

The need to voice unpopular opinions

Inebriation, then strangulation ■ Joan Crawford's bar ■ Parisian chandeliers

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 1 | JANUARY 2, 2020

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Inebriation, then strangulation

He spat in her face. He head-butted her. He called her a whore.

By Eva Knott

Sheriff's deputy O'Ryan Swauncy said he arrived at the north county casino about 3 am on a Friday, July 26, 2019. There he spoke to a woman who said her boyfriend had found a text message she had sent to a friend, and that was when the trouble started.

She had messaged a male friend, someone she had been "singing with" she later said, and this upset her boyfriend. The woman estimated that she had been dating her boyfriend, 48-year-old Houman Haddadnia, for about three years.

She said Haddadnia slapped her across the head and face and called her a whore. And he put his hands around her neck and choked her until she got "a tingling sensation in my arms." She was kicking her

legs but said she did not try to kick Haddadnia because she was trying not to escalate the situation.

He spat in her face about five times. He head-butted her. He pulled her by her hair. He continued to call her a whore. When she slipped from the bed to the floor, he put his knee on her chest and started choking her again.

"She said he was trying to torture her, and kill her," the deputy said later, in court. The woman told the officer that she admitted to being a whore because she was trying to make him stop.

She got the idea to beg him to go outside and smoke a cigarette, and that was effective for a while. But after a smoke on the patio, they began to walk back inside their hotel room and while he was behind her he grabbed her by the

hair, called her a whore, and choked her again, this time into unconsciousness.

When she awoke, she saw he was sliding open the door to the patio, and that was when she was able to leave the hotel room. She ran outside and tried to get someone's attention, she was banging on doors trying to get help. But her boyfriend dragged her back into the hotel room.

The woman later guessed that her boyfriend strangled her between 10 and 15 times. She claimed she lost consciousness at least four times. Depending on which investigator she was speaking with at what time, the woman claimed her torture went on for one or two or three hours.

Deputy Swauncy was wearing a bodycam and recording when he took state-

ments from both the woman and Haddadnia. When the deputy testified in court four months later, he could not remember seeing any marks on the boyfriend. But he remembered that the woman had swollen lips and a black eye. "She said he struck her in the face area for a long period of time," the deputy testified. He noticed abrasions on her knees, and red marks on her neck, arms, chest, and shoulders.

The woman told him this wasn't the first time. About a year earlier, she claimed, her boyfriend strangled her repeatedly.

Houman Haddadnia was booked into jail that day, July 26, 2019. Jail records described him as 5 feet 6 inches tall and 185 pounds. He quickly bailed out.

Later that same day, another Sheriff's deputy got a call of a woman in distress about 7:30 pm That woman claimed she had a restraining order against a man who was trying to kill her.

When this second deputy arrived at the hotel, he saw a woman in one area with hotel security, and a



Sheriff's detective Eric Price testified the victim had done "four or five lines of cocaine."

PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA KNOTT

man named Haddadnia was with security personnel, separately. Haddadnia claimed he was the one who phoned police because he wanted to get his things out of his hotel room, he said the room was in his name. Haddadnia admitted he had just gotten out of jail, and he asked the deputy to escort him into his room so he could get his things and leave. (An attorney for Haddadnia later claimed that the woman had invited Haddadnia to come get his things after he got out of jail.)

When the deputy spoke to the woman, she told him she was a victim of domestic violence, and that her boyfriend came to the hotel room and banged on the door and threatened to kill her. She believed that if she opened the door he would come in and kill her.

This deputy was able to get proof of an existing restraining order which protected the woman. That document was out of Orange County, it was dated June 22, 2018, and did allow "peaceful contact."

But another court order



Defense attorney Herb Weston suggested the victim's bruises and black eye pre-existed the incident with his client.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB WEATHERSTON

was found, that one dated March 29, 2019. In that paperwork Haddadnia was ordered to stay 100 yards away from the female, it was described as a "keep-away" order.

Haddadnia was again booked into the San Diego County jail in Vista, this time on a no-bail status. At a pre-trial hearing four months later, Houman Haddadnia was seated next to his private defense attorney, Herb Weston. He pleaded not-guilty to six felonies and two misdemeanors.

The alleged victim never appeared in court. The judge heard from investigators and forensic experts. The lead investigator was San Diego County Sheriff's detective Eric Price. He said he was



Houman Haddadnia allegedly flew into a violent rage after reading a text message his girlfriend sent to another man.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA KNOTT

able to speak with the alleged victim in the hospital on July 27 and 28, in 2019.

The woman told him that she and her boyfriend drove down from either Los Angeles or Orange County. She was unclear on which. She said they were drinking whiskey, and they shared one bottle during the drive, and she drank maybe six shots of whiskey. They stopped at another casino where she had two glasses of wine and her boyfriend had other drinks. The woman “did four or five lines of cocaine” during their travel, the detective said. When the couple got to the north county casino, she said, the hotel comped a room for her boyfriend who is a tournament poker player. She was tired, and as soon as they were checked in she went to the room to sleep. Her boyfriend went to the tables and gambled. In court later, defense attorney Weston suggested that after the woman was rested, she sent a text message to Haddadnia, “saying please come to the room I am ready for you.”

Attorney Herb Weston also suggested that the bruises and black eye that investigators observed on the alleged victim were already present before she got to the hotel room. The woman explained her bruises to Haddadnia while they were in their room, attorney Weston seemed to assert. But the detective said from the witness box, “She said all the bruising was from this incident.”

Detective Eric Price said he saw the suspect, Haddadnia, while he was in jail, and the detective observed one abrasion on Haddadnia’s wrist, and one on his forehead, and one on the back of his neck. Haddadnia also claimed that he had cigarette burns on his arm, the detective said.

Tanya Sinclair said she has been a nurse for 25



Judge Sim von Kalinowski

years, and she specializes in “forensic work” for children and domestic violence cases and sexual assault cases.

Nurse Sinclair said that since 2013, there has been “an up-and-coming” specialization in strangulation. For this, experts study especially for identifying signs, and how to make careful examination, and techniques to document evidence.

Sinclair said she saw the alleged victim in the hospital on July 27 and 28 in 2019. “She was very restless and anxious during the time that we were together.”

The nurse obtained anti-anxiety meds for the patient, but even so, nurse Sinclair was forced to come back the following day to finish her examination. Prosecutor Marnie Layon reviewed evidence photos with the nurse. The photos showed a beautiful, dark-haired woman who looked worried or scared. Some of the photos were close-ups of alleged injuries, including bite marks. There was an obvious black bruise encircling the woman’s right eye.

Defense attorney Herb Weston inquired, are you able to say the age of any bruise? The nurse admitted that she is not able to

say exactly when any bruise happened.

And doesn’t a bruise change over a period of time? The nurse said this alleged victim showed “a spectrum of bruising,” she said the bruises were purple and green and brown and red.

The defense attorney wanted to know, could the bruises that you saw be older than 24 hours? The nurse responded, “It is possible.”

Prosecutor Marnie Layon described the incident as “a non-fatal strangulation event.” She asked the judge to order defendant Haddadnia to face trial. The prosecutor accused him of attempted murder, two felony death threats, two felony



Forensic nurse Tanya Sinclair said the victim showed “a spectrum of bruising” and “was very restless during the time that we were together.”

assaults, one felony false imprisonment, and two misdemeanor contempts of protective court orders.

Defense attorney Weston declared, “It clearly is not an attempted murder in this case.”

But, on November 19, 2019, presiding judge Sim von Kalinowski, of San Diego’s North County Superior courthouse, ordered the defendant to answer all charges.

Houman Haddadnia will next appear in court on January 8 when a date for his jury trial will be set. ■

UNDER THE RADAR

Faulconer’s unpublic records acts

The city of San Diego’s handling of public records requests submitted during the reign of termed-out mayor **Kevin Faulconer** has been woefully deficient, a December 13 report by interim city auditor **Kyle Elser** says. The mayor’s administration, per the audit, “appears to have not complied with some aspects” of the state’s public records act, especially in the city’s lack of timely compliance, as required by California law.

“We found many instances where requesters were not told within the statutory timeframe whether records exist, nor were they told the estimated date and time when the records [would] be made available,” according to the document. Besides that, staffers have failed to assist the public’s quest for information by offering “suggestions for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or information sought,” as required by state law.

Making matters worse, Faulconer’s public records operation has been keeping more than a few secrets about how it withholds documents from the public. One “undocumented procedure,” auditors discovered, “involves embargoing, or not publishing details of requests publicly, for three days.” According to the audit, “While responsive documents for most requests are posted publicly online, responsive documents for requests from the media are apparently provided to the requester in compliance with the PRA, but the documents themselves are not always posted online.”

The non-public practice “apparently relates to news reporters who may not want a potential story to be published by a competitor preemptively.” According to the audit, “The delay also allows City staff to remove documents before they are released to the general public if they later determine that the release was in error.”

Paid to shill for U-T journalism

After a five-year hiatus following the demise of **Doug Manchester’s** infamous UT-TV, the *Union-Tribune* is returning to the land of video news. Founded by the U-T’s then-owner as a way of goosing sagging newspaper circulation, U-T TV went dark on cable in February 2014, costing 20 to 25 employees their jobs. “Without the reach of other local news stations, U-T TV had trouble finding an audience,” the

U-T said in a statement announcing the move after insiders said it had been losing \$500,000 a month. A U-T website carrying the videos, which included a show featuring the views of fallen GOP mayor **Roger Hedgecock**, folded shortly afterward.

The defunct station got its truly national 15 minutes of fame four years later in February 2018 when the *Washington Post* reported that then-ambassadorial nominee Manchester and sidekick **John Lynch** had run the video operation as a private playground. One unnamed former honcho privy to closed meetings told the *Post*: “Before discussing candidates’ professional qualifications,

Manchester and other senior leaders sometimes discussed which ones were ‘hot,’ ‘beautiful,’ and ‘just gorgeous.’” Added the ex-executive: “It was a boys club, and the boys picked which women they wanted.”

Manchester sold the paper to Chicago-based Tronc in 2015, which unloaded it to Los Angeles billionaire **Patrick Soon-Shiong** three years later as part of his blockbuster \$600 million deal for the *L.A. Times*. These days the U-T is back with a much scaled-down bid for attention in the form of a cable TV magazine called *San Diego News Fix*, which debuted on Cox and Spectrum here Saturday, December 21 at nine o’clock in the morning. **Luis Cruz**, a U-T TV veteran producer who is now the paper’s director of community and public relations, hosts

the show with onetime U-T TV sports personality **Annie Heilbrunn**. “Promoting journalism and talking about how it can impact and help our viewers and readers is something I have been doing throughout my career,” Cruz told the website *Media Moves* in August. “The fact that they’re paying me to do it is the only difference.”

Free ink The county’s Registrar of Voters has sent out a

request for quotations on 10,000 “grip write wide body” ballpoint pens bearing the imprint SDVotes, Register and Vote, along with a phone number for Multilingual Education and Outreach. According to a November 6 *Union-Tribune* dispatch, Registrar **Michael Vu** is ramping up for \$900,000 in expanded election operations, opposed by Republican county supervisor **Kristin Gaspar**, much of them devoted to high

continued on page 27



Kyle Elser’s stickin’ it to the city again.



A budget increase of \$900,000 makes registrar Michael Vu smile.

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.

Hurts to laugh

The article is hilarious ("Journalism: Going, Going, Gonzalez," SD on the QT, Novem-

ber 1), but I have a somber, boring response to this sassy passage in particular, "But at a press conference yesterday, Gonzalez revealed that a supposed side effect of the legislation — the decimation of news outlets that rely on freelance journalists to exist — was actually the point all along." AB5 has numerous side effects...in fact, it's costing me my translation career. Yesterday morning, I received the first of several emails from long-term translation clients in other states saying

they would cease send work starting 1/1/2020 due to the CA Assembly Bill 5 (penned by San Diego Representative Lorena Gonzalez) that reclassifies California's independent contractors as employees. My clients stated that their legal departments advised that rather than investigating the nuances of whether the bill affects contractors who are LLCs, sole proprietorships, etc., it is safer to avoid possible trouble altogether and just discontinue contracting to ALL California-based

linguists. California Assembly Bill 5 (AB5) improperly classifies professional translators, such as myself, as an employee, when in fact I am an independent contractor by choice and work on a freelance basis with multiple clients throughout the US and abroad. I complete only a few hours of work a month for most of these clients, and it would never make practical sense to be classified as an employee. Another unintended consequence is going to be reduced access for individuals with limited English proficiency who count on professionals like us to provide crucial language services in courts, hospitals, and schools in their native language. I believe this bill was written without adequate consideration of the unintended consequences and is going to have a severe negative economic impact on self-employed people like me who have little voice or recourse. I have strong suspicions that the intended target companies like Uber or Apple who have more than enough means to convert their shabbily compensated hourly contractors to regular employees will be able to use that same considerable financial and legal juice to find loopholes to continue business as usual.

Whereas for an self-employed individual of modest means like myself... I am currently considering moving out of California, the state I love, to keep the job I love, as are numerous other colleagues who operate independently and as small agencies with subcontractors--I don't think driving out the state's talented translators and interpreters is the desired economic outcome for this bill, but it will happen.

Caitlin Healy
North Park

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

"Moore's and minions grab no-bid Aztec Stadium deal"
News Ticker

June 4

Land in San Diego is two to three million dollars an acre except at the Mission Valley Stadium site where it somehow half a million dollars an acre. All the negotiations were shielded by non-disclosure agreements which adds up to corruption with a capital C. Angels Stadium and associated land just sold for 2.1 million per acre. Are the city and SDSU falling towards a corruption exposure nightmare?

—louredolico

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

OCEANSIDE

The dirt on (well, under) OceanKamp

Zephyr project to ride wave of experience-seeking economy

For decades, Disneyland has enticed visitors to spend time in its themed neighborhoods: Fantasyland, Tomorrowland, etc. Now, developers who want to build big in Oceanside are following suit, tying their housing projects to attractive themes. Orange County's Integral Communities pitched an "agritourism" mini-farm theme for its 585-home North River Farms project, while Encinitas-based Zephyr Partners has tethered its proposed mixed-use 92-acre OceanKamp master-planned community to an active lifestyle. "We live in an experience-seeking economy," says Zephyr chief operating officer Chris Beucler, and at OceanKamp, which Zephyr hopes to open by 2022, "we are dedicated to surfing, skating, climbing, biking, health, and wellness." As planned, the development's resort hotel will be surrounded by a group of permanent Airstream Trailers, a wave-making lagoon, hiking and biking trails, and a 50-foot scaling wall that curves over one of its three pools. These active aspects will mix with more traditional commercial space and residences.

North River Farms' agritourism pitch didn't work for some 80 Oceanside residents — they thought the plan was more sprawl than rustic — and on December 20, those volunteers dropped off the more than 12,000 signatures they collected demanding that the city reverse its November 6 approval of the project. Once the county registrar verifies that at least 9,609 of those signatures are real (10 percent of Oceanside's registered voters), the city council can either reverse its approval or put the question on the November 2020 ballot, thus allowing Oceanside voters to decide the fate of North River Farms.

Would those same irate citizens move to torpedo OceanKamp, with its 700 residences and man-made wave lagoon? "I don't think so at all," says Cindy Rocco, one of the volunteers who collected anti-North River Farms signatures. "I heard [Zephyr] is out there

getting community feedback. The only issue I hear about them is the volume of water they will need."

It's true that OceanKamp's proposed wave park will require a lot of water. At a December 18 community meeting at the El Corazon senior center, Zephyr's Beucler told some 50 locals that it will take seven million gallons of fresh water to fill the wave lagoon. After that, an estimated 18 million gallons a year will be required for replenishment due to evaporation. One homeowner who lives near the proposed site wondered why she has employed household water conservation for years while this wave lagoon gets to swallow up millions of gallons. "I would not compare the water usage with this to that of a single-family residence," says Beucler. "If you compare this to other recreational activities that use water, this is significantly less." (Less annually, in fact, than an 18-hole golf



URBNSURF Melbourne will host its first public surf sessions on Monday, January 6th. This historic date will mark the opening of the second public Wavegarden Cove wave pool in the world.



URBNSURF Melbourne Opens January 6th



Zephyr says it will welcome local shapers like Chemistry Surfboards.



City of Oceanside employees oversee the preliminary tallying of signatures to reverse the North River Farms project.

course would require in a month, according to project manager Michael Grehl.)

What the project really demands, at least at the outset, is dirt. The property, which is bounded by the Oceanside airport, Mission Avenue, and the San Luis Rey River, was previously used for a four-screen drive-in theater complex and then for an outdoor swap meet. In order to accommodate permanent buildings, most of the 92 acres needs to be topped with five feet of fill dirt to take it out of its natural flood plain status. Beucler says Zephyr is in the middle of the 18-month effort to import 900,000 yards of dirt that must be completed before any building can begin. He says that OceanKamp residences could go up to 50 feet (which potentially means five-story buildings), and that 700 was the number of attached units most often "bandied about" for OceanKamp's residential component. "We plan to stick with the 29 units per acre, which is allowed for Oceanside's Community Commercial Zoning [plan]." And he makes it clear that, contrary to initial press accounts, OceanKamp is not just a wave pool — that as far as Zephyr is concerned, housing must be a part of the project in order for it to proceed. (A recent article in *Forbes* magazine indicated that Southern California is about to be inundated with three new wave parks, all planned for greater Palm Springs.) "OceanKamp is much more than a wave park," he says. "It is a master-planned community" — albeit one that plans to seek "synergy" with the local surf industry. Beucler says that there will be an on-site shaping bay where local surfboard shapers would be welcome to come and show OceanKamp residents and visitors how they make their boards. And he says he's had "multiple discussions" about moving the California Surf Museum from its home in a city-owned building on Pier View Way in downtown Oceanside to

the OceanKamp site (though Sergio Madera, Oceanside's main planner charged with interfacing with Zephyr on OceanKamp, says he hasn't heard of such a plan).

Willie Smith is a partner in Chemistry Surfboards, one of a dozen surfboard shapers housed in an industrial park a mile southwest of the OceanKamp site. "They call it a surf lagoon," says Smith. "I call it a land grab for people who want to gobble up that land and create sellable real estate. They want to attract outdoorsy type people with buzzwords like yoga, climbing, and mountain biking." Still, he says that Chemistry Surfboards would be happy to be a guest shaper at OceanKamp's shaping bay. "Why not? They are good at creating hype. You get to showcase your skills." Smith says he has visited the world-famous Kelly Slater Surf Ranch near Fresno as a guest. "It is absurdly priced. It's like \$30,000 to rent it for the day or \$50,000 during the summer. But they roll out the red carpet for you. They give you drinks and this killer farm-to-table mega food spread. I have to assume [OceanKamp] will be much more reasonably priced."

KEN LEIGHTON

THE URBAN FOREST

Green clean machines

Movement to plant carbon-collecting trees starts to grow

San Diego beat its 2020 goal for slashing greenhouse gases by two years. But tucked in its climate action plan is one key strategy that has yet to bear fruit: boosting the tree canopy by 15 percent. In February, the Climate Action Campaign released its 2018 report card, evaluating climate plans around the county — including the use of trees. San Diego "has not made any notable progress towards the urban tree canopy target," the report said, citing insufficient staff resources. And according to the nonprofit Tree San Diego, the region's canopy is 60-70 percent below what it should be for a healthy environment.

The sluggish growth of the urban forest may have something to do with the new-

continued on page 8

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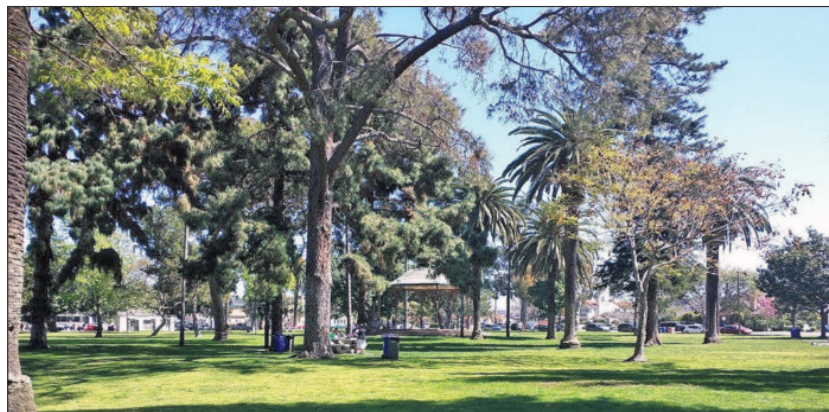
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ness of the idea that trees could serve as a potential climate solution. But advocates say that where trees flourish, so do the benefits. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide emissions through photosynthesis, storing the carbon in leaves, branches, bark, and roots. Studies show this can be an effective way to trap greenhouse gases. According to the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, in Balboa Park, 15,350 trees hold 7000 metric tons of carbon storage. Or, in dollar-terms, \$70,000 in pollution removed; \$14,000 in stormwater filtered; and \$32,000 of carbon dioxide trapped.

Not all cities include trees in their climate action plans, where goals can be set and progress measured. But as communities strive to meet state and local climate goals, that may be changing. Coronado recently included trees in its budding climate action plan, expected to be completed in early 2021. Announcing the proposal, Coronado Mayor Bailey and Councilmember Benzian called for “an initial goal of planting 1001 new trees by the end of



Spreckels Park, Coronado. Coronado has “an initial goal of planting 1001 new trees by the end of 2024.”

equivalent to 1285 vehicles being driven 11,000 miles per year, or carbon emission related to charging seven million cell phones.”

And while there’s room for improvement, Huff noted that the city already has a young, fairly healthy forest, and its 191 individual species “is on par with some rain forests.” (The rich diversity is insurance against loss by pests and pathogens.) The city allocates about \$224,000 annually for tree maintenance, or \$23.80 per tree, “which is pretty good.” They do a great job managing their trees,

“The city’s trees store about 3,543 pounds of air pollutants every year.” The amount of carbon they capture “is equivalent to 1285 vehicles being driven 11,000 miles per year.”

