

Auditor's report: city corruption running rampant

"Pork is a Georgia thing" ■ La Mesa has hipness to spare

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 3 | JANUARY 16, 2020

Reader

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

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Because donuts needed more sugar — page 34



Downey does Dolittle — page 50

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Baja 1000 (mis)adventure for El Cajon father-son duo

“The rain and mud forced the transmission to work harder.”

By Mike Madriaga

El Cajon residents Felipe Mojica and his 15-year-old son Gabriel agree with Gordon. I spoke to the pair, before and throughout the six days (November 19-24) of the annual Baja 1000 off-road race.

“The race was postponed 24 hours,” Mojica said at 6 pm on Thursday, November 21. “Instead of it starting tomorrow on Friday, we start on Saturday.”

“It’s better for us, because our teams have more time to prepare,” Gabriel said.

Mojica disagreed, as he was loading up the back of his GMC Denali SUV with blankets, pillows, luggage, and race gear. “It’ll be harder, because parts of the course were damaged by the rain,” he said, “it’s a big mess down there.”

On the way down to Ensenada, Mojica’s phone received a Facebook alert; SCORE International, the sanctioning body for the “most prestigious off-road

race in the world,” verified Mojica’s sentiments. “Three days of rain makes significant portion of the... rugged race course impassable,” posted the organization. Above the public service announcement, was a photo depicting a dirt-road that caved into a ravine, followed by its repair with a bulldozer and excavator in the same frame.

“My dad’s got this,” said Mojica’s tenth grade-son. “He’s ready, and he did his homework.”

The father-and-son duo have raced shorter races before in their souped-up Polaris RZR side-by-side utility task vehicle (UTV).

“I’ve been riding co-pilot with my dad in the RZR for three years,” Gabriel said, “and I’ve been behind the wheel for like two.”

This was Mojica’s first time racing in the Baja 1000 loop race. As I spoke on the phone with them, I looked at the course map on the website. The

race started at Boulevard Costero where it turns into Carretera Transpeninsular in Ensenada. It then transversed east to Ojos Negros, and went 150 miles south to San Quentin Wash; then northeast passed Simpson’s ranch; and then back south to “the dreaded” Matomi Wash at race mile 430.

“This is what everybody fears,” Mojica said. “Last year, the whole race stopped — there was a line of 30 vehicles that were stuck there. Check out this video, Mike.”

It was a video of Mojica and his buddy, Manuel Mayoral, from Rosarito, pre-running through the Matomi Wash two weeks prior. Pre running is when the racers do practice runs through the racecourse at a much slower pace to study the terrain and take notes.

“Man those rocks are big,” I said as I noticed Mojica weaving through the boulders with his slim-bodied RZR. On another video, trophy trucks didn’t have the option of dodging the boulders here; they had to climb them.

“It’s actually worse, the rocks are way bigger and it’s way harder to get through in person,” Gabriel said. “Because there’s a lot of loose sand, and if you don’t push the gas just



Felipe Mojica was one of four drivers of the Ibarra’s Racing Baja Bug.

right, you might get stuck.”

The teenager has been preparing to help with this race since he began turning wrenches with his dad in their east county backyard. “In the engine, I can swap a few things,” he said, “and I can change the suspension, it’s not that hard.”

From Matomi Wash, the course went northbound running parallel with the Sea Of Cortez coastline to the northernmost point of the course at race mile 630; then the racers headed back south and then westbound to checker-flag back in Ensenada.

For this race, both Mojica and Mayoral were part of Ibarra’s Racing out of Calexico — lead by Gerardo Ibarra. There were four racers and four co-pilots that would take turns driving sections of the 800-mile course. The crew competed in the Class 5 Unlimited category. To be in this class, SCORE says that “vehicles must have an external appearance of a Baja Bug ... the VW Sedan Type 1 is [the] most popular build. Any manufacturer VW concept engine [is] allowed and displacement is open. Wheelbase [is] not to exceed 105 inches.”

The Ibarra Racing Baja Bug has a matte black paint finish decked out with sponsorship decals. It’s powered by a 2100cc Torette VW-built air-cooled motor that’s connected to a Monstro Motorsport-built transmission. Monstro Motorsport,

“It’s ready!”

“How much did the owner invest in the vehicle,” I asked; “Over \$10,000,” Mojica responded, “and he also paid to enter the race.” The entrance fee to race in Class 5 was, “\$3860 if paid before deadline, and \$4060 paid after the 11/11/19 deadline. This includes base entry fee, insurance and safety, land use and taxes, tracking... and administration,” says the SCORE website.

“And yourself, how much have you shelled out?” I asked Mojica.

“Between me and Mayoral, close to \$3000,” he responded, “mostly on hotel rooms, gas, and food. That’s why I am trying to find us sponsors. Anything helps.”

At 7 pm on Friday, Mojica and his crew attended the “mandatory racer” meeting at Torre Lucerna Hotel Ensenada.

“Mike, there are 400 teams here waiting to hear about the course changes, because of all of this rain,” said Mojica. “All of the pre running and homework we did, is gone. I saw BJ Baldwin two weeks ago, and I asked him how many miles did he pre-run; he said he already pre ran eight laps



Race teams communicate with their support crews and with race officials via handheld radios such as this. Cell phones are worthless over much of the course.

located in Mexicali, also built the vehicle’s “stronger and lighter” chromoly chassis. The lifted stance is brought about by Fox racing shocks and BFGoodrich tires. Its gigantic light bar and roll cage make it look like a car from *Mad Max*.

On Friday afternoon, the team test drove the Baja Bug. “It runs strong,” Mojica said.



The Mojicas pose with the plaque they received for winning the season points title.

of the entire course — don't you think that he is going to be upset?"

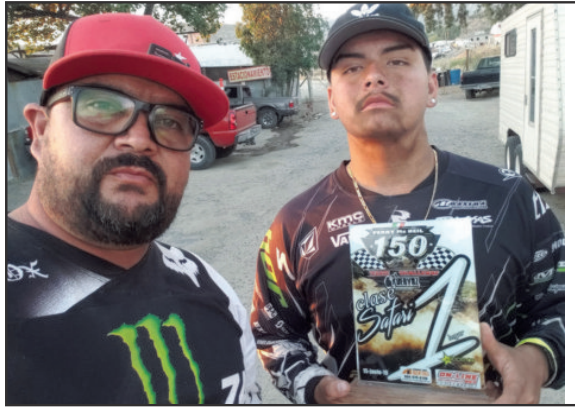
But in the end, the course changes made it easier for the racers. Instead of them going through Santo Domingo Wash (about race mile 190) where it was flooded in certain areas, SCORE rerouted the racers to cut straight through the town's main streets.

Also affected by the heavy rains were the spectators. Some San Diegans that camped out by the course reportedly packed up and went to find indoor accommodations.

"Originally we had planned to camp and watch [the race] at Punta Cabras," said Z.J. on his social media. "This will be our fifth year in a row. But with the pending rain, we made a last-minute decision to get a motel instead. We found a room at Mission Santa Maria in San Quintin and plan on watching somewhere near San Quintin Wash towards the ocean."

Some media personnel here reported damage to their equipment. "The rain was frustrating, because our camera lenses would have to be cleaned a lot," said Yolie Stover of the *Off Road Girl Loves Baja* outlet. "We were getting soaked."

Stover had been there since November 19, conducting interviews and documenting the vehicles



Felipe Mojica and son Gabriel could tell you that, especially in Baja California, off-road racing is a dirty business.

pre-running. "The vehicles all looked the same color: brown," she said.

The weather damage reached all the way up north, as well, affecting some pit crew members returning to San Diego to pick up parts and supplies. Some returning to San Diego on November 21 (Thursday), were slowed down by a section of Avenida Padre Kino — which feeds into the SENTRI lane at the San Ysidro Port of Entry — that collapsed into a sinkhole.

At 3 am on Saturday, November 23, green flags waves and motorcycles and quads began their races as the countdown displayed on the jumbo screen passed hit zero. About seven hours later, the car, truck, and UTV classes were waved on through.

At 12:25 pm, Gerardo Ibarra, the team leader, and his co-pilot Aaron Gonzales, started their race.



When not driving for Ibarra's Racing out of Calexico, the Mojicas race their own Polaris RZR utility task vehicle.

"Our VW can do about 60 mph on a straightaway," Mojica said to me as he was "chasing" Ibarra, to meet up with the team at Ojos Negros to deliver a spare belt.

"We couldn't find a belt in Ensenada, so one of our teammates drove to Rosarito to find one," Mojica said. "He came back, and passed us the belt."

The crew keeps in contact with one another via six blue-colored Rugged RH-5R dual-band, handheld radios.

In the team's video footage, Mojica is seen helping the co-pilot-Gonzales, and Mayoral connects the spare belt via zip ties to the frame of the car by the rear-motor — for easy access, in case one of the race car's belts snapped.

"We got two belts, one from the power steering to the crank pulley," Mojica explained, "and the other one is from the alternator to the crank pulley."

Chasing is the term used in Baja racing, when the race crews chase the race car via the highways, city, and town streets, off road paths, and sometimes on the racecourse itself to provide support when needed. Laith Allos, the owner of the El Cajon shop at which Mojica works, was riding along. "He was the chief mechanic for my pit crew. He coordinated with Ibarra to see how the car was responding and was on standby in case we

continued on page 58

UNDER THE RADAR

City corruption running rampant

Water is no longer free for an unnamed San Diego business following an investigation by interim city auditor **Kyle Elser**. "An allegation that the City has provided water to a non-residential customer for years without charge was investigated and resulted in corrective action," per Elser's January 6 quarterly audit hotline report. "A bill was issued after an unusual configuration was discovered which required a change to the billing software." The cost to ratepayers of the purloined water and the software upgrade needed to stop the illegal freebie went unmentioned. Other auditor-uncovered fourth quarter transgressions included "fraudulent contract and billing practices" in an unnamed city department. "The department's investigation confirmed our findings that the vendor charged the City prices in excess of those allowable under the terms of the contract. The City sent the vendor a request for refund."

In yet another case of staffer fraud, "an allegation of personal use of the proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials at a City facility and receipt of gifts in exchange for City work was investigated and determined to be substantiated. The department held additional training for staff and stopped the improper practice."

Other busts made by the auditor during the final three months of last year included "a mother supervising her son," and "a safety concern relating to an employee's driving history." Notes the report, "The employee did not report a change in driver's license status as required." The list of bad acts remedied also included "illegal parking in a red zone by a City vehicle," as well as "the personal use of a City vehicle."

The Voice of money

Outflanked in its big-money fundraising race against San Diego State University's KPBS public broadcasting operation, the *Voice of San Diego* non-profit news and

opinion website is looking to hire a new director of development with a yearly salary of between \$90,000 and \$100,000. "As we approach our 15-year anniversary, VOSD has an opportunity for a new Director of Development to lead our fundraising efforts through the next phase of our organization's growth and beyond," says an online help-wanted notice. "This includes primary responsibility for our entire revenue portfolio,

such as campaigns, individual giving, major gifts, planned giving, special events, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and an annual fund. The Director of Development also serves as a front-line fundraiser, with an emphasis on growing the organization's individual donor portfolio by

building and maintaining close relationships with key donors."

It's that last requirement that has skeptics wondering how close the relationship between a high-dollar donor and an ostensibly fair and honest news operation can get, given the website's past friendly treatment of Qualcomm billionaire **Irwin Jacobs**, a major backer.

"It is expected that the amount raised will increase each year, as the Director of Development

and the leadership team will work collaboratively to and improve the organization's overall fundraising capacity," the document adds.

Just how steep a climb the new hire faces is indicated by the *Voice's* latest federal disclosure, which shows revenue sagging from \$1,969,929 in 2017 down to \$1,769,481 in 2018. KPBS's income, on the other hand, burgeoned from \$27.7 million in 2017 to \$52.8 million in 2018, according to a November 2019 financial audit commissioned by the university.

KPBS recently snatched *Voice* culture and arts editor **Julia Dixon Evans** away from *The Voice*, the website's editor Scott Lewis revealed in a Christmas Eve email requesting more donations to "make sure we can keep going." He was paid \$135,435 in 2018.

Labor's \$100,000 baby

Labor union funding has made a sudden big entrance into the heated race for District Three county supervisor with a \$100,000 contribution On December 30 by the Service Employees International Union Local 221's Independent Expenditure political action committee. The cash went to an independent expenditure committee operated on behalf of

Democratic candidate **Terra Lawson-Remer** by Laborers International Union of North America Local 89. That union is also running a so-called independent expenditure effort in favor of ex-employee and current San Diego city council candidate **Kelvin Barrios**, to which the Southern California District Council of Laborers PAC transferred \$50,000 on December 16. Running

continued on page 58



Interim city auditor Kyle Elser says mothers supervising sons is a no-no.



The Voice of San Diego could use Irwin Jacobs to show his (financial) appreciation for the kind treatment they have always given him.



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LETTERS

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

Falsely accused

I have found Dr. Campbell to very responsive, her office staff outstanding!! I have always received a call back. Unlike our mayor who never returns a call or email. Dr. Campbell worked very hard to get motorized scooters and other motorized vehicles off Mission Beach boardwalk.. They were a safety issue, and the boardwalk is a sidewalk. She put the people's safety before the profits of scooter companies.. She continues to work hard to get short-term rentals out of our neighborhood. These motels in our neighborhoods are an on going problem, motels with no manager on site!! All-night parties, loud all day, they are not good neighbors. Short-term rentals take homes off the rental market for those who live and work here. When we have a housing shortage how could anyone think turning homes and apartments into motels is a good thing? But the people who live and work here, need homes to live in and neighborhoods that are not inundated with motels out of control.

The homeless problem has improved so much in

the last year. PB library is no longer a scary place for residents to use. Dr. Campbell won big b/c people know she has a history of working hard for the people. Lori Zapf in her term addressed none of these issues. My question to the Reader is do you only support Republicans? I hope that is not the case. You didn't look at the facts, the issue she ran on, and the improvements she has made regarding these issues.

Constance Maas
Mission Beach

Stay-at-home Ed

I think it may be time for old Ed to hang up the tin fork for good ("Did Joan Crawford own the bar at Brian's 24?" Tin Fork, January 2). His getting the omelet he just ordered, to go and then describing how keeping it in the fridge for a couple of days made me sick. Although I'm sure he has done it before and knows how to do it, I doubt it could still be considered edible. I remember when Ed wouldn't ever consider paying \$14.99 for a burger let alone an omelet! I guess a burger may last him a week out of the fridge, but me thinks he may have eaten out once too too often for his own good, based on his leftover management. Confirmation of Joan Crawford's heel marks aside, what did we learn from Ed this week? Maybe that it's time for him to put down the fork and stay home and cook something.

Hazel Motes
SoNo Park

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

OCEANSIDE

El Corazon loves soccer Futbol beats football, despite CIF success

Both of Oceanside's high school football teams made it to the CIF finals last month. And according to youth coach Jason Mageo, that feat was achieved in spite of the support—or lack thereof—that youth football gets from the city. Mageo, who is co-founder and president of the Oceanside Warriors youth football league, says that "Oceanside is known for its football players, not soccer or baseball—even more so after our two high schools won state championships. Yet you wouldn't know it by the way the city treats our youth football programs. This whole field situation is ironic to me." The situation he refers to: the Oceanside Breakers youth soccer players get exclusive access to the 20 soccer fields at the El Corazon mid-city park and commercial center. To plead for his cause, Mageo occasionally hauls his jersey-clad football kids to city council meetings,



Oceanside Warriors: battling for a field.

nothing against [Coach Frank Zimmerman] and his Breakers. He has a great program. He's got well over a thousand kids. He used to feed his best kids to the [San Diego] Surf. Now the Breakers are as good as the Surf."

April Tenorio was a longtime volunteer with the Oceanside National Little League. She also has no bad words for Coach Zimmerman or his Breakers soccer squad. But she does think the lack of field space for Oceanside's other young athletes "stinks. We're getting squeezed out. The fields they give us are crap, but that's all we have." It's a different story for Oceanside's soccer moms

public use, but Mageo says he hasn't heard about them, and the Breakers' Zimmerman says they are accessible only when he and the Breakers are there to open the gates. "There is no one there to manage the use," says Zimmerman. "There might be kids doing donuts in the parking lot."

In 2006, Oceanside bought the 465-acre mid-city El Corazon site. Once a silica sand mine, it was renamed El Corazon in the hope that it would become a thriving mid-city mecca of parks and new commercial development. The city awarded development rights to Sudberry in 2011: the city donated the land, and in exchange, Sudberry promised to build a hotel and commercial and office space. So far, Sudberry has not followed through on any development, except for the 20 soccer fields, which were graded by the city. "Their agreement with the city expired this month," says Mayor Peter Weiss, adding that Sudberry has asked for an extension of that agreement. "The original plan called for them to build like 300,000 square feet of commercial and 300,000 square feet of office space. Unfortunately, the demand for retail is shrinking. And there is not that much demand for office space, we have found."

But the soccer fields, which take up 103 acres, are booming. Rob Haskell, tasked by Sudberry to manage the So Cal Soccer facility and the logistics of the overseeing the 20 tournaments held there every year, says he can provide no financial details about how much Sudberry makes from the parking fees it collects. But he does say that during the 60 tournament days each year, the 2300 parking spaces go for \$12 to \$15 each. One insider who declined to be named says that Sudberry has to pay the city only \$300,000 a year, and that the income from parking fees is clearly a huge windfall for Sudberry, one which costs the city of Oceanside hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue.



So Cal sports complex.

begging for more fields to play on. But he says it hasn't helped. "The Little League, Pop Warner, and rugby teams are all fighting over the same small piece of land. We're not actually fighting, per se. We're just trying to look out for our kids. I heard about the fields at El Corazon, but they told me I could rent them for like \$22,000 for a Saturday. We just don't have that kind of money. We are all volunteers." He says it's even worse for Oceanside Pop Warner. "Those kids have to play their home games at La Costa Canyon [in Carlsbad] or Ramona. This is

and dads, thanks in part to San Diego-based developers Sudberry Properties, which was awarded the contract to develop the city-owned El Corazon property at the center of town. Sudberry created a subsidiary called So Cal Soccer to run some 20 soccer tournaments a year, and longtime local soccer coach Zimmerman was allowed to use the So Cal Soccer fields on a limited basis. It was the only local youth program invited to use the fields. There are actually two additional fields adjacent to the 20 El Corazon fields which are supposed to be set aside for free

But even though Sudberry hasn't kept its development promises, and even though attendees park on public land to see soccer games played on city-graded fields, Mayor Weiss does not think it wise for the city to step in. "The city could not be as efficient at running soccer tournaments as So Cal Soccer is. It is just not one of the fundamental things we do. Look at Goat Hill [when Oceanside ran a golf course operation]. We did a horrible job."

Last week, Oceanside aligned itself even more deeply with soccer when a plan was announced to move the 42-year-old San Diego Sockers to a new arena they said they would build at El Corazon. The Sockers said they would rather own their own 5000-capacity soccer arena in Oceanside than pay rent at their home for the last eight years, the Pechanga Arena. (The Sockers get that El Corazon land through Sudberry, even though it is owned by the city of Oceanside.) The news struck some as a big step forward: Oceanside gets a pro team involved with the fastest growing sport in America, and the city won't have to pay for it. Plus, it would signal the first real development at the long dormant El Corazon site.

KEN LEIGHTON

MISSION VALLEY

Shopping IRL

Who goes to the mall?

Patricia M. and her daughter Eli frequent Westfield Mission Valley almost every month; the two have been coming here since 10-year-old Eli was a baby. "We like Nordstrom Rack," Patricia said to me on the weekend after New Year's Eve. "There are certain things that you cannot [effi-



"Plaza Bonita reminds me of home."

ciently] buy online, and that's clothing and shoes. The stuff needs to fit well, and plus, it's cheaper here." (Nordstrom Rack sells predominantly mid-level brand clothing at "up to 70 percent off retail.") "Kids need to fit the shoes, and Converse runs small

continued on page 8

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for Eli. In the next two months, I'm going to have to buy her a new pair. Look at how many people are returning shoes today; now imagine how it is buying shoes online for growing kids. Plus," she added, "this is how we bond. A lot of kids identify with their parents through shopping, especially if we wear the same brands, and we catch up while



Jeff Spicoli

we stroll through the stores."

"Yes," I answered, "I bought my daughter those checkered Vans that Jeff Spicoli used to wear."

"Who?" she asked.

"I want a pair of Vans and Adidas," Eli said. "My dad gave me a card from Nordstrom Rack. Then after, we can go to Wetzel's [Pretzels]" — which is a few doors south. "I like their [mini and breaded] hotdogs."



Eli stans for Vans.

She's not alone in her enthusiasm: Wetzel's employee Adam said that "teenagers like the cinnamon bits here. They even take pictures of it." He reckoned that the most popular clothing store for young people at the mall was Tilly's, just around the corner. And not just young people: Patricia and her husband had bought matching Doc Marten boots at Tilly's. "My husband, her dad, never gets it right on sizes or colors," Patricia continued, "so, this Christmas, he gave us gift cards." At the moment, she said, he was "probably still at 24 Hour Fitness here at the mall."

"I work out there, too," I said. "I've been a member for a while." In 2010, when I first

joined, I thought exercising in a mall was a bit awkward. Then, I realized how convenient it was: now I park closer to Target, next to the DyseOne and Haslr graffiti art murals in the underground parking garage. After exercising, I stop by Target and shop, which doubles as a cool down-period for my session. Over the years, I've noticed younger adults in the store, still clad in their workout gear. (I've also noticed many visitors taking selfies and photos at the graffiti murals — painted in 2014 — then posting about it on their social media apps.)

On January 7, I spoke to Andre; he used to buy Magic the Gathering card packs at the comic store here. "I think younger people mostly go to the malls for the movies," he said. "Or to Target, and to eat or to kill time before the movie." (Outside of the Target doors by Outback Steakhouse, I noticed a dad filling his kid's backpack with candy and soda he'd just purchased from Target. "The movie starts in five," he said. "Better hurry.") Andre's favorite San Diego mall is Plaza Bonita, "because it reminds me of home (Virginia); we didn't have outdoor malls like this." I remember playing Street Fighter II at the video game arcade at Plaza Bonita in the early '90s.

Patricia remembered bringing Eli there for the choo choo train. "That mall is parent-friendly," she said. "They have that indoor playground with soft flooring." Plus good wifi, and a family lounge with private rooms for nursing.

During a quick search on the Yelp app for mall reviews, I read complaints from younger-looking Yelpers about pushy sales people at kiosks, dirty bathrooms, lack of parking, and paid parking. And I read raves about the high-end stores at the Fashion Valley and UTC malls, which provide cool backgrounds for photos. But even a mid-range mall like Mission Valley retains some of its appeal, said Patricia. "Movie theatres, Target, clothing and accessories, and real life bonding will not be replaced by this," she said as she picked up her phone and saw a text.

