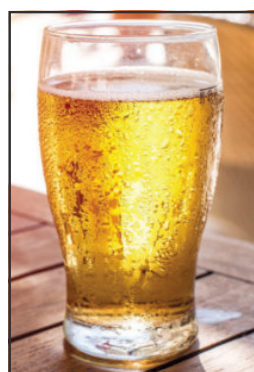


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blurt

the inside track

launch Steve Poltz and Jewel). His new five-song EP *Motel* is based on the short stories of guitar maker Creston Lea (Creston Guitars), author of the book *Wild Punch*. "To be honest, I'm not a big reader,

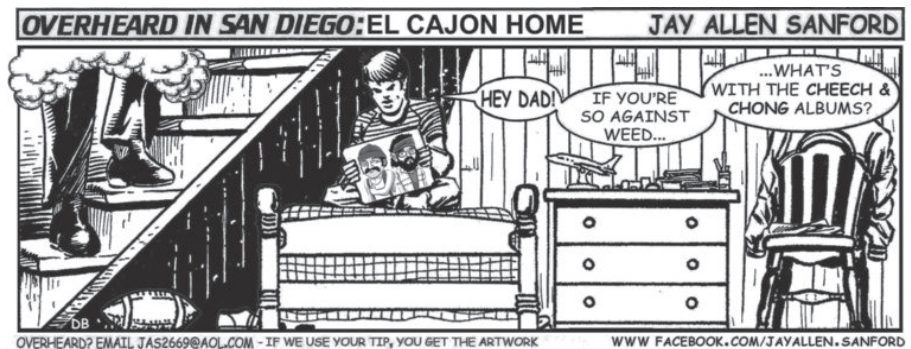


The new *Murderers of Love* album features characters that would be at home "on a Tom Waits album."

Character slices Based in Carlsbad, Americana band *Murderers of Love* features singer-songwriter

and graphic designer Jaimie Muehlhausen, a one-time open mic host at Drowsy Maggie's (which helped

but I got into the characters and unresolved story lines in much the way I would envision some of the characters



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on a Tom Waits album. Just slices of some characters' lives."

Muehlhausen got the opportunity to meet the author when *Fretboard Journal* held a summit at the Rancho Bernardo Inn. "We ended up hitting it off and became friends. He shares workspace with another guitar maker, Adam Buchwald of Circle Strings, and I ended up helping him launch a new brand of guitars called Iris Guitars."

"Quite a few years after I had initially read *Wild Punch*, I picked it up again and was inspired to write 'Fearless Warriors,' the first song that was included on

the album. It seemed like a good idea for a concept album, and so I asked Creston for permission to carry on. He was flattered and gave his blessing. And the other songs came pretty quickly from that point. Creston has been kind enough to autograph some of the booklets that come with the album and has been very supportive of the whole project."

In the late '90s, Muehlhausen served as lead singer and guitarist in the bands Angel House and the Deadlites. After a break from music to concentrate on his career as creative director for Tony Hawk Inc. and his own Vibrosonic Design Studio,

he released his 11-song album, *The Murderers of Love*, in 2017. He appears at the Partake gastropub in Vista on Saturday, December 21. "After the first of the year, I'll be playing a weekly gig there."

The new album *Motel* was recorded with bassist and producer Alan Deremo, who has toured and recorded with John Denver, Dave Alvin, Vince Gill, Belinda Carlisle, and Men at Work. It features David Gilmour's drummer Steve DiStanislaio, Spirit keyboardist Scott Monahan, and Michael Ramos (BoDeans) plays accordion on the title track. Local contributors (continued on page 40)

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Monophonics @ Casbah 4/12 • David Grisman's Dawg Trio (seated show) 6/17 & 6/18 (pre-sale 12/18)
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NYE

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W/ GINGER ROOTS

SCROTO

include Kenny Loggins' long-time keyboardist and musical director Steve Wood (adding accordion to one song), and Tim Godwin, head of A&R for Taylor Guitars and a former touring musician (Laura Branigan, America) who added a few guitar parts.

So how does a relatively unknown San Diegan land top-shelf talent such as Michael Ramos, known for working with headliners such as John Mellencamp and Robert Plant? Having an Instagram account and approximately one utility payment helps. "I asked what it would take to get him to record a tune and he said 'I don't know, is \$150 okay?' We sent him the tracks and, a couple of days later, he sent us back some options, and they were perfect. He's on the title track, and I couldn't be happier about it."

—Jay Allen Sanford

Welcome confusion

Comethazine was part of a digital bait-and-switch occurrence last year, which some say helped boost the career of the 21-year-old rapper known as Frank Childress to his family and squad back home in Illinois.

In January 2018, his song "Bands" was uploaded into fellow-rapper YBN Nahmir's spot on the SoundCloud music sharing-app and website.

When I first heard about this song replacement narrative, I couldn't understand the technicalities and ramifications of doing so on the SoundCloud app — so I looked it up and broke it down into my analog world.

Imagine listening to Kasey Kasem on the local station in 1988. Then, imagine someone commandeered the station's controls before Kasem announced the number one song. And instead of the station playing "Roll with It" by Steve Winwood, the number one song on Kasem's top 40 list — the hijacker switches the sound source, and plays

a "joint" by San Diego-based rappers instead. Furthermore, the perp then locks himself in the control booth and the program director can't control the signal from the outside.

Fast-forward three decades years later onto the SoundCloud app where YBN Nahmir was ranked number one with his "Bounce Out With That" track. The thing is, the song was uploaded by an impostor with the "sound_clout_xxx" handle that reportedly even utilized the then 18-year-old rapper's photo. Many SoundClouders didn't know sound_clout_xxx was an impostor, or maybe they did, and didn't care. The authentic YBN Nahmir camp, which is "nahmir205" on the music app, did not upload the "Bounce Out With That" song on SoundCloud after its initial release. Instead, on January 23, 2018, they dropped a music video to the song on YouTube, which garnered "around 20 million views in the first two weeks" of its upload.

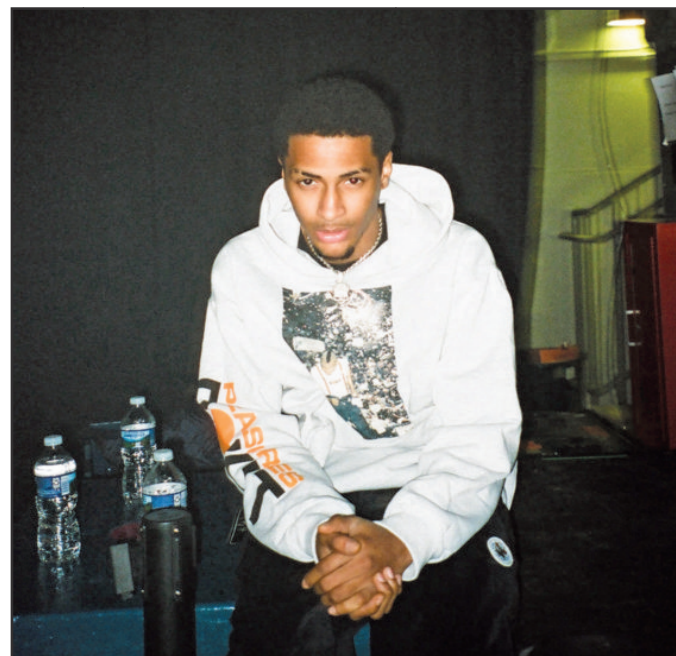
After the YBN Nahmir song gained traction on the

SoundCloud app, sound_clout_xxx replaced the song with Comethazine's "Bands" song.

This replacement feature on the SoundCloud app is usually utilized by artists who update their songs with improved renditions of the original song. But at the same time, the song would keep its statistics, including the likes, comments, and shares — intact for business purposes, and bragging rights.

"u/snoozamusic" on Reddit has been a Comethazine-fan for a while, even before the "SoundCloud-ish trap banger" was swapped into the number one slot.

"I go and look and sure enough his new song called "Bands" is number one on SoundCloud," he said on the Reddit website shortly after the song swap transpired in 2018. "..... 10 million plays in the last 15 days, and 3.5 million plays this week. That is really strange, especially considering that his (Comethazine) new song "Fuck Me in My Jag" was dropped with a music video on Worldstar five days ago, and currently sits at 75k views you can find that one of these random SoundCloud accounts has your song positioned on the SoundCloud charts. The first



Through no fault of his own, Illinois rapper Comethazine rode the SoundCloud coattails of more famous rapper YBN Nahmir.

person to post the song on SoundCloud can gain traction and some power over the song's position on the SoundCloud charts."

After word got out of the swap, Co's (short for Comethazine) song that was uploaded by sound_clout_xxx, was deleted from the app.

"I wish we could take credit for this because it got Co a lot of looks but we think this was just the case of a fan that really wanted Co to get plays by anyway possible," said Chad Carington of Comethazine's label Alamo Records — in a *Complex* interview.

In January, "the real" YBN Nahmir dropped a

snippet of his new song, Co x Quad Studios B2 1+ — featuring "the real" Comethazine. Two months after the teaser dropped, YBN Nahmir performed at Bassmnt downtown.

Comethazine is considered by some fans as a trap and horrorcore rapper — where he samples and plays background sounds that are ominous and dark as he raps about death. He'll perform at House of Blues on December 20.