2024 and the eventual goal of planting enough new trees to sequester all carbon emissions from car trips” by residents that begin and end within city limits by 2030. The city still needs to find out which trees are best at sequestering carbon, said Coronado city manager Blair King. The first milestone in their climate plan will be completion of a greenhouse gas inventory in March, followed by public suggestions, then setting greenhouse gas reduction targets and measures.

Like Coronado, several cities have a plan “in progress” or are updating their plans. National City’s climate plan, in place since 2011, was found to have “significant room for improvement,” and is without a tree canopy goal. But in November, the city amended its outdated urban forest management plan and tree preservation ordinance — a requirement of a Cal Fire urban forestry grant for which the city had applied. An inventory counted 9397 city-managed trees, comprised of 8013 parkway trees, 1125 park trees, and 259 median trees. The grant will add 1700 more. In a survey about the trees’ benefits, residents, who are surrounded by highways, said that air quality is number one. “These trees are delivering that service,” consultant Michael Huff told the city council. The city’s trees store about 3543 pounds of air pollutants every year, he said. The amount of carbon they capture “is

on a budget lower than average in southern California, he said. The park department’s 2.5 year trim cycle is “outstanding.” Five to seven years is probably average, he said, “and there are cities — I won’t name them — that are 20-plus years.”

Vice mayor Morrison explained a local tree canopy mystery. In the ‘90s, the city got a grant for 5000 trees, but they all went in west of the 805, leaving the other side untouched. “That’s why you have a whole lot more trees in the public right of ways west of the 805 than you do east of the 805.”

SHEILA PELL

VISTA Getting his swerve on Ex-husband accused of going after ex-stepdaughter with car

In September 2019, the divorce between Jaynie’s 67-year-old mother and 33-year-old Johnson Igbanu Edozie was finalized. On November 19, Mom called 911 after Jaynie, 43, said that Edozie beat her up; deputies came and arrested him. On December 19, Jaynie told a judge at a pretrial hearing that while Edozie spent the night in jail, Mom moved his car out of the driveway and parked it across the street. “We did not want him to come to our house. We were just trying to stay a safe distance from him.” The two thought that if he returned, it

would be with a police escort, and “we figured we could just give the key to the police.”

The next day, she said, “We got that victim alert that he was going to be released from jail, so we were putting his clothes in his car. And we saw him walking down the street towards



The judge ruled that you no see Edozie.

us.” She said it was after 6 pm. “I was standing in the middle of the street, directly in front of my house, waiting for my mom to come out of the car.” As soon as Jaynie saw Edozie, “I told my sister-in-law to call 911, because last time, he beat me up, and I’m scared of him.” She was surprised to see him alone, because earlier that day, a judge had signed a temporary restraining order against Edozie, saying that he was to stay 100 yards away. Accordingly, he shouldn’t have been able to enter the street where they lived.

But there he was, said Jaynie. “I seen him coming straight up the middle of the street. He was walking.” Jaynie said Edozie walked toward her, then passed and walked toward her mom, who handed him the car keys. Jaynie heard him ask for his passport, then she turned her back and walked away, crossing the street toward her home on Lagan Avenue. “And he came across the street, with the vehicle. He came from behind and hit me from behind with the car on my leg.” Jaynie said that Edozie “came from the other side of the street, and swerved to hit me.” She then

pushed against the hood of the car, “because he kept coming forward, because he kept trying to get me. He came forward at me, like three times. He stopped and went, stopped and went. I pushed off,” she said, and Edozie “sped off.” A prosecutor presented photos of bruises on the alleged victim. Defense attorney Brian Dooley objected to any references about the temporary restraining order as “hearsay.”

Honorable judge Brad A. Weinreb ordered Edozie to face one felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon, plus one misdemeanor for violating the temporary restraining order. Edozie pleaded not guilty to all charges and is held in lieu of \$500,000 bail. He will be back in court on January 16, 2020 to confirm a trial date.

(Records for Johnson Igbanu Edozie have his first and last names sometimes transposed; also, there are different spellings. His defense attorney insisted that Johnson is his first name and Edozie is the last name.)

EVA KNOTT

SALTON SEA Brine mining time? Hot water and lithium may boost regional economy

Spring Valley resident Richard Snow was initially drawn to the Salton Sea by his interest in flight: he was part of a small crew of enthusiasts who would fly ultralight aircraft out of the Salton Sea Airport. “My first time there was in 1989,” Snow explained. “I remember that because that’s where I got flying lessons. We’ve flown all the way around the [Salton] Sea many times. Up to Chiriaco Summit, which is up on Interstate 10, and around the other side to Bombay Beach. We’d land at Calipatria. We’d land in Slab City. We’d land there in Salton City in a parking lot for the Blu-In and go in and have the lunch. The Blu-In is still there.” However, he continued, “only two guys flew across the sea. There was always this thing



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like, ‘If you had an engine out while you were going over the sea, that’s obviously not a good thing.’ But they made it over.”

In the ‘90s, a friend of Snow’s turned him on to local tax auctions, and he ended up

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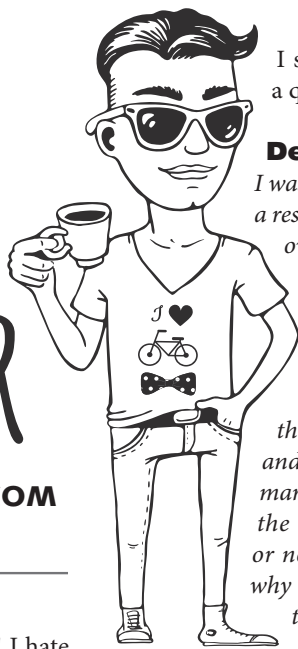
Happy New Year, all you hipsters! I hate to break with the typical Q-preceding-A format, but I must begin this year with a shout-out to the observant hipster who pointed out how my idea for cat-themed Christmas music is really nothing more than a poor man's *Jingle Cats*. For those of you who don't know, *Jingle Cats* is an awe-inspiring, cringeworthy piece of musical nonsense from the early Nineties. Basically, this one hipster dude recorded his cats making every manner of cat noise, and remixed it into Christmas songs.

I know you're all sick of holiday tunes now that it's 2020, but, trust me, *Jingle Cats* is damn terrifying, and you owe it to yourself to freak out over the pitch-shifted cat sounds and vintage green screen effects of the "meowchristmas" YouTube channel. It's marvelously bad, and it must

have been a heroic effort on 1993 audio tech. (Today, there are at least half a dozen cat piano apps available in the app store.)

While we're talking weird stuff and cat pianos, Wikipedia defines a "cat piano" as a "hypothetical musical instrument which consists of a line of cats fixed in place with their tails stretched out underneath a keyboard so that they cry out when a key is pressed. The cats would be arranged according to the natural tone of their voices." The odd practicality of the last sentence makes this monstrous idea seem somehow whimsical. A cat piano is also the eponymous subject of a 2009 short film narrated by Nick Cave.

Ok, having weirded up your New Year,



I suppose I should field a query.

Dear Hipster:

I was waiting in line outside a restaurant last week, and I overheard some dude say something along the lines of, "I know it's an unpopular opinion, but" something about Breaking Bad that I couldn't make out, and then something about margaritas. I don't know if the two things are related or not. It got me thinking, why do people feel the need to voice unpopular opinions, sometimes without adequate provocation?

— KELLY

There are two kinds of "unpopular opinions" in this world: (1) thinly veiled excuses for someone's intolerance; and (2) hipster virtue signalling.

The first category usually sounds something like, "I know it's an unpopular opinion, but they really ruined *Star Wars* by making that character black/female/gay, or really anything that doesn't look or act like me." Dolling up quiet bigotry as unpopular opinion is a bit like calling torture an enhanced interrogation technique, or calling the Chernobyl meltdown a case of technical difficulties run amok.

Unlike the first category of unpopular opinions, which earn their well deserved unpopularity on the merits, the second category of unpopular opinion is an opinion only because it is unpopular in the first place.

The second category usually sounds something like, "I know it's an unpopular opinion, but In N Out Burger is really overrated." Imagine the courage to come out mildly not in favor of something trivial! The brave souls holding such opinions consider themselves intellectual pioneers, the Copernicuses and Harriet Beecher Stowes of our age, whom history will someday elevate for their unpopular opinions. In reality, it's more likely an attempt to seem mysterious, and among the lowest forms of hipster posturing.

— DJ Stevens



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Street Style

BY VERONICA GARCIA

A laid-back reunion in Chula Vista

A night before Christmas, I decided to check out the new Novo Brazil Brewing establishment in Chula Vista. I went because they make my all-time favorite hard kombucha, and because I wanted to see if the new 12,000-square-foot location was worth the hype. As I was browsing the menu, I spotted Alejandra and Priscilla sipping on beer and looking extremely cute and comfort-



FRIENDS CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN COMFORTABLE YET STYLISH ENSEMBLES. RIGHT: COLORFUL PINS AND PINTS AT NOVO BREWERY IN CHULA VISTA.

able. After ordering a mango & ginger kombucha, I learned that the two of them were catching up after not seeing each other for a few months. They are both Chula Vista natives who now reside north of San Diego but were in town for the

holidays. Alejandra lives in Los Angeles and works in entertainment marketing, while Priscilla lives in San Francisco and works as a visual designer.

Alejandra wore a cotton-candy pink corduroy jacket from Zara (\$30) over

a heather gray ribbed turtle-neck top from Zara (\$25), black jeans that she'd cuffed at the ankle from Zara (\$45), and black-and-white "campus" sneakers from Adidas (\$60). She mentioned that even though she had opted for casual jeans and sneakers, a pop of pink was necessary in order to make her look a little more exciting. Alejandra, who has lived in LA for over two years, has observed that people in Los Angeles wear the trends first. "People take more risks when it comes to their outfit choices. If you walk along Santa Monica Boulevard, you'll find people of every age and gender wearing bold pieces that express their unique personalities."

She admitted that although thrifting is huge right now, especially in LA, she still goes to big stores such as Zara to shop for her clothes.

continued on page 27

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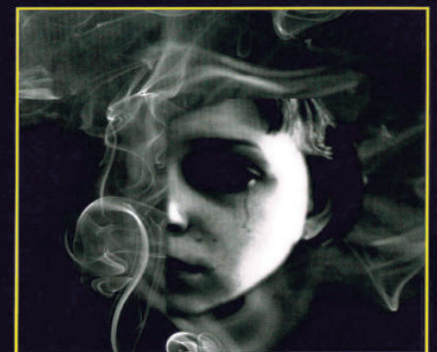


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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Tucked into the private gated community of Rancho Pacifica, just south of the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club and the exclusive neighborhood of Rancho Santa Fe, sits this home at 5131 Rancho Del Mar Trail.

Listing materials retrieved from *Realtor.com* invite prospective buyers to “explore the unparalleled craftsmanship of this custom estate,” which boasts five bedrooms and eight baths spread across



Because if you don't have onyx insets, why even bother having Jerusalem Gold hand-carved limestone floors?

11,650 square feet of living area.

“This private estate is a work of art, to be appreciated by the most discriminating buyer

who expects the finest in craftsmanship, materials and design,” the listing continues. Custom finishes include Argentinian walnut

flooring, Parisian chandeliers, Venetian plaster, and Jerusalem Gold hand-carved limestone floors with onyx insets. The windows are Ital-

ian imports, and three grand fireplaces are also ornately honed from limestone blocks.

The entry foyer opens to “a graceful curved staircase, grand vaulted ceilings and sparkling Parisian chandeliers overhead.”

The “chef’s dream kitchen” includes Brazilian stone countertops with a large, U-shaped island hosting two auxiliary prep sinks. A back wall is lined with appliances, including multiple ovens and a commercial quality range, from luxury suppliers including Gaggenau, La Cornue, and SubZero.

Two en-suite bedrooms are on the first floor, two more upstairs, though that level is largely consumed by the “master penthouse suite” that

occupies 3000 square feet of ocean view living space all on its own. The master bath “rivals any five-diamond spa, with underlit onyx countertops and a one-of-a-kind onyx bathtub,” while the oversized walk-in closet boasts its own center island and chandelier.

Other amenities include a wood-paneled executive office, home theater with 18’ movie screen and silk leather seating, a wine cellar, and game room with space for a pool table and full wet bar. Two “sun drenched verandas” offer opportunities for lounging or entertaining on the upper level.

“Lift and Slide doors completely open the home to the resort-style backyard” that

continued on page 27

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In the ground, beneath the Kearny Senior High School emblem, is a collection of bricks purchased by alumni and other supporters. "We've got some great names here," Stephen Grooms says, pointing downward.

Kearny Mesa is San Diego's utility room

If Clairemont is San Diego's first bedroom community, then Kearny Mesa, all 4400 acres of it, could be described as its utility room. Bounded by Interstate 805 to the west, Interstate 15 to the east, State Route 52 to the north and, to the south, by Aero

Drive (except for a sliver along Interstate 15 that extends all the way south to Friars Road), Kearny Mesa has never had an overriding, easily identifiable character. Ocean Beach is a funky beach town that still calls to mind the counter-culture of the late 1960s. North Park has become

a hipster haven known for its craft cocktails and gastropubs. Hillcrest, La Jolla, Kensington, Point Loma – they are all known for their charm, culture, or scenic beauty. Kearny Mesa, not so much. People come to Kearny Mesa to buy cars, eat Korean barbecue, or work.

The cost of shelter

John Watmore moved to Kearny Mesa in 2003 because he worked nearby at the Auto Trader. He still lives in Stonecrest Village, a master planned tract of six communities east of the 163 that was built between 1997 and 2001. It consists of 600 condos and single-family homes and another 1000 or so apartments. "It's a great location, close to everything — that was the single biggest draw for me," says Watmore, now a realtor who focuses exclusively on the Stonecrest community. "And not a whole lot has changed since I moved here."

Separated from Clairemont since 1972 by Interstate 805, Kearny Mesa — which, as its name implies, is mostly flat — has just four resi-

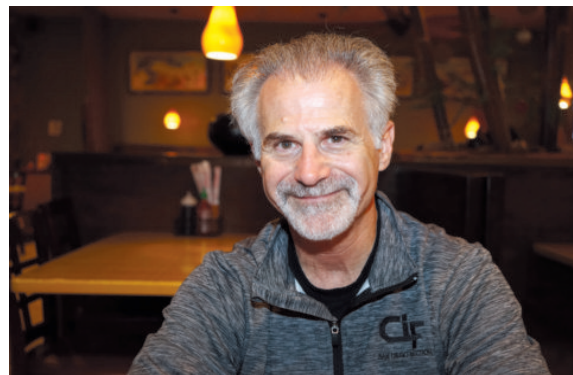
dential tracts, with a total population of less than 30,000, according to the latest census estimates. Two are older, Royal Highlands in the southwest and the Kearny Lodge Mobile Home Park, with 320 sites, in the northwest. Homes in the Royal Highlands originally sold for as little as \$13,000; today, Zillow values them in the high \$500,000s, with one, a 1,436-square-foot home on Kirkcaldy Drive, fetching \$590,000 on October 8. Manufactured homes in Kearny Lodge, mostly two-bedroom units, sell for as low as \$110,000.

Stonecrest Village, where John Watmore lives, is located in the southeastern corner of Kearny Mesa, where it morphs into Serra Mesa. Further north, also in the east, is a cluster of apart-

ments and condos that are part of the mixed-use Spectrum development. In these newer tracts, the cost of shelter is significantly higher. Single-family homes in Stonecrest can sell in the high \$900,000s, with condos in the \$500,000s. One-bedroom apartments at the high-end Avion at Spectrum can't be touched for less than \$2,000.

Child of Atlas

Kearny Mesa owes its name to Camp Kearny, a military base that from 1917 to 1946 stood on the land now occupied by the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The base occupied a scrubby mesa that, prior to World War I, had been used mostly for cattle grazing. It was named after Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny, a respected frontier officer



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Thom Vollenweider moved to Kearny Mesa in 1970, when his parents bought a house on Lochlomond Street, near the intersection of Balboa Avenue and I-805, in the Royal Highlands neighborhood.

with the U.S. Army who distinguished himself in the Mexican-American War and later served as a military governor of California.

Development of Kearny Mesa began in 1937 with Gibbs Airfield, now Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport. In 1948, the city of San Diego pur-

chased the airfield and 1400 acres of adjoining property with the intention of building a new international airport. When those plans were scrapped due to conflicts with the military air station at Miramar, the airfield became an industrial park and the city began selling off the

rest of the land.

General Dynamics moved to Kearny Mesa in 1955 and three years later dedicated a \$40 million plant on 232 acres acquired from the city at a bargain price. Nearly 100,000 spectators showed up at what the *San Diego Union* in a July 13, 1958 article called a giant "surprise" party — the surprise being "an Air Force announcement that Astronautics has been awarded a 315-million-dollar contract for past and present research and development of the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile."

By 1961, General Dynamics had nearly 47,000 employees at several facilities in San Diego, accounting for 15 percent of the county's non-military work force. Many of

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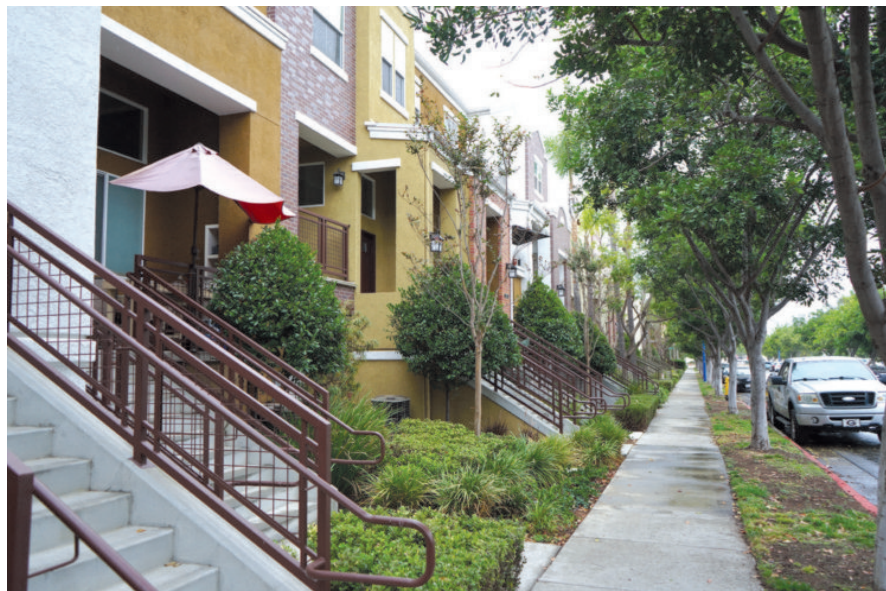
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them worked at the Kearny Mesa plant, which later built the Tomahawk missiles that pulverized Iraq during the Persian Gulf War.

Thom Vollenweider moved to Kearny Mesa in 1970, when his parents bought a house on Lochlmond Street, near the intersection of Balboa Avenue and I-805, in the Royal Highlands neighborhood. The tract of about 150 homes, built in the 1960s, targeted the influx of General Dynamics missile plant workers. The homes were constructed in classic Southern California ranch style. Most had three bedrooms and two baths, with about 1200 to 1400 square feet of total living space, and two-car garages that led into kitchens. The neighborhood was once sur-



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

In the newer Spectrum development, single-family homes can sell in the high \$900,000s, with condos in the \$500,000s.

rounded by fields, one of which, in the 1970s, became Interstate 805.

Vollenweider's mother still lives in the house, which is about five down from a 24-Hour Fitness facility, he says.

Growing up, he says, the neighborhood was filled with young families like his own, many of whom moved there because they worked at General Dynamics and wanted to live close by. Kids at-

tended Ross Elementary School, Montgomery Junior High School and, ultimately, Kearny High School, from which Vollenweider graduated in 1973. Right across the street from his family

home, he recalls, lived Stu Lantz, who played in the NBA for eight years. He was drafted in 1968 by the San Diego Rockets, and since 1987 has been a color commentator for the Los Angeles Lakers. Two doors down from the Vollenweiders was Marty Moates, the first American to win the 500cc United States Grand Prix in Carlsbad, a motorcycle race previously dominated by Europeans. He was also a founder of the No Fear clothing brand. Moates died in 2006 of an apparent suicide.

Vollenweider has no distinct memory of his neighborhood being called Royal Highlands — or even of the area in which he lived going by Kearny Mesa. “To me, it was just mixed in with Serra Mesa and Linda Vista,” he recalls.

“Everyone went to school together, and the neighborhood boundaries just blurred.”

Kids played in the fields that dotted the area and occasionally ventured south to a fishing hole where the stadium now stands. Later, in high school, the big summer hangout was the Kearny High School gymnasium. “It was open during the summer, six days a week, and that was where we all hung out,” Vollenweider recalls. “We played basketball and worked out. Most of us had grown up together since elementary school, and we were very close.” Occasionally, he says, the teens of Kearny Mesa would hit the beach, driving down to Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach, “which was a straight shot, down Balboa, from where we lived.”

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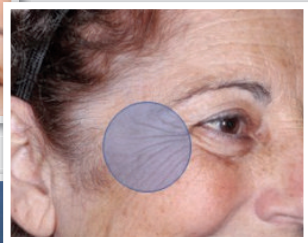
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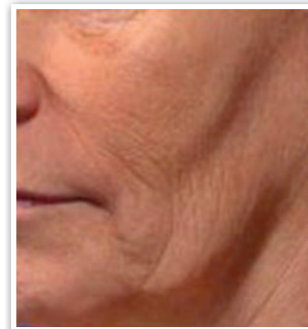
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The early 1970s saw the construction of Interstate 805 through Kearny Mesa and Clairemont. “That really divided our neighborhood,” he recalls. “They took out a lot of houses near where my parents lived. And after the freeway came, Balboa became real busy because it connected Convoy with the rest of Clairemont.”

In the early 1990s, General Dynamics responded to the downturn in defense spending by selling off its rocket business and closing its Kearny Mesa plant. But by then Kearny Mesa commerce had taken a new turn: first, an influx of car dealerships lured by cheap rents and easy freeway access, and then an influx of Asian restaurants, beginning with the arrival of the first wave of Vietnamese immigrants after the fall of Saigon in 1975.