"Plus, working out at the gym," I added.

MIKE MADRIAGA



"My, granny, what a big house you have!" Photo from "Building a Companion Unit" (City of San Diego)

ENCINITAS

Three's company

2020: the year of the granny triplex

Last year, San Diego opened the door wide for backyard granny flats. Not the tiny kind on wheels, but units as large as 1200 square feet. The city began a subsidy program, with \$300,000 set aside to encourage

build both a granny flat and a junior unit on their property, effectively allowing a triplex. Accessory units are among the city's Housing SD initiatives to help increase the supply of affordable homes. The goal should be even more attainable if homeowners can tack on two units to use as rentals. (However, rent

In 2017, they received 142 applications and saw 15 units through completion. In 2019, the numbers soared to 545 applications and 179 finished units.

people to build what it calls "companion units." Eager homeowners jumped in and exhausted the funds. For the fiscal year that began July 1, the city council upped the amount to \$800,000. In November, the city began accepting pre-approved granny flat applications for use in single-family or multi-family properties. The free floor plans reduce the costs of design and construction, which they say have held back affordable housing. "The three barriers to building companion units are regulatory ordinance barriers, excessive fees, and ease of permitting," said city councilmember Scott Sherman. Housing reforms had steadily chipped away at the problems, eliminating water and sewer capacity fees, lowering development fees, and easing zoning regulations. Now, over-the-counter permits for detached one-story units, additions, conversions of garages, or accessory structures can be obtained the same day. The granny flats can be stand-alone or attached to the main house, while junior units, which can be up to 500 square feet, are contained entirely within an existing, habitable single dwelling. The new laws also prohibit minimum lot size requirements, and owners aren't required to live on the property. Even single-family homeowner associations must comply. (Opponents to the

control, which kicked off this year, won't apply, meaning that people who rent granny flats built within the last 15 years may face rising rents. The newer units are exempt from the rent cap, in which the maximum increase in a 12-month period is five percent plus inflation.)

SHEILA PELL



MEAN STREETS

Spunoff from Spin Supercharger sacked from sweet scooter gig

Over Christmas weekend, I decided to test drive a Spin scooter. I hopped onto the Spin app and noticed two were close by at City College. At least, it looked like it: the bubble on the GPS map seemed to indicate they were in a one- or two-block vicinity. But when I strolled around the campus, I spotted

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Hipster:

I'm growing older. I found myself scoping out even more suburban places recently. Though I seek peace and tranquility, maybe I can't do it. Just too far from the hip. I guess La Mesa maybe has hip...but RB or Tierrasanta? But as for why I'm really writing in again: it's those axe throwing places. Is that where hipsters go on first dates? I'm not dating or anything, and I was too traumatized as a kid during summer camp when I couldn't shoot a bow-n-arrow right in front of everybody.

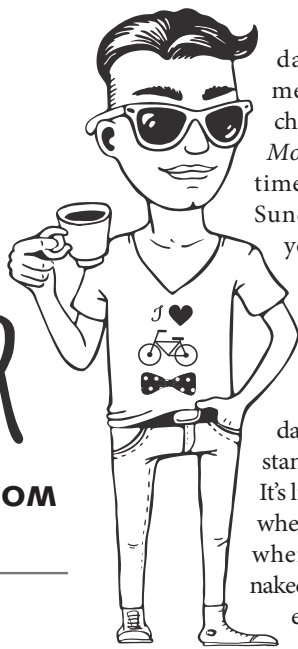
— A FELLOW DJ

La Mesa is dope. La Mesa has hipness to spare, if you know where to look, but, shhhhhh, we don't want to blow up their spot too much. If you're not careful, you'll generate an influx of hipster types, and the next thing you know all the old timers and families of four will be priced out and moving further east. Maybe they'll move to Tierrasanta. I hear it's "The Island in the Hills." Tony Hawk is from there. Maybe Tierrasanta is waiting for you, right now. Go to it. Don't be shy.

Anyways...

Hipster first dates are some of the most challenging social scenes one might have to navigate in the 21st century. Hipsters are generally needy and particular, and they have super strong opinions on all kinds of things that don't matter to most people. As such, the only thing harder than dating for the long-term is meeting a hipster of unknown quiriness for a first date.

Mainstream types can casually swipe left or right on Tinder, show up for a few



dates, maybe drink a mediocre cocktail, and chat about *How I Met Your Mother* until it's smooch time or GTFO. Easy like Sunday morning, unless you went out Saturday night and drank too much, in which case Sunday morning isn't your favorite time.

By contrast, hipster dating is fraught with constant, butt-clenching peril. It's like one of those dreams where you show up somewhere public, and you're naked for no apparent reason, except instead of being judged on the innumerable faults of your naked

body, somebody's judging your soul (which hurts so much deeper). Hipster dating is like going to a job interview, except you don't know ahead of time what job you're applying for, nobody knows the dress code, and the interviewer seems weirdly interested in the typeface on your resume.

When you do a hipster first date, the pressure is huge to pick something that sends a message along the lines of, "Hey, I'm cool, and I know what's up, and I definitely want to impress you with that knowledge, but I'm not taking this too seriously, because taking things too seriously is, like, V uncool."

Can you imagine facing that kind of pressure? Go too conventionally romantic and your date is liable to write you off as a mainstream nerd. Suggest popping

over to the local Outback Steakhouse for a blooming onion and discount margaritas from a plastic bottle, and, well, did you even try?! Fortunately, there are activities such as axe throwing that strike the perfect balance between hipster nonchalance and not being a total dud.

On a final note, did you know there's an International Axe Throwing Federation which makes the glorious, McDonald's-esque boast of "over 40 million axes thrown worldwide" on its website? Of course there is. How could there not be? It's only a matter of time before someone at a party tries to tell you how it needs to be in the Olympics.

— DJ Stevens



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Professor Steven Smith (left), novelist/reporter Tara Isabella Burton, and NYT columnist Ross Douhat talk the return of (very) old-time religion.

Something sacred

On January 10, University of San Diego law professor Steven Smith shared a lunchtime lecture stage at the American Enterprise Institute with *New York Times* columnist Ross Douhat and novelist/reporter Tara Isabella Burton. The topic was “The Next American Religion;” Douhat had gathered the others there because he suspected there might be “a powerful post-Christian current” running through American life, and he wanted expert opinions on the matter. Burton was there because of her forthcoming book *Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World*. Smith was there because of his 2018 book *Pagans and Christians in the City: Culture Wars from the Tiber to the Potomac*.

It was a culture war that led to the book’s genesis. When Indiana passed its religious freedom restoration act in 2015 (signed into law by then-governor Mike Pence), “all hell broke loose,” recalls Smith.

A website asked him to write a comment on the matter, and he threw in a bit from a collection of T.S. Eliot lectures from 1939 that he’d been re-reading. Eliot, says Smith, “said that the future of the west would be decided by a contest between Christianity and modern paganism.” Fellow law professor Stanley Fish read the comment, and let Smith know that the Eliot quote was the really interesting bit.

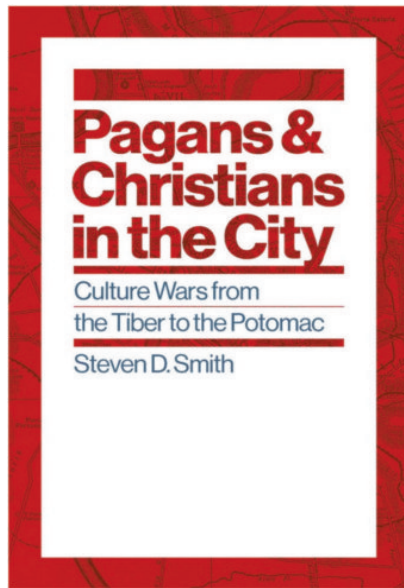
Paganism? “There were different dimensions of paganism in ancient Rome,” notes Smith. You had your credulous masses with their explanatory stories about divinities, your

civic sacrifices for social order, and “a kind of philosophical paganism that saw these things as symbolic representations of a deep reality. An orientation toward the sacred that locates the sacred within this world” — as opposed to Christianity’s transcendent creator God. Smith saw “a resurgence of people who defend this immanent religiosity, who say there really is objective value and objective meaning, and that scientific naturalism can’t quite capture it. The cultural contests we have today are con-

tests among different religious perspectives. People on both sides have a view of good vs. evil. They have evangelical zeal and an instinct to anathematize their opponents.”

At the lunch, Burton told a story about an exclusive New York City salon and spa that used to be called The Red Door. For years, “to go behind the Red Door was to attain to a certain social status and glamour,” she explained. But now the place has re-branded as Mynd. She read their mission statement: “No matter

how you define self-care, Mynd is a resource focused on helping you achieve lasting beauty and wellness. I’ve been there; you really just get your hair done. But what it advertises is different.” Not glamour, but “a kind of spiritualized notion of wellness.” (The website says that when you walk in, “you’re reconnecting with you” in “a guilt free zone.”) “*Vice’s* branding arm found that 54% of Millennials say they’re eager to spend their money on brands that enhance their spirit and soul. And 77% seek out brands that share their values. They believe in *something*, and they want to spend their money on accessing that something.”



“Let them fight.”

Brad Taylor’s next book

Brad Taylor does his homework. Twenty-one years in the Army (including eight with Delta Force) is an education in itself, but it’s research that has helped make his Pike Logan novels bestsellers. “Newsfeeds,” he told the crowd gathered on the evening of January 8 at the Coronado Public Library to hear him talk about his latest, *Hunter Killer*, at an event put together by Warwick’s Books. “*Defense One*, *Breaking Defense*, *Foreign Policy* has a situation report, *Military Times* has an early bird. There’s hacker news.” He tracks technological advances, and puts boots on the ground whenever possible. When Logan took on Boko Haram in *Days of Rage*, published just months of the Chibok schoolgirl kidnapping, “people thought I could predict the future. Not really. They’ve been lopping off heads since 2009.”

They just hadn’t made the headlines yet.

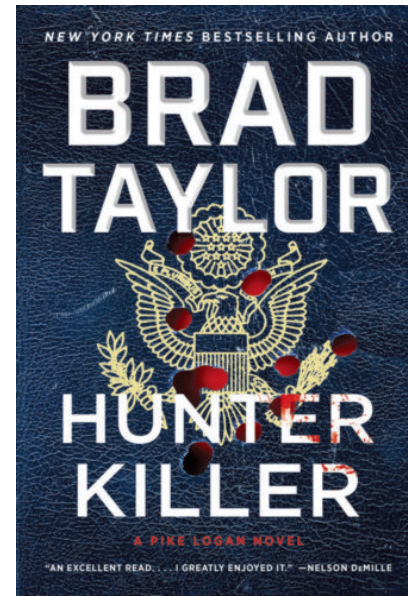
This time around, the story that caught his attention was the deployment of Russian paramilitary operators to serve as “a kind of Praetorian guard” for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. “I hit upon a strategy document that Russia has where they say they want

writing.” The newsfeeds told him that “a lot of special operations guys were getting accused of war crimes, and people in the press were saying, ‘That’s okay; we should let them do what they do.’ That aggravated me.” Taylor said that National Security Affairs types are divided between Kant’s categorical imperative and John Stuart Mill’s “greater good” argument. “It works

itself into almost every situation when you go into combat.” And he found that Logan had his Kantian limit, the point where “he’s *not that guy*.”

Toward the end of Taylor’s presentation, a woman asked if he’d ever been suspected of being a spy. “You haven’t heard my story!” he exclaimed, which gets us to the title of this piece. Taylor insists that he’s not Pike Logan, but that’s no reason why he shouldn’t be at the center of the next Pike Logan story, in which a military nov-

elist sets out to do his homework on what it would take to orchestrate a coup in a small country, and in so doing, stumbles, as he did, “into a geopolitical problem set that [he] didn’t know existed.” After taking pictures of “the television station, the police station, the radio station, and Parliament,” and after



The latest Logan.



Author Brad Taylor at the Coronado Public Library: the man knows how to tell a story.

to get into our ‘near abroad.’” Combine that with the instability in Brazil, where the Car Wash scandal put the President behind bars but failed to derail his popularity, and Taylor had everything he needed for Logan to get to work.

What he didn’t plan on was the morality that “seeped out of me and into the book as I was

texting his wife that he’d found the location for his (book’s) secret base, Taylor visited the a military outpost near Lesotho’s capital and said, “I’m an American soldier; can I come in?” Two SUVs pulled up, they threw me in the back...and I got on base.” I won’t say more; wouldn’t want to spoil the novel.

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

If one luxury condo atop one of San Diego's most desirable downtown towers just isn't enough, why not go for two?

Enjoy "exquisite living on the entire 38th floor of the Harbor Club," invite listing materials retrieved from *Realtor.com* espousing the benefits of units 3803 and 3804 at 100 Harbor Drive, a tower separated only by the convention center from San Diego Bay.

The unit's three bedrooms, five baths, and two kitchens span 4170



Who needs bedroom-based excitement when you've got a view like this?

square feet of living space, crafted "in a timeless décor designed by renowned architect Ken Ronchetti," an Encinitas-based draftsman whose work has

appeared in multi-million-dollar projects along the coast since the early '70s.

"The moment you enter the private foyer from the elevator you are

met with an experience in this trophy property," the listing continues. Black granite floors "accentuate the custom white Neo-Paris glass walls

highlighted with custom lighting," while other luxury appointments include alabaster counters, along with extensive use of granite, marble, wood, and "other textured finishes."

"The surfaces, doors, entry system, sound system, and lighting are all integrated to enhance the experience this penthouse offers. The curved walls and reflective surfaces create a timeless contemporary and urban style."

The 400-square-foot master bedroom is part of a private "master wing" of the condo, enjoying unobstructed 180-degree views of the bay from the raised bed platform and elsewhere. Its en-suite includes two showers (water and steam), along with a jetted tub and expansive curved vanity with powder area. An open walk-in closet with

custom black cabinetry and a private gym round out the space.

Elsewhere in the residence are two guest suites, each enjoying a private bath, a pair of private view balconies, and a great room with enough space to host a pool table in addition to the formal living and dining rooms. There's also a wood-lined office/study area that, like most other spaces in the unit, takes full advantage of glass that spans virtually floor to ceiling.

"The stunning views create a sense that you are in San Diego surrounded by water with views of mountains, city lights, and the operations of a thriving port industry and ocean adventurers."

Because the space was originally designed as two units, listing mate-

continued on page 31

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Street Style

BY SAMANTHA ST. PIERRE

Wine and waving earrings in South Park

Before taking our New Year's resolutions seriously, my gang and I planned one last carb-filled hurrah at a favorite haunt, Buona Forchetta in South Park. We decided to check out the neighboring Enoteca for a glass of wine while we waited for a table. As I settled onto my barstool, I instantly noticed the server's



SAMANTHA'S ELECTRIC BLUE EYESHADOW BRIGHTENS THE DIM-LIT ENOTECA

electric blue eyeshadow against the dim-lit ambiance. Her oversized disc earrings waved hello as she asked for our orders, speaking in an accent I couldn't place. Minutes later, while setting down my glass of sangria, she

displayed a set of multicolor sparkling nails. That's when I blurted out my curiosity about and admiration for her vibrant style touches.

As she tended bar, I got to know a little more about the soon-to-be 47-year-old Samantha, who hails from Eritrea in East Africa. "I've been called eclectic... that's just what I've been told," she said coolly, while rinsing glasses.

Samantha kept her hair tucked back with a classic bandana head scarf and layered a striped tank top underneath a loose-hanging quarter-sleeve shirt. Ripped jeans and black sherpa-lined boots completed her outfit.

Her statement earrings were a find from Wish, an online shopping app. "I found like 30 pairs for a dollar. I guess when you purchase a certain amount from them, they give you their offer. And I found this and I was like, 'Score!'"

Having seen the Wish ads myself, I was amazed to find someone who had tested and confirmed that the deals were real. "Yeah, I bought 30, but I've lost about 15," she joked. "But they

were a dollar... so I don't really care!"

Other pieces of her jewelry carried more sentiment. "Some of these don't come off," she said gently patting several bracelets and necklaces. "This one I've had since I was four, and the other two are what my mom gave me throughout the years."

About that blue eyeshadow, "I belong to this subscription to IPSY; they send you samples. For \$12 a month, you get a bag of fantastic makeup. Every now and then, they'll throw in a full piece."

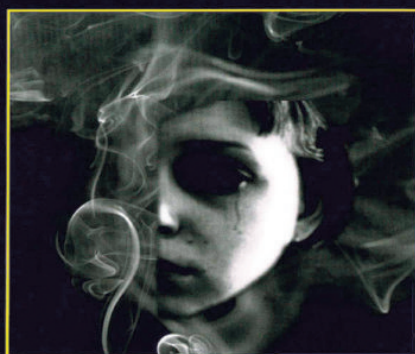
Samantha doesn't overthink her fashion choices. "I just wake up and I'm like, 'Ok this goes well with that,' and I put it on, and it looks right," she explained. "Sometimes I try to match, sometimes I just put stuff together and it works."

Most often, she shops online or at discount stores like Ross, TJ Maxx, or Burlington. We all laughed in agreement with her shopping mantra: "Hey, whatever doesn't break the bank!" ■

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FROZEN PIPES

WINTER ON MOUNT LAGUNA

The temperature drops steadily as I make my way east on Interstate 8 — 57 degrees, 54, 49. I have brought four hoodies and the down jacket I wear only when I visit my mom in Idaho during the winter, which is not often, because I'm not a fan of snow and cold. I have also brought a pair of worn-out sneakers, thin-soled ankle boots (which I'm currently wearing), two pairs of jeans, and \$65 worth of prepared food and cans of cold brew coffee from

internet. But even with all the extra weight, the wind is pushing my car around, and I'm having trouble staying between the lines. I grip the steering wheel hard as I pass the Descanso/Japatul exit, past campers and large trucks in the slow lane with their hazard lights flashing. I've never been where I'm going, and I don't know what to expect — except the cold. I know it will be cold.

When I booked the tiny house in Mt. Laguna a week ago, I received a message

I've become acclimated to winters where the low hovers around 50 degrees, and even that makes my teeth chatter and my shoulders hunch.

Sprouts. Even if the electricity goes out, I'll have my coffee in the morning.

My small car feels heavier than usual, weighed down with the extra hoodies and the coffee cans and all the books and notebooks I brought just in case I can't get my Netflix account to work with the mountain

from the manager outlining the details of how to get there, how to get into the house, and what to expect. One line in particular concerned me: "While we do our best to maintain running water and electricity, sometimes inclement weather and accompanying maintenance temporarily

generate a loss/reduction of one or both.” But by the time I read it, I was committed to the adventure, so here I am, braving the pushy wind and the steadily dropping temperature and continuing east. I know that the low 30s, high 20s I’m expecting in Mt. Laguna is hardly the worst winter weather on the planet, but living in San Diego over the past 12 years, I’ve become acclimated to winters where the low hovers around 50 degrees, and even that makes my teeth chatter and my shoulders hunch.

At 4:30 pm on the last Monday in 2019, the sun has not yet set, but it’s heading in that direction. As soon as I reach 4000 feet elevation, the road begins to slope downward.

The temperature gauge on my dashboard reads 42 degrees. A tumbleweed

rolls low and fast across the freeway, driven by the same wind that whips sandy grit against my car. As much as I like the idea of visiting a winter wonderland, I’m grateful there’s no snow as I drive.

Forty degrees.

Around the bend, a spectacular view opens up: gray, green and brown mountains rising and falling on both sides of the freeway. The email listed three phone carriers that get quality reception on the mountain. Mine was not on the list, so the directions are printed out and sitting on my passenger seat. For now, my Irish-accented Siri is still working, so I let her direct me for as long as possible. A sign on the side of the road confirms what Siri has already told me. “Laguna Mountain Recreation Area next exit.” I



Jon and Melissa Block founded the Tiny House Block in November 2018.

take the exit and turn left onto Sunrise Highway. In 9 miles, my destination will be on the right.

There are small patches of snow on the side of the curvy two-lane highway. The temperature is down to 37. A sign reads “Icy.” The wind is still blowing.

Several cars come down the highway, in the opposite direction, but no other cars are going in my direction. It makes me wonder if they know something I don’t. On the other hand, there’s no one behind me pressuring me to go faster, so I take my time.

The snow patches grow larger as I continue up the mountain road. By mile marker 22, they’ve grown into a full-on snow bank that nearly reaches the green numbers on the sign. The high desert chapparal has given way to towering Jeffrey Pines. I’m

now driving through the middle of a forest snowscape. Kind of. The trees are not snow-covered, but the ground around them is. Fortunately, the road is clear and dry. Every now and again, a little bit of pinkish golden sunlight shows through the trees and creates rosy colors in the forest.

Elevation 5000 feet, and the temperature gauge reads 33. I can’t remember the last time I was out in freezing weather. A sign reads, “Entering Laguna Mountain Recreation Area.” A few hundred yards down, I pass a line of cars parked on the side of the road. People in boots and hats sled down muddy, snowy hills — 31 degrees. I pass a snowman with long sticks for arms and smaller sticks for antennae — 30 degrees. I’m beginning to question my

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

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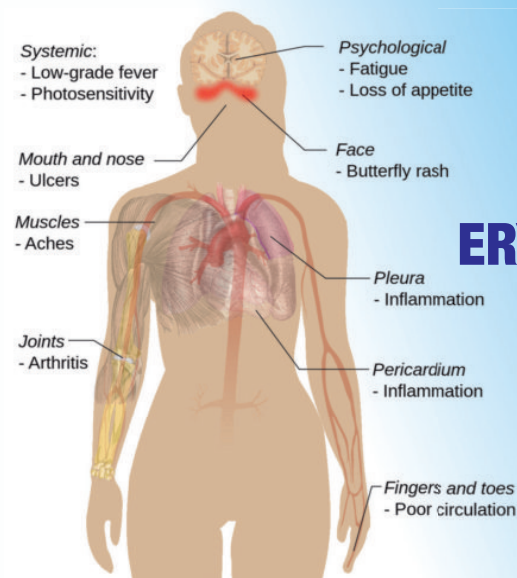
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choice to bring cold brew.

I get turned around a couple of times looking for the entrance to the tiny house village where I'll be spending the next two days. But then I stop the car in the middle of the empty road to read the printed email in the light of a street lamp. Two minutes later, I turn right onto Mt. Laguna Drive, and there it is.