— Mike Madriaga

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

<p>SAT., DECEMBER 21</p> <p>DAMAGE, INC. Domination CFH, Woke Up Dead</p>	<p>BRICK X BRICK</p>	<p>FRI, JANUARY 24</p> <p>JUDAS PRIESTESS Motorbäbe, Vixen Vendetta</p>
<p>SUN., DECEMBER 22</p> <p>CATTLE DECAPITATION Atheist, Primitive Man, Author & Punisher, Vitriol</p>		<p>SAT., JANUARY 25</p> <p>BLEED THE SKY Skinlab, Arise In Chaos, So This Is Suffering, A Hero Within</p>
<p>SAT., DECEMBER 28</p> <p>IGNITE Pulley, Chaser, Roman Watchdogs</p>	<p>FRI., JANUARY 10</p> <p>96 BITTER BEINGS The Native Howl, Locust Grove, Deathboys</p>	<p>MON., JANUARY 27</p> <p>RIFF RAFF Cranberry Vampire Tour</p>
<p>SAT., JANUARY 4</p> <p>GODHAMMERED Londons Falling, Deep Sea Thunder Beast, Eyes of Perdition</p>	<p>SAT., JANUARY 11</p> <p>RED HANDED DENIAL Samsara, He Films The Clouds, The Unsung, Blackcast</p>	<p>THU., JANUARY 30</p> <p>INTERNAL BLEEDING Logistic Slaughter, Embryonic Devourment, Depulsed, Abject Terror</p>
<p>FRI., JANUARY 9</p> <p>GOOD RIDDANCE Youth Brigade, The Last Gang, PSO</p>	<p>TUES., JANUARY 14</p> <p>THE OBSESSED Gutter, Ritual Potion</p>	<p>FRI., JANUARY 31 (SOLD OUT)</p> <p>HORRORPOPS The Quakes, Franks & Deans</p>
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MONDAY • DEC 23 GLASS SPELLS MRCH • FAM BLOOD	MONDAY • DEC 23 WEDNESDAY • JAN 8 DAVID BOWIE BIRTHDAY BASH	MONDAY • JAN 6 REDWOODS REVUE RESIDENCY REBECCA JADE AND THE COLD FACT
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BERKLEY HART CHRISTMAS at Music Box

DEC 19

Jeff Berkley and Calman Hart have long been staging occasional themed concert programs. “We do it just to put a different spin on things,” says Hart. “For New Year’s 2001, we did 2001: A Berkley Hart Odyssey, which was the film music with a smoke machine. There was the Harvest Moon Party, all Neil Young songs from that album with a bale of hay and a scarecrow onstage. We once played an entire album by Gregory Page, *The Romantic Adventures of Harry*, including an outtake that wasn’t on the album. Gregory was there and played with us at the end of the night. We even did Berkley Hart Bingo,

where we put all our song titles on bingo cards. As we’d play a song, you’d mark it off and jump up and yell if you got bingo.” The duo’s recurring show *O Berkley, Where Hart Thou?* features music from the film soundtrack to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and similar classic rural songs. This evening’s performance will offer their Americana spin on both traditional and unconventional Christmas music, for a bill that includes Jack Tempchin, whose song “Peaceful Easy Feeling” was not only a monster hit for the Eagles but also inspired a same-named Cabernet Sauvignon produced by Temecula’s South Coast Winery.



CASH'D OUT CHRISTMAS at Belly Up

DEC 20

Cash’d Out began as a Johnny Cash cover band that formed in late 2004 when singer Douglas Benson (who had only recently learned guitar) met guitarist Kevin Manuel through an ad in the *Reader*. The band strives to recreate music from Cash’s Columbia and Sun Records period, along with the famed live recordings Cash did at Folsom Prison and San Quentin. In 2007, they won \$20,000 in Viejas’s Ultimate Cover Band contest, around the same time they became one of the only Cash tribute bands to win the endorsement of the Cash estate. The stamp of approval came about when Bill Miller, Johnny Cash’s best friend, asked the band to perform

at the opening of the Johnny Cash exhibit at the Fender Museum in Corona, California, where they jammed with longtime Cash drummer W.S. Holland. The band returned to the Fender Museum in 2008 to play a Cash birthday celebration with John Carter Cash (Johnny Cash’s son) and Cindy Cash (Cash’s daughter). They’ve won multiple San Diego Music Awards for won Best Cover Or Tribute Band, although they also play the music of similar country artists, as well as doing offbeat covers in the style of Johnny Cash that the Man in Black never actually tackled. Their annual Belly Up holiday event will include Christmas music and related gospel classics.



DANIELLE FORSGREN & JOE SAVANT at Martinis Above Fourth

DEC 21

Enjoy an evening of holiday cheer as accomplished performers Danielle Forsgren and Joe Savant take the stage with their winter show *A Quiet Kind of Christmas* accompanied by music director (and occasional author) Rayme Sciaroni. Friends now for over 35 years, Forsgren and Savant will present a program of easy listening, lounge-infused holiday favorites, as well as putting Christmas twists on pop hits not usually associated with the season. Danielle Forsgren is known for stage productions

such as *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and collaborations with locals like theater maven Leigh Scarritt. Joe Savant spent over a decade working on Broadway in such shows as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Peter Pan* before moving in 2001 to San Diego, where he founded the local branch of the Culture Shock Dance Center. The Hillcrest event is open to patrons ages 18 and up.



CATTLE DECAPITATION at Brick by Brick

DEC 22

Cattle Decapitation will wrap up their multiband Geocidal Tendencies tour in San Diego. Known for wearing masks made of beef jerky onstage, an apparent statement regarding the trivialization of animal remains for human consumption, the band promotes vegetarianism with the utmost brutal approach in expression, both musically and visually. Originally formed as a Locust member-swapping side project, their albums carry descriptively aggressive names like *Human Jerky* and *Humanure*, with song titles such as “Colon Blo,” “Constipation Camp,” “Roadkill

Removal Technician,” and “Parasitic Infestation (Extracted Pus Mistaken for Yogurt, and Gargled).” Their most recent album features the recorded debut of two new members, guitarist Belisario Dimuzio (Eukaryst) and bassist Olivier Pinard (Cryptopsy). The packed bill includes Atheist, Primitive Man, Vitriol, and locals Author & Punisher, aka industrial drone-doom one-man band Tristan Shone, who was just announced as the support act for Tool’s upcoming North American tour.



PONY DEATH RIDE at Til-Two

DEC 23

Comedic rock duo Pony Death Ride has a new holiday release, *The First Leon Christmas Album*, featuring tracks like “It’s a Tom Waits Christmas,” “All I Want For Christmas Is a Divorce,” and “Your Baby’s Ruining Our Christmas.” “We perform musical comedy inspired by burlesque, vaudeville, and punk rock,” says Jaye, who co-founded Pony Death Ride with her husband Joe in 2009. “As a multi-instrumental duo, our songs reference a variety of music genres, from classic American songbook-style to pop, country, electro, metal, and even children’s

lullabies. Though our lyrics touch on various inappropriate adult-oriented themes.” Their holiday-themed video for “Nothing Beats Old People at Christmas” co-stars locals Adam Gimbel (Geezer, Rookie Card) and Hollywood comedienne Allison Gill. Expect to hear that one among their set highlights for this holiday show, as well as their single “Hobby Lobby Christmas” (originally b/w a cover of Jon La Joie’s “Cold Blooded Christmas”), and perhaps they’ll also read selections from their book *How to Talk to Your Kids About Santa*.

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Balboa Theatre:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Mariachi Sol de Mexico: A Merry-achi Christmas. \$35-\$68.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — The Tubes. \$32-\$62.

Friday, 8pm — Cash'd Out Christmas.

Saturday, 8pm — Betamaxx.
Sunday, 8pm — Groundation.
Monday, 8pm — Abbey Road Christmas. \$16-\$18.

Blind Lady Ale House:

Friday, 9pm — Robin Henkel Band.

Brick by Brick:

Sunday, 8pm — Cattle Decapitation and Atheist.

Brown Cup:

Friday, 6pm — Soto Six Holiday Jazz Extravaganza. Free.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders from Mars.

Friday, 8pm — The Loons, Creepxotica, the Shanghais.
Saturday, 8pm — Mainsail and State to State.

Sunday, 8pm — El Vez and Alvino & the Dwells. \$25.
Monday, 8pm — Glass Spells and MRCH.

Tuesday, 8pm — Exile on Kettner Blvd.

Coronado Library:

Sunday, 2pm — Chanukah Concert. Free.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Miss Demeanor.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 8pm — FX5.
Saturday, 8pm — Riot Scene.

Encinitas Library:

Saturday, 7pm — Nathan & Jessie: A Holiday Special. \$14.

Famous Mexican Village:

Friday, 8pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Fluxx:

Friday, 10pm — Dynamix. \$1-\$15.
Saturday, 9:30pm — Shaffy. Free.

Handlery Hotel and Resort:

Friday, 8pm — Ugly Sweater Party. \$25-\$35.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Sunday, 4:30pm — Ian Buss Trio. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:

Friday, 8pm — Jamacha Project.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:

Friday, 8pm — Camino Paz.

Hornblower Dinner Cruises:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 7pm — Nightly Dinner Cruises in San Diego. \$89.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm, Friday, 9pm — Jerry "Hotrod" DeMink. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — Phantom Planet. \$25-\$30.
Sunday, 7pm — Graham Gillot. Free.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Friday, 4pm — Y3K. Free.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

Friday, 7:30pm, Saturday, 2pm & 7:30pm, Sunday, 2pm — Noel Noel. \$20-\$100.

Kraken:

Sunday, 7pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

La Mesa Wine Works:

Sunday, 1:30pm — Robin Henkel & Dave Castel de Oro.

M-Tuesday Music:

Saturday, 2pm — Pony Death Ride.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Thursday, 8pm — Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

Saturday, 7pm — Danielle Forsgren & Joe Savant. \$25.

Mission Trails Regional Park:

Sunday, 1pm — Winter Solstice Native American Flute Concert. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Alter Ego. Free.

Moonshine Beach:

Thursday, 6:30pm — California Country Christmas.

Friday, 10pm — Steven Cade.

Saturday, 8pm — Brodie Stewart Band.

Moonshine Flats:

Saturday, 8pm — Steven Cade.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Three Chord Justice. Free.

Friday, 8:30pm — Blue Light. Free.

Saturday, 4pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Saturday, 8:30pm — The Resinators. Free.

Music Box:

Thursday, 8pm — Berkley Hart Christmas. \$30-\$35.
Friday, 8pm — Infected Mushroom and Randy Reidman. \$27-\$30.

Saturday, 7pm — Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness (Acoustic). \$39.

Saturday, 9:30pm — The Grouch and Murs. \$22-\$25.

Sunday, 8pm — Mud Slide Slim. \$22-\$27.

Observatory North Park:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Rebellion.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:

Sunday, 11am — Tinkersmith. Free.

Partake Gastropub:

Saturday, 7pm — Jaimie Muehlhausen: The Murderers of Love. Free.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration. \$19-\$24.

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

Saturday, 7:30pm — Robin Henkel & Nathan James.

Seaport Village:

Sunday, 12pm — Amelie Simpson.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Jade Jackson and Jason Hawk Harris. \$10-\$12.

Friday, 7:30pm — Matt Embree. \$18.

Soul of Yoga:

Saturday, 6pm — Diâne Mandle & Richard Rudis Yuletide Concert. \$30-\$40.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

Sunday, 8pm — Il Divo: Holiday Song Celebration.

Til-Two:

Monday, 8pm — Pony Death Ride.

Twin Oaks Valley Vintners:

Saturday, 4pm — Ginger Cowgirl. Free.

Village Faire Shopping Center:

Sunday, 12pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

WildWood Crossing:

Saturday, 7pm — West of 5. Free.



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 SAINT MOTEL SATURDAY, JAN 25	 AMERICAN AUTHORS AND MAGIC GIANT SATURDAY, FEB 1
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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Art of Elan: Young Artists in Harmony Art of Elan's Season 13, Hear & Now, includes a three-year musical BaCH Initiative, increased community engagement, new strategic partnerships, and a continued commitment to commissioning new work. The timeless music of J. S. Bach weaves in and out of a season that highlights music from a wide variety of composers and time periods, including several local premieres. Saturday, December 21, 11am; **free**. A Reason to Survive (ARTS), 200 E. 12th Street.