Curt Flory, 65, has sold cars on and off at Kearny Mesa dealerships since 1989. “In the car business,” he says with a laugh, “you tend to move around a lot.” His first stop was at Kearny Mesa Toyota on Kearny Mesa Road, just west of State Route 163. “We had a lot of Asians from the Mira Mesa area come down, and we did a lot of business with General Dynamics people. We were right across the freeway, so we could look out and see their buildings.”

Today, a Google search finds about 20 car dealerships within the boundaries of Kearny Mesa. Nearly all of them were built after the early 1970s, when Interstate 805 and then State Route 52 replaced some of the fields that for years had isolated Kearny Mesa.

All of a sudden, Kearny Mesa was con-



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Yong came to this country from her native Korea in 1983. She emigrated to San Antonio with her then-husband. After the marriage broke up, Yong moved to San Diego in 2002. “I just look at the map and say, ‘Oh yeah, I gotta go here.’”

ected, and there’s nothing car dealers like better than easy freeway access — unless it’s inexpensive land, which Kearny Mesa also provided. “Want to hear a fun-

ny story?” Flory asks. “I don’t know if this is something you can print, but several of the dealerships got started in a very funny way. Now, you know the city of San Diego owned most of the land in Kearny Mesa at one point, and there was this cement contractor who, when he used to take out existing concrete structures, would dump all this broken-up concrete in the fields of Kearny Mesa. He was supposed to take it to the Miramar

landfill, but he didn’t want to pay the fees. So what he would do was go out in Kearny Mesa, find this nice little wash somewhere, and dump all this stuff. It went on for quite a while, but he finally got caught, and the city told him, ‘OK, you have two choices: you can either pay to have this cleaned up or you can buy the property. So he brought the property for \$300,000 — and his family are now billionaires. Word is his family is still collecting rent from a number of different dealerships.”

Even though he spent many years working in Kearny Mesa, Flory never lived in the community. He had a home in Clairemont, to the west, and now lives in Tierrasanta, on the other side of Interstate 15.

“It really hasn’t changed all that much,” he says. “The traffic, though, has really gotten horrible on Convoy Street between 3 and 5.”

Restaurant like family

The traffic doesn’t bother Yong, who runs Chon Ju Jip, a traditional Korean diner on Convoy Street south of Balboa that is

housed in a weary little strip mall anchored by Convoy Liquor.

Traffic, after all, means people, says Yong, who maintains she has no second name. “Everyone makes money from the same people,” she says. “If you stay by yourself some place, people don’t think about you. But if all these restaurants are together, it brings in more people.”

It wasn’t easy finding a restaurant owner like Yong to talk to. Over two days, I called 17 of the more than 100 Asian restaurants on Convoy Street. I had eaten at most of them, and none of could be considered fancy, high-end, or cutting edge. On 10 phone calls, I was told the owner was not in, and left a message. On six phone calls, I was told the owner doesn’t speak English. Chon Ju Jip was the 17th restaurant I called. Yong was exactly the sort of person I was looking for. I wasn’t aiming to talk to the young hotshot owner of some trendy new bar or café who has already been profiled in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* or *San Diego Magazine*. I wanted a simple, salt-of-the-earth restaurant



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operator who has quietly done business at the same location for years, and hasn't spoken much to the media, if at all.

After the hostess put Yong on the phone, I identified myself and told her I was writing a story on Kearny Mesa. "What is this for again?" she asked. When I told her a second time, she said, "Oh, OK — you come down tomorrow and talk to me at my restaurant. I'm busy now, and it's loud. You come tomorrow, at 2." Then she hung up.

The next day, at 1, I pulled into the oil-stained parking lot of Convoy Center and walked into the little diner — a square little room with the kitchen tucked into one corner. On one wall, a widescreen played Korean TV, which the regulars — packed into two of the six or so red-leather booths — were

animatedly watching. I came an hour before our interview because I wanted to sample the wares. Earlier, I had done a little research into the restaurant, which has 240 Google reviews averaging 4.3 out of 5 stars. The latest, two days prior to my visit: "Wow! From the service, to the food, to the atmosphere, this place is the bomb. Authentic Korean. Three hungry men were filled up on two entrees — Octopus and seafood pancakes. What a unique, affordable and delightful experience!"

I had planned on ordering the *bibimbap*, but opted for something more adventurous: the *Jeyuk-Deopbap* — marinated sliced pork with vegetables, rice and assorted side dishes, including corn sprouts, fish cakes and kimchi. The server brought me a glass of barley tea, which in



At Chon Ju Jip, I had planned on ordering the *bibimbap*, but opted for something more adventurous: the *Jeyuk-Deopbap* — marinated sliced pork with vegetables, rice and assorted side dishes.

traditional Korean homes is often used as an alternative to drinking water. The reviews were right, the food was marvelous.

I looked up and there was Yong, sitting right across from me. We shook hands and began

to talk. A Korean immigrant, Yong is 63 years old, has neither children nor a husband, and runs the restaurant with a staff of seven, including a niece who works part-time while attending Grossmont College. Yong

is the sole owner and also the lead cook.

"I'm just normal people," she said.

Yong came to this country from her native Korea in 1983. She emigrated to San Antonio with her then-husband.

After the marriage broke up, Yong moved to San Diego in 2002. "I just look at the map and say, 'Oh yeah, I gotta go here.'" She worked for five years as a waitress in a Chinese restaurant in Mira Mesa before pooling her savings and buying a little diner whose owner was looking to sell. "I just wanted to do something," she said. Looking around at all the Korean barbecue places, she decided to try something different.

"I make traditional, home-style Korean food. I cook in a different way, just like Korean people like it," she said. Most of her customers are also Korean immigrants, she said, and many of them are regulars who come by at least once a week. "My restaurant is like a family."

The restaurant is named after Yong's hometown, Cheongju, the capi-

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

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tal of, and largest city in, South Korea's North Chungcheong Province.

Yong lives off Clairemont Drive, a few miles west of Convoy Street, and said she plans to work for about five more years. "Then I retire," she said.

There are dozens of small, quiet restaurants like Yong's along Convoy Street, favored by local immigrants from

all parts of Asia. They are tucked away in strip malls, and their names don't even make it onto the towering center signs that face the road. Asked if she has any favorites, Yong shook her head no. "I eat this food so much," she said. "When I go out, I want pizza or Subway."

Chili sesame oil

...brought me to know and love Kearny Mesa.

I had become addicted to this tantalizing hot and spicy oil in the late 1990s after first sampling it at Brandy Ho's in San Francisco. I bought some at an Asian market in Chinatown. When I ran out, a friend suggested I try this little Korean grocery store on Convoy Street. I did, and at the same time discovered the wealth of Asian restaurants that had been pop-

ping up between the car dealerships, mostly along Convoy Street, one of the area's primary north-south arterials.

Convoy Street became a regular Sunday evening dinner haunt for my sons and me. We'd eat Vietnamese, Thai, sushi, dim sum or Korean barbecue, and then stop off at one of the many boba shops for dessert.

Prior to my successful quest for chili sesame oil, Kearny Mesa and I had crossed paths only sporadically. In 1979, when I launched a music magazine, *Kicks*, I worked with the handful of recording studios that had sprung up in the industrial park along Ronson Road. Later, in the early 1980s, I had a girlfriend who lived in Clairemont just east of the 805 freeway that divided the two communities.

"I really never hung out in Kearny Mesa and I didn't really hang out with anyone who did," the former girlfriend told me recently via Facebook Messenger. "It was kind of a whole other high school crowd. Kearny High had a lot of blacks and Mexi-



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Stephen Grooms, Kearny Senior High School, Class of 1975, is true to his school, as the Beach Boys would say. He's the president of the Kearny Community Foundation, which raises money for school clubs and other non-funded needs.

cans and it seemed like a rough crowd from what we would hear and that's pretty much all I know!"

Kearny Komets

Kearny High School, arguably the community's most famous landmark, is actually located about a mile south of the official Aero Drive boundary, in northern Linda Vista. Kearny High opened in its present location in 1954 and is one of the few schools in San Diego that has never been rebuilt or remodeled.

Kearny High's rough-and-tumble reputation in the 1970s and '80s stems from the fact that it has

traditionally drawn students not just from Kearny Mesa, but also from the surrounding communities of Serra Mesa and Linda Vista. Of the latter, the *San Diego Daily Transcript* in December 1998 wrote, "the majority of Linda Vista's households are very-low- to low-income and juvenile crime is so brazen that the gangs have their own apprentice groups."

Back when I attended the University of San Diego High School in Linda Vista in the middle 1970s, Kearny High was known for its strength in sports, particularly football.

continued on page 53

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Friday | 3

ALL ABOUT WILD URBAN PARROTS

Southern California is home to a dozen wild parrot species. A representative from SoCal Parrot will be sharing photos, videos, and information about local wild parrots. Learn where they



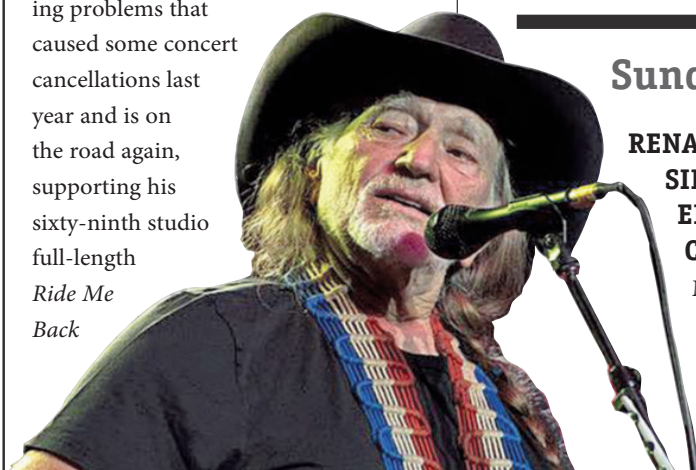
came from, which species reside in San Diego, and what is being done to keep them flying.

WHEN: Friday, January 3, 6:30 pm to 8 pm

WHERE: Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street, Hillcrest. socialparrot.org

WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY

Country music icon Willie Nelson has reportedly recovered from the breathing problems that caused some concert cancellations last year and is on the road again, supporting his sixty-ninth studio full-length *Ride Me Back*



WILLIE NELSON

Home. In the last decade, the 86-year-old has recorded more than a dozen albums.

WHEN: Friday, January 3, 7 pm

WHERE: Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. sandiegotheatres.org

Saturday | 4

BLOOMSDAY

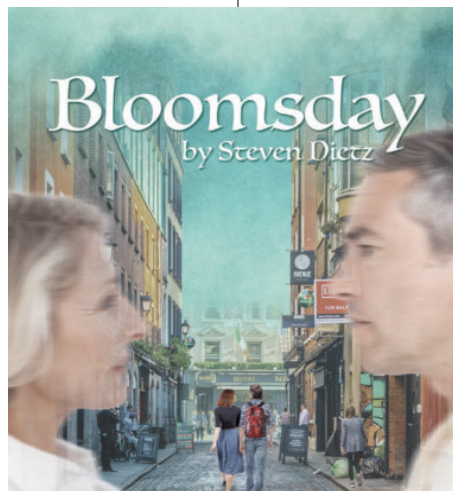
Have you ever wished you could go back and have a second chance at a decision you made in your 20s? This lyrical Irish love story is set amidst tourists exploring the pubs and streets of James

Joyce's *Ulysses*.

WHEN:

Saturdays, 2 pm and 8 pm; Sundays, 2 pm and 7 pm; Wednesdays, 7 pm; Thursdays and Fridays 8 pm. Through Sunday, February 2.

WHERE: North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach. northcoastrep.org



SUNDAY, JANUARY 5: RENAISSANCE SINGERS: AN ENGLISH CHRISTMAS

era, a tradition started in churches, towns, and in the countryside. Come listen to music of William Byrd, Peter Philips, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, and the prolific early composer

Anonymous. La Jolla Renaissance Singers present the music, "Girt Dog of Langport," and a Gloucestershire Wassail.

WHEN: Sunday, January 5, 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4776 Saratoga

Avenue, Ocean Beach. choralconsortiumofsandiego.org

their match. While Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill prepare to join their team on a counter-terrorist mission in the triple frontier — the lawless tri-border region where Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay meet — they are targeted in Charleston, South Carolina. A vicious explosion kills a friend, and the perpetrators have set it up to look like an accident. While the authorities believe this was not foul play, Pike knows the attack was meant for him.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 8, 7 pm

WHERE: Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue, Coronado. coronado.ca.us

Sunday | 5

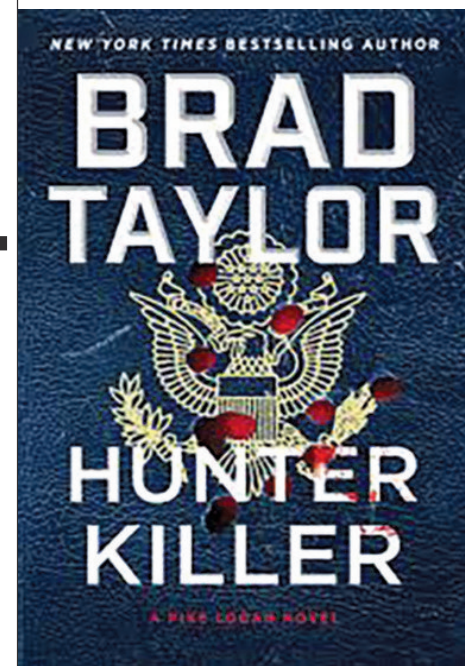
RENAISSANCE SINGERS: AN ENGLISH CHRISTMAS

Much of our experience of English Christmas music comes from the Victorian

Wednesday | 8

HUNTER KILLER

Former Special Forces Officer Brad Taylor discusses and signs his new book, *Hunter Killer*. Pike Logan and the Taskforce were once apex predators, an unrivaled hunting machine that decimated those out to harm the United States. But they may have met



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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

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@animal-center.org. Friday, January 3, 9am; \$58-\$77. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

Craft Works Holiday Shop San Diego City College visual art students, faculty, alumni and friends are creating a crafts holiday shop in the Art Produce Gallery space. Hand-made ceramics, glass, and fiber works, jewelry, and more will be featured as holiday gifts. Fridays, 2pm; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Saturday, January 4, free. Art Produce Gallery, 3139 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Gone Bananas San Diego artist June Rubin will delight and give you something to munch on with Gone Bananas, a whimsical group of mixed media artworks including Banana in Space - a totally bejeweled ripe banana that flies through a sparkly San Diego sky blue sky. Meet the artist and have some banana bread. Friday, January 3, 5pm; free. June Rubin Studio/Gallery, 2690 Historic Decatur Road #214. (LIBERTY STATION)

BEER

Star Brews Beer Festival Saturday, January 4, 7pm; \$35. 21 and up. San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Open Mic Poetry Rick Lupert, founder of PoetrySuperHighway.com which is celebrating its 22nd year, is driving down from his home in Van Nuys to read from his most recent collections, *Hunka Hunka Howdee* (poems inspired by his 2019 trip to Memphis, Nashville and Louisville) and *Hey Jude* (poems for his teenage son). Open mic follows in the second hour, for everyone on the signup board. More info on Facebook @ PoetsInlandNorthCounty Sunday, January 5, 1pm; free. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

2020 Vision We will begin with a beautiful, reflective meditation on the last decade; all we have experienced, accomplished and overcome. Then we will explore key principles of manifestation, worthiness and a customized meditation to assist us with tapping into the energy of our deepest desires and our future selves. We'll end with a clearing and energizing Breathwork session to dive deep into our worthiness and release all that blocks us from our desires. You can expect to leave feeling more clarity, worthiness and excitement about your path ahead. Saturday, January 4, 1pm; \$40. Sojourn Healing Collective, 2870 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

5-Week Adult Magic Classes In this beginning-level five-week class, learn how to entertain the people who watch your magic while using simple psychology and misdirection techniques to thoroughly amaze them. The teacher is Tom Interval, who has taught magic for more than 30 years. Sundays, 1pm; through Sunday, January 12, \$295. 18 and up. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

5-Week Children's Magic Classes In this beginning-level five-week class for children ages 9-17, learn how to entertain the

Rhyme & Verse

A poem for the New Year by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The Death of the Old Year

Full knee-deep lies the winter snow,
And the winter winds are wearily sighing:
Toll ye the church bell sad and slow,
And tread softly and speak low,
For the old year lies a-dying.
Old year you must not die;
You came to us so readily,
You lived with us so steadily,
Old year you shall not die.

He lieth still: he doth not move:
He will not see the dawn of day.
He hath no other life above.
He gave me a friend and a true true love
And the New-year will take 'em away.
Old year you must not go;
So long you have been with us,
Such joy as you have seen with us,
Old year, you shall not go.

He froth'd his bumpers to the brim;
A jollier year we shall not see.
But tho' his eyes are waxing dim,
And tho' his foes speak ill of him,
He was a friend to me.
Old year, you shall not die;
We did so laugh and cry with you,
I've half a mind to die with you,
Old year, if you must die.

He was full of joke and jest,
But all his merry quips are o'er.
To see him die across the waste
His son and heir doth ride post-haste,
But he'll be dead before
Every one for his own.
The night is starry and cold, my friend,
And the New-year blithe and bold, my friend,
Comes up to take his own.

How hard he breathes! over the snow
I heard just now the crowing cock.
The shadows flicker to and fro:
The cricket chirps: the light burns low:
'Tis nearly twelve o'clock.
Shake hands, before you die.
Old year, we'll dearly rue for you:
What is it we can do for you?
Speak out before you die.

His face is growing sharp and thin.
Alack! our friend is gone,
Close up his eyes: tie up his chin:
Step from the corpse, and let him in
That standeth there alone,
And waiteth at the door.
There's a new foot on the floor, my friend,
And a new face at the door, my friend,
A new face at the door.



Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was an English poet and Poet Laureate of England during the Victorian Era in England. Well known for his poems "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "Tears, Idle Tears," "Ulysses," and "In Memoriam A.H.H.," Tennyson has proven to be not only one of the most popular poets of his own time but remains a popular poet among readers of poetry in general. Like Shakespeare, Tennyson left the English language a number of phrases which have passed into common currency, including "Nature, red in tooth and claw," "'Tis better to have loved and lost/Than never to have loved at all," and "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

people who watch your magic while using simple psychology and misdirection techniques to thoroughly amaze them. The teacher is Tom Interval, who has taught magic for more than 30 years. Sundays, 3:30pm; through Sunday, January 12, \$295. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

Art Class Joe Nyiri, award winning artist teaches an art class on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am in the Ruby Room. He enjoys giving children the freedom to create with a variety of mediums.

Stop by to learn something new. All ages are welcome to Joe Nyiri's art class. This month we will explore the art form of the quilt. Joe will bring in quilts talk about the techniques used to create them. Participants will then create their own 12"x12" paper quilt using pictures and colorful fasteners. Saturday, January 4, 10am; free. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Beginning Cold Process Soapmaking Class Soapmaking 101 is a beginning-level soapmaking class

designed to teach students to make soap by hand at home. The main focus of this class is the "cold process" soapmaking method although the class does briefly describe "melt and pour" soap crafting. Class fee: \$79. Materials fee: \$20. Sunday, January 5, 12pm; \$99. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMONT GROVE)

Breathe in 2020 Transformational Breath: By asking the right questions and meditation, we will figure out what it is we want, what is stopping us from getting

it, what we need to do to implement & delete from our lives to achieve our goal. Then we will set our intention and have our breath session followed by a sound bath. Saturday, January 4, 9:30am; \$77. Body Breath Connection, 909 Prospect. (LA JOLLA)

Drop In & Write Drop-In Writing-From-Prompt Session - Bring your pen and a notebook to an hour of writerly fun. Includes prompt(s), time to write, and time to share. First and third Saturdays from noon to 1pm. Saturday, Janu-

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**WIN
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 Deadline to Enter:
 Friday, January 3
 at 1pm

**WIN
 DINNER**



Win dinner for two for Restaurant Week.
 Deadline to Enter:
 Wednesday, January 22
 at 1pm

Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Contact: 1735 Main St., Ramona 760-788-7456

www.sojchurch.com

Membership: 400

Pastor: Dan Erlenbusch

Age: 68

Born: Columbus, OH.

Formation: California Sate University-Fullerton; Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC.

Years Ordained: 42

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

Pastor Dan Erlenbusch: My wife Karyn and I have been here at Spirit of Joy since the beginning. In fact, this year is the 25th anniversary of the congregation, and the mission of the con-

gregation itself speaks to who we are – spreading the good news of Christ to everyone by reaching people through worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship and service. My favorite subject to preach about centers around our mission—what is our outreach, and how do we touch those who don't know Jesus Christ? One of the most important things for us as a church family has been to cultivate an inclusive environment for the community as a beacon of light, a different voice in the community.

SDR: How does that church family manifest the church's mission?

PE: When I think about how we try to spread the gospel,

I think of our worship life. We have been a community that has welcomed everyone, regardless of who they are, what their background is, whether they've been churchgoers or they're unchurched and seeking the Lord. We have provided a very user-friendly type of worship experience so that people feel comfortable with who we are. In particular, we have a "Prayers and Squares" group that has met on a weekly basis for the last 20 years here. They have made over 1500 quilts, specifically for individuals who need prayers. We bless the quilts on Sunday morning and then tie the knots on the quilt squares, each knot representing our prayers for

the individual receiving the quilt. We've received, over the years, letter upon letter from individuals all over the world, thanking us for the quilts and the prayers.

SDR: What is your main concern as a member of the clergy?

PE: In the world we live in today, I'm concerned with trying to encourage families and individuals to live faithfully everyday. It's so easy for us to move away from that in the climate of our world condition—so we find ourselves needing to stand up against a lot of negative voices in the environment and our communities. It's important to stay focused on Christ.

SDR: Where do you go when



Dan Erlenbusch

you die?