Tiny House Block

Sister and brother team Jon and Melissa Block founded Tiny House Block in November 2018, after purchasing the 3.5 acre Sunrise Highway RV Park. Melissa, who is in real estate development had gotten interested in tiny houses and put them in the yards of several properties she owned. But eventually someone complained, and she was cited for it. This was before October 2019, when the



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Seo, the long-term rental manager, lives onsite in what he calls "like a little shed thing." It has a hot plate. When I ask what he cooks, he says, "This morning, I had cereal." But he's also been craving Korean food lately, so his hot plate has come in handy.

Land Use and Housing Committee voted to allow moveable tiny houses in backyards to address the affordable housing crisis, and Melissa found herself with an inventory of five tiny houses on wheels and nowhere to put

them. After doing some research, she discovered that she could legally put them in an RV park. So she bought one.

Around that same time, her brother Jon, who was in the middle of a divorce and a career change,

was ready to leave his home Colorado Springs and come back to San Diego, where they'd grown up. It was perfect timing for him to help his sister transform the RV park into a tiny house village. So he packed up his car

and drove west.

"I thought immersion would be the best approach to start off," he told me over the phone a couple of days ago. He moved into number 18, Bliss House, a 270-square-foot house that's currently occupied by long-term renters. At the time, it was one of only two tiny houses in the village, because they were still in the process of transitioning the 17 RVs off the property. Today, there are only two RVs left, and 16 tiny houses, six of which have long-term occupants.

By the time I turn down Mt. Laguna Drive, darkness has descended, but the tiny houses look warm and inviting. Most have cars parked beside or in front of them and lights on inside. A few have small bonfires going outside. One has been decorated with Christmas lights and holiday stick-

ers in the windows. The ground is icy with packed snow that has probably melted some and refrozen. I drive slowly, looking for number 5: Wanderlust. When I find it, I park, crunch over the snow in my sad little boots, find the key under the mat, and try to let myself inside. The key turns the upper lock but not the one on the handle.

I see a guy tromping through the snow. "Hey," I call. "Do you know if this is Number 5? My key isn't working." A few minutes later, a guy named Seo is jamming the key into the doorknob, mumbling something about the lock being frozen. Eventually he gets the door open and says he'll be back tomorrow to change the locks.

Inside, it's sparse and clean. Two small space heaters whirl on the maximum setting, and the air is toasty warm. This is a

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Erin Aguilera says she feels like a real cowgirl living up here. She's having fun playing the role of homesteader in the wilderness when she feels like it.

different tiny house than the one I'd booked online. That one was blue and had a double loft. This one is gray and has just one loft, but I'm alone, so it works. The wooden walls have been painted a light gray, and they transition seamlessly up to a high peak, creating a feeling of spaciousness. A ladder stands just inside the door and leads up to the bed loft. Beside the ladder, a small table and two chairs. And to the right of the door, a sizeable kitchen with a four-burner gas stove, a full-sized refrigerator, and a double sink. The walls of the three-quarter bathroom are a light turquoise blue. One of the walls beneath the loft is decorated with travel-themed art: a glass etching of two Japanese geishas, a photo of the Taj Mahal, a cutesy pen and ink-type drawing of a camper that reads, "Happy Camper," and what looks like a large cut-out in the shape of the United States painted with landmarks in San Francisco, St. Louis, Alamo, and D.C.

"Melissa is responsible for the decor of all the houses," Jon said. "She loves picking up items from all around, whether it's from Ross or sometimes Goodwill. She's also the one who purchases the tiny houses. She finds them, negotiates, purchases them, and gets them up to the village."

A guy named Chase handles the short-term rentals and Airbnb engagement. Seo takes care of the long-term rentals, showing the properties, doing credit and background checks. Jeff and Mark handle the maintenance. And Jon plays the role of general manager. The only one of the team who lives onsite is Seo.

Jon admits he only lasted for a month living in Tiny House Block.

"One reason I came back to San Diego was for the warm weather and to escape the Colorado winter," he said. "That's exactly what I was experiencing in Mt. Laguna — a Colorado winter."

A snake, a skinny pig, and a fat squirrel called Alfredo

After tossing my bags on the floor and putting my food in the refrigerator, I scarf down some Sprouts sushi, throw back a can of cold brew coffee, and then crunch across the snow to meet my neighbor.

The scene inside the house next door is cozy and warm with female laughter. Erin Aguilera, 35, introduces me to her 11-year-old daughter Paulina and her mom Patricia, who's visiting from Las Vegas. The two are sitting on a half-sized couch against the wall watching *The Secret Life of Pets 2* on Paulina's laptop. Aguilera offers me a bar stool across the postage-stamp sized table from her.

Aguilera and Paulina have lived here full time with Sabrina the Singing Skinny Pig and Noodles the Snake since mid-October. Prior to that, they were living in what she calls "the inner city" near 54th and El Cajon.

"There were helicopters flying over all the time," she says, "and people walking around talking to themselves. It was never very dangerous, but over the last year or so it's gotten kind of scary."

Plus, the landlords kept hiking up the rent. Ten years ago, Aguilera rented her two-bedroom, two-bath, 1200-square-foot apartment for \$1000 a month, but it's now up to \$1600. She'd been thinking about moving for some time and had looked in Pine Valley, in Alpine, and Lakeside.

"I knew going east would be cheaper," she says. "And then I saw an ad for a tiny house in the mountains."

At first, she was hesitant about the isolation, but then, after doing some research, she discovered

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that it was in a community of tiny houses, which were occupied by what she calls “young, hip San Diegans.” So she came for a tour and set her heart on this house because of the tiny rooftop balcony over the front door.

“All my friends at work were so excited about the tiny house thing that they pitched in and gave me \$700 toward the deposit,” she says, pulling up an Instagram photo on her phone. It shows a large green poster board that reads, “A Big Card for a Tiny House,” along with personal handwritten notes, and seven \$100 bills attached to it.

Aguilera works for a software company in Kearny Mesa, and Paulina goes to school in the college area. They leave home every morning at 6am, and return around 4pm. Aguilera’s boss offered to let her work six hours in

the office and two hours remotely every day, so once they get home, Paulina does her homework and Aguilera finishes up her work. On snow days and vacation days, she’ll just work from home.

A face appears at the door. It’s Seo. Erin motions him in. “Can I fill up again?” he asks, holding up a container, which he fills with water in the kitchen sink.

“People’s pipes are freezing,” Erin explains. “Do you have water?”

I tell her I’m not sure. I hadn’t tried it before I came over. She tells me to check, and sure enough, I do not. None of the three faucets (kitchen, bathroom sink, shower) have running water. Back inside Aguilera’s house, Seo admits that he’s not sure if what he’s doing is working to thaw the pipes. I cross my fingers that it is.

“He’s just learning,” Pa-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

Aguilera and Paulina share their tiny Mount Laguna home with Sabrina the Singing Skinny Pig and Noodles the Snake.

tricia says when Seo leaves.

“It’s non-stop,” Aguilera says. “He’s been running around like this all night.”

The winter doesn’t bother Aguilera. She keeps the faucets on a slow drip at all times to keep them running. Living up here reminds her of her favorite childhood memories when her family lived in a hunter’s lodge in Prescott, Arizona.

Aguilera is a self-proclaimed “joy expert,” and she does her best to spread joy by way of her “Joykwondo” platform on Instagram, where she posts motivational videos

and videos of her hairless guinea pig (skinny pig) who really does sing.

Aguilera says she feels like a real cowgirl living up here. She’s having fun playing the role of homesteader in the wilderness when she feels like it. She bought a clothesline to hang her clothes when they don’t dry all the way in the laundry room on-site. She bought some solar powered lights for the yard, and she even made a chicken dinner over the firepit in her yard.

“I just lit a fire and put a cast iron skillet over it and let it get hot. I grilled some chicken and added

some frozen peas and garlic, and I wrapped some potatoes in tin foil and put them in the fire,” she says. “There was someone staying in the house next door, and I was like, ‘Act casual, act like you do this all the time.’”

“She got some snow cone flavoring and went out to the yard and scooped up snow in a cup and made a snowcone,” Patricia says. “It’s like she’s 9 all over again.”

But it’s not all homesteading and butter churning.

“My biggest problem is that we don’t have a grocery store nearby,” she

says. “So everything has got to be planned.”

She uses a grocery pickup app, which allows her to add items to a digital list throughout the week, and then when she’s ready, she orders everything at once and arranges the pickup at a market in El Cajon that she can swing by after work on her way home. When she lived in San Diego, she’d used a dinner kit delivery, and she tried it for a while once she moved up here, but the delivery was inconsistent, so she let it go.

“We’ve got a general store up the road if there’s any kind of emergency, but it’s all marked up, so it’s not anything you want to go spend your money on every week,” she says.

Paulina gets up to grab an ice cream cup from the freezer. She opens it and dumps some Hershey’s chocolate syrup into it. Then she comes toward me and excuses herself, reaching for a drawer in the table that I hadn’t noticed was there. I lean away, and she opens it to reveal a drawer full of forks and knives and spoons.

“Tiny house!” Patricia sings.

Aguilera pays \$1250 a month to live here. The house has two lofts. The one with the stairs is Paulina’s room. It has a mattress and a small bookshelf packed with stuffed animals. Noodles the Snake’s terrarium is up there, too. The loft with the ladder is Aguilera’s room. The ceiling is high enough that she can sit upright and play the keyboard she has set up there. A tiny little door leads out to the balcony, which is currently strung with Christmas lights.

The kitchen doesn’t have much counter space. Aguilera makes do, though. She does most of her cooking in an air fryer.

“I like a gourmet kitch-

New Year's Resolution 2020?

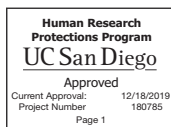
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en,” Patricia says. “All she has is a hot plate and an air fryer, and she’s doing some amazing things. She even made a frittata in the air fryer.”

Even with all the fun she’s having playing cow-girl, Aguilera says she’s not much of an outdoor person. She likes it here, inside, where it’s cozy. But she does like standing at her front door drinking her coffee and watching the visitors come and go. And she likes to watch the neighborhood animals, too.

“There’s a blue jay and a woodpecker who don’t like each other,” she says. “And we’ve got a fat squirrel who lives under this deck whose name is Alfredo. Whenever the snow melts and all the squirrels come out, you can tell which one is Alfredo. He’s large.”



Tom owns the Laguna Mountain Lodge and Store and is, in Erin’s words, a “classic mountain man.”

The digital shaman

Before I head back to my tiny house next door, Aguilera insists on dumping some water on my pipes in the hopes that it will unfreeze them. We trudge outside with a container of water and

a flashlight. She dumps. I run inside to see if the faucets have begun to drip. They haven’t. At first I think it’s no big deal. I can go a night without a shower. But as the night wears on and the list of things that I

cannot do without water grows, I become less enthusiastic about the whole winter thing.

In the morning, I eat more sushi and drink another cold brew coffee. It’s already 10:30, and the sun is bright on the snow.

I peek outside my window and watch my neighbors on the other side pack up their car and drive away. I decide I’ll do the same. Two nights without water does not appeal to me. But before I go, I put on my down jacket and a pair of fingerless gloves and go see what it’s like out there in the daylight.

Outside, birds flutter and chitter in the snow around Aguilera’s bird feeders. Water drips from the eaves overhead, and a cold wind blows through the pine trees. I make my way carefully down my steps and out onto the slippery packed snow. All over the compound, people are packing up their cars and heading out in time for 11 am check-out.

In front of Number 15, a gray house with white trim and a roof that slants to one side,

I meet Laurie and Dan and their 12-year-old son. They’re from Laguna in Orange County and usually go in search of snow around Big Bear. But this year, they were hoping for fewer crowds and more affordability. They learned about Mt. Laguna and had hoped to stay at Laguna Mountain Lodge, lured by the snow on its webcam, but it was fully booked. After doing some further research, they found Tiny House Block. They enjoyed their evening last night, but felt a little cramped with three people.

“We wish we had more time,” Laurie says. And then a few minutes later, “One night was enough.”

They’ll take their time heading home today, stopping at antique shops in Ramona on the way.

My slippery stroll is

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

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about a block long, past the tiny houses, all different colors and styles, some with little porches in front, some with balconies up top. The two remaining RVs are in the middle, side by side. I turn around at the community fire pit area at the end of the street and go back toward “my place.” Just as I have it in view again, I see someone climb the steps. As I get closer, I see it’s Seo. He’s here to change the locks. I ask if I can ask him a few questions while he does, and he tells me no problem.

Seo has black fingernail polish and striking angular features. He’ll tell me later that he’s Korean. Age? He tells me he’s under 30, and says he’s going to leave it at that so he can maintain an air of mystery. Fair enough.

“I’ve been into alternative living for about three years now,” he says, sitting

up on the balcony rail that doesn’t quite look like it will hold him. He explains that he started in Oakland in a 26,000 square-foot warehouse where he worked with others to make shipping container tiny homes. Then he got into car camping.

“I bought my own ambulance. It was my first real car that I owned, so I converted that and then went to a minivan, and now I’m here,” he says. “Oh, and I did all that with a cat.” His cat has opposite thumbs.

Seo met Jon Block through the Landmark Forum, and he lives here on site in what he calls “like a little shed thing.” It has a hot plate. When I ask what he cooks, he says, “This morning, I had cereal.” But he’s also been craving Korean food lately, so his hot plate has come in handy.

Seo tells his story with



A Laguna Mountain mug with my name on it for \$8.57 at the general store.

very little affectation, and it’s hard to tell how he feels about living here. So I ask if he likes it.

“It depends on the context,” he says. “I think I would like it more as a tenant. Working here, it gets kind of crazy.”

Seo is originally from New York, where his dad still lives. His mom lives

in Korea. Both of them passed through town recently. His mom stayed in one of the tiny houses before heading on to Chicago. His dad just came by for a brief visit while on business in Los Angeles.

“He was like, ‘What the fuck are you doing with your life?’” Seo says, gestulating and laughing as

he tells the story. “I’m like, ‘It’s a process, Dad. I’m not trying to do this forever.’ He’s like, ‘Your friends are all making money. Live in the city like a normal person.’”

But Seo has other plans, like making his “bad trip help” videos. He calls himself a “digital shaman” who “guides people

through psychedelic journeys.” So far he’s made two videos. The first video is three minutes long, was published on YouTube in 2012, and has 92,308 views. The second is 32 minutes long, was published in September 2019, and has 1633 views. He’s planning an hour-long version that can be purchased for \$27.

In the meantime, he changes the locks on my door.

There’s no super entertainment up here After my visit with Seo, who mentioned nothing about the frozen water pipes and suggested no alternative to returning back home, I pack up my car, hug Erin goodbye, and drive away. Before I leave for good, though, I stop by the general store to see if I can maybe catch any of the locals Erin said might be fun

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ





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to talk to, particularly Earla at the post office, who is Erin's favorite, and Tom, who owns the general store and is, in Erin's words, a "classic mountain man."

At Sunrise Highway, I take a right, and drive about a quarter of a mile to the general store. In the daylight, I can see that the area is decently populated. The houses look cozy with their satellite dishes and chimneys. I pull into the parking lot in front of the Laguna Mountain Lodge. The front of the general store is a long length of brown wood with lots of signage: "No bare feet in store." "Please no pets in the store or on the porch." "No bicycles on porch." "No loitering or alcohol consumption on premises." "No dogs on porch." Melting snow drips from the roof.

Inside, a man sits almost guard-like behind a counter at the front entrance. He's probably in his late 60s or so, big and intimidating not only in his size but also in his countenance. I make a slow loop around the shelves to the right of the front door while summoning up the confidence to approach him and introduce myself. The shelves hold kitschy ceramics, bubbles, rabbit pelts, salt and pepper shakers, puzzles, T-shirts, and Mexican blankets for \$17.95. A deer head hangs above the fireplace mantle. I approach the man gingerly.

"Are you Tom?" I ask. He nods, takes off his glasses, and puts them on top of his head.

"I've heard about you," I say, smiling.

"I'm sorry," he says. "But it's all true." His laugh

is phlegmy, like the laugh of a long-time smoker.

The store has been around since the 1920s and in his family since 1975. These days, he and his brother own it. They came up from the Santee/El Cajon area in 2006. He likes that it's quiet, only busy on weekends, and only an hour from town. He lives upstairs, runs the store, which is open seven days a week, and manages the 28 Laguna Mountain Lodge rentals. It's enough to keep him busy.

Pipes freeze. Somebody throws a breaker. There's always something. Or could be. The snow brings people up in droves. Even when there's no snow, people come to enjoy the quiet. The lodge has repeat visitors who come and rent the same cabin every holiday season. And in the sum-

mer, people come from San Diego to escape the city, and from further east to escape the heat. "It's mostly just a remote hiking area, backpacking and mountain biking. There's no super entertainment up here. No jacuzzis or spas or anything like that," he laughs with a touch of disdain. "That's a good thing," he adds. "It would make it too crowded."

I ask if he thinks the tiny house village will make it more crowded around here. He shrugs as though he doesn't care either way. "It's hard to do business up here when you start off. The weather's different than anybody thinks. You've gotta get used to things like freezing pipes. They'll figure it out, I guess," he says, keeping his eye on people come in through the door and the kid man-

ning the register. "There's no way I'd stay up there, though. I'm too old, and I get up to pee too many times a night. I ain't falling down the steps and ladders. Let's be honest."

The phlegmy laugh again.

After we talk, I wander the aisles to the left of the cashier: beer nuts, Bisquick, toilet paper, Jiffy Pop, Sutter Home wines (single serving), peach moscato. Nothing that appeals, but I do find a Laguna Mountain mug with my name on it. I buy it for \$8.57. Tom doesn't mention the \$10 minimum stamped on the card reader.

Next door at the post office, I ask for Earla but am told that no, *Erma* is not working today, by Mary, who is from Jacumba. Mary informs me that she's not a snow

person and does not spend time in the area because she finds it too cold.

On my way back down the mountain, I pass the snow hills and watch people playing out in the cold and wet. One kid is lying on his back in the snow, doing nothing but looking up at the sky. I envy him his snow pants. It occurs to me, as it probably should have earlier, that in order to enjoy the snow, one must wear the proper clothes. I turn the dials on my dashboard until heat is blasting on my feet. It takes a good 15 minutes to thaw them out. The temperature rises quickly as I descend. It's already 50 degrees when I reach Interstate 8. By the time I hit El Cajon, it's up to 70. I roll the windows down and welcome myself home.

— Elizabeth Salaam

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

Limes, Birds and Lyft's, but no orange and black scooters with the word SPIN wrapped around their handlebars. I then tried to find a Spin in Little Italy and the Gaslamp. No luck. Near Broadway, I saw a scooter charger in a hoodie; he was unloading scooters from a large white van, As far as I could tell, none were from Spin.



CREDIT: SPIN WEBSITE

The company behind Spin, Skinny Labs Inc., decided to change their business model and remove charger employees.

I then shut off the Spin app, did a Google search, and found the Ride into Cash YouTube and Facebook pages. They are scooter-charging fan pages run by Andrew S., a North Park-based scooter charger. I wrote about Andrew last year when he charged 71 Bird scooters in one night and made \$445.58. He started working for Spin when they first moved into San Diego in March. Alas: "Over-

all, Spin fired all of its scooter chargers in San Diego, California; it happened December 16," he said on a video posted a few days before Christmas. "And all of a sudden, I no longer work for Spin. The company behind Spin, Skinny Labs Inc., decided to change their business model and remove charger employees, and switch directly to operations employees only." Now, "they don't have people like myself go to pick up 30-40 scooters, take 'em home, and charge them — it's just the operation's employees working with the warehouse."

When I reached out to the dockless-scooter company, reportedly purchased by Ford and based out of San Francisco, I noticed that their page was no longer offering jobs in the San Diego area. The closest location for a job was in Long Beach — as a scooter charger. "Chargers are key to making sure that all Spin users have access to scooters," says the scooter's website. "The duty of chargers is to pick up scooters at night with their own vehicles, charge them at home, and then deploy them in the early morning hours. You will be required to pick up, charge, and deploy a minimum amount

"Overall, Spin fired all of its scooter chargers in San Diego, California; it happened December 16."

of scooters every night, and drive a large capacity vehicle (truck, SUV, van) that can carry at least 20 scooters safely without damaging them. Pay is hourly, and there is a maximum shift length per night, as well as a maximum number of shifts you can take per week. Mileage, electricity, and cell phone reimbursement available. Bonus pay available based on performance." This business model was different from the other scooter



PHOTO: CREDIT: RIDE INTO CASH

No doubt the company will spin this as being good for the consumer.

charger gigs I had seen, where chargers are/were subcontracted.

"I basically worked about a year," Andrew continued on his video. "Maybe a little less

would leave them while they were charging in his driveway.

"The change came fairly sudden," he said. "I got an email asking me to call in on this phone conference. That morning, I checked my bank balance, and I was apparently paid (a couple of days earlier), which is clearly an indication that they are basically letting people go. Ten days before Christmas, being terminated, that was a little rough. But I knew from day one that working for this company was not going to last. Being an employee, getting paid like \$18 an hour, and receiving \$4 as a bonus per scooter above 20 each night — that model didn't make sense. The reality is: when you join these companies and it sounds like its too good to be true, it's because it is. But it doesn't mean you cannot milk it while you can."

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 16

TREY ANASTASIO BAND

Best known as the frontman for the jam band Phish,



TREY ANASTASIO BAND

Trey Anastasio has also performed as part of symphonies and has scored theatrical productions, one of which earned him a Tony Award nomination. What's more, his solo band dates back over 20 years now, and has a song catalog featuring over 200 tunes to choose from.

WHEN: Thursday, January 16, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue, North Park. observatorysd.com

Friday | 17

STAR GAZING

Join volunteers and members of the San Diego Astronomy Association for viewings of the night sky through telescopes. Cloudy skies or rain cancels

the event. Members of the San Diego Astronomy Association will be set up with their telescopes at The West Sycamore Staging Area.

WHEN: Friday, January 17, 5 pm to 8 pm

WHERE: Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Carlos. mtrp.org

VIETNAMESE FOOD, MUSIC AND DANCING

The Lunar New Year Tet Festival features lanterns, bands, lion dances, fire crackers, a Miss Vietnam of San Diego pageant, and large selection of Asian food. Vietnamese New Year involves visiting with friends, ancestor worship, New Year's greetings, and giving lucky money to children and elderly people. Proceeds from the festival will be used for the revitalization of the Little Saigon District of San Diego.

WHEN: Friday, January 17, 5 pm to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19, 11 am to 10 pm

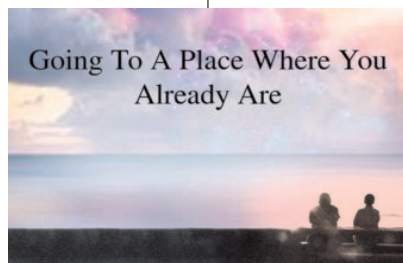


FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: VIETNAMESE FOOD, MUSIC AND DANCING

WHERE: SDCCU Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley. sdttet.com

Saturday | 18

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 since they find themselves in church a lot: they have 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 afterlife. But when mortality confronts them, her grandmother's claim to have gone to heaven and back doesn't sound so crazy after all.