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 20, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 21, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 22, 2pm; \$34-\$93. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway.

Handel's Messiah Handel's Messiah springs to life through Bach Collegium San Diego's striking account of this beloved oratorio. BCSD's performance of Messiah, delivered by a dynamic cast of musicians in the manner of Handel's most dramatic operas is not to be missed. Friday, December 20, 7pm; \$20-\$70. First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South.

Handel's Messiah Handel's Messiah springs to life through Bach Collegium San Diego's striking account of this beloved oratorio. BCSD's performance of Messiah, delivered by a dynamic cast of musicians in the manner

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Dvorak redeemed, critic shamed

Never trust a critic. Always take reviews with a grain of salt.

Case in point. I thought I didn't like Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8*. I found it lacking the drama of his Seventh and Ninth Symphonies. I was wrong. I hereby declare my love for Dvorak's *Eighth Symphony*, and I now think it has plenty of drama.

I've professed my love for Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* in these pages before. No changes there. My enduring love was strengthened after hearing it performed by the San Diego Symphony on Saturday, December 7.

The 18 year-old Wei Luo was the soloist. Luo has moved beyond the level of prodigy and into the realm of maturing artist. She played with nuance, accuracy, and power. Currently, she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in music at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia.

I had gone into the concert with a fair amount of skepticism. My skepticism stemmed from the fact that Raphael Payare, the new music director, had six weeks in a row with the orchestra, and now, music director emeritus Jahja Ling was back to conduct this concert. I wondered how the players would respond.

My skepticism proved to be unfounded when it came to the Prokofiev piano concerto. When the Dvorak *Symphony No. 8* came around, I settled in to be bored.

Wrong, wrong, wrong. I don't know when or where I was the last time I heard the Dvorak *Eighth*, but in the here and now of this concert, I was a fan. I was flabbergasted with myself. How could I have ever found this music to be unfulfilling? I'll say it again, never trust a critic.

The opening phrase of the symphony sang forth from the cellos with a unity of tone and beauty which immediately made me feel guilty for having any doubts about this music. The first movement unfolded with all the lyricism, drama, and orientalism which makes Dvorak a beloved figure.

Perhaps "orientalism" is the wrong word, but the entire *Eighth Symphony* is colored with a chromaticism which evokes vistas other than those of traditional Western orchestral music. I would invoke the term "Gypsy," but it is no longer acceptable, according to "woke" culture. Of course, neither is "orientalism."

Whatever the case may be, Jahja Ling, The San Diego Symphony, and Dvorak's *Eighth* lifted my spirits, filled my heart, and



Dvorak

shamed me for my pre-concert prejudices.

The San Diego Symphony now enters the holiday mode with their *Noel Noel*

concerts. The Masterworks series returns with masterful pianist Emanuel Ax playing Beethoven on Friday, January 10.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

of Handel's most dramatic operas is not to be missed. Saturday, December 21, 7pm; \$20-\$70. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue.

Handel's Messiah Handel's Messiah springs to life through Bach Collegium San Diego's

striking account of this beloved oratorio. BCSD's performance of Messiah, delivered by a dynamic cast of musicians in the manner of Handel's most dramatic operas is not to be missed. Sunday, December 22, 7pm; \$20-\$70. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

Jazz Vespers Each Jazz Vespers service begins with a 30-minute set of live jazz, blues, and gospel, featuring the Archie Thompson & the Archtones and guest musicians. Saturdays, 4:30pm; through Wednesday, December 30, **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)

Peace! Hope! Joy! Love: Music for Humankind An Evening of Texts and Music for Humankind. Featuring music with professional vocal soloists, choir, harp, violins, and organ. Presented by the San Diego Pro Arte Voices. Friday, December 20, 7:30pm; \$10-\$30. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street.

Peace! Hope! Joy! Love: Music for Humankind An Evening of Texts and Music for Humankind. Featuring music with professional vocal soloists, choir, harp, violins, and organ. Presented by the San Diego Pro Arte Voices. Saturday, December 21, 3pm; \$10-\$30. University City United Church, 2877 Governor Drive.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Lies N' Roses and Way Cool Jr.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Stick Figure.
\$51-\$89.

Capri Blu:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Jennifer Klein.

Casbah:

Thursday, Dec. 26 — El Vez Screamers Tribute and Blood Ponies.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Drug Hunt and Dani Bell & the Tarantist.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Songs For A Winter Night. **Free**.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Diana & the G-Strings.

Fluxx:

Friday, Dec. 27 — DJ Mark Da Spot.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Tony Cummins.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Flophouse Playboys.

House of Blues:

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Kayla Ray. **Free**.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Holiday Hangover.

Lestat's Coffee House:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Gregory Page. \$20.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Safety Orange. **Free**.

Mother's Saloon:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Epic XVIII. **Free**.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Dec. 26 — The California Rangers. **Free**.
Friday, Dec. 27 — Charles Burton Blues Band. **Free**.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — Sophia Alone. **Free**.

Music Box:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Full Crate.
Saturday, Dec. 28 — The Crystal Method and Keith Sweat. \$25.

Nick & G's:

Friday, Dec. 27 — Tim Yancey. **Free**.

Observatory North Park:

Saturday, Dec. 28 — Poolside and Neil Frances.

Orfila Vineyard:

Saturday, Dec. 28 — Steven Cade.

Persian Cultural Center:

Saturday, Dec. 28 — Electric Oud Trio. \$10-\$20.

Saddle Bar:

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Bonneville 7. **Free**.

Soda Bar:

Saturday, Dec. 28 — Twin Ritual and Paper Foxes.

Sycuan Casino:

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

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SEA BASE
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Sat, Dec. 21
GRAVEYARD WITCH
Mezzo - Stolen Souls - Cryptic
Scattered Among the Ashes

Mon, Dec. 23
FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US
Variety show w/ Pony Death Ride,
musical acts and pole dancers.

Sat, Dec. 28
ETERNAL NIGHT - REDEMPTION
Goth & industrial night with DJs Eddie-Q,
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Tue, Dec. 31
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Making the yuletide gay at Diversionary Theatre

Last week, I mentioned the various ways that *A Christmas Carol* has been tweaked and updated by San Diego theaters in an effort to keep the story from getting lost in its own comfortable familiarity. Such is the danger of tradition. But there is, as yet, no need for such shenanigans with David Sedaris' much more recent traditional Christmas nar-

rative, *The Santaland Diaries*, which finishes up its holiday run this weekend at Diversionary Theatre. It's a dramatized version of Sedaris' famous 1999 essay on working as a Macy's Christmas elf named Crumpet, and it's still new enough that actor Wil Bethmann was just able to play it straight, as it were.

(Bethmann was plenty elfin in both manner and mien, but maybe a titch too fit and handsome to play the sad sack Sedaris describes himself as. He's closer to how one might imagine Snowball, the adorable elf who, it turns out, just likes to lead other elves — and Santas — on. And while he was able to put across Sedaris' helpless, deadpan horror at both life and Christmas gone awry, I'm not sure I believed him when he told me he wasn't a good person. Maybe I'm not supposed to believe Sedaris, either; I'm not sure.)

Besides, I'm not sure Sedaris' story is all that interested in avoiding comfort. There are plenty of uncomfortable situations described, but they mostly have to do with wretched normies. Things like this: "Tonight I saw a woman slap and shake a crying child. She yelled, 'Rachel, get up on that man's lap and smile or I'll give you something to cry about'...It's not about the child,

or Santa, or Christmas, or anything but the parent's idea of a world they cannot make work for them." The parents Crumpet describes are entitled, celebrity obsessed, self-centered, racist, and sexist. Diversionary bills itself as San Diego's only LGBT theater; how could this testimony from an outsider witness — so close, and yet a world away — not serve as balm to those who had suffered the straight world's opprobrium?

Well, but that's the way it was... I dunno. The ending pretty clearly wandered into the realm of happy fantasy, to the point of granting children the same wonderstruck state — "center of attention" — that Sedaris longs for at the show's opening. (The kids find themselves beloved by parents and Santa; Sedaris wants to be treasured by the people who make *One Life to Live*.) And that got me wondering about earlier bits: would the

THEATER
MATTHEW LICKONA



The Santaland Diaries: Crumpet struggles not to crack.

The Santaland Diaries, by David Sedaris, adapted for stage by Joe Mantello
Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Boulevard #101, University Heights
Directed by Anthony Methvin, cast: Wil Bethmann; scenic design, Justin Humphres; costumes, Elisa Ben-zoni; lighting, Curtis Mueller; sound design, TJ Fucella; stage manager, Beth Hall.
Playing through December 22. Thursday, 7 pm; Friday and Saturday, 8 pm, and Sunday 2 pm.

sort of dad who stands in line for hours to bring his 10-year-old son to Santa in a New York City department store really say, "Get him a woman, Santa, a woman!" before requesting "a broad with big tits" for himself? Maybe. But Sedaris has admitted to making stuff up for the sake of

his stories. I didn't buy "big tits" Dad, but I could definitely see how he worked for the narrative.

Diversionary's set was its own sort of Santaland: oversized candy canes, oversized presents, and Christmas trees with decorations that coordinated in a kind of gentle light show. It set the

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Directed by James Vásquez

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scene for Bethmann's zippy performance without getting in his way. And it served to highlight the use of a simple, unadorned model of a house — a home, rather — that provided the performance with a surprisingly poignant final image.

After the show, around 20 attendees gathered downstairs in the lobby for *Linda Libby's HoliGay Storytime*. Libby took to the tiny stage, reminded us that “I sound so much better when you have a drink,” and invited us to join her, “to read a few stories, sing a few songs, have a nice little contemporary connection with our chosen family. To celebrate ourselves.”

She took up her guitar and led us in singing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” before reading Brian Moylan's essay from *New York Magazine* on *The Gay Subtext of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* — the Christmas TV special. (The piece hailed from 2016 — years before Jennifer Finney Boylan's recent *New York Times* piece on the same subject — and did a remarkably thorough job, right down to branding Yukon Cornelius a bear. Jules Bass of Rankin/Bass is still alive; I wonder what he would make of the reading?) She crooned a little bit of “All I Want for Christmas is You,” before reading “My Son's Christmas Dress” from Lori Duron's blog *Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son*. “I sat on the floor removing price tags while he tore off his ‘school clothes,’ which he wears as a disguise when out in society so that people will think he's all boy.” And she sang “O Christmas Tree” before reading a news story about the Latinx lesbian couple who donated the tree for Rockefeller Center in 2018.