PE: I believe that Jesus Christ died for me, and I believe in the resurrection and that we will all be with Christ on that day. We are dead to the body but alive to Jesus, and that happens for everyone who believes in Christ. We live on in Christ. This is a very brief part of our existence here on

earth, and the better part of our life is spent in eternity. I also believe that even in that experience of dying, that we will come face to face with Jesus; and, since we have a God of compassion and love, I think that we will have that opportunity to accept Christ. Obviously, blessed are those who believed but have not seen (John 20:29), but I think there will be those who need to see it to believe it. I would pray they had that opportunity. At the same time, I think there is a hell. Those who have rejected Christ completely will then be separated – and that's what hell is, separation from God.

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

ary 4, 12pm; **free.** 18 and up. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

From Power Struggle to Empowerment Are you tired of nagging your teens and want them to step up and take action on their own? Jump off the "helicopter" parent ride and release the fears that they'll struggle on their own by embracing the smart goals system with a teen friendly tech tool for goal setting. Saturday, January 4, 2pm; \$75-\$97. Hera Hub Carlsbad, 5205 Avenida Encinas, Suite A. (CARLSBAD)

Paint Your Pet Work at your pace (up to three hours). Step by step Instruction. All supplies and pre-drawn pet included in price. Email a photo of your pet to be pre-drawn on your canvas at least two days prior to the scheduled class. Lovejoycreations@gmail.com Saturday, January 4, 12pm; Sunday, January 5, 12pm; \$65. Lovejoy Creations Studio, 2690 Historic Decatur Rd., #201. (LIBERTY STATION)

Rose Pruning Workshop Learn how to prune roses or get a refresher on this important gardening activity. You will learn how and why to prune your roses, what to feed your roses and how to manage pests and fungal diseases

sustainably. Saturday, January 4, 9:30am; **free.** Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

The FNL Workshop Series The FNL Workshop series entails six in-person workshops where women will learn how to create balance between their physical and mental health through fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle changes. Sunday, January 5, 8:30am; \$239-\$299. 18 and up. Evolve Fit Studio, 10035 Carroll Canyon Rd., suite C. (MIRA MESA)

COMEDY

Luis J. Gomez As seen on Legion of Skanks, Skankfest, The Joe Rogan Experience & The Church of What's Happening w/Joey Diaz. Thursday, January 2, 8pm; Friday, January 3, 8pm; Saturday, January 4, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; **free**-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Nerd Comedy Night Scientist turned comedian Tim Lee, who got his PhD before realizing where his true talents lie, blends science talk (complete with PowerPoint presentations) with comedy. Thursday, January 2, 7pm; \$10. El Tejate, 3050 Pio Pico Drive. (CARLSBAD)

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DANCE

Dances of Universal Peace

Embracing the many sacred traditions of humanity, this practice promotes peace in the individual and awakening in the world, with live music, and open-hearted friends. All movements and chants are taught and no experience is necessary. Saturdays, 7pm; through Saturday, February 15, **free**-\$10. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Kiss The Bride Show More fashions, more new ideas and more choices than you can imagine. With spectacular runway fashion shows and displays from the area's most trusted wedding professionals, you will find everything to make your wedding day extraordinary. Come and enjoy samples of cake & gourmet foods. Sunday, January 5, 11am; \$12. Pala Events Center, 11154 Highway 76. (PALA)

Liturgical Worship Refresh your soul with us each Sunday. Fellowship and refreshments after the services. Adult and Children bible study at 9:30am. Sundays, 10:30am; through Sunday, May 17, **free.** King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2993 Macdonald Street. (OCEANSIDE)

NCA Bird Club General Meeting North County Aviculturists, a club for pet bird owners and breeders, will host a presentation by Jill Thorburn about Princess of Wales Parakeets from Australia. Meal provided for attendees. Saturday, January 4, 5:30pm; **free.** Vista Masonic Lodge #687, 761 Eucalyptus Avenue. (VISTA)

San Diego Auto Show Ride and drive Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram Truck and FIAT brand vehicles from FCA US at the 2019 San Diego Auto Show. Thursday, January 2, 12pm; Friday, January 3, 12pm; Saturday, January 4, 12pm; Sunday, January 5, 12pm; San Diego Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Saturday Book Club: The Book of Joy Meet to discuss *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. This book inspires and encourages readers to believe that compassion towards humanity is vital to our own happiness. Saturday, January 4, 1pm; **free.** Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

FOR KIDS

ScholarShare 529 Toddler Time

The toddler program values the whole child and supports healthy bodies and minds, with music, movement and social play for young children. Toddler time is free with admission. January Toddler Times themes include: Story Time (Jan. 3), Toddler Games (Jan. 10), Sight, Sounds + Textures (Jan. 17), Finger Painting Friday (Jan. 24) and Make Art (Jan. 31). Friday, January 3, 10am; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Teen Camp Out Teen Camp Out - Fort Cross Winter Wilderness - Expeditionary Studies - High Adventure. All meals included. Activities include, but are not limited to: Nature Hikes - Botany - Archery - Tomahawk - Cabin Building - Art - Theater - Music - Slingshot. Thursday, January 2, 12pm; Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures, 4425 Highway 78. (SANTA YSABEL)

LECTURES

Learning All About Wild Urban Parrots

A representative from SoCal Parrot, will be sharing photos, videos, and information about our local wild parrots. Learn where they came from, which species reside in San Diego, and what is being done to keep them flying. Friday, January 3, 6:30pm; **free.** Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

Making Creativity a Priority

Don't miss this afternoon of humor, creative discussion, and inspiration over tea and homemade, healthy goodies with creative coaching pioneer, inspirational humorist, and author/illustrator Jill Badonsky. Specially for those who do not think they are creative, are curious about new avenues, or those creative zealots wanting a fresh approach. (858) 454-5872 Sunday, January 5, 1pm; \$55-\$65. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

NATURE

Guided Hike

Join the San Diego River Park Foundation for a guided hike along the Eagle Peak Trail via Three Sisters Falls Trail. We will meet at Boulder Creek Preserve and then caravan to the Three Sisters Falls Trail which will take us to the Eagle Peak Trail. Trail: Eagle Peak Trail via Three Sisters Falls Trail Length (roundtrip): 4.2 miles, Elevation Change: 931 ft., Difficulty: Moderate-Difficult, Landscape: Chaparral How to Prepare: Bring at least 2 liters of water, Wear sturdy hiking shoes and sun protection to keep yourself comfort-

able. Poison oak is present, so long pants are recommended. Pack a sack lunch or snack. Dogs are not allowed. This hike is not kid-friendly. Please arrive by 9:45am to check in. RSVP is required. Please email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or call (619) 297-7380. Saturday, January 4, 10am; **free.** Boulder Creek Preserve, 14652 Boulder Creek Road. (DESCANSO)

Wildlife Tracking Walk

Join a Mission Trails Guides on a walk through the park searching out tracks and other signs left behind by the park's seldom-seen wildlife. Meet in front of the Visitor Center. Especially fun for kids. Saturday, January 4, 8:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Wonderful Winter Walk

The bright blue skies and the greening foliage will refresh your winter day at Mission Trails Regional Park. See what an amazing difference a bit of rain can make, as your Trail Guide leads you on a 90-minute walk while you witness the rejuvenation as plants prepare for spring. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, January 4, 9:30am; Sunday, January 5, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPOKEN WORD

Storytelling Beginnings

Go strictly analog and enjoy an evening of personal, folkloric and literary tales told up close, personal with no notes by members of Storytellers of San Diego. Thursday, January 2, 7pm; **free.** 18 and up. Eclipse Chocolate Bar & Bistro, 2145 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Under the radar

continued from page 3

tech voter registration beginning three days before March 3 election day...The county's biggest single campaign contributor of the season will likely be Newland Real Estate Group and affiliated entities, which came up with a cool \$985,000 on December 13 for Proposition B. The measure on March's primary ballot would let the San Diego developer proceed with plans for a controversial 2135-unit development. The nearby Golden Door spa put the proposal up for a county-wide vote with a million-plus signature drive and is spending heavily to convince voters to reject Newland's bid.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or sandiegoreader.com/staff/matt-potter/contact/.

Street Style

Continued from page 12

Priscilla sported a gray graphic tee from Parks Project (\$38) that her boyfriend gave her. On the back side, the shirt displayed a list of U.S. national parks. She explained, "Once you visit each park, you're supposed to check it off the list. With each purchase, the company gives money back to the various parks. It's a great cause."

On top of the tee she was wearing a black zippered moto jacket from a local Chula Vista boutique she couldn't quite recall the name of (\$30), and for bottoms, she went for some dark gray kick-flare trousers by Amuse (\$30). To tie

the whole look together, she wore some beige Chuck 70 high tops (\$80) and added some pins for personality.

I asked her how she determined what pins made it on the jacket, "I actually collect pins, and the way I determine if I'll put them on my jacket is according to their size and color. They need to balance each other out."

Since she lives in San Francisco, which is known for getting a lot chillier than San Diego in the wintertime, I was curious to know if the weather dictated her fashion. "We get colder winters and summers, so regardless of the season, you always need a jacket. It's fun to play around with different outfits and try to keep warm." ■



Because if you're going to entertain, you may as well do it lavishly.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 14

ing spa with three waterfalls that will have guests lavishly entertained all summer long."

An attached garage provides parking for six cars with room for more behind the entry gate. Full fiber-optic smart home wiring and a complete security camera system round out the

list of improvements in the 2011-built estate.

Homeowners' association fees of \$890 per month provide guarded access to the community of just 148 homes "known for its quiet, private walking trails and lush, beautiful landscapes." According to the Rancho Pacifica HOA, more than half of the community's 400 acres have been preserved as permanent open space.

According to public records, ownership of the estate currently lies with Hernan Scolari and Maria Morretti. Scolari is a Houston, Texas-based oil trader who purchased the home for a reported \$7 million in 2016.

The Rancho Del Mar home was listed publicly for the first time in late October of 2019. Its original asking price of \$9,850,000 remains unchanged to date. ■

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All night, all day at Brian's 24

“For the longest time, I had heard that 1940s movie star Joan Crawford had owned the bar here.”

Crack o’ dawn. Brand new day! Toughest task of new year — to start getting up early — accomplished!

On the other hand, not totally together yet. I look up along deserted Sixth Avenue. Right now, it’s a highway for seagulls, cruising at head level, looking for leftover scraps from last night. Plenty of time to land on the street and lever off some pieces of squashed taco.

Came down Sixth looking for somewhere, anywhere, that a man can get something solid in his stomach at this hour, like 6:30 am. Something to soak up all the sin of last night.

Truth is, I had an ulterior motive when I came down here. Wanted to see something, and try something. For the longest time, I had heard that 1940s movie star Joan Crawford had actually owned the bar here. Not the *place*, but the really ancient counter in the pretty ancient Brian’s 24, the always-open eatery at 6th and E, inside the Ramada hotel. Needed to come in and see for myself.

And, through the cobwebs of my mind, I remember coming in here, noticing their seats had no cushions (probably so nobody got too comfortable and stayed too long) and wishing I’d had a burger of theirs. But there’s not a lot of recall going on right now. Maybe another slurp of coffee?

But now here is Jose, inquiring if I’d like something to eat. I kind swirl through the brekky items. Not bad prices, considering downtown and 24-hour operation. A crunchy granola with pecans, almonds, raisins goes for \$7.49; eggs Benedict is \$15.99; corned beef version is \$17.49; a waffle cristo (ham and cheese in a bacon waffle) is \$16.49. Biscuits and gravy with bacon or sausage runs \$14.49. Same price for huevos rancheros. Better deal is “two eggs plus,” \$9.99, and that includes toast, hot cakes or tortillas, plus all-you-can eat home fries. Deal! Home fries do have a cautionary note, though: “Except when sharing.”



Buttermilk hotcakes are \$10.49, \$9.49 for a short stack. Big country scramble (eggs, bacon, spinach, sausage, peppers, onions, American cheese, country gravy) is \$14.99. Not bad. Cheese omelet’s \$11.49.

Everything’s all day and all night, of course. Potato skins are \$10.99. Chicken strips are \$7.99, and best deal may be the hearty chicken soup at \$5.99 for a cup, \$7.49 for a bowl.

Jose, who’s lookin’ after me, says chicken and waffles are the most popular dish right now. Basically half a fried chicken with Belgian waffles. Wow. Surprise.

They must do a lot of business with sandwiches because they have over a dozen, between \$10 and \$16.

So just to get things rolling, I order up Brian’s 24 Omelette. For \$14.99 you get diced ham, bacon, mushrooms, onions, melted Swiss, and sour cream. For a hungry, slightly hung over boy, this turns out to be Nirvana. One, there’s plenty of it. Two, love the sour cream lightening things on top.

Problem: I suddenly remember why I came. It was for a burger. Now I remember! It was the Peanut Butter Burger. I liked how they described it: “Don’t be afraid. Our 1/2-lb patty topped with peanut butter, bacon, and American cheese. If it wasn’t great, we wouldn’t serve it.” Costs \$15.99.

So I do something I never do. “Can you pack this omelet to go, and give me a peanut butter burger? I ask Jose. He smiles, like he’d been waiting for years for me to make the right choice. In a way, I guess he has been. So have I.

The PB burger costs \$15.99, but I think of it as an investment. A couple of days in the fridge will only improve what I don’t eat here.

So I’m into my third coffee when the burger arrives. I’d asked for the patty to be medium with crispy crunchy edges, and that’s exactly what I get. What’s more, the bacon doing a Rolling Stones imitation is beautifully thick and also a little crispy.



Dents in counter from Joan Crawford’s stilettos tell you this place has a history



Nice to know there’s always one place open



Brian's 24 omelette

But the icing is the PB oozing out from under the bun. And wow. Almost Thai with the peanutty thing. This really is an excellent idea.

“Good teeth,” says this gent next to me.

“Huh?”

He’s looking up, to the backboard.

And, now I look again, I notice a lot of great old-school woodwork.

“Teeth,” says the guy again. “Great.”

I follow his eyes up the backboard. Ah. Now I see. Right up the top, the support for the top display shelf is notched like teeth.

“Don’t see a lot these days,” he says. “Used to be a carpenter. Computers do it now.”

But then I see what I came for. Right in front of him. Dents in the ancient wood. Like half-inch round dents.

“Uh, did Joan Crawford use to own this coun-

ter?” I ask Jose.

“Yes,” he says, like no biggie.

“And did she use to dance on it in her stilettos?”

“Yes, and you can see where she dented the wood, right here.”

He puts his finger in the dents right in front of me. Huh. The actual Joan Crawford danced on this actual bar. I knew I’d had this conversation before. I wonder how crazy the nights were when she jumped up and started wowing her Hollywood buddies. Because this was up there in her house before it was shifted down here.

This is a nice place. “Hope you don’t mind/ Hope you don’t mind,” sings Elton John, “How wonderful life is while you’re in the world.”

Seems the right song for the day. Happy New Year, my friends.

The Place: Brian’s 24, 828 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-8410

Hours: 24/7

Prices: granola, \$7.49; eggs Benedict, \$15.99; corned beef Benedict, \$17.49; waffle cristo (ham and cheese in a bacon waffle), \$16.49; biscuits, gravy with bacon or sausage, \$14.49; huevos rancheros, \$14.49; “two eggs plus,” \$9.99 (includes toast, hot cakes or tortillas, plus all-u-can eat home fries, except when sharing); Buttermilk hotcakes are \$10.49, \$9.49 for a short stack. Big country scramble (eggs, bacon, spinach, sausage, peppers, onions, American cheese, country gravy) is \$14.99. Cheese omelet’s \$11.49; skins, \$10.99; chicken strips, \$7.99; chicken soup, \$5.99, cup; \$7.49, bowl; Brian’s 24 Omelet, \$14.99; peanut butter burger, \$15.99

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Verde y Crema resumes service, this time on La Revu

Verde y Crema; Av. Revolución 1010, Tijuana. A feather in Tijuana's culinary cap since it opened in 2013, farm-to-table restaurant Verde y Crema closed the doors of its site near the Club Campestre de Tijuana golf course in mid-2018, offering little public explanation but promising to return at a different location.

FEAST!

It finally did so this month, opening its doors two miles north, in a part of town that will be much more familiar to tourists: Zona Centro, specifically, a busy corner of Avenida Revolución. The newly returned restaurant and bar spans the second and third floors of a modern building at the intersection of Calle Cuarta, sporting multiple small patios offering views of its bustling new neighborhood. It's quite easy to spot, thanks to bright green accent lighting and large



Korean tacos, a Verde y Crema favorite, tasting better than ever.



The new location of Verde y Crema, now on La Revu in Zona Centro.

vertical sign, spelling out its name in matching, backlit letters.

That name, originally borrowed from the Tijuana bus lines and the taxi (and the bus driver union next to the original restaurant), travels to La Revu mainly as an expression of quality established by the restaurant's founder, celebrated Mexican chef Jair Tellez. Like his restaurants in Mexico City and Valle de Guadalupe, Verde y Crema received universal praise for great service and the excellent dishes turned out by its olive-wood-burning kitchen, made to feature ingredients sourced in Baja, California, whether meat, produce, or seafood.

The new property's atmosphere may not match that of the original's: which boasted an artistically rendered storefront and a splendid covered dining patio framed by lush green vines. But it succeeds in feeling sheltered from the more manic energies coursing along the street outside, and even from the dance club next door. And, the young location's plants are growing.

There's no question the kitchen has picked up where its predecessor left off, returning a menu stocked with old Verde y Crema favorites. It may be a case of absence making the heart grow fonder, but the trio of *tacos coreanos* (Korean tacos: 240MXN, ~\$13) tasted better

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than I remember. Verde y Crema's signature blue corn tortillas are topped with strips of grilled ribeye, and dressed with kimchi, hoisin and *cacahuates japoneses* (so-called Japanese peanuts, a Mexican snack invented by a Japanese immigrant wherein the nuts are coated with a soy sauce flavored, cracker shell). In the best way, the ribeye tastes like backyard barbecue, and the fusion of Asian and Mexican flavors, including the nutty crunch, are reason enough to make reservations (though, we were able to talk the newly trained staff into letting us order at the more casual third-floor bar, which pours plenty of beers from both sides of the border).

Also a pleasure to revisit was the *tiradito*, made this day with *jurel* (195MXN, ~\$10), the raw mackerel coated in olive oil with avocado slices, cucumbers, and cherry tomatoes, which help diminish its own oily, fishy nature to result in a surprisingly restrained crudo.

The most satisfying plate on our table may have been the savory and lightly spicy *Costilla braseada* (braised short rib, 380MXN, ~\$20), slow-cooked for 13 hours with and served with roasted carrots, pattypan squash, and kale. But the dish I've been thinking about most is the appetizer, *esquites Verde y Crema* (195MXN, ~\$10). Here, kernels of smoked corn swim in a tiger milk-like *guajillo* and *pequin* pepper sauce with *panela* cheese and cilantro. The browned kernels have a nutty corn flavor and the nuggety texture of cooked farro, brightened by the creamy, and spicy sauce, really more like a cool chili chowder.

You won't often catch me claiming a restaurant served me any best dish of my life, but there's no equivocation here: this was the best corn dish I've ever sunk my teeth into. So, yeah, I guess I'm pretty happy that Verde y Crema is back.

by Ian Anderson

Angkorian Pikestaff serves one dish per day in East Village

A thousand years ago, when Cambodia's Angkor empire extended across what is now Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, its infantry brandished long, piked staffs, sometimes from the back of an elephant. That's the reference being made by a new, pop-up lunch eatery in East Village, with the name Angkorian Pikestaff.

With it, local chef Socheath Sun makes a nod to her Cambodian heritage. Three decades ago, her parents fled the Khmer Rouge, and wound up raising a family here. Sun's been cooking professionally the past ten years or so, most notably for Tiger! Tiger!, but perceiving the relative dearth of Cambodian restaurants in San Diego, she started looking for a low-risk way to start her own.

So from 11 am til 2 pm on weekdays, she rents time to cook and serve in a commis-

sary kitchen at 734 Park Boulevard, just across the trolley tracks from the New School of Architecture and Design, in what was formerly a couple short-lived cafes.

And here's where it really gets interesting: Angkorian Pikestaff only serves one menu item at a time, changing it up daily. Every two weeks, Sun

posts a new biweekly menu to Instagram, laying out the dishes served Monday through Friday. For example, the Monday dish on one recent menu was *somlar machu kreung*, a Cambodian beef sour soup, made with lemongrass curry, pork jerky, and morning glory, a.k.a. water spinach (\$12.50). Tuesday, she made *mee kola*,

another Cambodian dish topping rice noodles with bean sprouts, roasted peanuts, ground dried shrimp, and sweet soy sauce (\$11.95).

Each dish so far has ranged in price from 11 to 13 bucks, and while the aforementioned meals may sound interesting and wonderful, don't expect to see them on the current

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Ramen-inspired tom yum noodle soup.



Vegan pork belly bánh mì.

biweekly menu: a couple months in, Sun has yet to repeat a dish past its two consecutive weekdays on the menu. At some point, she will likely revisit a few of the most successful dishes, perhaps as part of a “bangers week”, returning customer favorites.

And because Sun runs the small operation herself, both cooking and serving, she enjoys plenty of feedback from those customers, including a pair of repeat guests who implore her to bring back a brisket *bánh mì*.

Because, not all the dishes are Cambodian in origin, Sun is developing many of them on

the fly, calling upon her own experiences as a chef and a customer, probing pan-Asian influences and traditions, yielding items as a ramen-like tom yum soup, with egg noodles, both *char siu* and ground pork, and shrimp wontons in a pork broth with, among other things, crushed peanuts.

Sometimes, she decides to go vegan. Last week, she followed up that brisket *bánh mì* with a vegan pork belly rendition, inspired by the vegan pork belly of City Heights restaurant Nhà Hàng Chay Hoa Tù Bi Tàm, which combines three different meat alternatives to imitate the three layered components of pork belly: chewy meat, tender fat, and crispy skin. Sun’s version employs bread, rice cake, and dried tofu skin, coloring the latter red with annatto seed.

Other details, including mushroom pate, cilantro-jalapeño aioli, and the delicately crispy crust of a vegan roll result in a satisfying and flavorful meatless sandwich for \$11.50.