WHEN: Thursday through Saturday, 8 pm; Sundays, 2 pm. Through Sunday, February 16.

WHERE: Onstage Playhouse, 291 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. onstageplayhouse.org

Wednesday | 22

DUNE DEFENDERS

Come help restore nesting habitat of the California Least Tern, an endangered seabird. The California Least Tern hunts primarily in shallow estuaries and lagoons, or beyond the breakers, where smaller fish are abundant. Adults do not require cover, so they commonly roost on the open ground. But they have lost most of their coastal dune nesting habitat, and the habitat that remains is often overgrown by invasive weeds. We will be working to remove these weeds, repair fencing, and install signage.



WHEN: Wednesday, January 22, 9 am to 12 pm

WHERE: Fiesta Island, 1500 Fiesta Island Road, Bay Park. sandiegoaudubon.org



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.*

ART

Agite y Sirva Dance Film Festival is a hybrid practice that seeks to develop a new syntax between the languages of movement, dance and audiovisual. Come to the screening of the best dance films produced all over the world last year. Saturday, January 18, 6pm; **free**. Front, 147 W. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Behold Her: Portraits of Survivors Exhibit The evening will include survivors spoken word and a community discussion about the portraits with proceeds directly supporting San Diego anti-human trafficking groups through Shyne San Diego. Friday, January 17, 6pm; **free**. You Belong Here, 3619 El Cajon Boulevard. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Hostel Takeover Art Show Hostel Takeover open it's doors to the local community for a seasonal art show exhibiting San Diego and world traveler's works of art. All mediums are welcome among the roster of over 30 artists including studio arts, performing arts, music, photography, film, and more. Sunday, January 19, 5pm; **free**. Hosting International, 521 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Reception & Artist Talk: Darel Carey Darel Carey investigates the human perception of space through the use of quotidian mediums. His exhibition at Lux will explore how straight lines can transform into curves, building a tromp l'oeil in three dimensions. Friday, January 17, 6pm; **free**-\$10. Lux Art Institute, 1550 S. El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Science Fiction Video Screenings Space Time is happy to present an evening of contemporary, experimental Science Fiction videos. Friday, January 17, 8pm; \$5-\$7. Bread & Salt, 1955 Julian Avenue. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

The WAO Experience Art, photography, videography and DJ exhibit. There will also be face painting and food available for purchase. Open, free dance class and dance theatre show. Sunday, January 19, 12:30pm; **free**-\$10. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

BEER

Buti Yoga & Brews Buti Yoga instructor Crystal Wood blends primal movement with cardio bursts and vibration to tone the body - physically, emotionally and energetically. Participants can expect to burn upwards of 600-900 calories. What you put in is what you get

out. Let's collectively sweat with intention. Saturday, January 18, 10:30am; \$20. 21 and up. Culture Brewing Co., 111 S. Cedros Avenue #200. (SOLANA BEACH)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Author Luncheon: Crissy Van Meter will be the featured guest of the Friends of the Coronado Library fundraising luncheon. For \$40, attendees will enjoy a delicious lunch, have a chance to meet the author, and receive a personally signed copy of her new book *Creatures*. Thursday, January 16, 11:30am; \$35-\$40. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Senator Byron L. Dorgan: The Girl in the Photograph Senator Byron L. Dorgan will discuss his new book *The Girl in the Photograph: The True Story of a Native American Child, Lost and Found in America*. Through the story of Tamara, an abused Native American child, North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan describes the plight of many children living on reservations—and offers hope for the future. Saturday, January 18, 2pm; **free**. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Advance Care Planning Attend this free seminar to learn the importance of completing an advance health care directive at any age. Come hear about the many advance care planning and caregiving resources available in the community. To register, call 1-800-827-4277 or visit online. Friday, January 17, 12pm; **free**. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Co-Dependent Relationships Mini-Workshop Are you in a co-dependent relationship? In this mini-workshop find out if you are in one and what to do about it. RSVP to (760) 753-0733. Sunday, January 19, 3pm; \$10-\$20. 18 and up. Dr. Cohen, 811 Summerhill Court. (ENCINITAS)

Conducting Class Conducting is a physical and spiritual experience - it strengthens the heart, improves muscle tone and relieves stress. Learn basic conducting skills, enhance your knowledge about different musical styles, composers and their great work. Thursday, January 16, 11:30am; \$13-\$15. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Felt Sewing Workshop This creative and fun sewing workshop for kids will allow participants to create easy and cute projects like an owl or cactus bookmark, a fox hair clip or a cat for the headphones. Saturday, January 18, 2pm; \$20-\$25. Alliance Française de San Diego, 6640 Lusk Bl., Suite 104. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems by G.S. Fraser

Home Town Elegy

(For Aberdeen in Spring)

Glitter of mica at the windy corners,
Tar in the nostrils, under blue lamps budding
Like bubbles of glass the blue buds of a tree,
Night-shining shopfronts, or the sleek sun flooding
The broad abundant dying sprawl of the Dee:
For these and for their like my thoughts are mourners
That yet shall stand, though I come home no more,
Gas-works, white ballroom, and the red brick baths
And salmon nets along a mile of shore,
Or beyond the municipal golf-course, the moorland paths
And the country lying quiet and full of farms.
This is the shape of a land that outlasts a strategy
And is not to be taken with rhetoric or arms.
Or my own room, with a dozen books on the bed
(Too late, still musing what I mused, I lie
And read too lovingly what I have read),
Brantome, Spinoza, Yeats, the bawdy and wise,
Continuing their interminable debate,
With no conclusion, they conclude too late,
When their wisdom has fallen like a grey pall on my eyes.
Syne we maun part, there shall be nane remeid—
Unless my country is my pride, indeed,
Or I can make my town that homely fame
That Byron has, from boys in Carden Place,
Struggling home with books to midday dinner,
For whom he is not the romantic sinner,
The careless writer, the tormented face,
The hectoring bully or the noble fool,
But, just like Gordon or like Keith, a name:
A tall, proud statue at the Grammar School.

For Katie on Her Eighteenth Birthday

O little daughter of delight
And grave and lovely growing girl
Years after year you see the white
Snow flurry and pink blossoms swirl,
Year after year spontaneous joy
Drives you to pick up brush and pen,
Paint and translate and make a toy
Of what is labour to most men.
Spontaneously you make things grow
Out of your fingers and your eyes,
For what you feel you also know,
And what you see you realise
In growing art in shape or word
Or colour or a story told.
And yet you laugh, it is absurd
You think, it is all fairy gold.
And sometimes sorrow clouds your eyes
And anger for man's suffering lot
And noble indignations rise
Harsh from your heart, and sharply hot.
But always still the white snow swirls,
And always still the blossoms flurry,
And you, the dearest of all girls,
May take your time and not hurry.



G.S. Fraser (1915-1980) was a Scottish poet and one of the main contributors to the New Apocalyptics, a group of poets who reacted to the staid realism produced by writers of the 1930s with poems that Fraser claimed had become the true successors of the surrealist school of poetry established by the previous generation in the 1920s. Fraser wrote the introductory essay to the New Apocalyptics' first anthology of poems, *The White Horseman* (1941), and soon after rose to prominence in London's literary scene. Fraser was also a professor of English at Leicester University and a renowned literary critic.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

Forming a Legal Business Entity to Sell Soap Class Soap Business 320 is a beginning business class for anyone interested in forming a new business. This class focuses on the applications, fees, licenses, and permits required to form a legal business entity. Sunday, January 19, 12pm; \$77. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Grief Yoga Class This monthly class is slow-paced, trauma-informed, and includes full-body movement designed to support the body's efforts to bear up under the weight of grief. Sunday, January 19, 9:30am; \$20. 18 and up. Soul of Yoga, 627 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

Handicraft Happy Hour Join us for some social handcrafting time! All makers of textiles are welcome; knitters, stitchers, crocheters, weavers, hand quilters, embroiderers, basket makers, button sewers, etc. Feel free to bring drink and snacks. Please register in advance. Friday, January 17, 6pm; **free**. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Henna Tattoo In this fun, hands-on, educational introductory workshop, learn about the ancient art of henna. Each participant will receive a kit that includes: an instruction booklet, a fresh henna cone, a practice henna cone with non-staining lotion, fresh henna powder and materials to make your own cone at home after the class

is over. Please register in advance. Sunday, January 19, 10am; \$42-\$48. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Intro to Classical Music Explore classical music in a fun and educational environment without intimidation. Each class will be paired with wine and light hors d'oeuvre based on the subject matter. Register and receive two tickets to a Mainly Mozart Spotlight Chamber Music Event in La Jolla. Presented by Garrett Harris and John Polhamus. Garrett has had over 1,000 articles published on the topic of classical music. He has performed in more than 60 operas with the San Diego Opera and is the co-host of the Classical Rebellion Podcast. John Polhamus is a published composer and accomplished performer. John spent 15 years in London performing both musical theater and opera and is also the co-host of the Classical Rebellion Podcast. Four week class. Registration required. Thursday, January 16, 7pm; \$20-\$90. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Leather Crafting Workshop Eva Tseng, will lead an introduction to leather tooling to create a vegetable-tanned leather-bound notebook. Learn the basics of leatherwork to personalize your design using tools to stamp and carve your leather cover. Enjoy coffee and light bites to fuel your creativity. Saturday, January 18, 10am; \$30-\$45. Arts District Liberty Sta-

tion, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Letting Go of Stress & Anxiety Learn why meditation works, how to do it effectively, and how to integrate the insights you gain in meditation into your life. Class led by Buddhist nun Gen Kelsang Lhadron, resident teacher at Kadampa Meditation Center. Saturday, January 18, 4pm; **free**. Mission Hills Library, 925 W. Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Manifest & Grow: Vision Board Workshop Join us in the heart of OB for a night of manifesting and creating vision boards. We will be gathering to create our vision boards, eat some snacks, listen to great music and make some new friends. Thursday, January 16, 7pm; \$45-\$50. Botanica Home & Garden, 1909 Cable St., Ocean Beach

On Farm Composting Course Learn on-farm composting management techniques from basics to troubleshooting; siting to vector control; and regulatory considerations to global impacts. Saturday, January 18, 1pm; \$25. 18 and up. Terra Madre Gardens, 9928 Protea Gardens Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Orchid Kokedama Workshop Kokedama is a traditional Japanese Living Art form where moss is used as a container for a plant. You will learn the skills behind Kokedama and how to make your very own. Please bring your own apron and gloves. Instructor: Kodema Forest. Sunday, January 19, 10am; \$58-

\$62. 18 and up. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Paint Your Sneakers Bring a pair of clean canvas shoes and express yourself by decorating them with acrylic paint. Sneakers provide a great surface to cover with color, pattern, words and images. Transform your feet into an art gallery. Please register in advance. Friday, January 17, 1pm; \$56-\$65. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)

PopUp Paint N Sip Enjoy wine and paint our beloved cows & citrus grown at the ranch. Arrive at 11:15am to enjoy the gorgeous scenery and laid back ambiance. Enjoy live music playing acoustic sounds. Sunday, January 19, 11:30am; \$40. 21 and up. Rancho Guejito Vineyard, 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Strength & Balance Class Age is no barrier to exercise. At any age, you can see improvement in your strength, balance, stamina, flexibility and more. Regular exercise is important for preventing falls, plus much more. Thursday, January 16, 3pm; **free**-\$10. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Traumatic Brain Injury: 101 Workshop Military service members, veterans, and their families are encouraged to attend this workshop on Traumatic Brain Injury. Learn the signs and symptoms, and where to find treatment and

services. Thursday, January 16, 6pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Wellness & Chill Wellness & Chill is an international event for the Ezer K'negdos who are looking for deeper connections with other women & to rest their mind, body & spirit along the way. Saturday, January 18, 10am; \$40-\$125. FEMxQuarters, 1919 San Diego. (MISSION HILLS)

Workshop: How to Stretch a Canvas You will learn about: Building the frame, the tools required, stretching a canvas, primed and unprimed canvas, cotton vs linen canvas, how to reuse a canvas, and stretch your own 8x10 canvas and take it home with you. Cost includes supplies and refreshments. Sunday, January 19, 4pm; \$35. Veltz Fine Art, 2730 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Writer's Block In this class, writer's will learn how to get over writer's block in just a few minutes. Class will focus on deep breathing medication, mental focus, and free writing. Sunday, January 19, 10am; \$45-\$54. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Yiddish Curses & Compliments Class Would you like to learn to curse a nudnik in Yiddish? Or perhaps you want to give a Yiddish compliment to a gute neshume? Sunday, January 19, 5pm; \$15. House of Israel, Balboa Park, 2156 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

COMEDY

Lady Bunny Butchers Broadway The demented drag doyenne, Lady Bunny, defiles your favorite Broadway tunes with her new show Bunny Butchers Broadway. Thursday, January 16, 8pm; \$35. 18 and up. Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Avenue #200. (HILLCREST)

Samuel Comroe As seen on Conan & America's Got Talent. Thursday, January 16, 8pm; Friday, January 17, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, January 18, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Charity Dance Come dance with Funk Puppies. Friday, January 17, 7pm; \$10. Encinitas Elks Lodge, 1393 Windsor Road. (ENCINITAS)

Rachel & The Pier Group Bring your dancing shoes and enjoy a wide array of ballroom dance music including Swing, Cha cha, Rumba and more. Please RSVP. Friday, January 17, 7:30pm; \$10. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Shen Yun 2020 Shen Yun's vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional journey through the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture. Friday, January 17, 7:30pm; Saturday, Janu-

ary 18, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, January 19, 2pm; \$80-\$210. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Balboa Park Guided Tour As living in San Diego, you probably know Balboa Park but did you ever consider to go there on a French guided tour to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of a professional guide? A minimum of 7 students apply for the tour to be done. Tour in French with a native French speaker as a guide. Saturday, January 18, 10am; \$29. Balboa Park Activity Center, 2145 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

EXPLO Info Meeting EXPLO is a nonprofit education innovator that brings curiosity, engagement, and humanity to teaching and learning. Sunday, January 19, 2pm; **free**. Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, 3777 La Jolla Village Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Fermenters Club Chapter Meeting Chapter meetings are free informal gatherings where local fermentation enthusiasts get together to learn and share talk about kinds of fermented foods and non-alcoholic beverages. Please bring some homemade fermented (or otherwise) snacks to share and swap, as well as any extra cultures you have to swap, and clean, empty containers. RSVP required. Thursday, January 16, 6pm; **free**. Second Chance Beer Lounge, 4045 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Fermenters Club North County Chapter Meeting The North County San Diego Chapter of Fermenters Club meetings are informal gatherings where local fermenters get together and talk about all things fermented. Bring a fermented dish to share (or don't). This month, we plan to have Club member and sourdough pro Heather F. talk about sourdough bread. Thursday, January 16, 6pm; **free**. Local Roots Kombucha, 1495 Poinsettia Ave Unit 148. (VISTA)

Film Forum: Where'd You Go, Bernadette Richard Linklater's spiky comic caper features Cate Blanchett as a misanthropic matriarch who leaves her eccentric family in crisis when she mysteriously vanishes to jump-start her life. Thursday, January 16, 6pm; **free**.

Chula Vista Civic Center Library, 365 F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

Sales & Management Career Expo This is your opportunity to interview face to face with Fortune 500 and Industry Leading companies seeking talented, experienced and enthusiastic sales, retail and management candidates. Thursday, January 16, 9:30am; **free**. 21 and up. Doubletree Club Hotel San Diego, 1515 Hotel Circle South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Spoilers Book Club: Where'd You Go, Bernadette Join the Spoilers Book Club as we read the book, Where'd You Go, Bernadette, and watch the film adaptation. We will compare the two and discuss what we did and didn't like. Saturday, January 18, 2:30pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

The Big Fake Wedding This is a bridal show alternative complete with a meaningful vow renewal ceremony, light bites, and a dance-party reception. At the Big Fake Wedding you'll get wedding inspiration you can taste and see. Unlike your typical bridal show or wedding website, you'll experience the vendor's work in an actual wedding setting. Thursday, January 16, 7pm; \$15-\$27. 21 and up. Sandbox, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

When Mom Chooses to Die First-hand accounts of experiences with California's medical aid-in-dying law. Witnesses, including two daughters and a friend, will recount their experiences with planned deaths via California's End-of-Life Option Act. A representative from End-of-Life Choices California will tell participants about their organization and a group discussion will follow the presentation. Sunday, January 19, 1:30pm; **free**. Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 4780 Mission Gorge Place. (GRANTVILLE)

FOR KIDS

Nature Story & Crafts with a Park Ranger Children ages 5-10 are invited to join Ranger Heidi at the Mission Trails Regional Park Kumeaya Lake Campground Shelter for a nature story, followed by an arts-and-crafts project related to the theme of the story. Space is limited, please register by calling 619-668-3279. Saturday, January 18, 10am; **free**. Kumeaya Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

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PUBLIC FEEDBACK FORUMS: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

**Wednesday, January 15,
8:30 am – 11:00 am**

**Gloria McClellan Adult Activity &
Resource Center**
1400 Vale Terrace Dr, Vista 92084

Friday, January 17, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Gary & Mary West Senior
Wellness Center**
1525 4th Ave, San Diego 92101

**Tuesday, January 21,
10:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Escondido Public Library
239 S. Kalmia St, Escondido 92025

**Wednesday, January 22,
9:00 am – 11:30 am**

George Stevens Senior Center
570 S 65th St, San Diego 92114

**Friday, January 24,
10:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Casa Familiar
119 W Hall Ave, San Ysidro 92173
*This session will be conducted in
Spanish*



The County of San Diego wants to hear from you! Older adults 60+, caregivers, and those with disabilities are invited to an interactive Public Feedback Forum. Share your thoughts and ideas on how we might shape our community for people as they age and give us feedback on needed services and programs.



Refreshments will be served. RSVP requested. To learn more or to RSVP, visit www.aisevents.org or call 858-505-6433.

Feedback Forums are hosted by:
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency,
Aging & Independence Services.



WHEN MOM CHOOSES TO DIE

*First-hand accounts of experiences with
California's medical aid-in-dying law*

Sunday, January 19, 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Witnesses, including two daughters and a friend, will recount their experiences with planned deaths via California's End-of-Life Option Act. A representative from End-of-Life Choices California will tell participants about their organization and a group discussion will follow.

Vision, 4780 Mission Gorge Place, Suite H, 92120.

**Free program and free parking.
OK to use Grantville Post Office parking across the street.**

**Next month: Right-to-Die Film
"A Short Stay in Switzerland"
Sunday, Feb. 16
Mission Valley Library**



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SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Mar Vista Baptist Church

Contact: 888 5th St, Imperial Beach 619-424-7877

www.mvb.church

Membership: 30

Pastor: Daniel Mullen

Age: 62

Born: Glendale

Formation: Southern California Seminary, El Cajon

Years Ordained: 9

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

Pastor Daniel Mullen: The sufficiency of scripture. I came from a Catholic background, and I didn't have any exposure to scripture, growing up. There were smatterings here and there, but it wasn't presented as God's word. So almost immediately after I gave my life

to Christ, within a couple days, I was looking at the Bible, and it was speaking so clearly and powerfully to me. One of the first verses to come to my eyes to speak to my heart on the value of scripture was in Colossians 3:16-17. "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts...." Afterwards, I went down to the local newspaper and got a roll of newspaper paper and made a big banner and put it across the front room of my house with that quotation on it.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PM: Our mission is to make disciple-making disciples through the personal investment of our lives. Disciple-making is not something to put in a box – or learn how to do from books. You might be able to use a book in the process of disciple-making, but it is really every aspect of the church. It's more intentional, and in this way, we ask, "What is the kind of disciple Christ wants, and how can I use what I've been given to further that aim?"

SDR: Besides the Bible, what one book has had the greatest impact on your ministry?

PM: R.C. Sproul's *The Holiness of God*, in which he

emphasizes that our ministry can be really practical in relation to the gospel. For instance, if you're an engineer, you don't say, "I'm a Christian here in my personal life and an engineer in my professional life." You have to think of your whole life as dedicated to Christ. Not that engineering is a part of the gospel—but in all you do, you are a living testimony of the gospel.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PM: Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise," which indicates that somehow we will be in God's presence when we die. As far as the eschatological layout of how



Daniel Mullen

it happens, there are many ways to look at that. But I believe the saints in Christ are with the Lord. I also believe hell is a reality. It's not intellectually or emotionally palatable, but Jesus spoke a lot about hell. The main thing that gets us to hell is our pride. Someone who rejects the free offer of

salvation is basically saying, "No thank you!" to what God is offering. Christ offers us his work on the cross instead of our works, which take us nowhere – actually, our works take us to hell. So it does seem as if it's a binary choice, but it's a mystery. I don't know how it is that God gives us the grace to find him in the first place, but I know he chose to bestow it on some and not others. I don't like to be a hyper-Calvinist about the question of salvation; but it is something hard to understand, plain and simple.