Then Libby read Christmas wishes from the audience. Several asked for Trump's downfall, others for sex, affordable housing and health care, “my baby to be born on time,” a winning lottery ticket, more wine, bedazzled nipple clamps, peace and love for all... She closed with Randi Reitan's 2011 *HuffPost*

entry, “A Christmas Letter to My Gay Son,” which lamented that she could not give him equality, despite all her efforts to do so. “I want to see you open it on Christmas Eve and with great joy live with it all your days.” Some wept; others consoled the weeping. ■

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 SUNDAY.

A Christmas Story

Nine year old Ralpie Parker wants one thing for Christmas, an official red ryder range model carbine action 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. Ralpie's vivid imagination conjures up several numbers, from “Ralpie 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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” that will include train rides, a glacier-like climbing wall, a bounce house, and vendors selling holiday treats and food.

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

Experience the magic of this beloved holiday ballet. As the lights dim, the music soars, snowflakes swirl, flowers dance, and a little girl dreams, Ballet Arte's Nutcracker will bring an unforgettable spark to everyone's Holiday.

DAVID AND DOROTHEA GARFIELD THEATRE, 4126 EXECUTIVE DR., LA JOLLA. 858-362-1348. 2PM & 7PM SATURDAY, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAY.

Pastorela 2.0

Every year for nearly three decades, the Mercado Nochebuena has put on a traditional pastorela, completely with a script that was allegedly written over a hundred years ago by a groundskeeper from the Convent of San Agustín in Acapulco, 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.

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, 6PM 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.

Welcome 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

Black Kat Theatre Year in Review Cabaret Fundraiser

Refreshments, entertainment and a chance to mingle with your favorite kats. Performing 2019 themed sketches and songs to help you look back at the year's events.

WOMEN'S MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA, 2730 HISTORIC DECATUR RD., BAR-RACKS 16, #103, LIBERTY STATION. 619-233-7963. DEC. 28.

The Humans

Erik Blake has brought his family from Pennsylvania to celebrate Thanksgiving at his daughter's new apartment in lower Manhattan. As darkness falls outside the ramshackle, pre-war duplex, eerie things start to go bump in the night. Soon, family tensions reach a boiling point.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. JAN. 9 THROUGH FEB. 2.

Jacque Nunez: Journeys to the Past

A journey into the lifestyle of the Acjachemen Nation, which flourished in Southern California hundreds of years before Father Serra. Learn about the past and present culture of California Indians through stories, songs, dances, indigenous tools, instruments, games and clothing.

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. JAN. 8 THROUGH JAN. 8.

The Magic Underground SD

Monthly event of two or three magicians and stand-up comedians. Arrive early and enjoy the full menu before you head downstairs to the show in the acid vault. Doors 7:30 pm show 8 pm. AMPLIFIED ALEWORKS, 1429 ISLAND AVE., EAST VILLAGE. JAN. 1.

The Maids

Two domestic servants conspire to kill their socialite employer in this contemporary reimagining of Jean Genet's 1947 psychodrama. Nervous Theatre's production explores Genet's seductive world of role-playing where power, gender identity, and desire are constantly in flux. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. JAN. 10 THROUGH JAN. 12.

Shen Yun 2020

Shen Yun's vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional journey through the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture. Philosophers and poets alike seek harmony with the Dao, or “Way,” of the universe. Immerse yourself in the art of classical Chinese dance, hand-made costumes, a digital backdrop, and live orchestra.

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. JAN. 17 THROUGH JAN. 21.

Shen Yun 2020

Shen Yun's vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional journey through the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture. Philosophers and poets alike seek harmony with the Dao, or “Way,” of the universe. Immerse yourself in the art of classical Chinese dance, hand-made costumes, a digital backdrop, and live orchestra.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. JAN. 24 THROUGH JAN. 26.

Suor Angelica

Suor Angelica is the story of a woman who bears a child out of wedlock and is sent to a convent to repent for her sins. Her will to live is fueled by the thought of someday being reunited with her son. This one-act opera is sung in Italian, with English supertitles projected above the stage.

STAR REPERTORY THEATRE, 329 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. JAN. 18 THROUGH JAN. 19.

The Things We Never Say

In 2015, Breakthrough Workshop Theatre presented the World Premiere of *The Things We Never Say* — a song cycle by Thomas Hodges — as part of the Fringe Festival. This production would go on to win Thomas a 2015 Fringe Award for Outstanding Original Score. To commemorate the anniversary of that production and to launch Season 8 — a season of work that will explore a theme of “Grief, Empathy, Hope” — the composer Thomas Hodges and original director of *The Things We Never Say*, Ira Bauer-Spector, will once again present this piece. This time around it will be a one night-only concert featuring both members of the original cast and additional Breakthrough Artists, as well as Thomas himself on the keys. MARTINIS ABOVE FOURTH | TABLE + STAGE, 3940 FOURTH AVENUE #200, HILLCREST. 619-400-4500. JAN. 8.

Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night gives us one of Shakespeare's most remarkable heroines, the quick-witted Viola, who assumes the disguise of a page boy for Duke Orsino and finds herself at the center of an explosive love triangle in which identity, passion and gender all threaten to come undone. Themes of gender frequently appear in Shakespeare's plays and are part of the plot in *Twelfth Night*. This production will explore gender identity through Shakespeare's text and gender-fluid casting. Ages 13 and older. Post-show talkbacks on Saturday, January 11 and 18. ASL-Interpreted performance, 2 pm, Saturday, January 18. CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1600 VILLAGE PL., BALBOA PARK. JAN. 10 THROUGH JAN. 19.

Richard Jewell: American hero

Were cash and prizes all that motivated Clint Eastwood, he'd have had himself de-aged, made another *Dirty Harry* sequel for Netflix, and been done with it. But there'll be none of that small screen hoo-hah for this picture-maker. Some films (a few) are admittedly better than others, but has there been a time since the Man With No Name first rode into town when Eastwood wasn't at the top of his game? Don't believe me? Check out *Richard Jewell*.

The *Gauntlet's* Ben Shockley will forever be my pet Eastwood personification. Released on the heels of the second sequel to *Dirty Harry*, it marked a major turning point in Eastwood's career, both in front of and behind the camera. It was a time when the two biggest action stars in town were Eastwood and Charles Bronson. Eastwood could have just as easily have settled into an endless cycle of easy, breezy Harry Calahan outings, similar to what Bronson was doing with Paul Kimball, née Kersey in *Death Wish 1-46*. God had other plans. Bronson was a popcorn salesman. Eastwood is an artist.

It was my first awareness of Eastwood's experimental side. Shockley arrives late for work, opens the driver's door, and before the detective's shoe can touch the pavement, an empty pint of booze shatters to the ground, beating him to it. Instead of macho swagger, Shockley is Harry Callan in reverse, an off-the-ropes and out-of-control rummy, being played for a patsy by his bullying superiors. There's a lot of Shockley in Richard Jewell. Jewell's drug of choice is food, not alcohol. His is a life of overcompensation, always looking for some way to counteract his doughy deportment and faltering speech pattern. But the two share at least one similarity on the positive side of the ledger: one can count on both men to get the job done. (The one thing Shockley has over Jewell is an actual shield, as opposed to a rent-a-cop badge.)

Eastwood worked five years putting the film together, and there's not another actor out there who'd make a better Richard Jewell than Paul Walter Hauser (*I, Tonya*; *BlackKkKlansman*). Their similarity is uncanny, but it's much more than that: Jewell is not a celebrity along the lines of, say, Ray

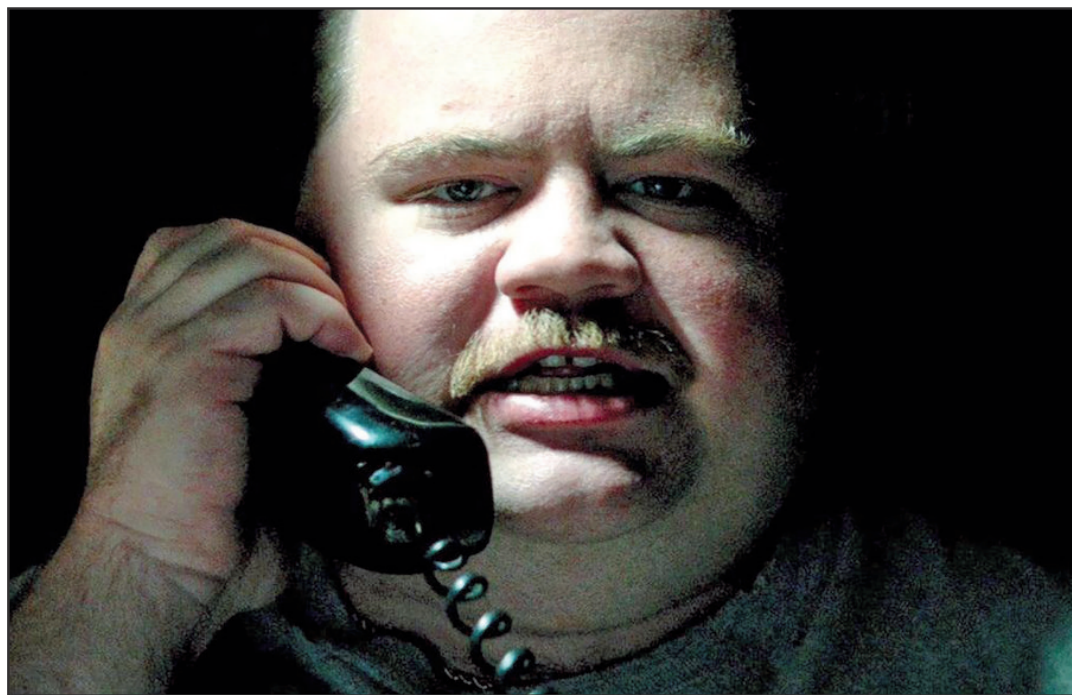
Charles or Mr. Rogers. So unlike most celebrity biopics, this isn't a matter of makeup and mimicry, where an actor is afforded the luxury of poring over hours of footage before hitting their mark. His scenes opposite Kathy Bates as his mother are so realistic, they play like hidden-camera footage. Nor is

there any obvious greatness to latch onto. Hauser's Jewell can be an arrogant son of a bitch, looking to get even for years of people poking fun. Sure enough, no sooner does he try to shoo a band of teenagers away from the suspicious-looking package containing three pipe bombs than his size is called into question. A little power can go a long way, and one doesn't want to be on the receiving end of Jewell's retribution. Conversely, Jewell chose Watson Bryant (Sam Rockwell) to be his lawyer precisely because he didn't make fun of him.