Since she prepares a different dish each day, Sun has to estimate how many meals she might sell, and as word has started to spread about Angkorian Pikestaff, she sometimes runs out of food well ahead of her planned 2 pm closing time — which is why I missed out on a Japanese *katsu* curry at 1 pm on a Wednesday. In response to this, I find myself showing up earlier in the day, and more frequently. Often, I encour-

ter other members of local food and drink media, who’ve become regulars.

Because seating is limited to a handful of tables on the patio outside the kitchen, a few customers who live or work nearby take their dishes to go. Those who dine in tend to speak to one another across tables, mostly about how good everything has been, and which dishes on the menu we might return to try the following week. So even as I sat there enjoying Monday’s *khao moo dang*, sweet, roasted pork loin served with rice, cucumber, and a “BBQ gravy” flavored with five spices and bean sauce, I’m already thinking about returning Wednesday for the *nasi lemak ayam*, Indonesian fried chicken, and Friday for the Cambodian *kuy teav cha*: stir-fried curry noodles.

At some point, Sun may find enough success with Angkorian Pikestaff to grow into a more conventional restaurant, and judging by the first few weeks of this, it will be great.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Chef Teri’s Sunday Brunch
Pick up your fork and dive into Chef Teri’s new brunch specialties. Get ready for old favorites spun with a new and tasty twist. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, January 5, Chandler’s, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

First Friday Night Market
Monthly vegan market, in front of Hooleys and next to Chuze Fitness, celebrating the vegan lifestyle with all-vegan eats, sweets, drinks, goods, plus a local vegan-friendly beer in a 21+ beer garden and music. Friday, January 3, 5pm; free. Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive. (LA MESA)

Free Mezcal Tasting Join us the first Friday of each month from 5-7:30 pm for a complimentary tasting. We partner with a different tequila or mezcal brand monthly to educate our guests about how the chosen spirit is harvested to pairing recommendations. Join us Friday, January 3rd for a free sample of Illegal Mezcal and enjoy cocktail specials highlighting Illegal available for purchase. Friday, January 3, 5pm; free. Galaxy Taco, 2259 Avenida de La Playa. (LA JOLLA)

Mochitsuki: New Year’s Rice Cake Pounding Festival Celebrate the New Year with Japanese music, food and fun. Enjoy complimentary mochi (rice cakes), ozoni, demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages. Sunday, January 5, 2pm; free. Shimbashi Izakaya, Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar. (DEL MAR)



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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rustic Root: Monday-Friday,

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

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

EAST VILLAGE

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half-off all well spirits, signature cocktails, house wine, drafts, and small bites.

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$4 domestic pints, wells, \$5 premium pints, margaritas, select 23 oz. draft beers, appetizers and flatbread pizzas.

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

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

GOLDEN HILL

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

HILLCREST

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



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nis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only. Sunday, All day: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

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

MISSION BEACH

Cannonball: Monday-Friday, 2-5pm: \$6 Sapparo, well cocktails, small sake, house red or white wine. Discounted sushi and shares.

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 14oz drafts, \$8 22oz drafts, \$6 Sandbargaritas. \$4 tacos. Sunday, 10am-2pm: \$25 bottomless mimosas (includes food item).

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The Rabbit Hole: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$5 select local drafts, \$6 glass of wine, specialty cocktails. Saturday-Sunday, 9:30am-2pm: \$4

Busch Michelada, \$5 bloody Mary, \$10 bottle Champagne.

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.

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

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

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

OCEAN BEACH

Newport Pizza & Ale House: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off all pints, \$3 off all pitchers.

Shine Co.: Daily, 5-6pm: Half-price pitchers.

Winstons Beach Club: Monday-Friday, 1-6pm: \$3 wells.

Wonderland Ocean Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$2 off wine, \$3 off mules. \$1 off

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HAPPY HOUR

tacos. *Saturday-Sunday*, 9am-1pm: \$12 Bottles of Champagne.

PACIFIC BEACH

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

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

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

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

The Dog: Monday, 6-9pm: \$2 pint night. *Tuesday*, 6-9pm: Two-for-one 12-oz. bottles. *Wednesday*, 6-9pm: \$1 mug. *Thursday*, 6-9pm: Two cans \$3. *Friday*, 6-9pm: Half-off bottles. *Saturday*, 6-9pm: Bloody Mary deals. *Sunday*, 6-9pm: Free pool.

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

Pacific Beach AleHouse: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 house draft beer, \$5 guest draft beer, \$7 featured craft cocktail, 50% off wine bottles. \$2 off all starters, \$12.99 burger and 14 ounce beer.

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

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

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

POINT LOMA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

55 Yard Line: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off craft beers, \$4 domestic beers and well drinks. \$1 beef street taco, \$2 off appetizers, \$2.50 mini pizza (cheese or pepperoni). *Saturday-Sunday*, 3-9pm: \$1 off craft beers, \$4 domestic beers and well drinks. \$1 beef street taco, \$2 off appetizers, \$2.50 mini pizza (cheese or pepperoni).

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill: Daily, 3-6pm: Half price select appetizers and drink specials.

The Bellows: Tuesday-Wednesday, 4-6pm: \$1 off draft beers, \$2 off select wines by the glass, \$5 aperitif cocktails, prosecco by the glass, \$6

bourbon whiskey sours, Moscow Mules. *Thursday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$1 off draft beers, \$2 off select wines by the glass, \$5 aperitif cocktails, prosecco by the glass, \$6 bourbon whiskey sours, Moscow Mules.

Churchill's Pub and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells. *Sunday*, All day: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells.

Inland Tavern: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2 off house wine.

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.

San Marcos Brewery & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm: \$3.50 12oz. select draft ales (\$3.95 16oz.), \$4.29 wine by the glass, \$4.99 bloody mary, Cape Cod, screwdriver, margaritas, \$5.99 cocktails. *Saturday-Sunday*, 3pm-6pm: \$3.50 12oz. select draft ales (\$3.95 16oz.), \$4.29 wine by the glass, \$4.99 bloody mary, Cape Cod, screwdriver, margaritas, \$5.99 cocktails.

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.

SERRA MESA

Maggie's Cafe: Monday, 4-8pm: \$1 off wine glasses and beer, \$3.50 lime rita, \$5 pina colada, Long Island ice tea, Cape Cod, sangria. Appetizers \$3.50-\$7.95, \$2 off all burgers.

Tuesday, 4-8pm: \$1 off wine glasses and beer, \$3.50 lime rita, \$5 pina colada, Long Island ice tea, Cape Cod, sangria. \$1.99 Tacos (carnitas, carne asada, chicken), \$2.95 fish tacos, \$3.50-\$7.95 appetizers. *Wednesday*, 4-8pm: \$1 off wine glasses and beer, \$3.50 lime rita, \$5 pina colada, Long Island ice tea, Cape Cod, sangria. Appetizers \$3.50-\$7.95, \$2 off all pastas. *Thursday*, 4-8pm: \$1 off wine glasses and beer, \$3.50 lime rita, \$5 pina colada, Long Island ice tea, Cape Cod, sangria. Appetizers \$3.50-\$7.95, \$2 off tortas. *Saturday*, 9am-5pm: \$5 margaritas (lime, strawberry, mango, peach).

SOLANA BEACH

Carruth Cellars: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$3 off glasses, \$5 off bottles of wine.

Chief's Burgers and Brew: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off drinks and select food.

Crush: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$3 off wine by the glass, wells starting at \$6, \$10 cocktails. 10pm-midnight: \$10 margarita or pepperoni pizza, \$5 draft beer.

The Fish Market: Monday, 3:30-9pm: Wine and well drinks \$5.50; seafood specials. *Tuesday-Friday*, 3:30-6:30pm: \$6.25 wine and well drinks; \$6.50 well margarita or bloody Mary, \$4.50-\$8.75 seafood specials. *Saturday-Sunday*, 11am-4pm: \$6.25 wine and well drinks; \$6.50 well margarita or bloody Mary, \$4.50-\$8.75 seafood specials.

Pamplemousse Grille: Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$5 well drinks, 40% off all wines by the glass, specialty cocktails.

Pillbox Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, wines, specialty drinks. \$5 select appetizers & plates. *Saturday-Sunday*, 11am-10pm: \$3.50 Tecate Light cans.

SORRENTO VALLEY

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

WineSellar and Brasserie: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$1 off all cocktails, draft beers, and wines by the glass. Appetizers \$3-\$16. *Friday*, 4-9pm: \$1 off all cocktails, draft beers, and wines by the glass, martinis are buy one, get another for half price. Appetizers \$3-\$16.

SOUTH PARK

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

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

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

Piacere Mio Ristorante Italiano: Monday-Thursday, 5-6pm: \$3 draft beers, \$5 wines, \$5 appetizers.

SPRING VALLEY

Cali Comfort BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off well drinks, house wines and tall drafts. Appetizers \$4.50 to \$6.50.

De Oro Mine Co: Daily, Noon-7pm: \$3.50 domestic beers and well cocktails, beer of the month \$3.

TALMADGE

Romeo and Julieta's Wine Cafe: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$5.50 select drafts and bottles, \$6 house wine. \$9.50 appetizers. *Sunday*, 3-6pm: \$5.50 select drafts and bottles, \$6 house wine. \$9.50 appetizers.

UNIVERSITY CITY

Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-6pm: All bottled beer \$3.75 or \$4.25, \$5-\$5.50 select wines by the glass. \$3.50-\$11 appetizers.

Draft Republic: Daily, 2-6pm, 10pm-close: \$2 off drafts, \$6 select wines, well cocktails. \$7 snacks. \$17.95 any burger or sandwich with a beer, fries, house salad.

Drift: Daily, 4-7pm: \$5 for 16 oz drafts, \$10 craft cocktail of the day, \$4 off wine carafes, \$10 shares and flatbreads.

Green Acre Restaurant Campus Pointe: Wednesday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$5 craft beer bottles (Saint Archer White Ale, Anthem Cider, more), \$5 Tolusa No Oak Chardonnay and Cabernet, \$5 Mule and Mimosa. \$5-\$10 small-plate specials (shishito peppers, sausage platter, more).

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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

Et Voilà French Bistro: Daily, 4:30-7pm: \$7 cocktails, glass of house made sangria (\$14 pitcher), draft Iron Fist Counter Strike IPA, and draft 1664, \$5-\$9 wines by the glass. Discounted food menu.

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

The Lancers Cocktails: Daily, 10am-2am: \$4.50 well drinks and domestic beers.

Madison: Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$7 signature cocktails, red or white wine by the glass. Appetizers \$6-\$10

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

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



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blurt

the inside track

performed at a New York City screening of their documentary film *Mrs. Henry Presents: The Last Waltz*. “The band played a two-hour-plus set and was up until around six in the morning, since bars are open until four.”



Mrs. Henry found themselves “sprawled out on the basement floor questioning life.”

Mrs. Henry, Jack Daniels, and Dr. Feelgood
“It was sponsored by Jack Daniels, who put up money and booze so we could do this

thing, and as you can imagine that night was a whiskey-soaked endeavor,” says singer-guitarist Daniel Cervantes of Mrs. Henry, who recently

The all-night drinkathon had essentially begun the morning of the screening, when bassist Blake Dean arrived in NYC and took an Uber directly to the



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venue to load their huge Hammond B3 organ and two Leslie speaker cabinets downstairs into the basement performance space. When the band found itself still awake and hungover at six the next morning, “We had to get up at ten to get back to the venue at eleven to have the organ and cabinets up on the sidewalk by noon. This all lead to the nightmare of our drummer Chad pulling his back while loading the organ out.

“Then came a three-hour desolation, sprawled on the basement floor, questioning life, calling all the Dr. Feelgoods in town we know. When the pill man came out of thin air, [he] produced the goods at just the right time to pop some muscle

relaxers into the system of a broken back Henry boy to get us out of the basement, into an Uber, and back to the hotel.”

Formed in 2012, Mrs. Henry began as a newly evolved version of Dick Justice and the Happy Smoke featuring singer/guitarist Cervantes (Whiskey Circle, Creature and the Woods), currently accompanied by drummer Chad Lee (the Silent Comedy, Elijah Ford), keyboardist Jody Bagley (Blue Moonies, Cathouse Thursday), and bassist Blake Dean (Happy Ron Hill, Boss Run).

During their whirlwind 48 hours in New York City, “We got to do a very cool intimate performance with *Relix* magazine, in the headquarters of the

place, so it was a trip to be in this tiny little room playing as quietly as we could. We were told if they got a complaint, we had to shut it down, but after our first song the whole office applauded, so I guess it went well. Blake hadn’t slept. Chad, Jody, and I got two hours of sleep.”

Now that he’s caught up on rest, Cervantes is making plans to expand his Blind Owl record label and publishing project. “Creature and the Woods, Drug Hunt, Mrs. Henry, Taken by Canadians, and Noah C. Lekas all put out great works this year. Two vinyl EPs, three vinyl 45 singles, Mrs. Henry’s *Last Waltz*, four vinyl collector’s (continued on page 36)

MUSIC BOX



FRIDAY

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VITALOGY
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JAN
03



SATURDAY

THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE
JENNY VOSS

JAN
04



THURSDAY

KT TUNSTALL
CHARLIE MARS
LILY KERSHAW

JAN
09



FRIDAY

JOYCE MANOR
OSO OSO
PEACH KELLI POP

★ JAN
10



SATURDAY

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VOKAB KOMPANY
FLOWMADS, DJ J-STYLEZ
DJ AKRITE, KİYŌSHI, SANTE PRINCE

JAN
11



THURSDAY

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16

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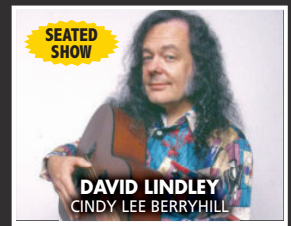
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SUNDAY 1/5



WEDNESDAY 1/8



THURSDAY 1/9



FRIDAY 1/10



WEDNESDAY 1/15



THURSDAY 1/16



FRIDAY 1/17



SATURDAY 1/18

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set and double disc CD, and our first book, *Saturday Night Sage*. Something for everyone, music for all ears, and the spirit of rock 'n' roll runs deep in everything we create."

On January 11, Mrs. Henry will debut their new album, *Live at the Casbah*, at — where else? — the Casbah, for a bill that includes the Basics, Burden Feathers, and Puerto.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Painted piano "I guess I am the force behind the Oceanside Art Piano Project," admits musician Robert

Parker, about the intricately hand-painted piano that now calls the Oceanside Museum of Art its home. "But it's a collaboration [with] the Oceanside Cultural Arts foundation with primary influence from Kenneth Rexrode's The Piano Project that collects donated pianos and places them in schools and public places around the county. They attracted the donor, and Kenneth's project manager Kim Paige arranged for delivery. It couldn't have happened without them."

Another key contribution is the hand of local artist Rene Cosby. Where did Parker get the idea for this collaboration?

"I was inspired by Play Me Again pianos in Atlanta," says

Parker. "I made the proposal and I sold the idea to Rene, because I believed it might help launch her career to create Oceanside's first public painted piano. I'm a big supporter of public pianos, and Kenneth is a natural ally. I didn't necessarily envision these as painted instruments until I saw a video from Play Me Again."

"I was already a big fan of Rene's art before I approached her. I fell in love with the intricate work she does. She agreed to donate her labor, which was awesome because she put in over a hundred hours on the instrument we found. She finished just in time for our inaugural concert at the end of September."

So what kind of consid-



Kenneth Rexrode's The Piano Project places donated pianos in schools and public places.

erations go into acquiring an instrument for public use?

"Because we are going to be transporting it all around town, I knew we needed a lightweight instrument, and we found this studio spinet that's relatively easy to move, although it still weighs about 500 pounds."

A lot of these pianos I see on the street on videos appear pretty beaten up. What's different about this one?

"The piano we found is a

really fine instrument," says Parker. "It's not a 'beater.' It was actually a gorgeous instrument before it was painted, but Rene really transformed it, and the result is stunning."

How does it sound?

"The tone is so balanced. It's beautiful. The action and mechanics are superb. Any pianist who plays it will recognize that it's a quality instrument."

"We plan to move it around the city — but only for one day,

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CONTRIBUTORS

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

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T.S.O.L. at Casbah

JANUARY 2

Local concert attendees now pushing their fifties still swap war stories about the times that T.S.O.L. (which stands for True Sounds of Liberty) played around town at punk-friendly places like the Adams Avenue Theater and the Skeleton Club in the late 70s and early 80s. At Costa Mesa's punk haven The Cuckoo's Nest, fans of the Long Beach band once tried to burn down a neighboring country-western nightclub, just because its patrons liked to pick fights with passing punks. The founding trio of Jack Grisham, Ron Emory, and Mike Roche (who've all been in and out of the band at various

times) will be accompanied by keyboardist Greg Kuehn, who was briefly in the group in the early '80s and returned in 2005. They're hoping to sell you copies of their 2017 full-length *The Trigger Complex*, one of only four albums they've released since the turn of the 21st century. The bill includes the Detours, who were among the original Orange County punk bands to make a splash in L.A. circa 1977. That group currently features co-founding members Rikk Agnew and Gordon Cox.



THE SICKSTRING OUTLAWS at Mr. Peabody's

JANUARY 2

Ron Houston started off as an acoustic solo act, playing Pizza Port in Ocean Beach and doing open mic nights at Winstons, before founding the Sickstring Outlaws. The group has been through numerous lineup changes but still includes longtime guitarist David Berry, presently backed by guitarist Jason Russell and drummer Jack Hoole. Their debut album *Johnny Drank Jack* was nominated Best Local Recording at the 2013 San Diego Music Awards, while a second full-length, *Electric Moonshine*, served as a tribute to famed liquor bootlegger Martin "Popcorn" Sutton. They later

ended up inspiring their own brand of moonshine, courtesy of Liberty Call Distilling, Electric Moonshine, sold online, in stores, and at shows. You can catch them every week at area venues such as Molly Malone's, the Landing, Cheers, and Hooleys. In addition to gigging, they've branched out into films like *Buckshot: The Movie*, a dark 2017 comedy about a struggling country singer which includes a Sickstring original, as well as Houston singing a song written by director Josh Smith. Among the influences cited by the band are Hank Williams Jr., Merle Haggard, and similar renegade country stars.



SURE FIRE SOUL ENSEMBLE at Casbah

JANUARY 3

"For me, it all started in 1987 with five years of classical piano lessons," says Tim Felten of the Sure Fire Soul Ensemble. "A few years later, after hearing a bunch of the amazing albums from Daptone [Records] and Truth & Soul Records artists such as El Michels Affair, Menahan Street Band, Budos Band, and Lee Fields, I was highly inspired and realized I needed to put together an ensemble to make gritty recordings and perform this music, fused together by all of my diverse and eclectic influences such as Afrobeat, soul-jazz, trip-hop, soul-funk, ethio jazz, jazz-funk, and psychedelic music from around the world." Citing influences from Freddie

Hubbard and Al Green to Marvin Gaye, Quincy Jones, and Herbie Hancock, they're a heavy, original, instrumental soul band with a cinematic sound featuring Felten on organ and electric piano, his wife Sheryll Felten, and anywhere from five to eight more players. A self-titled debut full-length was released in 2015, followed the next year by *Out On the Coast*. The group won Best Blues Album at the 2015 SDMAS and Best Recording at the 2017 SDMAS, and their newest album, *Build Bridges*, debuted number one on Billboard's contemporary jazz chart in October. The bill includes Thee Sacred Souls and DJ Mike Wallace.



10TH ANNUAL BEAT FARMERS HOOTENANNY at Belly Up

JANUARY 4

Surviving members of local honky-tonk heroes the Beat Farmers will pay tribute to their late drummer, Country Dick Montana, alongside an array of local friends and longtime musical associates. The hard-partying Montana died during a Beat Farmers gig in Whistler, British Columbia, on November 8, 1995. At the end of the set's third song (his second behind the drum kit), "The Girl I Almost Married," Montana slumped over. Guitarist Jerry Raney began to play Hank Williams's "Setting the Woods on Fire," as Montana weakly hit a cymbal, looked at bassist Rolle Love, and then lay slowly across his kit. Road manager Tom Ames rushed out

from the wings and lowered Montana to the stage as band members kicked the drums out of the way. He was breathing but unable to move or speak. When paramedics arrived ten minutes later, the 40-year-old was dead from what was ruled an acute aneurysm. He had cysts on his kidneys, and it was later revealed by road manager Ames that Montana knew he had a blood clot in his leg but hadn't gone to a doctor for treatment. The remaining Beat Farmers decided to dissolve the group three days later. Members formed several new bands, including Raney-Blue, Powerthud, Joey Harris and the Mentals, the Flying Putos, and – eventually – the Farmers.



CHASE MORRIN TRIO at Handlery Hotel 950 Lounge

JANUARY 5

Until he graduated in 2011, jazz pianist Chase Morrin attended Canyon Crest Academy in Carmel Valley, where Michael Bogart of Tower of Power was one of his teachers. He was still a freshman when he composed the full musical score for the Academy's adaptation of *The Corpse Bride*, and he also conducted and played keyboards for productions of *Grease*, *High School Musical (ACT)*, *Cats* (San Diego Jr. Theater), and *South Pacific*. The same year he graduated Canyon Crest, the teen won four Downbeat Awards, and his song "Mumphis" won the Next Generation Jazz Festival's

Composition Competition. Morrin continued his education with a summer session at the UC San Diego jazz camp (on a full scholarship) and served a month long residency at the California State Summer School for the Arts at Cal Arts. In addition, he received a Herb Alpert Scholarship for Emerging Young Artists, going on to attend both Harvard and the New England Conservatory of Music. Known for his sense of style (things like wearing a black bowler hat onstage), he performs his own compositions alongside covers of classical and contemporary numbers.

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

Aztec Brewing Company:
Friday, 6pm — Into The Void and Dreadhawk. \$10.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Fleetwood Bigmak. Free.

Balboa Theatre:
Friday, 7pm — Willie Nelson & Family.