– Joseph O'Brien

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

Pokemon Meet Up Calling all Pokemon Trainers, Masters and Fans! Bring your cards for trading or just come to learn more about Pokemon. Talk to others who like to spend their time in Kanto, Johto while making cool swag. Geared to ages 5-13. Thursday, January 16, 3:30pm; **free.** Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

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. Sights, Sounds + Textures (Jan. 17), Finger Painting Friday (Jan. 24) and Make Art (Jan. 31). Friday, January 17, 10am; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Survive the Wild Do you have a heart for adventure? Think you could survive if you were to find yourself in the wild? We have a fun, in-depth, and informative day planned to prepare you for such a time as this. Shelter Making, Purifying Water, Wild Plants, Fire Making. This event is for people at least 12 years old. Saturday, January 18, 10am; Fort Cross Old Timey Adventures, 4425 Highway 78. (SANTA YSABEL)

Tooth Fairy Meet-and-Greet The Tooth Fairy is coming to the Museum to show your little ones just how important a healthy smile is. Join us for a special storytime with The Super Dentists in our latest exhibit, Grin Land. Free with Museum admission. Thursday, January 16, 10am; **free.** San Diego Children's Discovery Museum, 320 N. Broadway. (ESCONDIDO)

Wee Carnie & Circus Show Come join the Spark Circus crew for a 'Wee Carnie' and Circus Show. There will be a sparkly warkly clown show and prizes to win in carnival games. Includes Circus & Clown Show, a trapeze act, dangerous stunts, acrobatics, juggling, good times, & fundraising party. Saturday, January 18, 2pm; \$15-\$20. Trilogy Sanctuary, 7650 Girard Ave., Ste 400. (LA JOLLA)

as a San Diego City Planner but continues to be very active on various boards and committees focused on historical preservation and planning issues. Saturday, January 18, 9:30am; **free**-\$5. NewSchool of Architecture and Design, 1249 F Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Is Americanized Chinese Authentic? The professor will attempt to answer a question many have asked: does America's Chinese food represent a cuisine that is authentically Chinese? Dr. Chen will move through the history of cooking throughout the regions of China, and ultimately demonstrate how what we enjoy at our favorite Chinese-American restaurants is widely recognized as a distinct Chinese cuisine. A tasting will follow Dr. Chen's presentation. Saturday, January 18, 10:30am; **free.** Cen-

tral Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

When TIKI Invaded San Diego Architectural Historian Diane Kane will present "When Tiki Invaded San Diego," a fun and informative look at our town's strong contribution to the genre. Learn how and why Mission Bay, Mission Valley and Shelter Island became the epicenter of this iconic phenomenon. Thursday, January 16, 7pm; **free.** Water's Edge Faith Community, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. (OCEAN BEACH)

Regional Park birders Jeanne Raimond and Millie Basden for avian adventure. We anticipate seeing hungry hawks that frequent this part of the park. Binoculars and bird book recommended. Meet at the north end of the large dirt parking lot in the East Fortuna Staging Area off Hwy. 52 and Mast Blvd. in Santee. Saturday, January 18, 8am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park East Fortuna staging area, Mast Boulevard at SR-52. (SANTEE)

Habitat Restoration Volunteers Needed The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and partners San Diego Canyonlands are looking for volunteers to help with habitat restoration at Gonzales Canyon Open Space Preserve in Del Mar Heights. Volunteers will water, pull weeds, and mulch the new planting area. Limited to 20 volunteers. Meet at 13610

LECTURES

FSDA Opens 2020 with Angeles Leira In March 1999, Ms. Leira talked to FSDA about the Revitalization of Sherman Heights neighborhood. A lot has happened in San Diego, and Leira's life, since then. She retired after more than 30 years

NATURE

Guided Bird Walk Bird Spring Canyon and Grasslands. Amid sweeping grasslands and chiseled canyon walls, join Mission Trails

<p>Saranya's Thai Café \$1 pancake for every \$10 purchased with coupon</p> 	<p>Bread Bar at all 3 markets weekly</p> 	<p>Organic Green Beans in Season Now CSA subscriptions: www.jrorganicsfarm.com</p>  <p>J.R. Organics Farm</p>	<p>Green Fix Smoothie</p>  <p>\$1.00 off any quart-Limit 1 per customer www.GreenFixSmoothie.com</p>	<p>\$1 OFF any 2 Paninis At Little Italy</p> <p>Valid through January 23, 2020 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p>  <p>Find us at Little Italy Saturday Seb's Paninis</p>	<p>Fromagerie & Cie by Franck At all 3 markets weekly</p>  <p>The California Olive At all three markets weekly</p>
<p>DALE RANCH BEEF • PORK GAME • FOWL Available fresh each week. Pasture raised start to finish. Hormone free, free range, humanly raised, no gmo grains.</p> 	<p>NEW Love, Granola at all 3 markets weekly</p> 	<p>The Rockin R Family Farm at all 3 markets weekly</p> 	<p>Seven Seas Coffee at Little Italy Every Wednesday & Saturday</p> 	<p>Maldonado Growers at all 3 markets weekly</p> 	<p>TUESDAYS WEDNESDAYS SATURDAYS</p>  <p>www.sandiegomarkets.com</p>

Sword Way. For more information or to RSVP contact Jonathan Appelbaum, jonathan@sdrvc.org Saturday, January 18, 9am; **free**. Gonzales Canyon Open Space Preserve, 13510 Sword Way. (DEL MAR)

Harbaugh Seaside Trails Restoration This fall, you have the opportunity to restore native habitat with a stunning backdrop of ocean views. Volunteer to be part of the historic restoration of Harbaugh Seaside Trails. Volunteers will help Nature Collective biologists to install native plants that will attract pollinators, such as birds, bees and butterflies! Register online. Confirmations will be sent to registered participants. Saturday, January 18, 9am; **free**. Harbaugh Seaside Trails, 2965 Highway 101. (SOLANA BEACH)

It's Popping Season for La Jolla Harbor Seals Join the Sierra Club Seal Society for an illustrated talk about Harbor Seals and Sea Lions, followed by a short walk to Casa Beach to possibly see a harbor seal birth and or a nursing mother and pup. Saturday, January 18, 2pm; **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Star Gazing Join MTRP volunteers and members from the San Diego Astronomy Association for viewings of the night sky through telescopes. Please avoid the use of flashlights and white light in the area of the events. Cloudy skies and/or rain cancels the event. Meet in the parking lot at 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. Friday, January 17, 5pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

West Sycamore Nature Ranger Walk The path less travelled - Explore the West Sycamore section of Mission Trails Regional Park located in Scripps Ranch, near the Goodan Ranch Preserve. Meet Ranger Andrew from 8-9:30 am for a guided nature walk in an area of the park less visited. Meet at the staging area, which is located at 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. Sunday, January 19, 8am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Wildlife Tracking Walk Look for animal tracks, scat, and other evidence on the trail that coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, deer and other seldom-seen wildlife have been in the area! We will meet at the La Honda parking lot and take a short hike to one or two good tracking locations close by. The hike will last between one-and-a-half to two hours depending on how much we find! Older children are welcome. Bring water and wear appropriate clothing. Saturday, January 18, 8:30am; **free**. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

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. Sat-

urday, January 18, 9:30am; Sunday, January 19, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPOKEN WORD

Fresh Starts with Storytellers of San Diego It's a New Year. A New Decade. Stories are as important as ever. Come and enjoy the Original Social Media; Storytelling. Hear this age-old art form with a taste of sweet honey wine. Grumpy Bear BBQ will be serving at our 3rd Thursday concerts. Thursday, January 16, 7pm; \$5. 21 and up. Twisted Horn Mead & Cider, 1042 La Mirada Court. (VISTA)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Rooftop Yoga Take your yoga routine to the next level. 3 levels up in fact. Join us on the roof of the newly renovated THC in Ocean Beach for a yoga flow overlooking the ocean. After class stay and hang out for a complimentary drink of your choice. We will be providing your choice of a mimosa, draft beer or locally owned Skrewball whiskey. BYOM (bring your own mat). If you have a dark color mat, bring a towel so the sun doesn't heat it up too much. Saturday, January 18, 11am; \$25-\$30. 21 and up. Holding Company, 5046 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)



Soak in the scenery while you soak in the tub.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 14

rials boast that it's one of the only condos available downtown with five reserved parking spaces in the community garage. Monthly homeowners' association dues may top \$2600, but include "resort style living with full-time security, theater, library, community party room with kitchen and barbecues," and a sixth-floor

terrace with pool and spa for residents to enjoy.

Public records indicate ownership of the unit currently lies with Blaise Barrelet, a computer analytics and medical technology entrepreneur based in Rancho Santa Fe. Barrelet purchased the property in 2017 for a reported \$4.85 million.

The unit was re-listed for sale in July of 2019, carrying a price tag of \$5,250,000 that remains unchanged to date. ■

WHEELING IN THE NEW YEAR

SPIN TO WIN FREE PLAY, SHOPPING & DINING!

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San Diego Reader January 16, 2020 31

Ribs and rubs

“Pork is a Georgia thing. We’re from Georgia.”

“Good wine needs no bush,” says Annie. We’re standing at a Mobil gas station, on the corner of 3rd and L in southern Chula Vista.

“Say again?” I say. I know I know this phrase.

“Well, just look,” she says.

“Red tent pop-up in gas station forecourt, no sign saying what it is, and yet all these people waiting to buy pork ribs. Good ribs need no bush! In the old days, inns hung out bush branches, right?”

To imitate grape vines, to say they had wine. The ones with a good reputation didn’t need to bother.”

This is my know-it-all friend, Annie. (Still love her madly, but just good friends.) We first spotted the red tent with smoke drifting out. A BBQ pop-up. Three guys working away, two in the tent, one out back at a double smoker. Get up close and you can read their tee shirts. “Da South in Ya Mouth.” Oh yeah! Great name.

Coming here was Hank’s idea, but he’s laid low this Sunday. That flu thing. So we’re taking some back to him.

“We could go tomorrow,” I told Hank.

“No, dude,” he says. “They’re only there on Saturdays and Sundays. Father and sons. Go before they run out! And don’t forget beans. Baked beans! To die for!”

Back at the red tent, Dandra and his brother Bronson are taking orders. “Our most popular dish is the “Three Meat Treat,”” Bronson says. “We have pork ribs, chicken, catfish, or hot link. You choose three meats, plus two sides. Sides are mac’n cheese, baked beans, collard greens, potato

salad, cajun fries, or fried pickles.”

Twenty bucks, he says. “But we have combos that are cheaper: you can get a beef tri-tip special with two sides for \$14, or whiting fish with two sides for \$11.”

Now I’m seeing the regular menu. BBQ pork ribs cost \$12.50. Alright! A chicken quarter goes for \$12, Cajun fried catfish is \$12, Cajun fried shrimp’s also \$12, and a half slab of BBQ pork ribs runs \$18. All include two sides.

“How come no beef on the regular menu?” I say.

“Beef is a Texas thing,” says Andra, the guys’ father. “Pork is a Georgia thing. We’re from

Georgia. But I can sell you that tri-tip for \$14, or a tri-tip sandwich for \$10.”

Andra (pronounced “André,”) is a big man. He keeps a weather eye on the smokers where he’s been flipping big slabs of pork, sausages, chicken, and tri-tip. “I’ll smoke

them 4-6 hours at 190-200 degrees. This way you seal the outside and retain the juices. I’m using mesquite wood here. Good for BBQ pork. But sometimes I use apple tree, or cherry. Those woods give off a sweetness people love.”

So I’m thinking pork or beef. Can’t waste these giant smokers on chicken or shrimp, right?

“Wrong!” says Annie. “I want shrimp. But can you do them without batter or breadcrumbs?”

“No problem. I’ll just put them on the grill,” says Andra.

“Chicken!” Hank texts. “Has herbs that’ll help my condition. And don’t forget the baked beans and collard greens!”

So I ask for chicken, baked beans and collard



Pork ribs, wicked with or without sauce.

greens for Hank, and pork ribs for me.

Soon, we’ve laid out the chicken, shrimp, and pork ribs and the little pots of beans and greens.

It fills Hank’s whole kitchen table. Not a bad feast for 30 bucks. Hank’s favorite item is his smoky, spicy chicken with a mustard sauce Andra made.

“I make it with cayenne, vinegar, cumin,” Andra tells me.

It’s certainly got a sweet thing going. Combines well with the baked beans too, and the strictly honest collard greens. “Too honest,” Hank says. “Could have done with more fat. Maybe more ham?”

Annie says the shrimp are “gorgeous.” My ribs definitely taste smoky, are crunchy on the edges, super tender inside. And Andra’s red sauce, also with cumin, cayenne, vinegar, garlic, plus celery seed, whacks up a sweeter flavor. “I use lemon juice to tenderize the meat and give it a tang,” says Andra, back at the smoker.

Turns out this venture is Andra’s way of busting out from his previous corporate life. “I was a general manager at Buffalo Wild Wings. I wanted to create something personal that I loved. And to leave something for my family after I’m gone.”

Andra credits his Southern cooking skills to his grandma Minnie. “I used to follow her around, where we grew up in Hinesville, Georgia.



Dandra (say “Dandray”) and Bronson, hearing Dad on importance of timing and temperature.

And she taught me to cook. She was very strict. She always said ‘If you don’t do it right the first time, when are you ever going to have time to do it right?’”

He says pitmasters in Kansas City adopted him and for three years taught him everything BBQ, from ribs to rubs.

So who came up with the name? “Rinda, my wife,” says Andra. “She just said what we were cooking was ‘Da South in Ya Mouth.’ We looked at each other. We knew that was it.”

Andra’s next big move is creating a food truck location in Fallbrook, opening early February. It’ll have sit-down, unlike here.

Back at Hanks, we gnaw on. I grab a couple of Annie’s shrimp. Simple and garlicky. Hank declares his rib the tenderest he’s had. I agree. Annie starts snarling when we try to sneak a couple more shrimp. “South in ya mouth?” she asks. “How about a knuckle sandwich in ya mouth?” ■

The Place: Da South In Ya Mouth, in Mobil gas station forecourt, at 3rd and L, Chula Vista, 619-738-2918. Soon also at 3137 S. Mission Road, Fallbrook

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Donut derangement

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Snared by a few of San Diego's Finest Donuts

San Diego's Finest Donuts; 3458 University Ave, City Heights. How many times can you drive past a donut shop without going in?

That's the question I ask myself in the waning moments of 2019,

as I once again roll past the little pink shop that's been teasing donuts here longer than I've been rolling down University Avenue.

That is, I almost roll past. Today is the day.

FEAST!

be satisfied for an easy \$1.15, grab and go, back out the door and on my way. But there's always a chocolate glazed, a sugared twist, a cake donut frosted and topped with crushed peanuts. It's only \$6.50 for a half dozen, my mind reasons....

There's not always a buttermilk donut, which has more of a brick shape with ridges on the top, cutting even through the glaze. I have to ask what it is, and then of course I have to try one: it's similar to the cake donuts, except with a texture that turns creamy as you chew.

All of the above are within the glass counter, just like any donut shop counter. But the real showpiece donuts sit on top. Such as the raised donut specials: vanilla glazed coated with Fruity pebbles cereal or Oreo cookie crumbles. These must be a nod to the kitsch and creativity of modern donut shops, which some might call hipster (though maybe that term finally dies with 2019?). Whatever you call it, San Diego's Finest has also offered the occasional cronut.

Of the \$3 specials, the one that catches

my eye is the s'mores donut: chocolate glazed with a smattering of graham cracker dust and charred marshmallows. But even it is outdone by the \$4 churro donut: what looks like a couple of small cinnamon-sugar crullers, stacked into a donut sandwich with a custard center, the top donut's hole filled with a swirl of whipped cream and a cherry. Or Oreo crumbles if you prefer.

by Ian Anderson



Come for the maple crullers, stay for the churro sandwiches.

I fell asleep thinking about donuts two nights ago and haven't been able to shake the craving. I can't be alone in this. There's got to be a reason little donut shops like this can display seemingly endless racked assortments of donuts day after day, decade after decade.

It's the variety that gets me. Sure, the desire for a maple cruller is what parks my car in the tiny lot, and sends my sneakers scuffing across graying asphalt into the shop. But that could



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Chatty afternoon tea at the Cosmopolitan Hotel

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant; 2600 Calhoun Street, Old Town. Walking around Old Town last month, I noticed a sandwich board sign advertising afternoon tea at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. That's the proper, British-style afternoon tea, complete with a big ceramic pot and a three-tier platter stacked with finger foods, the whole shebang, for \$25 per person.

Having developed a latent fascination with tea service, I was eager to try it; I just needed an occasion. Apparently, afternoon tea is a popular booking for bridal showers and even the occasional kid's birthday party. But the prerequisite seems to be that tea is be a chatty affair; it doesn't take a group, just someone who can keep up a conversation between nibbles and sips. For my part, an overdue catch-up with a dear friend proved just the

thing. I called the hotel restaurant to book the reservations.

The reservations have mostly to do with getting a head count for those finger foods, traditionally items such as crustless sandwiches, scones, and pastries. Our triple platter arrived set with nine distinct morsels of food for each of us, so there's clearly a need to prepare these in advance. On the top tier, the Cosmopolitan offered three twists on the classic finger sandwich: ham and cheese, with spinach, rolled up in a slice of crustless bread; egg salad, service in a lettuce cup; and what it calls an "open faced brioche," a round slice of crustless brioche, topped by diced skirt steak, mango salsa, and avocado cream. The latter's similarity to a tostada seems fitting enough, given this Victorian styled two-story hotel was originally built 190 years ago as a single-story adobe manor, the Casa de Bandini, home to a wealthy and powerful *Californio* cattle man.



"Open faced brioche" with skirt steak and mango salsa.

From a short menu of black teas, green teas, and herbal teas, we were asked to pick our first option, of two or three, depending on our preference. We started with a pot of assam tea, black tea made from tea plants grown in India, and only partly because we thought it was funny to order "awesome" tea.

With three tiers of food and three options for tea, we might have tried pairing each tea with each tier of food, but I don't think there's any specific etiquette about that, and anyway, we got too caught up in conversation, finding ourselves about halfway through our food when teapot number two arrived: *sen-*



Cups of assam tea poured from a traditional blue and white floral teapot.

cha, or whole leaf, sun-grown, green tea. Like the first, it showed up in a heavy, blue and white ceramic pot, taking its place on a heavy, iron stand at the center of the table.

I was already nibbling through the treats on the second tier, including gazpacho and a thick, hollowed-out slice of cucumber filled with a salmon and dill crème fraiche. Here was the scone I'd expected, though like the brioche it loosely referred to Old Town's Spanish-Mexican history, flavored with roasted corn and manchego cheese. I dipped the scone in the shot of cold, tomato-rich soup.

We both finished the sweet pastries on the bottom tier before our third tea arrived. There was a mini pie of blackberry and mango mousse, a sticky

and soft red velvet flan, and my favorite morsel of the whole lot: a mini churro covered in chocolate drizzle. The caffeine of the first two teas had done its part, and our chat was spinning in wild directions when the waiter returned for our third tea order — making me glad we had the charming, wallpapered room to ourselves! To finish out, we settled on a mango herbal tea, adding warm refreshment as we wound down the hour.

The food was more fun than great, but the time we enjoyed was both. I suspect afternoon tea is more about the company you keep. But then, as I left Old Town to walk back to my car, I noticed another Victorian, afternoon tea destination in lovely Heritage Park. That will be for next time.

by Ian Anderson



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BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Latitude 33 sold its brewery and only got bigger

After seven years in business, **Latitude 33 Brewing** met a crossroads. Led by flagship beers including Blood Orange IPA and Honey Hips blonde, the Vista beer company had quadrupled beer production in 2016, and doubled that by 2018, making it one of San Diego's fastest growing businesses. But despite having opened markets throughout California and out of state, Latitude had no room to grow in 2019. At 16,500 barrels, its brewery had reached capacity. Problem was, the cost of making beer keeps going up.

With a core lineup reliant on fruits, honey, and copious hops, Latitude 33 watched its cost of ingredients rise, while a saturated beer market ensured sale prices remained flat, at best. This was eroding its "already razor-thin margins," according to a recent press release. Without a

change in approach, said the release, "We would no longer support the production of core beers at scale."

The brewery needed to grow, and not incrementally. But a look around the industry shows how hard the beer business has been on breweries that expanded too big, too fast over the past few years. "Increasing capacity required massive capital investment," points out Latitude 33 chief executive Mike Ingram, "Well ahead of the volume required to justify it." Building or buying a brewhouse large enough to grow into would mean Latitude 33 could spend years paying for brewing capacity it didn't yet need.

Take **Green Flash Brewing**, which found itself with brewing capacity to spare after scaling back operations in the time surrounding 2018's notorious foreclosure sale. Green Flash had quickly expanded to all 50 states, then built a large brewery on the east coast to keep up with growth. When that growth failed to materialize due to rising competition by a new generation of breweries and emerging sectors such as hard kombucha, debt from brewery expansion pushed Green Flash into foreclosure.

Ironically, Latitude 33 has managed to turn these events into a solution to its problem. In December, it began shifting production of core and seasonal beers to the Green Flash brewery in Mira Mesa. Meanwhile, it sold its Vista brewhouse (which happens to be the same property where Green Flash first launched in 2002) to fast-growing hard kombucha maker **Local Roots**, which had likewise reached the limits of its brewing capacity. While Latitude 33 continues to brew on a small pilot system in Vista, and operate its

tasting room there, it is establishing an alternating proprietorship at the Green Flash brewery, effectively doubling capacity without having to invest millions in new equipment.



COURTESY/LATITUDE 33

Blood Orange IPA now available in multiple states on the 33rd parallel.

"Sharing overhead burden with a local, independent, top-tier brewery with production capacity was (by far) the best option," says Ingram, adding that the Local Roots deal simultaneously frees up resources for Latitude 33 to grow in other ways. "This move also provides greater flexibility, from a financial perspective," he notes. "By the end of this transition we will be virtually free of any long-term liabilities."

For example, Latitude 33 has been pursuing satellite taproom options for 18 months, which the beermaker can now afford. "Fortunately, the new arrangement liberates the necessary capital to pursue this opportunity. We've been eyeing locations in both North and South County,"

Ingram notes.

And now, it will easily have enough beer to support one. The company moves from brewing 30-barrel batches into 120-barrel fermenters in Vista, to 50-barrel batches with 250-barrel fermenters in Mira Mesa — not just as a contract brewer, but as a second business under the same roof. "We have dedicated cellar capacity with room to grow," reports Ingram, "and we're brewing at the same weekly cadence."

Asked whether Latitude 33 has any plans to build its own brewery again in the future, Ingram suggests a brewpub could be down the line, depending how the beer industry looks after the next 18

months. And, for the benefit of those who recall that **Alpine Beer Company** also once sought growth by brewing larger batches of beer at Green Flash, before eventually being purchased by the larger brewer, I ask Ingram if a similar sale could one day be in the works.

He says nothing like that has been discussed, however, "In our mind, we want to do what's best for our teammates and investors. If that means selling a portion of our brand to a cohesive partner with ability to help support our growth, I'm open to the discussion."

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

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-\$8 appetizers.

Pinzimini: Daily, 4-7pm: \$6 house wine, well drinks, draft beer. Discounted lounge cuisine including IPA Baja Fish Tacos, Pork Taquitos, Ahi Poke Tostadas, Honey Ginger Wings, and Craft your own Guacamole.

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

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

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

EAST VILLAGE

BeShock Ramen & Sake Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half off Sapporo, well drinks, sake, cocktails, bottled wines. \$3-\$8 appetizers.

Nectar Room at Hive Sushi Lounge: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm, 10pm-midnight: \$1 off all drafts

and specialty cocktails, \$1-\$6 sushi. Sunday, All day: \$1 off all drafts and specialty cocktails, \$1-\$6 sushi.

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

Tajima East Village: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: \$2 Sapporo. Friday-Saturday, 3-6pm: \$2 Sapporo.



Happy Hour 3-6pm \$4 Pints / \$6 Drafts

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HILLCREST

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

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

Hachi Ramen: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 Sapporo, \$4 hot sake, seasonal kombucha, \$5 house red or white wine. Deals on bites including \$3 edamame and \$5 dumplings.