The rumpus that's greeted the picture's release was almost as controversial as Jewell's tabloid-wadding "trial by media." Olivia Wilde co-stars as Kathy Scroggs, the real-life *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* reporter who reported that Jewell was the FBI's top suspect in the bombing of the 1996 Olympics. According to the script, Scroggs offered to exchange sex with fictionalized cop Tom Shaw (Jon Hamm) in return for the scoop. Show me a biopic that in some way or another doesn't play fast and loose with the truth. Unlike *Bombshell*, in which a character is expressly created for *belle du jour* Margot Robbie to add more sizzle to a film purportedly aimed at broadsiding sexism, Scroggs and the *AJC* are the real villains in this piece. Whether or not Scroggs propositioned Shaw is second only to the fact that were it not for their rush to judgement, Jewell would have lived out the remainder of his life in a manner befitting a hero. (He died in 2007 at age 44.) Eastwood's only misstep was not assigning Scroggs a pseudonym.

'Twas partisan politics that killed a potentially beastly box office. The film raked in a mere \$1 million for every star I'm giving it. (That's five!) It's one of the worst opening weekends in Eastwood's career. Did people stay home fearing a lecture on fake news from a crabby old Republican prone to speaking to unoccupied chairs? Give the man some credit. With 38 movies to his name, director Eastwood's a

MOVIES



Richard Jewell: Paul Walter Hauser, the Jewell in Clint Eastwood's crown.

much sharper smuggler than that. Set aside a couple of hours this holiday season to spend with a pair of real-life American heroes: Clint Eastwood and Richard Jewell. It's not often I say this, but you'll thank me.

—Scott Marks

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

63 Up — The next amazing installment in Michael Apted's long-running investigation into how the conditions of childhood play out. 2019. (LANDMARK KEN)

The Aeronauts — Inspired by true events? For all the truth the opening title card contains, it might just as well have read, "Inspired by All Accounts." Wasn't it John Ford who said, "When the legend becomes fact, print any excuse imaginable to reunite Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne in the hope of rekindling the box office success of *The Theory of Everything*?" There was no Amelia Wren. It was two male aeronauts — not a guy/gal pair of barnstorming chipmunks looking for romance — who piloted the historic gas balloon flight. Whenever the script calls for a flashback to play out on good old terra firma, rest assured that it lands with a resounding thud. The first hit of airborne turbulence sets the stage for a spectacular sequence of soaring unrest as the effects crew plays hacky-sack with the runaway balloon and its passengers. But once the storm passes, the reality of being stuck spending the remaining 90 minutes with two actors and a green screen sets in. 2019. — S.M. ● (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Bombshell — Before the credits fade, Megyn Kelly (Charlize Theron) is reporting on Ivanka Trump's allegations of rape against her husband. So much for fair and balanced coverage — which in the case of Trump-bashing, wouldn't be bad. But like Roger Ailes (John Lithgow), the lecherous architect of the cable news channel at the center of the picture, *Bombshell* is more interested in parading Xeroxed pulchritude past the camera than it is in getting at the truth. (The only award this deserves is for the makeup artist who every day fit Theron with prosthetic eyelids.) As if dramatizing the sexual humiliation endured by Kelly and Gretchen Carlson (Nicole Kidman) weren't enough, screenwriter Charles Randolph (*The Big Short*) feels compelled to create Kayla Pospisil, a fictional composite of several Fox employees brought to the screen by flavor of the year Margot Robbie. It's a brilliant bit of casting insurance to safeguard against Hollywood standards that no doubt brand both lead actresses as long in the tooth. And coming from Jay Roach (*Austin Powers x 3*, *Meet the Fockers*) what chance did this have of being anything but skit-tish? 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)

A Hidden Life — Once upon a time, there lived in a valley above the clouds a young Austrian couple, secure in their beliefs that fascism would never reach them. The fact-based story of a consci-

Calendar MOVIES

entious objector who refused to fight alongside the Nazis — villagers turn against the #NeverHitler for not returning their salute — is dragged across the screen for what seems an eternity by Terrence Malick. With Harvey Weinstein committing career *hara-kiri*, one hoped that along with his merited banishment went the annual year-end attempt to drag the Holocaust through the Hollywood cesspool trawling for Oscar. What therefore Harvey hath joined together, let not Malick put asunder. After three introductory minutes of file footage featuring Hitler, an intertitle appears to inform us that the story that we are about to see is based on truth. Words have never been Malick's strong suit, but in case the viewer finds what the characters say to be simplistic, consider his use of 'Scope. One stinkin' fish-eye lens! It's like watching bow tie pasta for 174 minutes. 2019. — S.M. ★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

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. ★★★★★ (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 nonplussed Nazi. Some will find it a borderline apologia 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)

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)

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 hoohah (*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 staff, 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; VINTAGE VILLAGE THEATRE)

Only Cloud Knows — The narration makes it clear: the one who gets left behind suffers. A Beijinger named Simon (Xuan Huang) returns to Auckland to make good on a promise to spread the ashes of his late wife Yun (Caiyu Yang) in her favorite place. Characters enter and exit director Xiaogang Feng's narrative; many add gravitas — most notably the couple's best friend Melinda (Lydia Peckham) — but all leave an indelible impression. Some are given but a sentence or two: "I've been through this. I understand," says the anonymous woman seated in the veterinarian's waiting room, trying to comfort Simon over the passing of his dog, Blue. (Never has a film paid such loving attention to euthanizing a pet.) And that's just the first hour. The skipper's reaction after Simon finishes telling him about Yun is hands down the most beautiful moment put on screen this year. Based on a true love story, there isn't a finer movie to with which to warm your heart this holiday season than this. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (AMC MISSION VALLEY)

Richard Jewell — Reviewed this issue. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker — Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2019. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

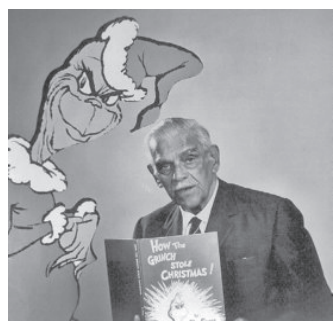
Waves — One doesn't expect to find a continuous 360 degree pan — the type generally associated with a declaration of true love — inside a moving car, let alone at the head of a picture. When, later in his tale of a suburban family in mid-crisis, filmmaker Trey Edward Shults takes another spin of his 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. ★★★★★ (AMC FASHION VALLEY; ANGELIKA FILM CENTER AND CAFÉ; ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

FILM FESTIVALS

Christmas classics on the roof

Up on the rooftop, Manchester Grand, comes a trio of holiday TV classics to beat the band! If there is a finer small- or big-screen adaptation of a Dr. Seuss children's book than Chuck Jones' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (1966), please point me in its general direction. It wasn't the first time Jones had teamed with Ted Geisel; the two had worked on Warner's *Private Snafu* propaganda shorts. The good Doctor was dissatisfied (to say the least) with the results of *The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T* (1953), his first and only stab at a feature, and this was to be gun-shy Geisel's first project in over a decade. Fearing that it might scare the wits out of younger viewers, Geisel was originally reluctant to cast Boris Karloff as the voice of the Grinch. (Thurl Ravenscroft, who sang the theme song, makes for a frightening baritone.) But with his mellifluous lisp, Boris Karloff brings more cunning to the animated meany than can be found in all of Jim Carrey's rubber-faced muscle spasms combined. Next up, Jules Bass and Arthur Rankin, Jr.'s seldom-revived, bully-free *The Year Without a Santa Claus* (1974), an hour-long special featuring the voices of Shirley Booth, Mickey Rooney, and Dick Shawn. The doctor orders Santa to take a Christmas vacation instead of delivering toys. How do you think that's gonna work out? Lastly, there's the first (and finest) animated Peanuts special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965).

ROOFTOP CINEMA CLUB AT THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT: Friday, December 20 at 6 pm.



How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Boris Karloff, narrator nonpareil.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

A lifetime of shattered dreams and personal sacrifices finds George Bailey (James Stewart) in the market for an ice-caked bridge off which to jump. Along comes guardian angel Clarence Odbody (Henry Travers), and with the help of Hollywood's most famous "lying flashback," George discovers what life might have been like without him. Some argue that Frank Capra's film is saccharine to the point of sending viewers into a diabetic seizure. And sure, it's sentimental, but after a few viewings, a darker side comes to light. Stewart's performance as the tortured businessman — a shining example of post-war frustration and despair — is strong enough to strip away more than a few layers of schmaltz. And who's to say that in another ten years, George won't be ready to once again kick the crummy

dust of Bedford Falls off his shoes? This marked a major turning point in Stewart's career. Soon after, the actor crossed paths with Alfred Hitchcock, and later, Anthony Mann. Under their watchful guidance, the troubled soul that Capra helped birth would blossom into a full-blown neurotic — and in the case of *The Naked Spur*, borderline psychotic. By the way, when *It's a Wonderful Life* entered the public domain in 1974, practically every television station began broadcasting the film during the holiday season. Hell, it would play in the middle of July! But in 1993, Republic Pictures enforced its claim to the copyright, and NBC is currently the only U.S. TV station that is licensed to show the film.

ROOFTOP CINEMA CLUB AT THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT: Saturday, December 21 at 9 pm.

Holiday movie marathon

Spend the afternoon and early-evening before Christmas in the Community Room of the La Jolla/Rifford Library for an 8 ½ hour marathon of holiday movies. Titles to be screened include *Miracle on 34th St.*, *The Bishop's Wife*, and the 1951 adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, starring Alastair Sim as the architect of Scrooge. No kidding, next to Quincy Magoo, you're not likely to find a better Ebenezer. Take advantage of this family-friendly festival aimed at introducing young people to classic (read: black-and-white) cinema. Doors open at 9:30 am, and the shows run continually until 6 pm.

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PERSONALS

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on his great championship win against The Mighty Adrian Bear. 22 lobsters to 12 lobsters. Keep on trucking, love Sissy

HEY SETH/DU You are the absolute best! You are the heart of my ocean! XO Kelster

SINGLE MEN: Free workshop to find out what women want! This free workshop is designed for single men, 30 and older, who may have reservations around dating and desire an authentic relationship. Call 858-357-3207

LOOKING FOR MARTINA In 1993 you were a school dietician in Escondido. Dating a cop named Denny. We met, you moved and got married, and went to work as a chemist. I knew you for six months. I need you to contact me, Mike

ISO GABE THE TATTOO ARTIST I'm looking for an artist named "Gabe" from the Good Life Tattoo shop in Lemon Grove. Did the shop close or move? I would like to re-connect with him so he can do some touch ups. Thanks. Reach me here.

KNIGHT IN THE TRUCK WITH ARIZONA PLATES I was involved in a car accident Monday morning that left my car disabled in the exit lane off of Ingraham/Mission Bay Dr. You were kind to stop, offer to tow my vehicle with yours, and directed me to a safer place to wait for help. You called the police and CHP to try to expedite help to arrive. I would have asked for your contact information had I not been in such a stressful state.