Belly Up Tavern:
Friday, 8pm — Queen Nation and Graceband.
Saturday, 8pm — 10th Annual Beat Farmers Hootenanny.
Sunday, 8pm — Just What I Needed: Cars Tribute.
Wednesday, 8pm — David Lindley.

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — T.S.O.L. and the Detours.
Friday, 8pm — Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.
Saturday, 8pm — Petty 2: Tribute to Tom Petty. \$20.
Sunday, 8pm — Steve Nieve and AJUQ.

Ché Café:
Saturday, 6:30pm — World of Pain and Take Offense. Free.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Sunday, 1pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Encinitas Library:
Sunday, 2pm — Mark Lessman. Free.

Ferry Landing Marketplace:
Sunday, 1pm — Miss Demeanor.

Fluxx:
Friday, 9pm — Shadow Man.
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Kaos.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Sunday, 4:30pm — Chase Morrin Trio. Free.

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

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

Joan B. Kroc Theatre:
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Outsiders: Back To The Sixties. \$46-\$52.

La Jolla Community Center:
Thursday, 7pm — Carlos Velasco & Friends. \$10.

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

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — The Sickstring Outlaws. Free.
Friday, 8:30pm — Mojo Strut. Free.
Saturday, 4pm — John January & Linda Berry. Free.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Sound Vault. Free.

Music Box:
Friday, 9pm — Red Not Chili

Peppers and Vitalogy. \$12-\$15.
Saturday, 8pm — The Winehouse Experience and Jenny Voss. \$20-\$22.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Saturday, 6pm — Robin Henkel.

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

Pour House:
Saturday, 5pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, 7:30pm — Flipside Burners. Free.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church:
Sunday, 2:30pm — La Jolla Renaissance Singers: An English Christmas. Free.

Soma:
Wednesday, 7pm — Motionless In White and Beartooth.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, 8pm — 3 Car Garage. \$10.

Tower Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — The Picturebooks.

University City United Church:
Monday, 7pm — Auditions for Key of She. Free.

Veranda at Rancho Bernardo Inn:
Wednesday, 6pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

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JANUARY 31

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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)

La Jolla Renaissance Singers: An English Christmas The La Jolla Renaissance Singers present "An English Christmas", a program steeped in the English choral tradition with the music of William Byrd, Peter Philips, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, and the prolific early composer Anonymous. Much of our experience with English Christmas music comes from the Victorian era, a tradition started in churches, towns, and in the countryside. Sunday, January 5, 2:30pm; free. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4776 Saratoga Avenue.

UPCOMING SHOWS

AMSconcerts Bonita: Sunday, Jan. 12 — Dar Williams. \$30-\$40.

Amplified Aleworks: Saturday, Jan. 18 — Bandaid Brigade.

BNS Brewing & Distilling: Saturday, Jan. 11 — West of 5. Free.

Beaumont's: Saturday, Jan. 18 — Bonneville 7. Free.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Pretty and extremely boring *Rosenkavalier* at The Met

As a member of the San Diego Opera Chorus, I don't often have a chance to review an opera objectively, but I've got one now. I went to see *Der Rosenkavalier*, by Richard Strauss, at The Metropolitan Opera on Friday, December 20 in New York City. *Rosenkavalier* is a consensus top 10 opera. You'd be hard pressed to find anyone in the opera world claiming *Rosenkavalier* to be unworthy of veneration.

But this *Rosenkavalier* was something other than opera. It was an opera that lacked operatic qualities. It was opera-ish.

The production moved the setting from the 18th Century to the Vienna of 1911, the year of the opera's premiere. This is a common move for an opera production to make. It works to a greater or lesser degree with most operas, but *Rosenkavalier* isn't an opera which does well with a

change of setting.

The milieu of *Rosenkavalier* is the Vienna of Mozart and Haydn. The dramatic conflict of the story is based on that culture. The interaction of the characters is based on that bygone era. Octavian, the protagonist, is based on the character Cherubino from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

This change of setting destroys the opera which Strauss and his librettist Hugo von Hoffmannsthal created. The entire thing stops making sense. One could argue that operas *always* require a suspension of disbelief. Fair enough. But a change of setting requires us to double down on that suspension. The interaction of the characters is based on 18th Century mores and notions that are hard enough to believe in *that* setting — deep love at first sight, for instance. To see

that set in a 20th Century Vienna hurtling toward World War One requires double disbelief.

Now for the singing. The cast was full of modern singers, which means the voices were all pretty and extremely boring. It also meant the singers disappeared when the music required them to use their middle and lower voices. It was the quality of the singing which made this production something other than opera.

There were no exciting vocal moments in the entire evening. The Presentation of the Rose scene at the top of the second act was stunningly beautiful, because the music lined up with the strengths of the singers. It was a truly exquisite moment of music, but it was the only such moment in an evening which stretched



Hogarth's *The Countess's Morning Levee* (ca. 1744), the inspiration for the Marschallin's morning reception in Act I

to four-and-a-half hours, including intermissions.

The famous finale trio of the third act turned into a duet, as Octavian could not be heard at all. The singer was emoting quite well, but ultimately, she was on stage chewing air. The mouth was moving but nothing could be heard.

I did enjoy the evening as did, believe it or not, my 15- and 12-year-old children. *Rosenkavalier* contains some of the most beautiful and

moving music ever composed for the opera stage.

But a superb production of *Rosenkavalier* requires singers who have fully developed voices, voices which allow them to express their characters vocally.

The characters in The Met's production were expressed physically, but rolling around on the ground in an awkward approximation of ecstasy isn't great theater, and it's certainly no substitute for great singing.

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Thursday, Jan. 9 — Chadwick Stokes & the Pintos.
Friday, Jan. 10 — Tusk. \$23-\$41.
Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Coco Montoya.
Thursday, Jan. 16 — Midge Ure Ultravox Acoustic Duo. \$25-\$44.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Robin Henkel.

Blind Lady Ale House:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Brick by Brick:

Friday, Jan. 10 — 96 Bitter Beings and the Native Howl.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Red Handed Denial and Samsara. \$12-\$15.

Camel's Breath Inn:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Fleetwood Bigmak. Free.

Casbah:

Friday, Jan. 10 — King Khan & BBQ Show.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Mrs. Henry.
Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Run River North.

Ché Café:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Buck Meek and Twain.
Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Red Death and Enforced.
Saturday, Jan. 18 — The Paranoids.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Flipside Burners. Free.
Thursday, Jan. 16 — Miss Demeanor.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, Jan. 11 — Shane Hall and the Joker's Hand. Free.

Famous Mexican Village:

Friday, Jan. 17 — Cyren. Free.

Fluxx:

Friday, Jan. 10 — Beats By Che. \$1-\$15.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Craig Smoove.
Friday, Jan. 17 — A-Wall.
Saturday, Jan. 18 — Shabazz. Free.

Grauer School:

Saturday, Jan. 18 — Roger Anderson Chorale: R.A.C. the House. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Sunday, Jan. 12 — Danny Green Trio. Free.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:

Tuesday, Jan. 21 — Kathleen Murray.

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| FRIDAY • JAN 3 SUREFIRE SOUL ENSEMBLE THE SACRED SOULS DJ MIKE WALLACE |
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| SUNDAY • JAN 5 STEVE NIEVE PLAYS ELVIS COSTELLO |
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THE MITTENS**

MONDAY • JAN 20
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**DANI BELL AND
THE TARANTIST
HAVNAUTS • LOW VOLTS**

SATURDAY • JAN 25
**DIRTY SWEET
DEAD FEATHER MOON**

MONDAY • JAN 27
REDWOODS RESIDENCY
**THE MIDNIGHT PINE
BIRDY BARDOT
CHLOE LOU AND
THE LIDDELLS**

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**Humphreys Backstage Music
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Thursday, Jan. 9 — Brian Jones
Rock 'n' Roll Revival. \$5.

**Magnolia Performing Arts
Center:**
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Art
Garfunkel.
Saturday, Jan. 18 — Led
Zepagain.

**Martinis Above Fourth I
Table + Stage:**
Thursday, Jan. 9 — Clint
Holmes. \$45.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — David
Burnham: Tom Jones Tribute.
\$35.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Bonneville
7. Free.

Mission Trails Church:
Sunday, Jan. 12 — Gregory Page.
Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Serena
Geroe Jazz Trio. Free.

Museum of Making Music:
Friday, Jan. 10 — Joachim
Cooder. \$30-\$35.

Music Box:
Thursday, Jan. 9 — KT Tunstall
and Charlie Mars. \$28-\$30.
Friday, Jan. 10 — Joyce Manor,
Oso Oso, Peach Kelli Pop. \$22.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Vokab
Kompany. \$12-\$15.

My Yard Live:
Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Triple
Shot.

Navajo Live:
Friday, Jan. 17 — 3 Car Garage.
Free.

Nick & G's:
Friday, Jan. 17 — Tim Yancey.
Free.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, Jan. 10 — Mandolin
Orange. \$27-\$32.

Thursday, Jan. 16 — Trey
Anastasio Band.

**Old California Coffee House
& Eatery:**
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Rolf Olsen
Quartet. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Chance
the Rapper.
Saturday, Jan. 18 — Boomshaka
2020.

Pounders:
Friday, Jan. 10 — Miss
Demeanor.
Saturday, Jan. 11 — Miss
Demeanor.

**Rock and Roll San Diego
School of Music and
Performing Arts:**
Friday, Jan. 10 — Alex Lievanos.
\$10-\$12.

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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.

Bloomsday

Have you ever wished you could go back and have a second chance at a decision you made back in your 20s? This lyrical Irish love story is set amidst tourists exploring the pubs and streets of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. It captures the intensity of experiences that pass by fleetingly as an older couple retraces their steps to discover their younger selves. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

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. 9:30AM & 11:30AM WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8.

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.

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. 8PM WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8.

UPCOMING SHOWS

August Wilson's Jitney

In 1970s Pittsburgh, the unlicensed cab drivers in a Hill District garage fight to save their business and their livelihoods as their neighborhood gentrifies around them.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. JAN. 23 THROUGH FEB. 23.

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party

Create unforgettable memories and become part of the story when Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party comes to San Diego! This brand-new immersive ice skating experience brings the magic closer to fans than ever before through engaging elements that take place on the ice, in the air and in the seats. An exciting participatory adventure delivering compelling storytelling through multi-leveled production numbers that immerse fans into the fantastic worlds of Disney-Pixar's *Coco*, *Frozen*, *Moana*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Toy Story* and *The Little Mermaid*, this all-new

show will be playing Pechanga Arena San Diego from January 23rd – 26th! Embark on a quest with Mickey Mouse and pals as they follow Captain Hook's treasure map for clues to find Tinker Bell after he attempts to capture her magic. Journey across the Marigold Bridge with Miguel from Disney-Pixar's *Coco* into the magnificent and mystical Land of the Dead and discover a vibrantly colorful performance with skeletons atop sway poles dancing over the audience in a beautiful cultural celebration of family. Travel to the wintry world of Arendelle and sing along with Elsa as video projection creates a kaleidoscope of crystals to help build her ice palace. Witness Belle lift into the sky as the enchanted chandelier comes to life high over the ice for onlookers seated above and below. Board the Jolly Roger and laugh hysterically as the hilarious pirates flip, tumble, and twist on air tracks, stilts and more in an effort to showcase their talents for Captain Hook. Sail away with Moana on her daring voyage across the ocean and bravely encounter the fiery wrath of Te Ka. And make memories with your whole family during *Aladdin*, *Toy Story* and *The Little Mermaid* as the search party becomes an all-out magical celebration! Join this magical search and help look for clues to unlock an epic journey when Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party delivers an unforgettable experience with your family in San Diego! Showtimes: Thursday, January 23 7:00 PM Friday, January 24 7:00 PM Saturday, January 25 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM Sunday, January 26 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM

PECHANGA ARENA SAN DIEGO, 3500 SPORTS ARENA BL., MIDWAY DISTRICT. 619-224-4171. JAN. 23 THROUGH JAN. 26.

Drop Dead Dames

The Drop Dead Dames Burlesque welcome you to their home venue, The Queen's Hall. There is a raised theatre stage with a plush velvet curtain, assuring that there is no bad seat in the house. Full vintage bar, free parking.

PORTUGUESE HALL, 2818 AVENIDA DE PORTUGAL, POINT LOMA. 619-223-3315. FEB. 15.

God of Carnage

Start the new year with a bang and see "God of Carnage" at Lamplighters - a dark comedy of manners, without the manners. Winner of the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play. Mature Themes. Box Office Tel: (619) 303-5092

LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. JAN. 10 THROUGH FEB. 7.

Going To A Place Where You Already Are

Is there a heaven? Joe says no; it's all a bunch of hokum. His wife, Roberta, has always claimed to agree. But lately she's beginning to wonder, especially when they find themselves in church a lot, having reached the age when funerals are more frequent than weddings. Their granddaughter, Ellie, doesn't have time in her own busy life to ponder the after-life. But when mortality confronts them, her grandmother's claim to have gone to heaven and back doesn't sound so crazy after all. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. JAN. 17 THROUGH FEB. 16.

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.

Hurricane Diane

The Greek god Dionysus returns to the modern world disguised as the butch gardener Diane, whose secret mission is to seduce mortal followers and restore the earth to its natural state. Where better to begin than with four real housewives from New Jersey?

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. FEB. 13 THROUGH MAR. 8.

Inside the Actor's Process: Love Scenes

In a world that feels saturated with negativity, a showcase of the best parts of life is long overdue, even if sometimes the characters in these love stories betray mixed motives, less-than-stellar ideals, and imperfect behavior. This behind-the-scenes look at how the theatrical artist engages with love stories includes vignettes featuring contemporary lovers, classic lovers, and everything in-between. What makes love scenes so magnetic? The times may change, but more than anything else, our need to find someone to connect with never does.

STAGEHOUSE THEATRE, 8800 GROSSMONT COLLEGE DR., EL CAJON. 619-644-7234. JAN. 31 THROUGH FEB. 1.

Italian American Reconciliation

The plot of this Italian American comedy is near operatic: 2 men, 2 women and an overseeing matriarch - Aunt Mae. Huey is married to Janice, Aldo loves Janice, Teresa hates Janice. Huey also loves Teresa, and Janice shot Huey's dog. Throw in a balcony scene straight out of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Tony and Tina's Wedding, and Jersey Shore, and you'll have some idea of what you are in store for! Directed by Charles Peters, this talented cast includes: Rhiannon McAfee, Marco Kengott, John DeCarlo, Lynnina Shanley & Gina Marie Cioffi. Individual tickets are \$37 with discounts available for Seniors, Military and Students. To reserve seats, contact the box office at 858-578-7728 or email us at box-office@scrippsranchotheatre.org. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. JAN. 17 THROUGH FEB. 16.

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.

The Rocky Show 2020

Musical comedy featuring a Transylvanian transvestite, a cryogenically preserved zombie motorbiker and

Frankenstein's monster in Greek god form. This sexual parody of horror and science fiction films premiered onstage in London in 1973, becoming the popular cult classic film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in 1975. OB PLAYHOUSE. JAN. 17 THROUGH MAR. 1.

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.

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.

Twelfth Night Open Reading

Twins are separated in a shipwreck, and forced to fend for themselves in a strange land. The first twin, Viola, falls in love with Orsino, who dotes on Olivia, who falls for Viola but is idolized by Malvolio. Enter Sebastian, who is the spitting image of his twin sister... Sharpen your cold reading skills. All ages welcome. Recasted after every scene so all who want to can get a chance to read. All casting is non-gender specific. If you'd like to just listen that's ok too. BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSTORE ESCONDIDO, 810 WEST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 760-480-2760. JAN. 21.

Critic's Choice "Among the finest productions of a Wilson play I've seen."

Los Angeles Times



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Ray Anthony Thomas, Steven Anthony Jones, Anthony Chisholm, Keith Randolph Smith, and Amari Cheatom. Photo by Joan Marcus.

The evil that white men do

Where were you when you first learned of the death of Dag Hammarskjöld? For some, it will be wherever they're reading this review. But at the time, his mere existence was viewed by some as a threat to international accord: a diplomat who wanted to change the way Africa dealt with the rest of the world financially. Danish journalist and documentarian Mads Brügger concludes that had he lived, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations' mandate that Africans live their lives in full independence would have put an end to the colonial chokehold. What he uncovered during the six-year journey to reach that conclusion will both shock and revulse viewers of his documentary thriller *Cold Case Hammarskjöld*.

Operating from inside the Congo's Hotel Memling (the villain in the piece stayed there in 1965), Brügger tells both of the African women hired to take dictation that his undertaking

is either the "world's biggest murder mystery or the world's most idiotic conspiracy theory." (Why the need for two alternating secretaries? No spoilers here!) Typewritten, neatly-arranged Post-It's line the wall above the work station. Brügger positions the yellow squares as chapter breaks, much in the way a screenwriter would while mapping out a structure.

Hammarskjöld died in a plane crash on September 17, 1961 while travelling to negotiate a ceasefire in Katanga. Was there a conspiracy to kill him? His desire to protect African countries from falling prey to archaic thinking could have placed his name at the top of many an enemies list. According to Brügger, "If there ever was a time where members of the UN were longing for the death of the Secretary-General, it was during the reign of Dag Hammarskjöld." The cause of the smash up was listed as pilot error, a "simple misreading of the altimeter." The UN conducted an

MOVIES



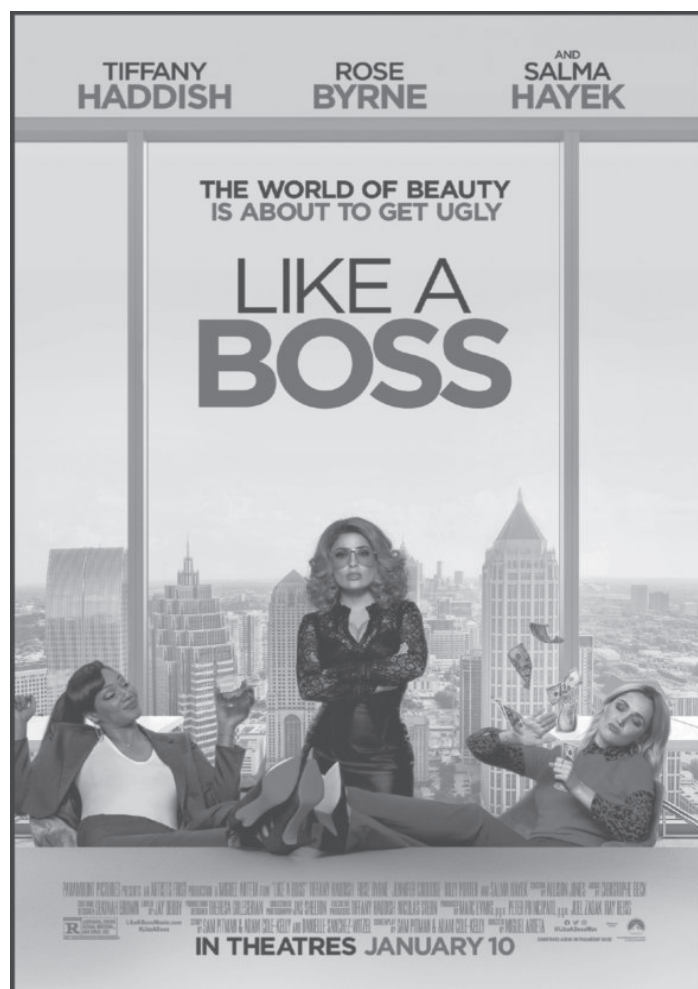
Cold Case Hammarskjöld: Director Mads Brügger and Göran Björkdahl, P.I. team up to solve the murder of a statesman.

investigation, their findings hovering somewhere between pilot error and an attempt to bring the plane down. All of the passengers were burned to a crisp, save Hammarskjöld, whose remains were "remarkably undamaged." (An unsinged Ace of Spades, aka the "death card," was found tucked

inside his shirt collar.) Conspiracy theories were immediate (and abiding). Not alone in his enterprise, Brügger is here joined by Swedish private investigator Göran Björkdahl, whose father was a UN diplomat when visiting the crash site in the '70s. Björkdahl found a slab of metal when moving his

father into a nursing home: a bullet-stippled plate alleged to have come from Hammarskjöld's plane. From that day forward, defrosting the cold case became an obsession.

Brügger could pass for "Mr. Mike" — *SNL* pioneer Michael O'Donoghue's gruesome, yarn-spin-



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Calendar MOVIES

ning alter ego — were the latter tatted up and modeling an anachronistic Speidel I.D. bracelet (and skull and crossbones ring). He feels no affinity for his subject. Playing cards found at crime scenes and rumors of secret societies are Brügger's *raison d'être*, not "conducting enormous amounts of interviews with elderly, white, liver-spotted men." He's in it to monitor "the evil that white men do," tracking Hitler-healing mercenaries, members of a secret society whose black hearts were cloaked in navy white. A fishy organization, SAIMR (South African Institute for Maritime Research) plotted to use AIDS as a means of killing off the black population. They were the hired guns that contrived to permanently hammerlock Hammarskjöld.

A second viewing seems in order; the sheer volume of names and faces thrown our way can become a tad daunting at times. But as far afield as many of the subplots take us, Brügger never loses sight of his subject. In his own way, the ever-present director is as much a scene-hogger as Joaquin Phoenix with one glaring difference:

Brügger's mercenaries are the real-deal, not heavy-handed, makeup-streaked clowns with mommy and daddy issues.