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

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

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

Trust: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: \$6 wines and beers, \$8 cocktails. \$2 off bar bites. Friday, 4-7pm: \$6 wines and beers, \$8 cocktails. \$2 off bar bites.

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: Daily, 2:30-5pm: \$6 featured beers, sangria, margaritas, house made infusions, wines by the glass. Appetizers \$6-\$10.

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

KEARNY MESA

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

LA MESA

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: Monday-

Saturday, 11am-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine. Sunday, 1-7pm: \$1 off all draft beers, house wine.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza La Mesa: Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off beer, wine, cocktails. Half off menu shareables.

LITTLE ITALY

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

MISSION HILLS

The Regal Beagle: Monday, 3-6pm: \$6 lagers, pilsners, IPAs, hard apple cider. 25 cent mini corn dogs. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$1 off everything. Wednesday, 3-6pm: \$6 lagers, pilsners, IPAs, hard apple cider. Thursday, 3-6pm: \$6 lagers, pilsners, IPAs, hard apple cider. Two-for-one wings. Friday, 3-6pm: \$6 lagers, pilsners, IPAs, hard apple cider

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The Ould Sod: Monday-Friday, 2-7pm: \$3.50 Fireball shots and well drinks, \$5 draft beer. Saturday-Sunday, All day: \$2 off Irish whiskey, \$10 off Middleton whiskey.

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

Triple Crown Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off select pints and bottles. Saturday-Sunday, Noon-5pm: \$1 off select pints and bottles.

NORTH PARK

The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-9pm: \$1 off draft beer, \$5 well cocktails and screwball shots.

Bar Pink: Daily, 4-8pm: \$3 wells, \$2 PBR, \$1 off drafts and calls.

Berkeley Pizza North Park: Daily, Noon to 8pm: Discounted craft beer.

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

Jaynes Gastropub: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: \$1 off draft beer, \$3 off regular cocktails, \$5 Guinness. \$6-\$8 appetizers.

Polite Provisions: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$5 draft beer, \$6.50 cocktails, mules, mai tais, sparkling wine, well spirits, draft highballs.

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

Space: Daily, 5-9pm: \$4 wells, \$5 drafts and micheladas, \$6 beer and a shot.

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Cafe: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$3 20oz domestic beers, 16oz micro draft, wells, house wine, half price pitchers, \$3 appetizer samplers.

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

OB Noodle House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half off hot sake, most whiskeys, most beers, \$4 well drinks, \$5 375ml. bottle of Sho Chiku Bai Nigori, \$8 carafe of house

infused sake, \$1 beers 2-5pm with food purchase.

Raglan Public House: Monday-Friday, 11am-3pm: \$15.99 burger, fries & beer (or soda). 3-6pm: \$5 drafts, sangria, and house wine. Half off appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-1pm: \$5 bloody marys, sangria, mimosas.

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

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

Wonderland Ocean Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$2 off wine, \$3 off mules. \$1 off tacos. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-1pm: \$12 Bottles of Champagne.

PACIFIC BEACH

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.

JRDN: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$6 Sapporo drafts, single liquor wells, select wine, hot or cold sake.

Moray's Lounge: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$6 drafts, \$6.50 wells, \$7 house wine, \$11 appetizers and flatbreads (excluding cheese and cold boards).

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.

The Promiscuous Fork: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half off 16 ounce drafts on tap and select wines by the glass. \$5 Caesar salad, mini-beef sliders, grilled chicken tacos, smoked pork belly street tacos.

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

RANCHO BERNARDO

Phil's BBQ Rancho Bernardo: Monday-Friday, 3pm - 6pm: \$5 all draft beer, all wine, all signature cocktails and preferred spirit brands.

Also available are food specials featuring a new BBQ wings recipe.

SAN MARCOS

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

SANTEE

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

SOUTH PARK

Eclipse Chocolate Bar & Bistro: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$5 beers and wine.

Hamilton's Tavern: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$1 off local drafts, 50 cents off other beers, daily specials posted on beer board.

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.

TALMADGE

Romeo and Julieta's Wine Cafe: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$6.25 house wine, select drafts and bottles. \$9.75 appetizers.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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

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

Park & Rec: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 10pm-2am: \$6 daquiris, gin, tequila, all wines, \$7 dealer's choice.



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blurt the inside track

San Diego acts big in Spain It's a longstanding trend that arguably kicked

on Munster Records in Madrid, "In the Spotlight," with an accompanying video

Weekend in León, Spain, a psychedelic music fest headlined by the Hoodoo Gurus, featured a return performance by locals the Loons, who traveled the 6000 miles to play their own music (popularized there on a Spanish label) as well as a tribute to Roky Erickson and 13th Floor Elevators.



Local outfit The Loons played at last month's Purple Weekend in Spain.

off when the Zeros stormed out of Chula Vista in the late 70s. The influential punk band has a new single

filmed and edited locally by Kelly Paige Standard and David Robles. Last month's Purple

Also appearing were locals the Rosalyns, an all-star, all-girl rock band with Anja Diabolik from the Loons



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and Lety Beers from the Schizophonics alongside Birdy Bardot from the New Kinetics and others.

On arriving in Spain, both bands played a warmup gig at the Fun House Music Bar in Madrid, but the main attraction was the Festival, where "The venue was sold out," says Loons frontman Mike Stax, "packed in like sardines. Sardines with big feet and sharp elbows."

They played around 35 minutes of Loons songs and then 40 minutes of 13th Floor Elevators favorites. "It's a really amazing, validating feeling to see people in the crowd singing along to our songs. I even spotted

a few sardines singing along to 'Eye Society,' a song we only wrote about a month ago. For the Elevators set, we brought out Manu from [fellow Festival performers] Les Gryes-Gryes to play jug and percussion."

Stax and Diabolik (his wife) also played a 2 am DJ set before hopping a flight back to San Diego, where they appear at the Casbah with the Loons on January 25.

Also big in Spain is Mojo Nixon's occasional musical partner Skid Roper, whose song "The Rip Raps" is featured on a new compilation from Spain's SNAP!! Records, *Power Chords, Har-*

monies and Mistletoe II. The same album is packed with tracks from fellow locals such as the Drabs, the Tourmaliners, Rick Diaz, True Stories, the Shambles, Bathwater Babies, Pony Death Ride, and Jim Ryan. Several of Roper's local cohorts guest on volume one of the Mistletoe series, including Jose Sinatra, Jonny Viau, and Joel Kmak.

Another new Spanish compilation, *The San Diego Underground Files* from Spain's Bickerton Records, collects unreleased demos and rare tracks from local bands of the late 1970s and early 1980s, avail-

(continued on page 40)

MUSIC BOX



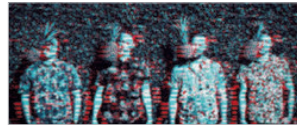
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able digitally or on deluxe 10-inch colored vinyl with inserts and posters. Volume one features another Purple Weekend vet, Manual Scan, whose frontman Bart Mendoza wrote extensive liner notes for the set. A local album release show takes place at the Casbah on January 16 where Manual Scan will play, along with Mittens and Avenue Army. Future volumes will spotlight San Diego bands such as the Event and Four Eyes.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Chased by the Russian mob “If one word sticks in my mind about shows in San Diego, it’s ‘sweat.’ We all get pretty soaked during shows, because we love to get into it. But San Diego is always next-level.”

Jonny Ashburn of New England’s post-rock band Caspian, affirms that when it comes to SD, the six-piece leaves a lot of themselves on the floor. But that’s far preferable to the worst-ever touring stories, which, the guitarist specifies, consist of “mostly long drives and logistical hiccups. Like hitting a deer on the highway at 70 miles per hour, losing a tire on the trailer, missing a flight, or generally just being in a van

too damn long.

“We got chased out of Milan by the Russian mob one time. Not sure what they were doing in Milan other than trying to steal our gear but we didn’t stop to ask. Instead of staying at our hotel that night we had to lose them on the road and we kept going until we hit Switzerland. I remember waking up in the van to the sound of cowbells coming from the field by the rest stop we were sleeping at. That was a strange night.”

The band, playing the Casbah on February 1 behind its upcoming record *On Circles*, seems resigned to the enigmatic “post-rock” appellation. “I think we’re all done trying



Caspian was chased out of Italy by Russian mobsters. “Not sure what they were doing in Milan.”

to shed the label,” Ashburn admits. “Labels can be useful and people can call it what they want. I personally don’t use it very much. I stick to something like ‘instrumental rock music’ or ‘cinematic rock music.’ Even just ‘rock music’ works for me.”

His own contribution to the music stems from several streams. “I got into Weezer just before high school when

the *Blue Album* came out because they were the nerdy outcasts. My custom license plates in high school read ‘Geekrok’ and I had just got my first guitar.

By the end of high school I was a huge Radiohead fan. They’re such smart songwriters, they keep innovating on every record at every single level, and they put on some of the best shows I’ve ever seen.

I grew up in Washington DC so I was into a lot of the discord bands from back then. Q And Not U, Dismemberment Plan, and of course Fugazi. And I’ve always had a soft spot for the late ’90s and early 2000s emo music...”

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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AVENUE ARMY at Casbah

JAN 16

“Avenue Army relocated from Saint Paul, MN to San Diego specifically because they felt that their sound would fit nicely in Southern California, and because they strongly felt that this was the place to build a better foundation for their music and fanbase,” says singer-songwriter Max Bergstrom. The group played around the Minnesota and Midwest scene between 2010 and 2013, when they released their debut album *Words with Action*. They moved to California in 2016, where Bergstrom eventually recruited an entirely revised lineup, currently featuring

Drew Smith (Rough) on bass and backing vocals, Vaughn Esparza on lead guitar, and Jack Owens on drums. Their *American Criminals* EP came out in 2017 and was rereleased the following year with three additional tracks. After signing to Cleopatra Records this past October, their *Holding Steady* EP was recently rereleased by the label. The all-local bill includes cat-pop rockers Mittens, which started in 2009 as a duo featuring longtime friends Lia Dearborn (Uniform Victor) and Ramona McCarthy, and mod mainstays Manual Scan.



TEN BULLS at Soda Bar

JAN 17

Formed in 2016 as Sights & Sages, alt-experimental rockers Ten Bulls were founded by one-time La Jolla High School water polo team member Christian Clark (Neveready, Pumphouse), Jay Sanchioli (Trunks, Neveready), and Chaz Lamden. Clark also played sax in La Jolla High’s jazz band and attended UC Berkeley, and both Clark and Sanchioli have played together in Love Glow, whose debut EP *Honey* dropped in 2017. Sights & Sages released their *Doubleplus* EP in summer 2017, preceded by singles for “Give” and “Aghori,” shortly after Clark’s

band Pumphouse released their *Too Broke for Fun* EP. By last year, Sights & Sages had expanded to include two new keyboardists (Iida Naughton and Sebastian Rizo) and changed its name to Ten Bulls, with an album under that name released last November, *The Physician’s Magician*. Also appearing will be no wave band Spooky Cigarette, featuring Frank Mindingall (Trips, Northern Tigers), Skylar Eppler (Trips, Kooties), Danny Gallo (Hills Like Elephants), Jakob McWhinney (Trips, Kooties), and Pepe Gonzales. Boychick will round out the evening’s entertainment.



LOS LOBOS at Spreckels Theatre

JAN 18

Three-time Grammy winners Los Lobos will headline the Concert of Hope, benefitting Doors of Change, which provides support to homeless youth in San Diego. Citing all the genres that have inspired their playing is akin to reading off the table of contents of a complete history of popular music, with a focus on traditional Latin folk blended with Tex-Mex, zydeco, blues, country, R&B, and rock and roll. Though founded in 1973, it wasn’t until 1987 that they first came to mainstream attention with their version of “La Bamba” by Ritchie Valens. They’ve

gone on to rack up countless accolades and awards, as well as being nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and inducted into the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame. Still featuring the founding trio of David Hidalgo, Louie Perez, and Cesar Rosas, accompanied by longtime bassist-singer (since 1974) Conrad Lozano, their most recent album from last October, *Llego Navidad*, includes Christmas music from Central America and South America, with Mexican folk songs as well as a new original tune by Hidalgo and Perez.



THE PALADINS at House of Blues

JAN 19

The Paladins were already combining country and early rock & roll with blues and jazz when the members were still attending local high school, long before the term rockabilly had been popularized. They’ve gone on to release several acclaimed full-length albums and a number of singles, and consistently performed and toured worldwide, upwards of 200 shows per year, often driving up to 75,000 miles annually. Rock promoter and future Casbah owner Tim Mays was the Paladins’ first manager in 1982, recognizing the band as akin to L.A. roots acts such as Los Lobos, the Blasters, and X, with a touch of Link Wray, Carl Perkins, and San Diego’s

own Beat Farmers. In 2018, the Paladins received a San Diego Music Awards Lifetime Achievement trophy, but they’re by no means retired. Last April, they were part of the 18th Annual Lonestar Round Up in Austin Texas, then in May they headed back to the Doheny Blues Festival in Dana Point California, before crossing the pond to hit Europe for a summer tour. Headliner Reverend Horton Heat is still supporting his most recent album, *Whole New Life*, which charted at number four on Billboard’s Heat chart (not named after the Reverend, though his previous albums have maintained a presence there, climbing as high as number two).



LOW VOLTS at Casbah

JAN 20

Electro-blues band Low Volts is fronted by guitarist Tim Lowman (Blackout Party), whose great-grandfather J. Warren Lowman (aka Doc Lowman) was a Missouri gospel singer who wrote a book about how he escaped the electric chair. *Twist Shake Grind Break* came out in May 2011, earning the project Best New Artist and Best Blues Album trophies at that year’s San Diego Music Awards, where Lowman’s other band Blackout Party won Best Americana. Their most recent CD, *Roam with You*, shipped with a handwritten thank you note, stickers, and a bonus holographic Low Volts guitar pick that

reads “Property of Low Volts.” The bill also features the Havnavts, formed in 2017 when Shelbi Bennett (the Mid-night Pine) began working on songs with Jenny Merullo (Black Sands, Heavy Guilt), a fellow teacher at the San Diego School of Rock. Their 2018 *Go For It* EP recorded at Earthling Studios in El Cajon by Mike Kamoo, won Best Local Recording at the San Diego Music Awards, and a new video debuted in September for “Gained Weight.” Headliners Dani Bell & the Tarantist released their sophomore album *Wide Eyed* last January, sporting cover artwork by John Gourley of Portugal. The Man.

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& Sunday, January 26



DANA CARVEY

Saturday, February 1



REO SPEEDWAGON

Friday, February 14



AIR SUPPLY

Sunday, February 16



**MICHAEL BOLTON:
The Symphony Sessions**

Sunday, March 8



FLOGGING MOLLY

Thursday, March 12



LEA SALONGA: In Concert

Friday, April 10



SHINEDOWN: Deep Dive Tour

Saturday, May 16

Tickets and info at HarrahsSoCal.com.

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Observatory **UPCOMING SHOWS**
NORTH PARK

<p>AMERICAN AUTHORS AND MAGIC GIANT SATURDAY, FEB 1</p>	<p>THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS TUESDAY, FEB 4</p>
<p>XAVIER OMAR FRIDAY, FEB 7</p>	<p>JAD SATURDAY, FEB 8</p>
<p>ELECTRIC FEELS SATURDAY, FEB 15</p>	<p>MAD HATTERS BALL SATURDAY, FEB 22</p>
<p>THRICE TUESDAY, FEB 25</p>	<p>HIPPIE SABOTAGE THURSDAY, FEB 27</p>

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Amplified Aleworks:

Saturday, 8pm — Bandaid Brigade.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Friday, 7:30pm — Camarada Presents Peter Sprague: Rendezvous in Realtime. \$30-\$35.

Beaumont's:

Saturday, 9pm — Bonneville 7. Free.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Midge Ure Ultravox Acoustic Duo. \$25-\$44.
Friday, 8pm — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe.
Saturday, 8pm — The PettyBreakers and Greg Douglass.
Tuesday, 8pm — The Used and Dragged Under. \$40-\$70.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Theo Katzman and Rett Madison. \$20-\$35.

Bertrand's Music:

Tuesday, 6:15pm — Bertrand's Ukulele Experience. Free.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Manual Scan, Mittens, Avenue Army.
Friday, 8pm — Bobby & the Pins.
Saturday, 8pm — Nada Surf. \$35.
Sunday, 8pm — Coda Reactor

and Shield of Snakes.
Monday, 8pm — Dani Bell, Havnauts, Low Volts.
Tuesday, 8pm — Satin Nickel and the Naked I.
Wednesday, 8pm — Cassie B & the Stingers.

Ché Café:

Saturday, 7pm — The Paranoyds.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Miss Demeanor.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 8pm — Tequila Mockingbirds.
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Harvest.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Friday, 7pm — Madbuskin'.

Duck Foot East Village Taproom & Kitchen:

Saturday, 7pm — Haley Blaze.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Friday, 6pm — The Taryn Donath Duo. Free.

Encinitas Elks Lodge:

Friday, 7pm — Charity Dance. \$10.

Famous Mexican Village:

Friday, 8pm — Cyren. Free.

Fluxx:

Friday, 9pm — A-Wall.
Saturday, 9pm — Shabazz. Free.

Grauer School:

Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 4pm — Roger Anderson Chorale: R.A.C. the House. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Sunday, 4:30pm — Adam Wolff Quartet. Free.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:

Tuesday, 6:30pm — Kathleen Murray.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm — Kenny Metcalf.
Friday, 7pm — And That's Why We Drink. \$27.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Elbow and Jesca Hoop.
Sunday, 12pm — Gospel Brunch. \$31-\$49.
Sunday, 7pm — Reverend Horton Heat and the Paladins. \$25-\$30.

Tuesday, 7pm — Eric Johnson. \$25-\$50.

Kraken:

Tuesday, 8pm — Cyren. Free.

La Jolla Community Center:

Saturday, 7pm — Preservation Through Improvisation: The Korean Haegumeo. \$23.

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:

Sunday, 1pm — Hot Jazz Instructors Concert & Dance. \$8-\$20.

Lestat's Coffee House:

Thursday, 4:30pm — Robin Henkel Band.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, 8pm — Led Zepagain.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

Sunday, 7pm — Lilius White. \$40.

Music Box:

Thursday, 7pm — Los Stellarians and Sleepwalkers.
Friday, 9:30pm — Motumbi and Dennis Bovell & Winston Reedy. \$27-\$32.
Saturday, 8pm — Zoso. \$20-\$22.

Nate's Garden Grill:

Sunday, 10am — Tinkersmith. Free.

Navajo Live:

Friday, 9pm — 3 Car Garage. Free.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Miss Demeanor.

Nick & G's:

Friday, 5:30pm — Tim Yancey. Free.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Trey Anastasio Band.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Michael Kiwanuka.

Panama 66:

Sunday, 5pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Saturday, 3pm — Boomshaka 2020.

Pounders:

Friday & Saturday, 9pm — West of 5. Free.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:

Thursday, 8pm — Sutton James.

Roxy Encinitas:

Wednesday, 7pm — Folkloric. Free.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Little Evil, the Oxen, Headphone.
Friday, 8pm — Boychick, Spooky Cigarette, Ten Bulls.
Saturday, 8pm — Hieroglyphics and Rap Noir. \$28.
Sunday, 8pm — Tularosa and the Cedar Shakers.
Monday, 8pm — Thee Sacred Souls and Mochilero All Stars.
Tuesday, 8pm — Jason Devore and Chris Demakes.
Wednesday, 8pm — Lil Boii Kantu and Ph4De.

Space:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Pressure Cracks.

Spin Nightclub:

Saturday, 8pm — DJ Kitty Glitter.

Spreckels Theatre:

Saturday, 8pm — Concert of Hope: Los Lobos.

Sycuan Casino:

Saturday, 8pm — The Commodores. \$49-\$79.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

Thursday, 8pm — Blue Oyster Cult. \$49-\$59.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:

Friday, 7:30pm — The Lonesome Ace Stringband. \$15-\$18.

Wesley Palms Retirement Community:

Friday, 7pm — Cowboy Jack. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:

Friday, 9pm — Casual Yak and Jam Packed.
Saturday, 9pm — Joe Marcinek Band and Shaun Martin.
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:

Monday, 12pm — Martin Luther King Day Celebration. Free.

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San Diego Symphony
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TREAT YOUR VALENTINE TO A CONCERT THIS FEBRUARY!



EMILY SKINNER,
VOCALS



NORM
LEWIS,
VOCALS



FRI FEB 14, 8PM

LOVE ME TONIGHT*

Rob Fisher, piano | Emily Skinner, vocals | Norm Lewis, vocals

Whether you're single, falling in love for the first time or falling in love again, spend Valentine's night celebrating Broadway's greatest love songs sung by Broadway's shining stars. Get a thrill out of hits like "I Wish I Were in Love Again," "Love is Here to Stay," "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight," "Love and Marriage" and "Embraceable You."



STEVE HACKMAN,
COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR

SAT FEB 15, 8PM

STEVE HACKMAN'S BEETHOVEN VS. COLDPLAY

Steve Hackman's *Beethoven vs. Coldplay* transforms Ludwig van Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony into an oratorio, weaving the melodies and lyrics of **Coldplay** into the original Beethoven and pairing them together based on content and context. Three vocalists join the full symphony; many of Coldplay's most well-known songs are interpolated, including "Fix You," "Paradise" and "The Scientist."

Steve Hackman's Beethoven vs. Coldplay is a Stereo Hideout production, created and arranged by Steve Hackman.



THE CHIEFTAINS

TUE FEB 25, 8PM

THE CHIEFTAINS "THE IRISH GOODBYE"*

Six-time Grammy® Award winning artists, **The Chieftains**, have been highly recognized for reinventing traditional Irish music on a contemporary and International scale. Their ability to transcend musical boundaries to blend tradition with modern music has notably hailed them as one of the most renowned and revered musical groups to this day. Come see them perform at what will be a memorable evening of music, song and dance on this final journey!

TICKETS & INFORMATION

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*The San Diego Symphony orchestra does not appear as part of these concerts.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Ariel Quartet: Beethoven Cycle Part 2 Friday, January 17, 8pm; \$9-\$54. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 Ludwig van Beethoven's Great Fugue has puzzled and entranced audiences for nearly 200 years, leading Stravinsky to call it "an absolutely contemporary piece of music that will be contemporary forever." Superstar violinist Leila Josefowicz joins the Symphony in a performance of one of her signature pieces, John Adams' virtuosic and "hyper melodic" Violin Concerto. Friday, January 17, 8pm; Saturday, January 18, 8pm; \$20-\$100. Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street.