I SEE YOU AT STARBUCKS IN NORMAL HEIGHTS Who is the guy that goes to Starbucks (Adams and Felton) and is like always on his laptop in the mornings. Anyone know him? He's handsome and a little mysterious. If you know him tell him he has an admirer.

MANDY, I'VE KNOWN YOU FOREVER but lost touch 2 years ago. I'm the senior, white boy that used to drag you with me when I took the boat out. I know this is a long shot, but I moved to San Diego, and got a new boat. I hope you see this, so we can connect again.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MY nephews, Devon, Justin, and David. From Santa.

ALYSSA Will you marry me?

KURTIS Will you marry me?

IF YOU ARE AT VIEJAS and your server is a beautiful Filipino woman named Mel, wish her happy birthday this month from David.

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!

KIERAN I love you and I've had the best time with you this year. Can't wait for many more. Happy anniversary my love.

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

NOTICES

WHO IS THE GOAT? <https://whoisthegoat.net/>

SENIOR DISABLED CANNABIS PATIENT has a warning. Got my rent money taken by pot delivery. Filed a cop report. Need help. Got a kid. 619-528-0907

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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

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 Thursdays 915am Bonita. Peace love 80's rule!

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

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

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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

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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.

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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 Tryian Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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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.

GRANNY FLAT WANTED I am looking for a granny flat or studio apartment in East County. I'm on fixed income. Phone: 619-375-7301

COLLEGE AREA, \$1600. 2BD+2BA upstairs apartment. New vinyl flooring. Garage parking with additional rent. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. 4828 Art Street. Agent: 619-298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

NEED AN APARTMENT SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every month. Studio+1BA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. Includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa,

on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858)799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

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 horse; cat OK with extra deposit; available now; 1634 Upas Street; Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1300. Cozy studio near Adams, downstairs corner unit, wood-like flooring, on-site laundry, water, trash and gas included. Great location with easy freeway access. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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

2 BED/ 2 BATH CONDO \$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

HOUSE 4 SALE BY OWNER 4 bedroom, 3 bath upgraded tri-level. Great location, large lot, fantastic panoramic view. Must see 5448 Jamestown Road

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AMAZING 30+ ACRE CAMPO RANCH \$500,000 http://bit.ly/campo-ranch-for-sale

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ROSARITO BEACH HOME \$169,000. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 parking spots, large with 150 m2 of construction and 200 m2 of land. http://bit.ly/rosarito-property-200

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TIJUANA HOUSE \$140,000 USD, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, 15 minutes from Otay, call Rosario Lozano for more info: http://bit.ly/tj-house-for-sale

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MUSIC

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ELECTRIC OUD for sale in Clairemont. \$350. Middle eastern string instrument. Text Mike 619-813-2343

ORTEGA DIGITAL STOMP BOX \$200, in El Cajon, solid sapele (mahogany) wood housing, with power supply. Call Rudy at 619-332-8355

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ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC producer needs vocalist. I'm looking for anybody who's willing to collab with me on getting some vocals on these tracks! CarizeMusic@gmail.com

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RAPPER LOOKING FOR GUITARIST to make a 5 track demo. If you're interested, hit me up. Thanks. http://bit.ly/rapper-needs-guitarist

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1976 SALVI DIANA CONCERT HARP for sale, \$10,000, in Hillcrest. It's a 47-string concert-grand pedal harp. Also includes: storage case, harp dolly, matching music stand and seat, many additional gut strings and felt dust cover http://bit.ly/harp-hillcrest

DARBUKA DOUMBK TABLA DRUM for sale. Animal skin head, ceramic, and in very good condition. Call David at 1-760-746-5422

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SEARCHING FOR OUR LOST YORKIE in Barrio Logan, female, approximately 10 months old, responds to name "Nutty", last seen on December 12 with a blue/red collar and a pink/blue sweater. If found please call/text 1-619-930-1781

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OLAF is a black 5 year old neutered male Domestic Short Hair currently available for adoption. He's an easygoing gentleman wishing for a home for the holidays. He can be met at our Bonita location at 5821 Sweetwater Rd., Bonita Ca 91902, Tues-Sat 10:30am-4pm. Now through Jan. 5, 2020 we are having a "Home Fur the Holidays" adoption special where all cats and kittens are only \$5.00. His adoption includes neuter, microchip with prepaid registration, FVRCP, Rabies, flea treatment, Felv/FIV testing and a cardboard carrier. Animal ID: A1868417

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SHEEPADOODLE 60/70 lbs., vet checked and one remaining female out of eight. Call 858-256-8386

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SNOWBOARDS Liquid Man-163cm (\$175) or K2-157cm (\$100)

Excellent condition. Text/call photos 619-755-2452.

BICYCLES

TREK 3700 18 frame, Shimano component mountain bike, good condition, \$80. Two ladies bike, Schwinn 17 in frame, 10 sp road bike, excellent condition, \$50. 858-880-8741

SONDORS THIN ELECTRIC BIKE \$600, has throttle and electric assist, 619-203-2194, in North Park

MOUNTAIN BIKE w full suspension, \$250, call Ron at 858-587-0272

NOVARA AFTERBURNER tag along bike add on, \$45, 20" tires, (619) 884-9480

VINTAGE UNICYCLE W MAG WHEEL \$40, 20", text Joe at 619-857-0257

52 FELT AR5 road bike, plus Vision TC50 wheels, 2014, \$1000, Pacific Beach, Bob at 619-333-0661

SCHWINN WORLD SPORT ROAD RACE BICYCLE \$50. I believe it's a 12 speed, and it's in good condition. Asking \$50 or make an offer and it's yours. Please call Bonnie at 619-474-6689 or 619-916-1880.

SANDBLAST AND POWDERCOAT YOUR BIKE 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 RECURRENT 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

FUJI/ABSOLUTE Almost new, 21-speed, 19 inch, orange Shimano/Altus, new hybrid tires, new shifters, new pedals, Hillcrest, \$175, call Tedd, 619-298-4777.

MOTORCYCLES

CUSTOM '04 HARLEY DAVIDSON \$5000, custom paint, Le Perre seat, custom handlebars, LED lighting, runs great, clean title, negotiable. 619-905-1363

2005 HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER \$2500, in Santee, need to sell due to upcoming military commitments. I hate to sell it. Price is a bit negotiable. Cell: 915-540-1165

2003 KAWASAKI NINJA ZX-6RR-LIMITED EDITION 9k mileage, clean title and registered till 9/20 Text: (760) 994-3083 for price

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YAMAHA YZ 250 (2018) \$5800, brand new bike, took it out 7 times, \$5800 — that's what I owe on the bike, call Rob 760-997-0097

HONDA SHADOW MOTORCYCLE Beautiful 1997 1100cc American Classic Edition, white, ready for the road. See pics on Craigslist, \$3000, (619) 917-5546.

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2010 SCION XB SPORT with TRD package, \$5,500. 619-597-0558

1938 BUICK FOR SALE Street rod 4 door. Chopped top. Olds 350/350 drivetrain. Many extras. Contact Bob 760-943-7326. \$11K Firm

1985 MERCEDES 300D NICE! Awesome, well cared for one-owner car. 320k miles. Diesel, XLNT 4 dr Crisp paint. \$5400 858-864-2708 by appt.

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2010 MINI COOPER - \$4300 Pepper white/blk top. 2-dr. 124K miles. Great gas mileage. Ext + int look pristine. Fun to drive! Call/text 858-518-5204.

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1994 PONTIAC FIREHAWK This classic Firehawk has a factory option was upgraded by street legal performance, \$7500. Amylk@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.

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.

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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

HELP WANTED

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.

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MONEY 4 THE HOLIDAYS Collect signatures for statewide political petitions for 2020 presidential election. Easy money \$100 - \$200 / day. Paid 3x/week.

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NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS. Fundraising volunteers to represent each of the 18 cities in the County. Ask donors to donate just \$3.65 a year. dsfhc.org

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS The Yiddish Arts & Academics Assn. of N. America is looking for volunteers and interns. Contact 619-719-1776, jana@yaaana.com

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ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY Keysight Technologies has an opening in San Diego, CA for Pre-Sales Applications Engineer (PSAE1) Deliver measurement instrument and measurement automation expertise for a solution implementation based on Keysight products and services. Position may require travel up to 50%. Mail resume & reference job code to: Keysight Technologies Inc., Attn: US Country HR, 1400 Fountain Grove Parkway, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

SOFTWARE ALGORITHM ENGINEER III for Leica Biosystems Imaging has an opening in Vista, CA to design and develop software & algorithms for automated operation of scanner systems devices. Req: Master's degree in Eng., CS, Physics, Mathematics or related field (foreign edu. equiv. ok) + 2 yrs. of exp. in digital signal processing; OR Bachelor's degree + 5 yrs. of exp. in digital signal processing. Send resume to Leica Biosystems Imaging, Attn: M. Marcucci, 1360 Park Center Drive, Vista, CA 92081.

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Fashion Foibles

— Because white shoes are so distracting when you're lining up your putt? According to *Time* magazine, Nike will be mowing over the competition with its new Air Max 1 golf shoes, which feature uppers covered with a green material that resembles grass. Matching green laces will further disguise your dogs as you play a round, but lest you think you'll disappear altogether, fear not: The trademark Nike swoosh on the sides is bright white. The sneakers, yet to be released, are expected to retail for \$140.

Recurring Themes

— Sunita Jairam, 48, of Lexington, Kentucky, was arrested for driving under the influence at about 1 a.m. on Jan. 13, which she explained to police by saying she did it for her son. According to the *Lexington Herald Leader*, Jairam told police she had been drinking all day and "drank a bunch of beer and got in her car to drive to teach her son a lesson." Her son, whose age was not reported, told police he had tried several times to get out of the BMW X1 "due to his mother's driving," but the doors were locked. Jairam was also charged with endangering the welfare of a minor.

Crime Report

— Isaias Garcia, 30, of Garland, Texas, pleaded guilty in a Bridgeport, Connecticut, courtroom on Jan. 10 to reduced charges stemming from a bizarre kidnapping scheme last April. Garcia had abducted a 21-year-old Fairfield man and was demand-

ing \$800 in ransom, the man's aunt and father reported to police on April 6. Police told the aunt to request a photo to guarantee the young man was still alive, and when the photo arrived by text, *ctpost.com* reported, it showed the victim lying facedown in a bathtub with a 3-foot-long alligator on top of him, mouth open. In a subsequent phone call, the victim told his aunt: "Titi, man they got this alligator on me and they saying that if no money is given they are gonna have him chewing on me." Police and the FBI were able to trace the phone calls to a hotel room, where Garcia was apprehended. He faces a year in prison.