—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 unrated. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

63 Up — The lives of fourteen subjects are observed starting at age seven and followed by incremental updates every seven years. What was originally intended as a one-off documentary on the British class system for the topical news series is now in its ninth installment. There were many characters that I grew up watching, but few that I literally grew up with. Michael Apted's *Up* series has emerged as the world's first and longest-running reality television show. The 56 years after its inception find the show alive and well, with the latest installment still managing to find a theatrical playdate. The series stands as one of cinema's greatest achievements, a use of the medium that's at once blatantly logical and profoundly affecting. What's new? Alas death, as it must to all continuing works of genius, finally caught up with *Up*. Lynn, the first participant in the series to die, passed away one year after the release of 56 *Up*. It was so much more fun when they... we were young. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Cats — A duffer's guide from a viewer whose familiarity with the play is limited to switching channels the minute "Memories" came on the radio. Tom Hooper's (*The King's Speech*, *Les Misérables*) feral recitation yields a uniquely unpleasant moviegoing experience. The design is hideous to behold, with character perspective that's disorientating to say the least. In one shot, a cat stands almost as tall as a milk truck, and in the next, the same critter is nearly dwarfed by a beer bottle. Movement proves equally problematic: no sooner does a tabby leap into the air than it freezes, faster than Gumby dropped in a vat of liquid nitrogen. So many questions... Here are just a few: how is it a musical when the lyrics are talk-sung and the numbers are choreographed by an instructor at 24 Hour Fitness? If this is indeed a city populated with slumbering humans, why are the puns splashed across the billboards and marquees all geared toward felines? Does Francesca Hayward have just the one facial expression? This film should come with a warning: laboratory tests indicate that mice exposed to *Cats* have a higher risk of contracting jellicular cancer. 2019. — S.M. ● (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

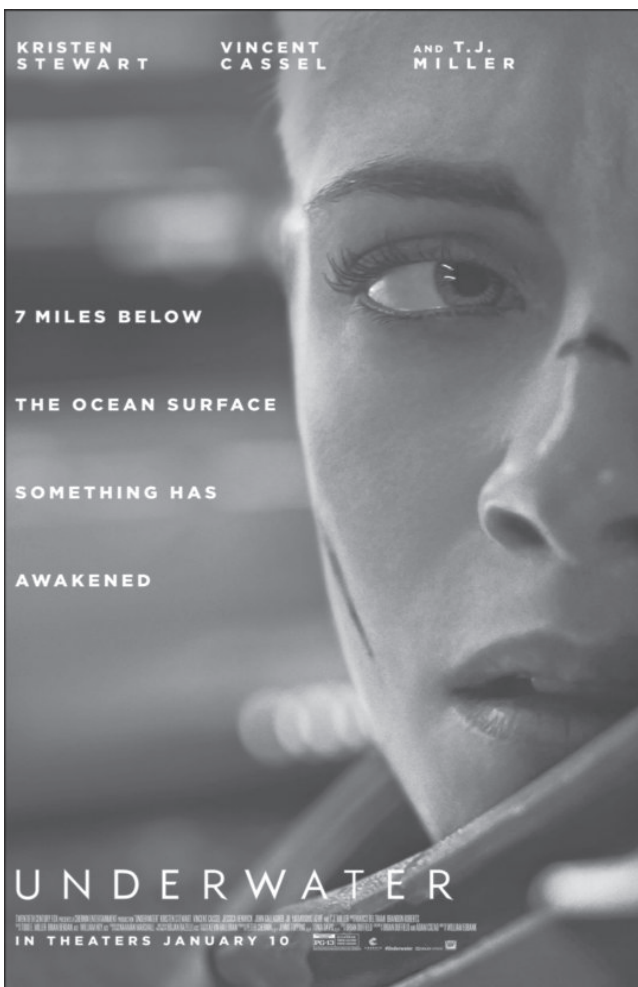
depicting water. (Speaking of which: the invocation of Travis Bickle's "real rain" — the sort that will wash not only the scum off the streets but the streets themselves off the face of the earth, along with the stain of original sin that made those streets possible — in an all-ages film is gutsy, if 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 conscientious 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 inter-title 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' fisheye lens! It's like watching bow tie pasta for 174 minutes. 2019. — S.M. ● (AMC LA JOLLA; ANGELIKA FILM CENTER AND CAFÉ; 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, LaBeouf 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. ★★★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

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,



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IN THEATERS JANUARY 10

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 KEN)

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)

Little Women — Director Greta Gerwig reteams with her Ladybird star Saoirse Ronan for a cast-heavy but still nimble adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's story of sisters making a home and making a life in spite of limited options and opportunities. (Neither Meryl Streep as stern Aunt March nor Emma Watson as pretty Meg are given room to let their sheer star power overwhelm the proceedings, while Timothee Chalamet as Laurie and Laura Dern as Marmee do solid enough work, and Florence Pugh as temperamental Amy and Chris Cooper as gruff Mr. Laurence give great delight.) And it is very much an adaptation, the narrative scrambled so that it tells the story of a writer's beginnings: Jo's journey from a citified hack scribbling for money to a serious artist with the humility and courage to mine her seemingly humdrum life for material. The book she will eventually write is about her family, but this here story is Jo's. She is not always onscreen, but everything we're shown is for her sake. Ronan handles her central role with aplomb, but the shift does tend to drain some of the



This week's goal was to find three films to unite families around the set during the waning days of Christmas break. The first two came easy. For some crazy reason, I had it in my mind that *The Spy Who Loved Me* was the best of the Roger Moore 007 outings. Turns out there is no such thing.

— Scott Marks

ROBOTS (2005)

Rodney Copperbottom (Ewan McGregor), a gifted young automaton being raised in a creative household, has but two goals in mind: making the world a better place and meeting his idol, tinkering guru Bigweld (Mel Brooks). The latter ambition forms the basis of this colorful and wildly imaginative animated journey of discovery. For adult viewers, *Robots* is brimming with ghosts of cartoons past. Bigweld's gatekeeper is a direct descendant of Frank Morgan's sentry in *The Wizard of Oz*, but upon closer inspection of the character's design and movement, one can't help thinking Kukla, minus Fran and Ollie. There are also plenty of visual puns, a staple of Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies. Like their predecessors, the filmmakers never resort to close-ups of signs or objects, preferring instead to discreetly place them in the frame in hopes that viewers will pick them out — if not immediately, then on subsequent viewings. There are virtually no musical numbers to instantly remind us how forgettable they are, nor is there a heavy emphasis on cartoon romance. The break-neck pace and soak-it-all-in

surrounding events of their emotional affect — as if they will only gain their proper force and meaning once they've been put on the page. Still, an expert and elegant retelling. 2019. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

dazzle of the first hour may eventually get the best of younger viewers, but not enough to distract from the overall wonderment.

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (2007)

With World War II raging just out of earshot, young Angus (Alex Etel) strolls along the banks of Loch Ness, where he happens upon a dirt-caked egg. In the tradition of classic Disney,



The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Boy meets leviathan.

an animated character (in this case, a CG sea serpent named Crusoe) not only helps a young boy conquer his fear (in this case, hydrophobia), but also assists the child in coping with the death of a parent. And both kindnesses are carried out without once turning to maudlin sentimentality! To help pull this off, a new wrinkle must first be added: there can be only one Water Horse on earth at a time, with each creature possessing both sexes. (The hermaphroditic slug perishes immediately upon giving birth.) Looking to speed things along, any attempt to explain the creature's speedy transition from rubbery newborn to fully-developed, Widomaker-sized menace is wisely brushed aside by director Jay Russell. High point: the dubious task of establishing an underwater net in hopes of snagging a German U-boat leads to spectacular results when the Home Guard mistakes Crusoe for a boatload of attack-

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Richard Jewell — Clint Eastwood worked five years putting the film together, and there's not another actor out there who'd make a better lead than Paul Walter Hauser. 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. And whether or not a newspaper reporter propositioned an FBI agent to

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (1977)

Strong were my memories of a villainous Richard Kiel, the pre-credit parachute stunt, the magnificent destruction of Blofeld-substitute Curt Jurgens' underwater city, and a spectacularly sexy Barbara Bach. But with the exception of the money shot, the opening scene is far

below the standard set by the series over a decade earlier. While production designer Ken Adam's interiors are as dazzling as always, the exterior shot of the underwater city floating above a mismatched horizon line looks more like Toho than Pinewood. Ms. Bach is dazzling, but I'll never get those dirty pictures of Ringo out of my head, and Kiel's character is named after a Spielberg picture. As bad as everything is, nothing prepared me for what I was about to witness: Bond first encounters Jaws at some type of spiritual love-in set at the foot of the Sphinx. Director Lewis Gilbert obviously couldn't get the geographical screen direction straight. In one of the most brazenly inept displays of post-production patchwork ever, the filmmakers superimpose a still photo of Moore, gun in hand, over a boulder and matte it into the action, making it appear as though Jaws is being preyed upon by a billboard. If you don't believe me, hit the pause button at precisely 29:15.

get a scoop 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. Alas, the film tanked at the box office. 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 much sharper smuggler than that. Set aside a couple of hours this holiday season to spend with a pair of real-life American heroes. 2019. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker

Well, that's over. After Rian Johnson's Episode VIII: The Riling of the Fanbase, Disney lets J.J. Abrams resume the Star Wars cockpit, and the man who gave new meaning to fan service with *The Force Awakens* wastes no time before initiating course correction. When we meet up with brash pilot Poe, he's lightspeed-skiping his way out of trouble, and Abrams is in much the same mode, whisking you from one thing to the next before you have much time to think or feel anything in response. Suffice to say, there's a terrible new (or old, depending on how you reckon it) threat out there, and very little time to do anything about it, and our heroes need to find a clue that will help them find a tracker that will help them find...you get the idea. Mission, mission, mission, and hope the characters can register along the way. They can't, not when they're made to do things that don't make much sense except in the service of spectacle — viz. just about every Force-fed encounter between conflicted baddie Kylo Ren and even more conflicted goodie Rey. (One of them includes the film's biggest howler: a version of Obi-Wan's "What I said was true, from a certain point of view" that serves as a direct rebuke of Johnson's vision.) It's a ride, but it's exhausting, and not just for the audience: by the time Poe is rallying the troops for the big battle, he sounds utterly pooped. It's a pity; the big battle in the sky is a bust, but the personal drama that goes on down below feels like what Abrams should have been attending to all along. Fans of the series will groove to the old familiar beats and see the old familiar sights. For some, that will be enough — maybe even satisfying. Others may find themselves wondering exactly why they used to love this stuff so much. 2019. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Uncut Gems — Howard Ratner's (Adam Sandler) day is consumed with robbing Peter to pawn to Paul. His life is a constant juggling act, his desperate ploy a complex series of bets involving a multitude of moving parts. If he can distract his clients long enough to keep afloat everything, the rewards could top over a million. Howard is based on a real-life character who worked alongside directors Josh and Benny Safdie's dad in the Diamond District back in the day. There's much scuzzzy fun to be had, but nothing tops a moment of unexpected sensuality between married Howard and his younger secretary/mistress (Julia Fox in a blistering debut). Pretending that he's in a cab, Howard hides in the closet, sexting Julia as he watches her prepare for his arrival. For a brief moment, we're granted full access to Howard's charisma; we understand what drove the directors to fashion an entire feature around him. And while the Safdies aren't able to shake all the obvious tropes — dangling a character head first out a window, a gag involving a file and a security door, etc. — their vision is singular enough to keep it interesting up until the ending...well, just ends. 2019. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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PERSONALS

TORREY PINES HIGHSCHOOL class of 2000 20th reunion, happy anniversary, I'm surprised you're all alive.

ME, CORNER OF SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD and Newport Ave. You, driving a pickup, white male. I said no, try again next Thursday, Jan 2, 2020. After 1pm.

A REAL MAN'S MAN Bruce Dixon Sr. 1950-2019, passed Nov, 2019. Loved his Budweiser & smokin his Cools; eating steak & potatoes; working on hotroads!

TO MY LOVE, MY SWEETCHEEKS Bruce 2020 is here & together we'll be. A special journey with more to see. Cheers to life & love full of joyfulness. Gayla

MY BEAUTIFUL KERIE Forthcoming, unique, caring, kind. -Me

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES OAKLAND TO SAN DIEGO 12/13 We sat next to each other on flight 2887. You were very pretty and I was too shy to ask you out. You had a ginger ale and I helped you with your bag. Hopefully, you see this. PS. I liked your glasses

I MISS YOU BRENDA L. When we met, you lived off Greenfield in El Cajon, then moved to Santee. We had a thing going a few years back and it ended way too soon. You ended it, but I still fell in love with you. I miss you sweetheart. If this rings a bell let's chat. <http://bit.ly/brenda-elcajon>

WALKING MY DOG ON HARBOR ISLAND DR. on Wed during midday. My dog is my best friend; a white poodle mix. My dog liked you and you said my dog was very friendly, and then you smiled. Can we walk together?

GREAT CHRISTMAS DINNER 4 scrambled eggs, 2 frozen burger patties and 6 frozen chicken nuggets. Could've made a 25-pound turkey with all the appropriate trimmings, but Christmas dinner was just me and my dog. No point in going all the trouble.

DAVID AT RAKIRAKI RAMEN on Dec. 20 I was having dinner with my friend, and you sat on my right at the bar. Enjoyed our conversation and chickened out when it came to asking if you'd like company on your next ramen outing.

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RON FIXED the bathroom door knob. He put up a new antenna on the balcony. And, he gets his old dr back in 1.2020.

SYD & DOUG, DUNCAN & MISSY John & Julie, your mother would have wanted you to have a good solstice. Happy new year.

MERNIE have a happy and healthy new year. Brian B.

BRIAN'S TEAM OF LJP USHERS Thanks for the work this season. Next show is March 22. Enjoy the new year. Brian B.

HAPPY NEW YEAR RAYZELL I can't wait to have another amazing year with you baby! You are my everything, I promise to cherish you everyday. Nickcold S

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SDSU ROOMIE WTD Hello everyone, I am looking for someone, preferably a girl, to sublease a single bedroom in Zuma Apartments to. It is walking distance from SDSU, it comes furnished, and utilities are included. Rent is around \$1200. Please feel free to message me with questions if you're interested! <https://www.facebook.com/Kailey.Young.5>

CLAIREMONT ROOM FOR RENT for \$800 one room for rent in single family Clairemont house. All utilities included, including WiFi and laundry. Clean spacious house, two living rooms, huge yard and lots of space. We do have pets, message me with any questions or more pics. <https://www.facebook.com/Brianna.Pernetti>

ROOM WANTED 61 yr. old young single no family Virgo healthy, never married, clean SoCal native low income male, high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in house Solana Beach, Cardiff, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Clemente, Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

RENTALS

PAYING \$1500 for 1 bedroom. Anybody have an apartment or know about a whole place for rent around Point Loma, Balboa, Linda Vista area?? Message me: <https://www.facebook.com/AngelWarriorX>

WANTED GRANNY FLAT Close to bus/trollery willing to take Section 8 Senior. Call 951-551-0770 and leave a message.



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.

SHARE OFFICE SPACE fully equipped, includes kitchen and bath, free parking, phone installed, just add line. Call 619-933-2355, \$500/month Chula Vista/South Bay.

FRNSHD 1BD CONDO \$1995/MO Plaza condominiums 1st floor 650 sq ft 1bd/1bath condo furnished with 1 prking spot. Txt 858-334-5123 for showing. Check Zillow.

COUPLE NEED INEXPENSIVE PLACE to live in Leucadia. Prayer for them. Call 626-712-0303

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2395. 2BD+1BA house in Northeast PB; huge remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; living room plus den; front lawn plus back patio; water and gardener paid; parking and coin laundry; close to stores and EZ freeway access; no pets; available now; 1859 Chalcedony Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1545. 1BD+1BA; large downstairs unit in Crown Point area; remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; coin laundry; parking; available now; 1768 Thomas Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

DOWNTOWN \$525-880



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football players, ages 18 and up, regardless experience or skill set. Every week on Sundays at Liberty Station Park. http://bit.ly/Liberty-Flag_Football

ENCINITAS SOCCER MEETUP
Fun games with lot of goals! Please bring one white and one colored shirt (not gray) so we can make recognizable teams!
<https://www.meetup.com/Los-Gallos-Beginner-Soccer/>

SAN DIEGO SOFTBALL: PLAY BALL! If playing softball (or learning to play) and meeting new people sounds fun, then we think you will enjoy playing ball with us! Despite the name "softball," softball can be dangerous, so always play at your own risk. <https://www.meetup.com/SanDiegoSoftball/>

TWO BASKETBALL CLAW HOLDERS can also be used for footballs, soccer balls or rugby balls. One appears unused still with packaging, the other is lightly used. \$12. 1-760-746-5422

ADVANCE SOCCER PLAYERS MEETUP This group is not for beginners. If you plan in sitting in the goal all game, don't bother coming. <http://bit.ly/advance-soccer-sd>

BOCCE BALL SET & CLAY SKEET TRAP TARGETS for sale. The bocce eight ball set is \$13 and (90) clay targets made by Champion are \$20. Please call David at 1-760-746-5422

SAN DIEGO PADRES SCARF \$15 in East Village, new condition with no stains, marks, rips or tears. Throwback brown and yellow, 6" x 60" by Forever Collectibles MLB 619-322-4654

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON ELASTIC SPORTS TAPE for sale. Each box has 16 rolls that are 3 inches wide by 90 inches. Each box sells for over \$95. Prices: 1 box \$40; 2 boxes for \$60; 3 or more boxes, \$25 each <http://bit.ly/sports-tape>

LARGE SKATEBOARD RAMP FOR FREE in Descanso. Material on top is great; plywood underneath needs to be replaced. Buyer takes down and hauls. <http://bit.ly/skate-ramp-descanso>

SNOWBOARD, BAG, BOOTS & CLOTHES \$130 <http://bit.ly/snowboard-chula-vista>

SNOWBOARDS Liquid Man-163cm (\$150) or K2-157cm (\$75) Excellent condition. Text/call photos 619-755-2452.

BICYCLES

18" CUSTOM CANNONDALE MOUNTAIN BIKE \$280, custom paint job on frame, suspension and wheels, 27 speed, Shimano components, lightweight, call 760-224-0512 if interested

VINTAGE 1990S SPICE GIRL'S BICYCLE for ages 5-10, \$100, photos and info: <http://bit.ly/spice-girls-bike>

HIS AND HERS MATCHING PEUGEOT BIKES from the 1960s, \$140/both, the wheel size on each bike is 27 inches, in Ramona, 760-453-4854

CENTURION EXPERT IRONMAN ROAD BIKE \$200, Chula Vista, 14-speed, size 56-cm, Araya rims, Suntour derailleurs, tuned and ready to roll, 619-300-3364

26" GRAVITY MOUNTAIN BIKE \$170, Chula Vista, has disc brakes and good tires. Ready to ride. Call text email 917-558-6019

RED ROADSTER Schwinn Trike for sale, \$25. Needs new tires, these ones are flat. Also needs some steel wool to shine off the rust and it will be good to go. <http://bit.ly/red-roadster>

SCHWINN LOWRIDER BIKE FOR SALE \$500 <http://bit.ly/schwinn-lowrider>

1968 SCHWINN STINGRAY ORANGE KRATE in Oceanside, \$1498. Seems to have all correct Schwinn components except derailleur (but original will be included) and rear tire. <http://bit.ly/orange-krate-oside>

SCHWINN MINI SCRAMBLER Very nice 70s, all original, unrestored, little tiny Schwinn bike. This thing is perfect for the grandson or collector. \$350. Call Ron 858-243-0887

SCHWINN STINGRAY GRAPE KRATE \$200 It's in good condition. It only needs the tube in front. I'm asking \$300 for it. Call or text: 760-803-5223

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

2012 KAWASAKI NINJA 250R \$2490, clean, (858) 560-2453

2003 HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA \$6999, in Scripps Ranch, call Tim at 760-637-1911

2019 YAMAHA TT-R50E only 4 trips to the dessert, asking \$1600, call Jeff @ 619-392-1895

2018 KYMCO LIKE 150I "2018 Scooter Of The Year" by Motorcycle.com, 85 miles per gallon, \$2595, Chula Vista, 619-564-4935

2013 BMW R 1200 GS \$10,900 Call (858) 560-2453

2020 DUCATI PANIGALE V4 R — \$40000 Call 619-233-4762 for info.

PINK FAT TIRE ELECTRIC SCOOTERS Perfect for

commuting, having fun and turning heads. Lithium ion battery 48V. 400 lbs. weight limit. \$1200. Call 619-642-2475

1964 NORTON N15CS 750cc and 1966 Triumph TT650 for sale. Please call 619-445-2894 for info!

1970 HONDA CT 90 (TRAIL 90) 1900 miles, California bike is in good shape with a new battery and fresh carb overhaul. \$1,495.00 CASH call 760-580-2365 for details

1973 BMW R75/5 MOTORCYCLE, TOASTER \$5,500 excellent condition, great collectors bike, Airhead, SWB. If you know these bikes they are going up in value. New clutch installed. Brian in Carlsbad at 760-525-9791

AUTOMOTIVE

2002 HONDA CIVIC EX BLACK Excellent running condition, alarm/sunrfl, 160K miles, extras, \$3500. OBO, Call 619-267-6356, leave message.

70 OLDSMOBILE 442 WAGON featured in March 70 issue of Car Life Magazine and Road and Track. Send inquiries to PO Box 1813 Vista, CA 92085.

CAR FOR SALE 2003 Ford Focus, runs well. Small blemishes on paint, 174,000 mileage. Needs minor maintenance, rebit tranny. \$1500/offer. East San Diego. 619 248-5987

1997 SATURN SL COUPE for sale, \$1,800 OBO. 99,798 miles. Runs well, reg good, no AC, needs paint job, all else good. 619-277-1981, leave message.

OIL CHANGE **\$14⁹⁵**

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

SMOG CHECK **\$11⁷⁵**

Sedan only. SUV and Trucks extra. NON STAR CERTIFIED SMOG INSPECTION ONLY. Smog only for 2000 and newer vehicle. +\$8²⁵ cert +\$1³⁰ DMV transfer fee

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30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services **\$65** most cars

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RADIATOR or Transmission Services **\$45** most cars 4 cyl.

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TIMING BELT Parts & Labor **\$75** most cars 4 cyl.

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- Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
- New oil filter
- New spark plugs
- Visual inspection
- 4-cyl. Most cars

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+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
Prices may vary depending on make & model.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Most cars



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ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

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We can diagnose and repair any electrical issue.