Beyond the Score: Beethoven's 5th Symphony A riveting multimedia first half presents dramatic visuals on a giant screen, with actors depicting Beethoven, influential writers and other period characters. On the second half of the concert, you will experience the dramatic tour de force that is the complete Fifth Symphony! Sunday, January 19, 2pm; \$20-\$100. Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street.

Camarada Presents Peter Sprague: Rendezvous in Realtime Guitarist Peter Sprague presents this unique program centered around his new composition *Rendezvous in Realtime*, a three-movement piece commissioned by Chamber Music of America's 2018 New Jazz Works grant. The sound is "jazz chamber music" with leanings toward samba, flamenco, swing, and Celtic. Friday, January 17, 7:30pm; \$30-\$35. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street.

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

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

The year of Beethoven

We are now in the 250th anniversary year of Beethoven's birth and there will be content created like never before. The internet is already dripping with articles about the grim master of the human condition. I myself have written a few in preparation. With Beethoven planted in the front of my musical consciousness, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on his position in my musical journey.

I knew Beethoven before I knew I knew Beethoven. What child grows to the age of self-awareness without having *Fur Elise* played somewhere at some time? I still remember the lyrics to the McDonald's commercial based on the immortal earworm. "Oh I wish I was already there, instead of here...." Yet if you were to ask me if Beethoven is my favorite composer, I would say no. Beethoven

is beyond being a favorite composer. He is a fundamental force of classical music which defines its very existence. He is gravity. Favorite composers are like seasons or the weather, they come and go in cycles. Beethoven is a constant, warping the time and space through which favorite composers rise and fall.

In the age of CDs, I collected cycles of Beethoven's symphonies as if they were going out of style, which they eventually did. CDs, that is, not Beethoven Symphonies. At one point I owned three complete cycles. The conductors were Roger Norrington, Otto Klemperer, and Herbert von Karajan (the 1962-63 cycle).

No one conductor made it through a symphony to my satisfaction, let alone all nine. This led to my collecting almost a dozen versions of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and mul-

tipled editions of the third, fifth, and seventh symphonies as well.

The ninth is a particular problem. This one had the chorus too far back in the soundscape, that one had a neck-tie tenor screeching for mercy, which Beethoven never extended, another took the slow movement too fast or too slow.

And so it goes. There is no such thing as a perfect Beethoven recording.

There can be perfect, or at least near perfect, Beethoven performances. We've had a few here in San Diego. Christoph von Dohnányi conducting Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* at the San Diego Symphony, The Tokyo String Quartet's performance of Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 14* at La Jolla Music Society's Summerfest, and Augustin Hadelich playing the Beethoven *Violin Concerto* at Mainly Mozart



Beethoven warps the time and space through which favorite composers rise and fall.

all come to mind.

Of course, all three of those institutions are dish-ing out heavy helpings of Beethoven this year. This is it. This is the year.

There won't be another

opportunity like this until — well — 2027 marks the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death. But after that, there won't be an opportunity like this until 2070.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

musicians. Saturdays, 4:30pm; through Wednesday, December 30, free. First Presbyterian Church Chapel, 1740 4th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego County Recorder Society All recorder players are welcome to join our monthly play session. Warm up starts at 1:00pm and play with guest conductor begins at 2:00pm. Saturday, January 18, 2pm; free. Wesley Palms Retirement Community, 2404 Loring Street.

UPCOMING SHOWS

710 Beach Club: Friday, Jan. 24 — Revelation 69 and Grand Old Evils. \$5-\$10.

AMSConcerts Bonita: Friday, Jan. 24 — The John Jorgenson Quintet. Saturday, Jan. 25 — Dave Stamey.

Amplified Aleworks: Thursday, Jan. 30 — Scream Queens: Punk, Horror, Drag, Goth. \$5.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: Tuesday, Jan. 28 — Orrin Evans Trio. \$25-\$30.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Jeff Denson/Romain Pilon/Brian Blade. \$25-\$30.

Friday, Feb. 7 — Camarada: SENTIMENTALE. \$30-\$35.

BNS Brewing & Distilling: Saturday, Feb. 15 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Bahia Resort Hotel: Thursday, Jan. 30 — College Night Party Cruise. \$5-\$10.

Balboa Theatre: Sunday, Jan. 26 — Close to You:

The Music of the Carpenters. \$40-\$50.

Bella Vista Social Club and Caffe: Thursday, Jan. 30 — Kathleen Murray.

Belly Up Tavern: Thursday, Jan. 23 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters. Friday, Jan. 24 — Railroad Earth. \$25-\$44.

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Railroad Earth. \$25-\$44. Sunday, Jan. 26 — Back to the Garden.

Monday, Jan. 27 — The Marcus King Band.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 — John Mayall. \$30-\$53.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Tower of Power. \$56-\$98. Thursday, Jan. 30 — Sergio

Mendes. Friday, Jan. 31 — Wolf Parade and Land of Talk.

Saturday, Feb. 1 — Tainted Love. Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Howard Jones Acoustic Trio.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Daring Greatly and Sister Speak. \$16-\$28. Thursday, Feb. 6 — Pigeons Playing Ping Pong and Goose. \$23.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — Dead Man's Party. Sunday, Feb. 9 — Poncho Sanchez and Los Hermanos Arango.

Bertrand's Music: Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Bertrand's Ukulele Experience. Free.

Brew Coffee Spot: Friday, Jan. 24 — Clap Your Hands Say Yeah. \$25.

Brick by Brick: Saturday, Jan. 25 — Skinlab. Monday, Jan. 27 — Riff Raff. Sunday, Feb. 2 — Barishi and Ether Coven. Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Vader and Abysmal Dawn. Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Danko Jones and Junkyard. Saturday, Feb. 8 — The 69 Eyes.

Bunker House: Saturday, Feb. 8 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Burning Beard Brewing Co.: Thursday, Feb. 13 — Psychotic Waltz: The God-Shaped Void Listening Party.

Carvers Steak & Chops: Friday, Jan. 31 — Miss Demeanor.

SUN., JANUARY 19

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Stolen Souls, Cryptic

FRI., JANUARY 24

JUDAS PRIESTESS
Motorbäbe, Vixen Vendetta

SAT., JANUARY 25

BLEED THE SKY
Skinlab, Arise In Chaos, So This Is Suffering, A Hero Within

MON., JANUARY 27

RIFF RAFF
Cranberry Vampire Tour

THU., JANUARY 30

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Logistic Slaughter, Embryonic Devourment, Depulsed, Abject Terror

BRICK BY BRICK

FRI., JANUARY 31 (SOLD OUT)

HORRORPOPS
The Quakes, Franks & Deans

SUN., FEBRUARY 2

ETHER COVEN
Barishi, Outlier

TUE., FEBRUARY 4

VADER
Abysmal Dawn, Hideous Divinity, Vitriol

WED., FEBRUARY 5

DANKO JONES
Junkyard, The Focke Wolves

THU., FEBRUARY 6

MORTIIS
Tomb, Francis Roberts

FRI., FEBRUARY 7

THE CLASSIC CRIME
Assuming We Survive, Thread the Lariat

SAT., FEBRUARY 8

THE 69 EYES
Wednesday 13, Sumo Cyco, The Crowned

MON., FEBRUARY 10

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Saturday, Feb. 1 — Miss Demeanor.

Casbah:

Thursday, Jan. 23 — Feels and Wild Wild Wets.
Friday, Jan. 24 — Cursive and Cloud Nothings.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Dirty Sweet and Dead Feather Moon. \$15.
Sunday, Jan. 26 — Sideyard and Violet Dyes.
Monday, Jan. 27 — Redwoods Residency. \$5.
Tuesday, Jan. 28 — City of the Sun and Kiltro.
Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Glass Spells. \$8.
Thursday, Jan. 30 — The Toasters and Mustard Plug.
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Caspian.
Wednesday, Feb. 5 — The Melvins and Hepa.Titus. \$28.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — Lucky Chops. \$15-\$18.

Ché Café:

Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Higher Power and Life's Question.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Sunday, Feb. 2 — Bonneville 7. Free.
Wednesday, Feb. 12 — Miss Demeanor.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, Jan. 24 — FX5.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — DJ Harvest.
Friday, Jan. 31 — Kisstroyer and Side Hustle.
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Harley & the Pirates.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Sunday, Jan. 26 — Django JazzFest San Diego. \$20.

Downtown Café:

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Cyren.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Friday, Jan. 24 — Charissa Roberts.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Soul Seller.
Friday, Jan. 31 — The Humdingers.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Thursday, Jan. 23 — The Booze Bombs. Free.

Encinitas Library:

Sunday, Feb. 2 — Joshua White Trio. Free.

Fast Times:

Friday, Jan. 31 — 3 Car Garage. Free.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — Sonic Tonic.

Fluxx:

Friday, Jan. 24 — Mo Beat.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — DJ Vision. \$1-\$15.
Friday, Jan. 31 — FVME.

Gossip Grill:

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Luci Lampe. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Sunday, Jan. 26 — Tony Tixier Trio. Free.

Holding Company:

Thursday, Jan. 23 — Matchbox Twenty Too. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:

Friday, Feb. 14 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:

Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Kathleen Murray.

House of Blues:

Thursday, Jan. 23 — Koo Koo Kanga Roo.

Friday, Jan. 24 — Drake Bell Jam Session.

Friday, Jan. 24 — Emo Night Brooklyn.

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Jacquees. \$25-\$50.

Thursday, Jan. 30 — J.I. The Prince.

Friday, Jan. 31 — Randy Houser. \$27-\$55.

Saturday, Feb. 1 — Eric Nam.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Caifanes.

Thursday, Feb. 6 — Super Whatever and Chapel. \$13.

Friday, Feb. 7 — Zack Villere.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — Logan Mize and Willie Jones.

JAI at the Conrad:

Tuesday, Jan. 28 — Ranky Tanky.

Jacobs Music Center/Copley Symphony Hall:

Monday, Feb. 3 — Chinese New Year Celebration: Shanghai Chinese Orchestra. \$20-\$75.

Friday, Feb. 14 — Love Me Tonight.

Kraken:

Saturday, Feb. 8 — Bonneville 7. Free.

La Jolla Community Center:

Thursday, Feb. 6 — Carlos Velasco & Friends. \$10.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:

Wednesday, Jan. 29 — The Lerner-Moguilevsky Duo. \$33-\$52.

Library:

Friday, Feb. 7 — Cyren. Free.

Loft:

Friday, Feb. 7 — Alicia Olatuja. \$9-\$35.

Lucy's Tavern:

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Sonic Tonic.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, Jan. 31 — Angela Aguilar: Como La Flor Tour.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Alan Parsons Live Project.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — Wynonna & The Big Noise.

Friday, Feb. 14 — Walk Off the Earth.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:

Friday, Jan. 31 — Sonic Tonic. *Saturday, Feb. 15* — Bonneville 7. Free.

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage:

Saturday, Feb. 1 — Eric Michael Krop. \$30.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Linda Lavin. \$35-\$40.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — Linda Purl & Her Big Band. \$30.

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MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY • JANUARY 18

IRATION
CYPRESS HILL
THE GREEN • DON CARLOS
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Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Friday, Jan. 24 — Sonic Tonic.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — 8 East Band.
Free.

Museum of Making Music:
Thursday, Jan. 23 — Muriel Anderson and Sandro Norton. \$25-\$30.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — Shana Tucker. \$30-\$35.

Music Box:
Thursday, Jan. 23 — MDRN HSTRY, the Frets, Aviator Stash. \$10.
Friday, Jan. 24 — Sullivan King. \$20-\$30.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Stepping Feet and Heavier Things. \$15-\$17.
Sunday, Jan. 26 — Scarface and Ross May. \$20-\$25.
Tuesday, Jan. 28 — The Marcus King Band and Early James. \$26.
Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Queensryche, John 5, Eve To Adam. \$37-\$42.
Thursday, Jan. 30 — Fistfights with Wolves and Belladon.

Friday, Jan. 31 — The Joe Kay Experience. \$22-\$37.
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Ozomatli, SM Familia, DJ Richie. \$35.
Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Pinegrove and Lake. \$24.
Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Matisyahu. \$42-\$45.
Thursday, Feb. 6 — Tender and Xylo. \$18-\$20.
Friday, Feb. 7 — The English Beat. \$26-\$28.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — Garza. \$22-\$25.
Sunday, Feb. 9 — The Glorious Sons and Des Rocs. \$61-\$101.
Monday, Feb. 10 — Katchafire and Marlon Asher. \$32-\$34.
Thursday, Feb. 13 — Young Dolph and Key Glock.
Friday, Feb. 14 — The Como La Flor Band. \$18-\$20.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Thursday, Jan. 30 — Robin Henkel.

Observatory North Park:
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Saint Motel.
Tuesday, Jan. 28 — King Princess.
Saturday, Feb. 1 — American Authors and Magic Giant.
Tuesday, Feb. 4 — The New

Pornographers and Diane Coffee. \$30-\$32.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Atmosphere.
Friday, Feb. 7 — Xavier Omar and Parisalex.
Tuesday, Feb. 11 — Dashboard Confessional and Piebald.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:
Sunday, Feb. 9 — Tinkersmith.
Free.

Old California Coffee House & Eatery:
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Rolf Olsen Quartet. Free.

Open Air Theatre:
Monday, Feb. 3 — Dermot Kennedy.

Pour House:
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Saturday, Feb. 15 — Elvin Bishop & Charlie Musselwhite.

Poway's Irish Pub:
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Fleetwood Bigmak. Free.

Quartyard:
Sunday, Feb. 2 — Festival of New Trumpet Music West. Free.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Stop the Domestic Violence Fundraiser.

Rancho Carlsbad Clubhouse:
Tuesday, Feb. 11 — Cowboy Jack. Free.

Rosie O'Grady's:
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Saddle Bar:
Thursday, Feb. 13 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Jan. 23 — Dude York. \$12.

Friday, Jan. 24 — Fog Lake.
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Los Dug Dug. \$15.

Sunday, Jan. 26 — The Shivas.
Monday, Jan. 27 — Thee Sacred Souls and Swimming in Circles.
Tuesday, Jan. 28 — Mattiel and Calvin Love.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Hip-Hop & Poetry Night.

Thursday, Jan. 30 — Shady Bug and Neutral Shirt.

Friday, Jan. 31 — Death Cab For Karaoke. Free.
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Levitation Room.

Monday, Feb. 3 — Joe Sib and Ryan Shores.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Luna Aura and Fever Joy. \$10.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Church of Misery.

Friday, Feb. 7 — Homeboy Sandman and Quelle Chris. \$12.
Thursday, Feb. 13 — Miniature Tigers.

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Sunday, Jan. 26 — Trippie Redd.

Spin Nightclub:
Friday, Feb. 15 — DJ Oscar Velazquez.

Spreckels Theatre:
Saturday, Feb. 15 — Jason Mraz: Shine.
Sunday, Feb. 16 — Jason Mraz: Shine.

Tenth Avenue Arts Center:
Friday, Feb. 7 — Mike Masse. \$33.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, Feb. 7 — 3 Car Garage. \$10.

Tower Bar:
Saturday, Jan. 25 — Coda Reactor and Gaslighter. \$5-\$10.
Sunday, Jan. 26 — Ska/Punk BBQ 2020. \$7.

Trinity United Methodist Church:
Saturday, Jan. 25 — San Diego Contra Dance. \$10.
Friday, Jan. 31 — San Diego Contra Dance. \$10.

UCSD Price Center:
Thursday, Jan. 23 — The Haden Triplets. \$9-\$30.

Thursday, Feb. 6 — Cha Wa. \$9-\$30.

Urban Mo's Bar and Grill:
Saturday, Feb. 1 — Whips n Furs. \$5-\$10.

Valentins Bar & Grill:
Friday, Feb. 7 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Viejas Arena:
Thursday, Jan. 30 — SuperM.

Whiskey Girl:
Thursday, Feb. 6 — Yung Rap Goddez. \$12-\$15.

White Box Theater:
Sunday, Feb. 9 — Fresh Sound: Carl Stone.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, Jan. 24 — E.N Young and Imperial Sound.

Saturday, Jan. 25 — Cappyac and Mitchum Yacoub.
Monday, Jan. 27 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

Friday, Jan. 31 — Kitchen Dwellers.

Monday, Feb. 3 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.
Monday, Feb. 10 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Sunday, Feb. 2 — Ethnic Heritage Ensemble. \$12-\$15.

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Maid men

Madame has been a mistress; that is all, and that is enough.

Toward the end of the Nervous Theatre's production of Jean Genet's *The Maids* — which, by the time you read this, will have departed for Seattle after a one-weekend run at the Tenth Avenue Arts Center (the troupe does describe itself as “rootless,” so) — one of the titular characters declares, “It would be a fine thing if masters could pierce the shadows where servants live.”

But of course, they can't; not here,

anyway. If they could, then perhaps Madame might be able to understand why her maids Claire and Solange regularly perform an elaborate ceremony in which one maid plays Madame and the other plays Madame's murderer. And why, in that ceremony, Madame is portrayed as an abusive monster, belching invective such as “Servants ooze” and “You are our disgusting mirrors,” and indulging grandiosities such as “Through me alone, the servant exists.” (True enough, but...)

As it is, Madame would very likely be flummoxed. Does she not allow her maids to bathe in her own tub every week? When she declares her intention to give up the party life and devote herself to her imprisoned lover, does she not give them her red dress and fur coat? Does she not encourage them to live and love? Most baffling of all: do not the maids themselves admit that she is kind and adoring, that she is in fact killing them with sweetness? What has she done to deserve such hatred, such grotesque caricature? (Grotesque but also fabulous: performance artist Sympathie the Clown's portrayal of Claire portraying Madame is purest camp. His Dudley Do-Right chin is more than a match for his bouffant wig and white dressing gown, and his thrillingly rich voice makes his wildest declarations sound, if not normal, then at least natural. And his hulking exuberance is nicely contrasted by co-star and director Connor Berkompas' slight reserve. Even when Solange is enraged or agonized — “This is killing us, Claire” — he sounds one step removed from his own emotions.)

Madame has been a mistress; that is all, and that is enough. The slogan painted on the white sheet that forms the opening scene's walls reads “*Ni dieu ni maître*” — “No gods, no masters.” Her authority is her crime, the thing that curdles every kindness and poisons all those under its sway. Were they not conscious of Madame's flowers, would the maids resent their sink? (Well, maybe; the pair are old hands at resentment, clawing away at each other even as they dream of clawing Madame. They probe one another's weak spots: a traumatic encounter with the delivery boy, a failed attempt on Madame's life...) Genet's play seems less about class warfare and more about the inherent evil of serving. Madame is more victim of her own happy circumstance than villain here, and if the maids are wicked, well, they can explain why: “The beauty of my crime makes up for the poverty of my suffering.”

Getting back to those shadows: the thing about shadows is that you can't be sure what's in them. (Scintillating insight, I know.) And obscured vision,

confused vision, misled vision is very much on the production's mind. The male leads refer to each other as sisters throughout, but at one point, Madame informs the audience that “those boys do worship me.” (Confusing, much like Madame's accent, which actress Annabella Joy makes sound

like a commoner putting on society airs. We don't see much of her, mind you: even when she's onstage, the view we get is controlled by

the maids, who use mounted cameras to send her image to large, obscuring TV monitors. More grotesquerie) There's a crazed romp played out under strobe lights, but it's not as disorienting as the finale, where it's hard to tell just who is real and/or alive and who is imagined and/or dead.

What I liked best, besides the twisted intimacy between Claire and Solange, was the show's youthful energy and ambition. The play's Wikipedia page mentions that Jean-Paul Sartre wrote an introduction for it that quoted a different Genet character saying that if he had a play written for women, he would cast adolescent boys. Sympathie and Berkompas aren't adolescents, but they aren't too far removed from it. Still, they ably convey characters who have long been accustomed to deprivation, and they make expert use of their few props — most notably, an absurdly long string of pearls and an oversized portrait of Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly — to make a sad world for their mad ladies to inhabit. ■

THEATER MATTHEW LICKONA

THEATER LISTINGS

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

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. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

The Great Leap

When an American basketball team travels to Beijing for an exhibition game in 1989, the drama goes deeper than the strain between countries. For two men with a past and one teen with a future, the game is a chance to claim personal victories on and off the court. Tensions rise right up to the final buzzer as a pivotal moment in history collides with the action in the arena. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Italian American Reconciliation

Two men, two 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,



The Maids: Sisters plotting to do it for themselves?

The Maids, by Jean Genet

Tenth Avenue Arts Center, 930 Tenth Avenue, East Village

Directed by Connor Berkompas, cast: Sympathie the Clown, Connor Berkompas, Annabella Joy; scenic design, Connor Berkompas; stage manager, Marissa Del Gatto

and you'll have some idea of what you are in store for. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, JAN. 19.

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, ESCONCIDO. 7PM SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY, JAN. 19.

Wee Carnie & Circus Show

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Dolittle: Downey goes down

It is with deep and abiding regret that we report the passing of Robert Downey, Jr. — one of the last of his generation of trailblazers — over to the dark side. Admittedly, the transition probably took place ages ago. *Dolittle* is the first time in almost a dozen years (and almost a dozen pictures) that the once untouchable actor and I have spent quality time together in the same multiplex. (Does sleeping through half of *The Avengers* really count as a viewing?) The ensuing years have given witness to a noticeable movement away from the risk-taking original that once was and in the direction breezy, barren comic book thrills.

The star made perfect sense, even if the director seemed an odd fit. From the normally politically-charged lens of Stephen Gaghan (*Syriana*, *Gold*) comes Hollywood's plan to cash in on the 100th birthday of children's author Hugh Lofting's human-ducking, animal-confabulating Victorian sawbones. Of all the stars to have taken the

cash-enhancing comic book tumble down the MCU black hole of success, Downey's avoidance of smaller pictures to justify the excess has hit the hardest. Today, the guy can't enter a studio without special effects waiting at the gate to greet him.

Having grown up on the novels, the prospect of Downey hanging up his warrior vines long enough to play the legendary British physician and universal champion of animal rights piqued my curiosity. The miasmatic universe that plays out is one that instead envisions Dr. John Dolittle (Downey) as Iron Vet, playing guardian to a galaxy of computer generated critters. What's here leaves little for the imagination to marvel at.

The animated credit sequence magically hastens us through John's troubling backstory. Starting on high with his dizzyingly love-based marriage to his darling Lily, life quickly nosedives in the direction of his bride's untimely death. The impact

MOVIES



Dolittle: The 800-pound gorilla in the multiplex.

of the loss results in John closing up shop and devoting his days to living a hermetic existence. The switch to live-action deposits us in the general vicinity of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. It's in the woods of this fictional English village, where Dolittle resides, that we're introduced to a father and his two sons on a hunting trip, looking to pop a deer. Pop Stubbins places a knife in the hand of his reluctant son Tommy (Harry Collett), but rather

than using it to euthanize the chipmunk he's accidentally winged, the humane lad finds his way to Dolittle Manor, where the rodent is personally placed in the doctor's healing hands. So far, so good, but uh-oh... It was at about the same time the animals began to speak that my eyes drifted longingly towards the exit door.