Bright Idea

— In Williamson County, Texas, Sheriff Robert Chody has employed a new cadre of deputies to help deter speeding. Interestingly, they all look alike. The cardboard cutouts, which Chody has placed along roads where speeding is common, depict one of the department's real-life deputies pointing a radar device at the roadway. "It's a creative way to solve the problem without really working the problem," he told KTCB-TV. "Slow down because you never know if it's the real deal or not," he warned. The sheriff said he tested the idea in school zones and, "We didn't get one speeder."

What's That up in the Sky?

— The rare super blood wolf moon of Jan. 20 was so captivating to some skywatchers on Florida's Ponte Vedra Beach, that they didn't notice when the tide rolled in and wa-

terlogged their Honda CRV. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office told *News4Jax* the occupants were able to get out of the car and move to safety, although the vehicle itself wasn't recovered until the next day. A photo showed water up to the windshield on the front end.

Love Gone Wrong

— It was love at first ... arrest, for 27-year-old Ashley Keister of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, when she was apprehended by a West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, police officer last year. Ever since, Police Chief Curtis Nocera told the Associated Press, Keister had been harassing the officer with sexual messages on social media and would call 911 just to talk with him. On Jan. 7, police said, Keister took her infatuation a step further, using a large cigarette butt receptacle to break through the door of the West Wyoming police station around 1 a.m., where she rummaged through filing cabinets. Keister was caught on surveillance video and was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, burglary and vandalism.

Inexplicable

— Mmmm, breakfast! Around 7 a.m. on Jan. 6, at a McDonald's in San Francisco, a man carried a dead raccoon into the restaurant and lay it on a table, then sat down with it. Restaurant patron Chris Brooks captured the spectacle on Facebook Live, recording as the man stood from his seat and walked around the restaurant, talking with people. Another man, wearing gloves, then

picked the raccoon up by its tail and took it outside to a garbage can, trailing blood on the floor. Fox News reported San Francisco police responded to the restaurant and released the unidentified raccoon owner after speaking with him. McDonald's closed the store immediately and reopened two hours later after sanitizing the dining room. One patron wrote on Twitter: "I've seen worse than a dead raccoon at that same McDonald's."

Precocious

— Employees of John J. Murphy Elementary School in Round Lake Park, Illinois, were surprised on Jan. 9 when a car drove into the drop-off lane and an 11-year-old student exited the driver's seat. Witnesses alerted police, who issued an arrest warrant for the front-seat passenger, 31-year-old Khafilu M. Oshodi of Round Lake, for two counts of child endangerment; a 9-year-old was riding in the back seat. Police Chief George Filenko told the Lake County News-Sun the situation could have "resulted in any number of tragic scenarios." The children have been placed with other relatives, and police are still looking for Oshodi.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

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GENERAL AUTO REPAIR

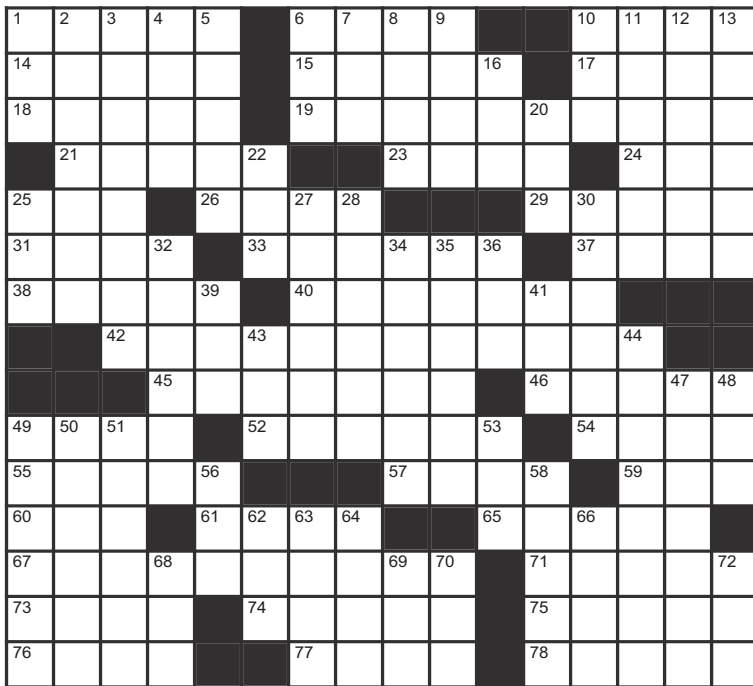
1616 Precision Park Lane San Diego, 92173 • (619) 430-4369

Just off the 905 freeway • Se habla español

Must present ad prior to service. Expires 1-20-20

12,000 mile, 1 year warranty

CROSSWORD



© 2019 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

Across

1. Actor Killam of both "Mad TV" and "SNL"
6. '90s-'00s first baseman Martinez
10. "Begone!"
14. "She ___ meat today" ("The Taming of the Shrew")
15. Swim with the fishes, maybe
17. Newswoman Paula
18. Proudful?
19. "According to the grapevine ..."
21. Sales talk
23. What the Titanic had a disastrous encounter with
24. French "you"
25. Suffix with legal
26. Baseball's "Slammin' Sammy"
29. Letter-shaped bridge support
31. Ones with good habits?
33. Greek philosophical group
37. Cousin of -trix
38. Particulars, in slang
40. Scamps
42. DVD special feature ... or what's seen in 1-/6-Across, 21-/23-Across, 55-/57-Across and 76-/77-Across
45. Mauna Loa, e.g.
46. "Cheeseburger, large fries and a Coke," e.g.
49. Prefix with potent or present
52. Alfred who plays Diego Rivera in "Frida"
54. Larger-than-life
55. Unforeseen problem
57. ___-a-doodle-doo

59. It abuts the Fla. panhandle
60. The Beatles' "___ Mine"
61. Third-longest river in Europe, after the Volga and Danube
65. Kid
67. It might have two stars
71. Gary of "Lethal Weapon"
73. "Cómo ___ usted?"
74. "Throw ___ From the Train" (1987 Danny DeVito comedy)
75. Gladiator's milieu
76. Right on the map
77. Walnut, for one
78. Low opera voice

Down

1. "Qué ___?" ("How are you?")
2. Up for debate
3. Worked on, as a cold case
4. Latin years
5. Snoops (around)
6. Co. that launched Dungeons & Dragons
7. Critical hosp. area
8. Like an arm that's been slept on too long
9. Member of the woodwind family
10. Singer with the 2017 #1 R&B album "Ctrl"
11. Accelerate
12. LeBron James, by birth
13. Punctual
16. Opposite of departure: Abbr.
20. 6 ft., maybe
22. The "L" of UCLA
25. Extremity
27. Mediterranean building material
28. From the heart?
30. Have no doubt
32. Gloria Bunker's married name
34. Widely recognized
35. Prefix with logical
36. Ashley, to Mary-Kate
39. Sign of a packed house
41. Sgt., e.g.
43. Dutch ___ disease
44. Six-point completions for a QB
47. Actresses Atkins and Brennan
48. Label for Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball"
49. "Intriguing ..."
50. Drink served in a champagne flute
51. 2000s events in North Korea, for short
53. Play a part (in)
56. "Ben-___"
58. Skewered dish
62. Kind of sleep
63. Admit frankly
64. Wheels of fortune?
66. Vibrant glow
68. Bit of horse feed
69. Genre for Fall Out Boy
70. Pocketful or mouthful, say
72. NBA legend ___ Ming

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

N	S	A	F	S	T	O	P	M	O	B	I	L
B	I	D	O	H	A	R	E	O	N	I	C	E
A	X	E	R	U	B	I	O	A	L	O	U	D
M	Y	L	I	T	T	L	E	P	O	N	Y	
V	E	I	N	T	E	L	L	S	A	K	A	
P	A	N	F	U	L	S	E	A	S	E	D	I
S	R	A	H	E	A	P	P	A	D	M	A	
			B	U	D	W	E	I	S	E	R	
T	H	E	I	R	A	N	T	E	S	H	U	
L	O	W	C	A	R	B	T	O	D	D	L	E
C	O	W	E	I	D	E	R	E	U	R	O	
			H	I	C	K	O	R	Y	F	A	R
O	A	T	E	S	R	U	R	A	L	P	A	H
T	H	A	R	P	A	S	O	R	E	E	N	O
C	A	M	R	Y	M	E	R	C	E	D	O	W

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:
 - 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle submissions.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk Monday-Friday between 9-11am or 1-3pm.

☛ **Mary Arana, Encinitas, 13.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

HARD:

		1		3	9			6
7		6		5		1	9	
	5						2	
				5				
3	7						8	5
		4						
	8						4	
	4	9		6		2		8
1			2	4		5		

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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk Monday-Friday between 9-11am or 1-3pm.

☛ **Gary Lorenc, Encinitas, 1.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

8	5	9	7	1	4	2	3	6
3	1	6	2	5	8	4	7	9
7	2	4	6	9	3	8	5	1
6	3	8	1	2	7	5	9	4
5	4	2	8	6	9	3	1	7
9	7	1	4	3	5	6	8	2
1	8	3	9	4	2	7	6	5
2	9	5	3	7	6	1	4	8
4	6	7	5	8	1	9	2	3

HI INFLUENCERS! I am a fantasy photo creator. Need help with your images and branding? Check out my Instagram @koiso_ photography or email: koiso_syashin@gmail.com for details

ATTN FASHIONISTAS: I can repair your designer boots and purses via leather fabrication, repair, alterations, restoration and leather lacing. Please call Mike at 619-223-1530

HIRE SANTA'S ELF AND THE GRINCH to go to your home to deliver presents for Christmas. Please text or call Sheri at 619-357-8975

DRONE PILOT SERVICES aerial photos and video of real estate, surf and adventure. I have a high end drone with a high definition camera that can capture high definition 4K still images or full motion video for your project. Call Christian at 760-383-1377 for details.

NEED A SANTA CLAUS CHRISTMAS TREE ELF? Christmas tree pick-up and delivery service, and decorating w/lights set-up. Please call for appointment: John and Frances 619-218-1675

NEED WORK Cooking, cleaning, yard work. Child, pet, house sitter. Party setup - clean up. Vehicle will run errands or chauffeur you. Call or text Dana. 805-866-2825

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, light housekeeping, drive to appointments, personal assistant. Call Carol @ 858-525-1154.

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

NEED SMALL OFFICE CHAIR on wheels. Good condition. Want treadmill in working condition, prefer foldable. 858-703-7584

ISO TOW & STOW for my 29' 5th wheel for month of January. Please contact me at 858-220-4503

MENTORING IN CITY HEIGHTS People working the Obama phones need food, gift cards, etc. 4636 University Ave

WANTED An electronic person to build me a control from my schematic. Please call me, Ron at 619-414-4022.