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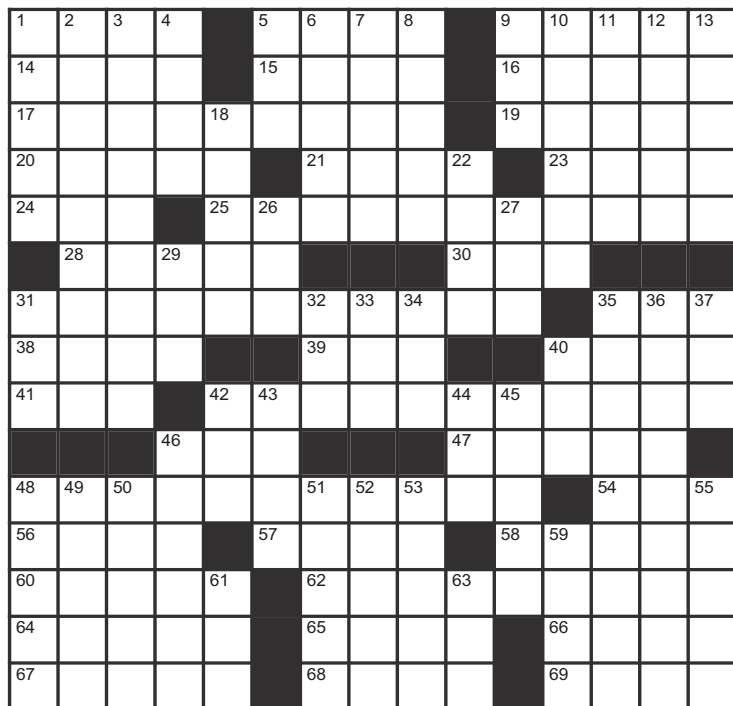
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CROSSWORD



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Across

1. Life ____ know it
5. Some bunk bed sharers, for short
9. Showed one's disapproval, in a way
14. Relative of aqua
15. Swear
16. Go on ____ (rampage)
17. Property that costs \$350
19. Persona non ____
20. Reynolds Wrap maker
21. Org. formed in response to football injuries
23. A party to
24. Seminary subj.
25. Dramatic backwards hoops move
28. Crop-damaging animals
30. Sailor's assent
31. Where weapons are forbidden
35. Air hub between LAX and Sea-Tac
38. Rival of Ford and Packard
39. It may shock you
40. "Put ____ writing!"
41. Blog feed letters
42. Push a person's buttons, and then some
46. "Certainment!"
47. Europe's longest river
48. Atkins plan, e.g.
54. She, in Portuguese
56. Eye layer below the sclera

57. Venerated bird in ancient Egypt

58. Props for Willy Wonka and Mr. Peanut
60. Perfume, as in a religious ceremony
62. Car buffs, slangily ... or what you'll find in 17-, 25-, 31-, 42- and 48-Across
64. Powerhouse in cricket
65. "This could get ____"
66. Fail to include
67. Words before wish or were short
68. Florida State athlete, for short
69. NBA franchise that signed Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant in 2019

Down

1. Neither above nor below face value
2. Rising concerns?
3. Signs of trouble
4. Nevada city on the Humboldt River
5. Actor Mineo
6. Joint czar with Peter I
7. Picnic game
8. Exclaim "@#%!"
9. Identify on Facebook
10. Walk with confidence
11. Neo portrayer in "The Matrix"

12. Bond girl player Shirley

13. Had a shot, e.g.
18. Prep chef's tool
22. Strong ____ ox
26. Maestro ____-Pekka Salonen
27. Watch closely
29. They rank below capt.
31. Country with fjords: Abbr.
32. Pacific ring?
33. "Roger Ailes: Off Camera" author ____ Chafets
34. Flamenco cry
35. Lady Gaga or Cardi B
36. Last chance to strike out?
37. United
40. Alcatraz, e.g.: Abbr.
42. ____ Lipa, 2019 Grammy winner for Best New Artist
43. "Umbrella" singer, to fans
44. "____ heard enough!"
45. V-shaped cut
46. Congresswoman Alexandria ____-Cortez
48. St. ____, only nation named for a woman
49. Pizzeria features
50. "Peter Pan" girl
51. "A Christmas Story" present
52. Part of UCSD
53. "The pleasure ____ mine"
55. Staff members: Abbr.
59. "____ Flux" (1990s MTV series)
61. Flow from une fontaine
63. Kind of bread or whiskey

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | C | A | T | S | T | R | I | P | M | O | A | N | | |
| Y | O | K | E | I | H | A | V | E | A | R | I | A | | |
| O | N | I | N | L | E | N | I | N | S | T | O | M | B | |
| H | A | T | E | D | T | O | D | E | A | T | H | | | |
| M | I | A | T | A | | I | S | L | A | | B | R | A | |
| Y | R | S | | R | E | M | | U | S | E | U | P | | |
| | | | B | E | G | I | N | T | O | B | I | N | G | E |
| E | T | T | A | O | R | I | O | N | L | E | S | S | | |
| T | O | K | Y | O | T | O | K | Y | O | T | O | | | |
| S | K | O | S | H | | S | R | I | A | R | F | | | |
| Y | E | S | | J | A | D | A | | N | O | L | I | E | |
| | | | L | O | V | E | S | T | O | S | O | L | V | E |
| S | P | R | A | Y | O | N | T | A | N | Z | E | A | L | |
| D | R | O | Z | | I | T | I | N | A | E | L | L | O | |
| S | O | N | Y | | D | E | R | A | T | D | E | S | K | |

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.

☛ **Maria Coda, Oceanside, 11.**

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

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

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☛ **Thomas LaFleur, San Diego, 12.**

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

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

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

purchasing some lots near the airport. “The cheapest was 25 dollars, and they ran up to probably \$100-125 at the auction,” he said. He’s paid property taxes on the undeveloped land for a couple of decades now. Earlier this fall, he received notice of a meeting regarding the drilling of test wells near the airport. Snow and his wife drove east and attended the meeting. “I did raise my hand, and they had me go up to the microphone, and I said, ‘Worst case scenario, if any of these proposals are accomplished, would the airport be in jeopardy?’ They said no. But you don’t know. They can always change their mind.” But according to Ryan Kelley, the Imperial County District 4 supervisor, the airport should stay untouched. “If they did any wells there, they would be piped away and a facility would not be on the airport property,” he said.

(The airstrip is tiny; it’s tough to even spot it from nearby Highway 86. So the protections being afforded to this facility may seem

“Geothermal is a really good power source in terms of providing good, stable jobs for folks that work in it.”

unusual, until you realize that it serves a potentially vital role for the U.S. Navy. Their official stance is that “The Salton Sea airport (KSAS) may be used by NAFEC as an emergency divert runway if recovery to NAF El Centro, 35 miles away, is not possible.”)

Next question: why are they drilling those test wells? Geothermal energy. The southeastern side of the Salton Sea already has eleven geothermal plants in operation, and these test wells could potentially be the first step to future power plants opening in the western, Truckhaven region. The power plants operate by converting hot brine, pumped from one or two miles beneath the Earth’s surface, into steam. Once the steam is utilized to create electricity, it can be cooled and converted back into water, and then sent back beneath the Earth’s surface so the process can repeat indefinitely. But cool water from an outside source is necessary to cool the steam. The plants on the eastern side of the Salton Sea use Colorado River water from irrigation canals that were designed for agricultural operations. But the Truckhaven region doesn’t have this luxury. “Yeah, it’s an issue that has to be addressed for development on the west shore side,” Kelley said. “The resource isn’t as concentrated as it is on the south end of the sea. Coachella Valley Water Authority supplies water to the Salton Sea area, so there would be a way to continue the advance of water towards a power plant if they did that — at a cost, I’m sure.”

Even though there are hurdles, both Kelley and William Pettitt, the executive director



The power plants operate by converting hot brine into steam.

of the Geothermal Resources Council, seem quite optimistic about the future potential for geothermal energy in this region. “The Imperial Valley and Salton Sea, that area is a huge geothermal resource,” Pettitt said. “It has huge potential in the future for supplying power, and should be a large component of California’s electricity demand in the future. There’s a big potential there. And that obviously leads to huge benefits for the local economy. Geothermal is a really good power source in terms of

providing good, stable jobs for folks that work in it. And, obviously, it has a large amount of support from companies around it that would all feed into the economy.”

Kelley, who oversees the daily economy of the region, echoed Pettitt’s views on job creation. He also lamented the fact that Tesla decided to open their Gigafactory for lithium-ion battery and vehicle sub-assembly in Sparks, Nevada (near Reno) instead of his district. There is lithium in the geothermal brine that reaches the surface during the mining process, but the technology to extract it from that brine in cost-effective fashion has yet to be developed. Kelley added that the area near Reno that Tesla chose has “open ground, hard-rock” traditional lithium mining, and that’s likely why they were selected. But if the puzzle that is extracting lithium from geothermal brine in a cost-effective fashion can be solved, the Imperial Valley may transform into a mining super-power. “There are companies now exploring that, and trying to bring that lithium recovery into part of their business model,” Pettitt explained. “On some estimates, the Salton Sea region alone could provide, I believe, two-thirds of the lithium demand in 2025 (worldwide) if the engineering for recovering that lithium was successfully implemented. That brings in a lot of real interest, because if you are recovering the lithium in that area, you can also bring battery manufacturers into the equation, as well as electric vehicle manufacturers. You could really change the economy down there in a big way if that lithium resource started to be developed.”

Kelley agrees. “We still believe that the min-

eral extraction from geothermal brine will change the economic future of this valley,” he said.

DRYW KELTZ

B A J A

Too heavy for lights Bridge collapses under holiday parade-goers

On the evening of December 14, during *Desfile De Luces* (The Parade of Lights), a reported 11 people fell into the Ensenada bay after a bridge between the *Todos Santos* boardwalk and the sportfishing pier collapsed. “I was there at that time with my family,” said Martin G., “and about 30 seconds after we crossed the bridge, I heard it fall.”

“What a horrible moment,” said Gaby Chaves. “I saw injured children and elderly folks.”

Mexican news reports said the bridge collapsed due to the weight of the people attempting to cross. Paramedics from the Red Cross and the fire and civil protection agencies reportedly supported the Port of Ensenada personnel and the Navy and Coast Guard, on the scene. “Immediately, a Defender-type vessel was directed to the site and helped transfer two people from the dock to the Mercado Negro,” said the *Unimexicali* outlet. “Navy health personnel provided first aid to those affected

by the incident, and via the Hospital Naval de Ensenada ambulances, six of the injured were transported to hospitals in the local area.”

“The authorities here do not learn,” said Miguel Torres. “These facilities are old, and the [helmsman or captains] do not say anything — there are times when they overload their vessels in order to earn more.” The prices to take a cruise around the bay in a vessel lit and decorated for Christmas were equivalent to \$29 USD per person, \$52 USD per couple, \$132 USD for a package of five, and \$23.75 USD for children 5 years old and younger. There were reportedly hundreds of people who attended the annual event.

“These accidents seem to me to be due to lack of foresight and maintenance in these areas,” said Maria Garcia, “where the ideal security conditions should be enforced.”

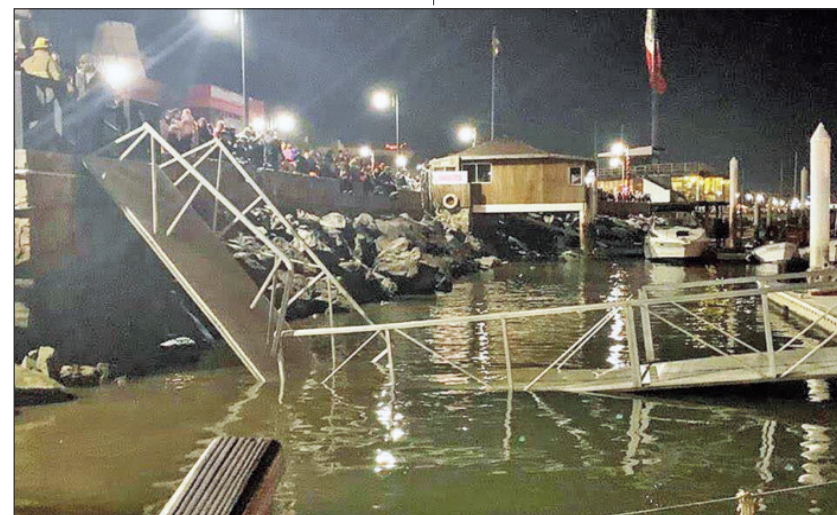
“They weren’t controlling the patrons that were supposed to leave after their boat rides,” said one Ensenada resident who noticed the “lax security,” and also the way “new patrons who wanted to get on the boats piled up. It was a lack of organization.”

According to the news reports, all of the victims that fell into the water survived. The annual Christmas light-boat parade resumed the next night.

MIKE MADRAGA



The Christmas light-boat parade resumed the next night.



The broken bridge. Happily, there were no fatalities.

Kearny

continued from page 22

These days, the school is known for academics. In 2004, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Kearny High was transformed from a traditional high school into a cluster of four small specialty schools: The School of Science, Connections and Technology (SCT); The School of Digital Media Design (DMD); The Stanley E. Foster School of Engineering, Innovation and Design (EID); and The School of College Connections (SCC). Each school has its own principal, teaching staff, and course requirements.

Stephen Grooms, Kearny Senior High School, Class of 1975, is true to his school, as the Beach Boys would say. He's the president of the Kearny Community Foundation, which raises money for school clubs and other non-funded needs.

We're standing in front of the flagpole at the school's entrance at 1954 Comet Way, just south of where Convoy Street becomes Linda Vista Road. In the ground, beneath the school emblem, is a collection of bricks purchased by alumni and other supporters, Grooms among them. "We've got some great names here," Grooms says, pointing downward. "Clea-



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Famous Kearny High School alumni include novelist Tess Gerritsen; Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Alan Trammell; Bob Mosley, the singer and bassist for 1960s San Francisco rock band Moby Grape; and Ron Roberts, the former city councilman and county supervisor.

von Little, from *Blazing Saddles*. John Baca, who was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was one of those kids who really misbehaved, and yet then he went over to Vietnam and earned the Medal of Honor, throwing his body on top of a grenade, saving all of his friends' lives.... David Nicholson — his brother and two sisters all went here and his sister's kids.... He graduated in 1969 and he passed away in 1970 or '71, over in Vietnam. He was a great guy — he worked over at the Safeway just down the street.... And Burt Slater, Coach Slater — he's the one who brought in the striped jerseys that the football teams wear."

I follow Grooms to his car, parked across Comet Way under a solar shade structure, Kearny High's sole nod to modernity. He opens the door and pulls out an old striped jersey. "These were brought in in 1961 by Coach Slater. Nobody had 'em at the time, and nobody has 'em anymore except us. I remember when I went here, people said they looked like the prisoner of war uniforms from Vietnam. A quarterback told me Coach Slater picked these jerseys to unify the community, because we all came from three neighborhoods — Kearny Mesa, Serra Mesa, and Linda Vista — and

suddenly now you all have to wear the same thing and it's not your normal uniform."

Even back in the 1970s, Grooms maintains, Kearny High didn't deserve its rough reputation. "We used to have three to five people every year go to the military academies, UCLA, Stanford, and other big-name schools, and we also were one of the only public high schools that had a priest.... It's just that we were so big, we had around 3600 kids. Now we've got about 1400, and that's because they opened up Serra High, University City High, Mira Mesa High.... A lot of the kids from

those neighborhoods were bused in, because this was the only one [high school]."

He rattles off more famous alumni, including novelist Tess Gerritsen; Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Alan Trammell; Bob Mosley, the singer and bassist for 1960s San Francisco rock band Moby Grape; "and, oh yes, Ron Roberts, the former city councilman and county supervisor. I almost forgot him. He didn't buy a brick."

The ghost of General Dynamics

For the new face of Kearny Mesa, one need look no further than the ghost of the old. The former General Dynamics missile plant site is now home to Spectrum, which the latest (January 2019) draft Kearny Mesa Community Plan describes as a "mixed-use area developed with new business parks, commercial shopping centers, multi-family residential projects, and parks north of Balboa Avenue under the New Century Center Master Plan." The New Century Master Plan, approved by the city council in 1997, liberalized zoning to allow the 242-acre site to develop a high-density mixed-use retail, commercial, and industrial center. Jack in the Box has its world headquarter-

ters in the Spectrum, and Northrop Grumman maintains a five-building, 234,000-square-foot campus there as well. In line with San Diego's overall "city of villages" planning philosophy, the Spectrum is a model of what planners hope is in store for the rest of Kearny Mesa.

Development in the Spectrum area is still ongoing. Last April, the *San Diego Business Journal* reported that Sunroad Enterprises had secured a \$145 million loan for construction of its 442-unit Vive Lux apartment building adjacent to its 11-story Centrum office building at 8620 Spectrum Road. The apartment building "is the final piece to the company's redevelopment of a portion of what had been a massive General Dynamics complex," according to the *Business Journal* story. "Sunroad initially planned to build two additional office buildings on the Vive Lux site but switched when demand for apartments outpaced demand for office space."

From the draft community plan: "A reinvisioned Kearny Mesa will include urban pathways, linear parks, paseos, streetscape elements, and mobility hubs that support the vision for a vibrant employment and residential community."

—Thomas K. Arnold



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Fashion Foibles

— Just when you thought there was nothing new under the blue jeans sun: A Ukrainian designer is asking \$377 for a pair of jeans that have one fitted leg and one flared leg. Ksenia Schnaider, who calls her design the Asymmetric Jean, told *DazedDigital.com*: "It's good to get people talking, and they're definitely going to make people turn their heads as you walk by!"

Recurring Themes

— In the category of Straining Logic, Jana Moschgat's defense attorney suggested at her drunk-driving hearing on Jan. 8 in Berwick, Pennsylvania, that the results of her breath test might have been compromised by the fact that, according to the arresting officer, she was nibbling on her coat before the test was administered. Moschgat, 47, smelled of alcohol, the officer testified, and failed a field sobriety test; her blood alcohol level was tested at 0.151 percent, almost twice the legal limit. Attorney Travis Petty questioned the officer about his knowledge of the fabric content of her coat, reported *The (Bloomsburg) Press Enterprise*, saying certain materials can alter the results of breath tests. The judge wasn't buying the argument and sent the case to trial.

People With(out) Issues

— Rachel Childs, 29, of Pearland, Texas, is not autistic and doesn't have a twin autistic sister, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. Nevertheless, she hired a caregiver for her (fake) twin sister who is (not) autistic. The elaborate plot, which played out in early January,

involved the caregiver picking up the "twin" at Childs' home and taking her to the caregiver's home, where he was hired to care for her overnight. But when Childs' "twin" exhibited sexual conduct toward the caregiver, he became suspicious and investigated Childs, then contacted police. Childs was charged with burglary of a habitation with intent to commit assault and indecent exposure.

Precocious

— Alijah Hernandez of Houston is a skilled barber in her father's shop, reported KTRK-TV on Jan. 17 -- which wouldn't ordinarily be newsworthy. But Alijah is only 7 years old. Her dad, Franky, says she's been watching him since she was a toddler and started perfecting her skills three years ago. For her part, Alijah says cutting hair comes naturally to her; she practices on friends and family (with her dad supervising) and has already faced off in barber competitions across Texas.

What's That up in the Sky?

— Meanwhile, in West Palm Beach, Florida, two unnamed 24-year-olds chose to view the Jan. 20 eclipse by lying prone in the middle of a dark road near the Apoxee Wilderness Trail. Which would have worked out fine, except around 11:30 p.m. a West Palm Beach police officer patrolling the area ran over the pair. Fortunately, reported the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, he was cruising at just 5 mph, and the human speed bumps sustained only non-life-threatening injuries. The officer was put on paid administrative leave while the incident was investigated.

Terrifying Technology

— Laura Lyons of Orinda, California, was in her kitchen on the afternoon of Jan. 20 when a loud alert noise blared in the living room, followed by a detailed warning from "Civil Defense" that intercontinental ballistic missiles were on their way from North Korea to Los Angeles, Chicago and Ohio. Lyons told the *San Jose Mercury News* the message warned residents they had three hours to evacuate. As she and her husband absorbed the news, they realized it had come from their Nest security camera -- not from the TV, where the Rams-Saints game was proceeding as normal, and news channels were not reporting anything unusual. "It was five minutes of sheer terror," she said. The Lyonses called 911 and then Nest, where a supervisor told them they had been victims of a "third-party hack" on their camera and speakers.

Self-Medicating

— When a 33-year-old unnamed Irish man was admitted to a Dublin hospital with swelling in his right forearm and a rash, he surprised the attending physician with the "cure" he had been using for his back pain. For a year and a half, reported *Canoe.com* on Jan. 16, the man had been injecting his own semen into his right forearm. X-rays revealed a pool of the fluid under his skin, which had become infected. "He had devised this 'cure' independent of any medical advice," noted Dr. Lisa Dunne in the *Irish Medical Journal*. He also told Dr. Dunne that his back pain had worsened after lifting a heavy metal object.

Latest Religious Messages

— British retailer Marks & Spencer is in hot water with Muslims who claim the store's brand of toilet paper is embossed with the Arabic symbol for the word "God." An unnamed man posted a video to social media displaying a roll of M&S Aloe Vera 3-ply tissue and urging his Muslim brothers and sisters to avoid buying it or boycott the store altogether. *Metro News* reports that in response, Marks & Spencer says the symbol is of an aloe vera leaf. "The motif on the aloe vera toilet tissue, which we have been selling for over five years, is categorically of an aloe vera leaf, and we have investigated and confirmed this with our suppliers."

Keep That to Yourself

— Dennis Palmer, 31, appeared to be guilty of more than TMI on Jan. 10 when police were called to a Walmart in Stuart, Florida. *TCPalm.com* reported that Palmer was in the pillow aisle when he was seen exposing and touching himself inappropriately. Palmer told police "he was just itching himself because he has crabs." But surveillance video recorded Palmer indulging in "rubbing" and activities other than scratching; "this continued for several minutes," the affidavit stated. When police asked Palmer what he was thinking, he replied that "he wasn't thinking, but he should have been thinking." He was jailed for exposure of sexual organs.

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