WANTED OLD STEREO GEAR Amps, speakers, turntables. Call or text pictures 619-279-7833.

HELP AN AUTISTIC ADULT Visit the GoFundMe page by visiting www.gf.me/u/w47h59. Give the gift of a helping hand this Holiday.

MAGIC CARDS COLLECTING DUST or in storage taking up room? I want your magic the gathering cards. My name is Tim. Let me bring some cash to you and give those cards a great new home. Call or text 619-971-9640.

THE EL CAPITAN BAND Parents Association is now accepting year-end tax deductible donations. -Info@ECBPA.com #supporhighschoolarts

BOB BUYS TRAINS Lionel, MTH, Amer. Flyer in a box in your garage for years. Call Bob. Cash at your location. Member AGTTA TCA 760-579-2234

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-unsold tickets, programs. Pls call 619-522-0283. Private party.

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.

STEREO GEAR/ LP RECORDS. Cash paid! Vintage/ newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables. McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Prerecorded reel tapes, jazz/ rock records. John, 619-889-5237.

FISHING TACKLE Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, & misc. by Heddon Creek Chub, Pflueger, South Bend, Shakespeare 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: Empty Bottles of Ch Mouton Rothschild. Will trade my duplicates or other 1st growths. 858-610-7130

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

SURFBOARD GARAGE SALE I have 50 used boards to choose from; lots of fishes and short boards, and a few eggs and a few collectors boards. http://bit.ly/surfboard-garage-sale

HUGE YARD SALE in Vista call Alexis 760-499-0845

FOUR BIRD CAGES other stuff, Ocean Beach in alley between Newport and Santa Monica, 4600 block. Saturday December 21.

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

FOR SALE

VITAMIX 5200 1 horsepower engine, good condition, \$200. Call 760-644-5270

CUSTOM DIABETIC INSERTS \$199, call 619-745-9782 m-f 5pm-9pm.

CUSTOM WOODEN WINE RACKS holds 300 + bottles, \$199. You will need a big truck. cnelson_madison@hotmail.com

FOR HAND-MADE CANE COLLECTORS wooden can with

highly detailed symbolic carvings, artist unknown. Excellent condition. \$1,000 858-750-9227 joeannino@yahoo.com

SONY AIBO ROBOT DOG ultra rare, complete set. Sony's finest ERS-220A in like new condition. Promoman92109@gmail.com for details.

ELECTRIC RECLINER CHAIR brown fabric, good condition, asking \$40. No charge for delivery in the South Bay area. Call 619-817-5216, ask for Richard.

SIZE 46 CST Lewmar Winches, still in boxes. \$1,000 call Rod 619-208-9749

AMERICAN MADE MILITARY GENERATOR uses American made propane fuel, 5kw rating, 7.5 kw continuous output, 120/240 volts, 1ph/3ph power, highest quality manufacturing, used. \$1,250 760-746-7209

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS Disney collectibles, just in time for spooky season. Oogie Boogie cookie jar, Jack mirror, Jack Christmas cart racer, and more. http://bit.ly/nightmare-xmas-sale

TOPAZ, LARGE 19 6 carat, octagonal step-cut gemstone. 21.47 x 11.93 mm, November birthstone, amber-colored, inherited from my grandmother. G.I.A. certificate. Appraised \$2,400, asking \$1,800. Jack 619-807-1347

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK \$11⁷⁵
Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up. + \$8.25 Cert.

BRAKES from \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor. FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair.

OIL CHANGE & FILTER \$13⁹⁵
Up to 5 qts, new filter, 10 point checkout. +\$1.00 Waste Fee.

TIMING BELT \$75
Starting price, Labor + Parts.

COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS \$30
Most vehicles & light trucks. Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery...

AXLE SPECIAL \$99
Includes Parts & Labor

MUFFLER \$29
From + Labor

PREMIUM SHOCKS \$70
Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

PREMIUM STRUTS \$130
Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

STARTERS OR ALTERNATORS \$95
From + Labor

*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto
6670 Miramar Rd. # C
San Diego, CA 92121-2559
858-452-9999

OIL CHANGE \$14⁹⁵
Additional \$5 cartridge fee. Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover most cars shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl.

SMOG CHECK \$11⁷⁵
Sedan only. NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only. SUV and Trucks extra. + \$8.25 cert + \$1.00 DMV transfer fee

BRAKES \$49
Front or rear
*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

30K 60K 90K \$65
Scheduled Services
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

RADIATOR or Transmission Services \$45
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

TIMING BELT \$75
Parts & Labor
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS \$95
Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 and up.

We'll beat any written estimate!

B.T. Auto Wrench
Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C
1-858-565-4634

Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays!

AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST

WE DO ALL TYPES OF AUTO GLASS INSTALLATION

BEST PRICES GUARANTEED!

\$149⁹⁵ WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT

(Most cars, some restrictions apply. Mobile Service Available)

Always Done Right!!

(619) 430-4922

WEST COAST AUTO GLASS 5803 El Cajon Blvd., SD (Near SDSU) • wcautoglass.com

Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays! Happy Holidays!

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49
Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks.

\$21⁷⁵ + \$8.25 cert

Smog Test or **STAR Certified** All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 31, 2020.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41⁷⁵
+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER \$24⁹⁵
from
Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(both locations)

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(Cliff Brown location)

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN \$69⁹⁵
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL
from \$179⁹⁵ 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up
Oil and filter change • Lube chassis
Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE \$159⁹⁵
Parts & Labor

TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$50 off quoted price
Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

STAR SAN DIEGO SMOG & AUTO REPAIR CENTER
Only at San Diego Smog We Repair & Certify Gross Polluters
4664 Park Blvd. (at Adams Ave.)
619-543-4828 • Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 8 am-3:30 pm
www.sdsmogandrepair.com

2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE
4491 Park Blvd. (Park & Monroe)
619-297-4204 • Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm
www.cliffbrownautomotive.com

Coupons must be presented prior to service. Senior discounts available.

Window Tint \$98
Tint removal from \$29. **COMPUTER CUT** Any shade, up to 5 rear windows.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION
Pads & Labor From \$78

FREE SHOCKS & STRUTS
BUY 2, GET 2 FREE
Most Cars

ELECTRICAL REPAIR
Power windows, door locks, automotive control modules: BCM, ECM, PCM, TCM.

10% OFF GIFT CARDS!
Valid after 12/25/19

QwikAutoCenter.com 858-256-7977
2707 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach 92109

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm *Must present ad prior to purchase. Installation required
Pictures are for illustration only. Some cars require extra parts and labor at additional cost. Must present coupon at participating locations. Most cars. Prices subject to change without notice.

GRAND OPENING IN CHULA VISTA!

Search "Backyard Greens"



for full menu!

★★★★★



Open
24
Hours!

FIRST TIME PATIENT DEALS

EXCLUSIVE: \$12/G	PRIVATE RESERVE: \$9/G, 5G/\$40	TOP SHELF \$7/G SPECIAL SHELF \$5/G	OUNCE SPECIALS \$5/G \$80 - \$120 Ounce Specials
20% Off All Vape Carts	20% Off All Edibles	\$5 Off All 1G Shatter	Free Gifts for All!

DAILY DEALS

 \$35/1G VAPE	 2/\$35 1G VAPE	 \$25/1G VAPE 2 FOR \$40	YELLOW GOLD SHATTER \$20/G (Large Selection)
Twisted Moon Rock Pre-Rolls \$10/Each	 2G/\$35 Shatter/Crumble	FIRE INDOOR SHAKE \$50/OUNCE	STIIZY \$45/1G VAPE, \$25/.5G

1-619-451-4646
2518 Main St. • Chula Vista, CA

Right Behind Santa Fe Market, Large Parking in Left Rear

CACTUS Some free, some for sale. Dan 619-749-7633

JUICE WRLD HOODIE \$40 R.I.P. Juice WRLD! Size large men's black Juice WRLD 999, hoodie was worn once. Asking \$40 and must pickup in Santee <http://bit.ly/justice-wrld-hoodie>

ANTIQUE CLOCK Punch in works, \$150. Campo 619-478-9918

ANTIQUE UNDERWATER CAMERA in plexiglass case. Campo, \$90. 619-478-9918

NEW REGULAR SIZED BED and metal frame, \$200. Bed in original plastic. Call: (610)430-5663

LANE LEATHER RECLINER with ottoman, beige swivel, like new. \$110. Mount Hope, San Diego. 619-527-2411

PULASKI CURIO CABINET 3 feet, 10 inches. 858-581-2841

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS beautiful like-new La-Z-Boy non-convertible sofa. Neutral color, micro fiber, stain resistant fabric. Lifetime frame warrantee. \$499 OBO. 619-523-187

FIVE DINING CHAIR, \$120 Five patio chairs, \$100. One couch, \$100. One refrigerator, \$300. Contact 619-808-4168

WALL ART DECORATION Shop at McCleanPhotography.com for premium, yet affordable wall art. Prints come in canvas, metal and acrylic.

NASCAR FRAMED MONOPOLY edition game set. Beautiful display of America's sport & classic game. Photos available. \$100 OBO text/call 619-755-2452

LA-Z-BOY ROCKER/RECLINERS two, good condition, \$40/each, can separate. 760-703-8343

VINTAGE MONTESSORI puzzle maps with cart, large, classroom size, 6 of 7 continents. Plus other Misc. All for \$100, super price 760-504-5782

GOOGLE HOME HUB New, still wrapped. \$50 text or vm 760-696-8215.

WOOD BABY CRIB \$40. 619-646-2267

ANTIQUE MASON WATCH Fob over 80 years old. In good condition. \$80 or best offer. Call Lloyd 619-540-6273

CASPER MEMORY FOAM KING MATTRESS Like new. \$300 or trade? 619-357-6998

VINYL RECORDS IN LA JOLLA <http://bit.ly/records-lajolla>

TONS OF CHEAP LULAROE CLOTHING in El Cajon. Everything \$15 or under! 99% of it is brand new with tags! What specific sizes and styles are you looking for? I have sizes XXS-3X available! <http://bit.ly/lularoe-sd>

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>

ANTIQUA 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.

ANTIQUA 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.

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

NEW 2019 SAM ADAMS UTOPIAS rare collectible. Selling at cost \$250. Great gift for your beery best friend!

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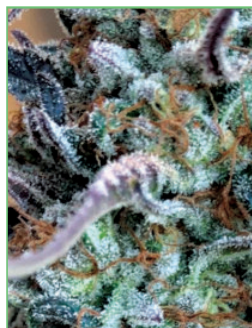
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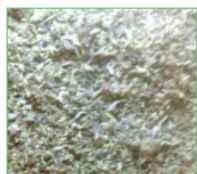
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