The first example of special effects utilized to animate the mouths of real life animals was a series of shorts cre-

ated by the Caesar of Squash-And-Stretch, Tex Avery *aka* the architect of Bugs Bunny. He began working on *Speaking of Animals* while between gigs at Warners and Metro. Avery signed 6 of the 50 shorts released by Paramount between 1941-1950. And I'd be remiss not to mention a certain horse, of course. Inspired by a talking mule named Francis, and in reruns to this day, the trick to getting Mr. Ed to "talk" was achieved by photographing the

Matthew McConaughey
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IN THEATERS JANUARY 24

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palamino's attempts to dislodge a piece of nylon wire placed beneath his lips.

As for the eponymous specialist, for many of us, myself included, Downey joined Rex Harrison and Eddie Murphy as cinema's third and only big screen incarnation of Doctor D. Eight years after the publication of Hugh Lofting's *The Story of Doctor Dolittle* saw the release of *Dr. Dolittle and His Animals*, a 33-minute "Silhouette Film" by German animator Lotte Reiniger. Her unique, hand cut approach to cartooning found its roots in shadow theatre. Reiniger's "tricktable" was the grandmother of the Fleischer Bros. deep focus "table top" animation and Disney's Multiplane camera. The clips on YouTube should act as sufficient appetite-whetter.

If I could talk to the animals, I would ask the money-hungry producers — Downey among them — just exactly who in blazes contributed the idea of a fire-breathing dragon with which the good doctor establishes contact? Talk about violating the integrity of Lofting's original! The Pushmipullyu, mythical creature though it may be, was at least comprised of two parts llama. Other than in the Chinese animal hierarchy, does a dragon even qualify as an animal? And if so, would it be too much to as that the beast's appearance lead to something more than a mechanical fart joke?

It was hard to take for both young and old. The nine-year-old seated to my right punctuated many of Downey's heavily-accented line readings with, "What did he say?" As for the creatures, the celebrity-voiced menagerie came through loud and clear. But apart from stale one-liners — and dare I say an anachronistic aside to *Star Trek* — there was seldom much thrown our way that was worth listening to. Your time would be better spent at home on the floor schooling the young ones on the art of conducting a heart-to-heart with the family pet.

—Scott Marks

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd.

Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

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)

Cunningham — A woman who had traveled some distance to New York to attend one of dancer-choreographer Merce Cunningham's performances later contacted a music critic to complain. It seems the show was so bad that the amount it cost — train ticket, babysitter, etc. — left her feeling gypped. The critic agreed with her buyer's remorse, adding that the Cunningham's troupe had no right to treat patrons in such a cruel fashion. I maintain as much of an appreciation for modern dance as I do for watching golf on TV. But this is a movie, and as such, anything can be, and in this case is, rendered cinematic. All it takes is an imagination allied with the eye looking through the viewfinder. Still, something about documentary Alla Kovgan's compositions nagged at me. Their beauty felt uncharacteristically distanced, and her ambitious frame-within-frame use of file footage unique, to say the least. Shot in 3D, it should come as no surprise that it will play in San Diego as a "flatty." 2019. — S.M. ★★★ (LAND-MARK KEN)

The Hottest August — In an egregious example of shoot-now-figure-it-out-later filmmaking, documentarian Brett Story spent the month crisscrossing the five boroughs of New York, asking regular folk to comment on the future. It would have taken some doing to find a less engaging group of interview subjects. Or is it the lack of time we're allowed to spend with any one individual that minimizes interest? The subject most frequently turns to climate change, but

not enough to qualify this as ecocentric. A few of the interviewees reappear, but not long enough to make a significant impact. Artfully composed bridging shots are held just long enough for the viewer to think that something is about to happen, but it never does. And August 2017 was not the hottest on record. Not even close. If one can't get the title right, what chance is there of everything else falling into order? 2019. — S.M. ● (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Just Mercy — Alabama logging worker Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx) looks skyward towards the gap left by a recently felled tree, never dreaming of the hole in his life this foreshadowing shot would come to represent. McMillian fit the M.O. of a scapegoat, and he was wrongfully sentenced to death for killing Ronda Morrison, an 18-year-old white dry-cleaning clerk. His case was appealed and overturned, thanks to crusading defense attorney (and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative) Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan). It's good acting at its finest in this preaching to the choir "right to life" drama that might have worked had the filmmakers chosen to show the audience a little mercy by not constantly talking down to them. And whatever became of Morrison's murderer? The closing crawls inform audiences as to the whereabouts of several of the film's wrongfully condemned characters. Call it a case of selective compassion, but I had to Google the victim's name to learn that her killer has yet to be brought to justice. Directed and co-written by Destin Daniel Cretton. 2019. — S.M. ★ (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 tempestuous 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 cuffed hack scribbling for money to a serious artist with the humility and cour-

age 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 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)

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-skipping 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 a 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)

Underwater — Will Eubank trades in the cramped, outmoded U.S. Air Force base that played home to extraterrestrial biological entities in his previous film, *The Signal*, for an underwater research lab imagineered in a style that evokes a crumbling '80s health club. There's nothing alien about this plot: a subterranean tremor does irreparable structural damage to the facility. And no sooner does the ocean rebel against the corporate-financed mission than it's up to our six surviving occupants to improvise an escape route, unexpectedly lined with Dolby-flexing sea monsters. What once would have been classified a B-movie boasts an A-list performance by Kristen Stewart, surpassed only by cinematographer Bojan Bazelli's buoyant ascent through a torrent of flickering sludge. Providing the occasional unintentional laughs are T.J. Miller's growlingly annoying variation on a waterlogged Jeff Spicoli and a mumbling, decidedly undecided Jessica Henwick who, not knowing whether to laugh, cry, or shriek, will on occasion do all three. There's no better feeling than starting the New Year right with an affectionate, action-packed genre picture. 2020. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

FILM FESTIVALS

An American in Paris (1951)

Gene Kelly stars as an ex-G.I. who stays in Paris after the war ends. His intent to pursue a career as a failed painter changes the day good fortune doubles down in the form of a wealthy, borderline spinsterish grubstaker (Nina Foch) and a comely 19-year-old Parisian in backlot Hollywood (Leslie Caron). Four non-musicals came to mind during last night's reacquaintance viewing. Oscar "The Best Part of Any Movie He's In" Levant's concert — where he plays soloist, orchestra, and audience — was a tip of the hat to Buster Keaton's *The Playhouse*. Levant's escalating unanswered requests for coffee suggest a pending Scorsese homage in *Raging Bull*. "The Lucky Song," Dean Martin's playful boulevard celebration in Frank Tashlin's *Artists and Models* is a bold-faced tribute to Minnelli's adorable "I Got." And is it me, or does the doomed Nina Foch/Gene Kelly hookup prefigure Patricia Neal and George Peppard's butch and femme shenanigans in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*? Alas, the legend that



An American in Paris: say bonjour to Leslie Caron, a Parisian in backlot Hollywood.

precedes this much-decorated musical is way out of whack. Vincente Minnelli thought the studio had assigned him the picture as punishment for the lackluster box office returns of his previous musical, the giddily excessive *The Pirate*. Jerky continuity and claustrophobic staging conspired to clothesline any potential joy to be found in the otherwise sentimental "dancing grannies" number, "By Strauss." The tap-controlled illuminated steps set do most of the performance work

in "Stairway to Paradise." And whoever thought it wise to cast accent-for-hire Georges Guétary as the third musketeer did viewers a great disservice. (Maurice Chevalier was considered, but there was this recurring story about his once performing for the Nazis that may have played a part in the studio's decision. No matter. When it came time to make *Gigi*, all was forgiven.) The ever-dwindling plot and character development is proof positive that screenwriter Alan J. Lerner is no match for Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Kelly had choreographed dance sequences before, mostly unacknowledged, but this was to be his first credit as choreographer. In spite of cinematographer John Alton's contributions, the grandiloquent Jazz ballet that brings down the curtain does so not a moment too soon. That said, if you've never seen this on a screen, trust me when I say you've nothing better to do when the film plays countywide.

IN WIDE RELEASE: Sunday, January 19 at 1 pm and 4 pm, and Wednesday, January 22 at 7 pm.

12 Angry Men (1957)

The credits roll over a high-angle shot: jurors enter the deliberation room, where we'll spend the remaining 93 minutes of the running time. Forty years separated me and my last viewing of *12 Angry Men*. It wasn't until yesterday — and with an assist from IMDb — that I noticed the manner in which director Sidney Lumet manipulates space in the jury room. We open with the camera slightly elevated, looking down, to establish a distance between the jurors and the audience. Time passes, we become familiar with the characters, and the camera takes on a more trusting eye-level angle. With a third of the way left to go, director of photography Boris Kaufman replaces the wide angle lens with its compressing telephoto counterpart. The additional subterranean placement of the camera helps to establish the sense of claustrophobia that dominates the third act. Reginald Rose's dialogue has a tendency to become monotonous, but as filmed-theatre goes, you could do a lot worse.

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JANEAN GONSALVES! WHERE RU This is Bret! Let's get married! I should get my trust fund at midnight! 4696 Davinci St SD CA knock any day! Luv u!

WALKING MY DOG ON HARBOR ISLAND DR. I recall something similar. If me, a walk would be wonderful. 619-844-7532

LOST OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENT IN IMPERIAL BEACH Our research group at Scripps Institution of Oceanography buried the instrument on the north-most bench leg at Palm Plaza. It is cylindrical, approximately 8 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. If you have seen this instrument please contact us. Phone: 858-246-5511 Email: scrippsnews@ucsd.edu

FOUND TOYOTA CAR KEY and four additional keys in Rancho Peñasquitos on Kika Court. They are @ the Montiera Apartments leasing office.

LOST TOYOTA KEYS near the Circle K gas station on the 56

freeway and Del Sur exit on Dec. 21. Please call 858-472-7059

LOOKING FOR DOROTHY from Michigan, we met at a jewelry store and I would like to correspond. PO Box 176 Lakeside, CA 92040. George.

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LOOKING FOR SHERIDAN from the 1980s. He was a Marine and stationed at Camp Pendleton. He got out and hung around in Oceanside for a while. Looking for any old contacts or associates. Message me here.

BLONDE DRIVING A WHITE AUDI SUV at the In & Out in drive thru in Kearny Mesa on Dec. 29. I could only see you thru my mirror. Great smile. What was I driving or what color was it? This was around 7:30 and we caught eyes a couple times, I think.

COURTNEY FROM NEW YEARS EVE PARTY at L'Auberge Del Mar. It was magical for me during the brief

minutes we chatted. The evening was so crowded that we never met again, after you had to take a phone call. I regret not asking you for your number before you stepped away! Sean :-)

CLAUDIA CHURCH: WHERE ARE YOU? I was your boyfriend in '80's. People search companies failed. I'm in desperate situation, need help, miss you. Babadudu652@gmail.com

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REGGAE POP PROGROCK FUSION professional guitarist available for gigs, tours, recordings. CD/Tour credits. Dale Hauskins <https://www.bandmix.com/dalehauskins/> (858)401-2973

ASPIRING RAP/HIP-HOP/R&B ARTISTS in San Diego. I'm an engineer/producer with 20+ years experience. Services include: recording, mixing and mastering — for \$25/hour rate. Check my website ChuckMillerStudios.com.

UNIVERSAL SOUND Monthly creative band musicians lock-out rehearsal private practice AC studios now available. Half off first month rent. (858) 401-2973

MUSIC REHEARSAL STUDIO. Upscale facility, Kearny Mesa. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. Adder Studios, 858-522-9505. www.adderstudios.com.

PETS

GUINEA PIGS BABIES 7-10 weeks old. Re-home \$20 ea or 2/\$30. East County area 510-316-9278.

FOUND EMU IN VALLEY CENTER On 1/8/2020, an emu wandered in my yard and is still here pacing my back fence. Text me: 760-807-5755

TEACUP YORKIE PUPPY He's 10 weeks old and will be 3 pounds, when full grown! Comes with his first set of shots and de-wormings. He's \$450 — firm. Call or text 619-882-8845

ENGLISH PARAKEETS FOR SALE in El Cajon. I am selling my English Budgies. They are very healthy. \$50 each bird. If you're interested call at 619-219-1047

NORTHERN BLUE TONGUE SKINK for sale. \$375. Purchased through breeder at SoCal Scales. Awesome personality and chill. Enclosure included with basking and UV light, heavy bathing bowl, food dish, multiple hides, and everything pictured. Tyler 828-337-2730

ENGLISH BULLDOG PUPPIES
Hello I'm rehoming my blue Merle and black tri male English bulldogs. They have shots, and have been vet checked. If interested please give me a call at 1-714-804-8096

ADORABLE POMERANIAN PUPPIES looking for a loving and caring home. They are 9 weeks old and have their first shots. Really friendly and will steal your heart. If interested please call or text (619) 829-5948. Rehoming fee required.

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPY male, 12 weeks, good bloodline. \$400 rehoming fee. Please call for more information: 760-481-9156

RESCUED HORSE CAREGIVERS NEEDED
Volunteers are needed in Escondido/Lake Wohlford to care for a herd of rescued Polish Arabian horses who are now "paying it forward" as therapy horses for returning combat veterans and their families. For more information or to apply: <http://PegasusRising.org>

BARN CAT ADOPTERS NEEDED URGENTLY! Several local shelters have asked for help to find working homes for their feral cats who cannot be made available for public adoption. A couple shelters are dealing with hoarding situations, and are desperate for rescues to assist. <https://WaggingDog.org/Barn-Cats/>

FRENCH BULLDOG PUPS I have three males and one female. Up to date on their shots and deworming. Super healthy and vet checked. \$1300 rehoming fee. Call text if your interested at 760-933-6340

RATS IN LEMON GROVE. I got about 30 baby rats eating on their own. Good for snake food or pets. Re-homing fee of \$2 each. For more info please text or call (619) 251-5515

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES AND KITTENS Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.

SPORTS

VINTAGE SOUTH COAST SURFBOARD signed by Robin Prodanovich, not broken, needs few small repairs. Best offer, must pickup in San Diego. 619-586-2814

SAN DIEGO BICYCLE CLUB GROUP RIDES Every Saturday morning we meet in front of UC Cyclery at 8715 Via La Jolla Drive in the La Jolla Village

Square mall at 8:15 AM. Ride leaders help you decide which group you should join based on your riding experience. Then we roll out at 8:30 AM after some brief announcements. <http://bit.ly/sdbc-cycle>

SEEKING ROAD CYCLISTS
Our goal is physical fitness through riding and helping those who are looking to advance their fitness level and learning the ins and outs of road cycling. We would like to work up to the level, over the summer of riding, to be able to ride from Oceanside Harbor to Dana Point Harbor and back — for a calorie burning 57 mile ride. <https://www.meetup.com/CarSideVista-Road-Cycling-Meetup/>

COME PLAY PING-PONG W/ACHAMP Jasmine Xu, a Chinese champion, will be joining us. She is also an excellent teacher of the game. At one time she was #9 in her country and #11 in the world. She is now a professional instructor giving personal lessons to all ages and skill levels of players. Join us and help develop this group. <http://bit.ly/ping-pong-champ>

INLINE SKATERS AND ROLLER SKATERS WTD who can skate at an intermediate level or above. Meaning that you are experienced with negotiating turns and obstacles, such as: cyclists, pedestrians and dogs. Have the ability to handle terrain changes safely. That you are able to slow down and stop in a safe manner without making contact with other skaters, people, or street furniture. Benches, signs, lights, fountains, etc. <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Skaters/>

OUTRIGGER CANOE PADDLING Our sessions are generally an hour and a half long and we provide the paddles and instruction on what to do. Come join Kai Elua Outrigger Canoe Club at our free recreational practices from now through March! <http://kaielua.com>

ENCINITAS KIND-OF-NON-COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL. Did that itch go away when you were destroyed by a bunch of 18 year old 6 footers who missed out on their D1 scholarships? No longer! We are not NBA players, nor division one athletes. We are bad or at most, average basketball players. However, we still love playing the game and getting a work-out at the same time. Please join us. <http://bit.ly/encinitas-basketball>

PLAY UNDERWATER HOCKEY If you are a swimmer or just love the water, you definitely have to come play! This sport is fun and is great exercise! Check out our beginner friendly Saturday practices. Concerned about gear? Don't worry, we got you covered — just bring a

bathing suit and towel. <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Underwater-Hockey-Meetup/>

TWO SURFBORDS, TWO SKATEBOARDS, ONE BICYCLE. All excellent, best offer. Call 619-296-4065, please leave message, all inquiries welcome.

BICYCLES

VINTAGE 1981 PK RIPPER BMX BIKE \$700, call or text Ken at (619) 799-7537, thanks!

SPECIALIZED Diverge Comp carbon bike, \$2100, Pacific Beach, equipped with Shimano 105 drivetrain. 310-241-3897

SCHWINN BEACH CRUISER w/banana seat, sissy bar, ape hangers, first \$30.00, if interested call 760-815-4401

ELECTRA OM 31 CRUISER Nexus 3 speed, brand new, custom leather seat and grips, Electra bell and removable basket, retail value \$800+, yours for \$248. Call 858-254-5063

OVER 20 BIKES FOR SALE in Carlsbad. Cannondale 29 \$400; Felt \$400; Ibox \$400; Nishiki \$400; Giant Defy 3 \$400; Trek SL2000 \$400; and many more. Some ready to ride, others need inner tubes and minor restoration. 760-448-0016

MICARGI GIRLS BIKE \$69, in Carlsbad, 20" wheel, Jetta beach cruiser, 760-277-3282

2016 TREK BIKE 4 SALE \$500, 54.2 cm. frame for 5'6"-5'10", has a clean serial number, new these are \$1200. 619-253-8181

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

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

BRAKES from \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor

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

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

COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS \$30
Most vehicles & light trucks.

AXLE SPECIAL \$99
Includes Parts & Labor

MUFFLER \$29
From + Labor

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

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

STARTERS OR ALTERNATORS \$95
From + Labor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 and up.

We'll beat any written estimate!

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

AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST
WE DO ALL TYPES OF AUTO GLASS INSTALLATION

\$149.95 WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT
(Most cars, some restrictions apply. Mobile Service Available)

Call for Your Holiday Special!!
(619) 430-4922
5803 El Cajon Blvd., SD (Near SDSU)
wcautoglass.com

WEST COAST AUTO GLASS

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$2175*
AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49
Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks. + \$8.25 cert

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

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

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

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(both locations)

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(Cliff Brown location)

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

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

NEW CV AXLE \$15995
Parts & Labor

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

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

2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

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

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

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

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION
Pads & Labor From \$78

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

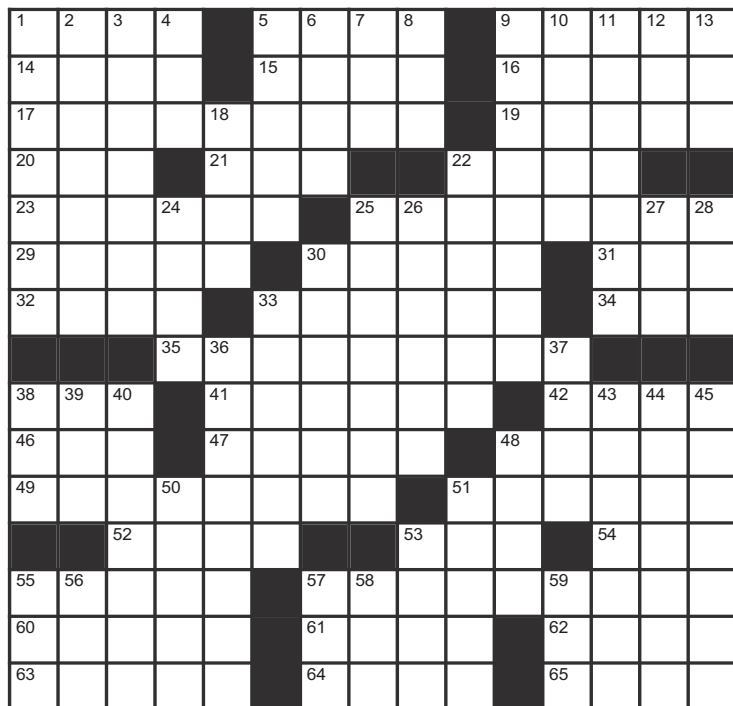
ELECTRICAL REPAIR
Power windows, door locks, automotive control modules: BCM, ECM, PCM, TCM.

FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic

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

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

CROSSWORD



© 2019 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

Across

1. President's annual delivery to Cong.
5. Undesirable roommate
9. Barrymore and Carey
14. "Cien ____ de Soledad" (Gabriel García Márquez novel)
15. Designed to minimize drag
16. Update to reflect new routes
17. 1958 Buddy Holly hit
19. Catherine of "Schitt's Creek"
20. Tarzan creator's monogram
21. "The fierce urgency of now" speaker, familiarly
22. ____ B'rith
23. Early role for Neil Patrick
25. 1986 Madonna hit
29. In different places
30. Boxing brothers Max and Buddy of the 1930s
31. Abolish
32. Legendary source of large footprints
33. Bread for burritos?
34. Hairstyles
35. 2000 Sisqo hit
38. Some IRA investments
41. Gazillions
42. Eldest Stark son on "Game of Thrones"
46. "Tell me more!"
47. Big Apple stage honors

48. Vaudeville show
49. 1998 Faith Hill hit
51. John of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker"
52. One-on-one Olympics event
53. Director Van Sant
54. Out of active mil. service
55. Provider of green energy?
57. 1987 Ice-T debut album whose title applies to 17-, 25-, 35- and 49-Across
60. Recognize silently
61. Baby ____
62. Thingamajig
63. Twin Mary-Kate or Ashley
64. Wee
65. Relinquish

12. Newspaper headline of 12/8/1941
13. Place to get pampered
18. Give off
22. Pack animals
24. Moxie
25. Comb challenges
26. ____ Pieces
27. Card game with suits of four different colors
28. Harris and Helms
30. Dots on some Hindu women's foreheads
33. Rock's ____ Brothers
36. Obsessed with
37. Earl ____ tea
38. Guest's bed
39. "What was I thinking?!"
40. Protects
43. Had thirds, maybe
44. Agog
45. "Heck if I know"
48. Climbed
50. Sudden rush
51. Like roads with many potholes
53. Spots for dumbbells
55. ____-Caps (concession candy)
56. Verizon acquisition of 2015
57. Slugging stat
58. Simple shelter
59. Insta upload

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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:

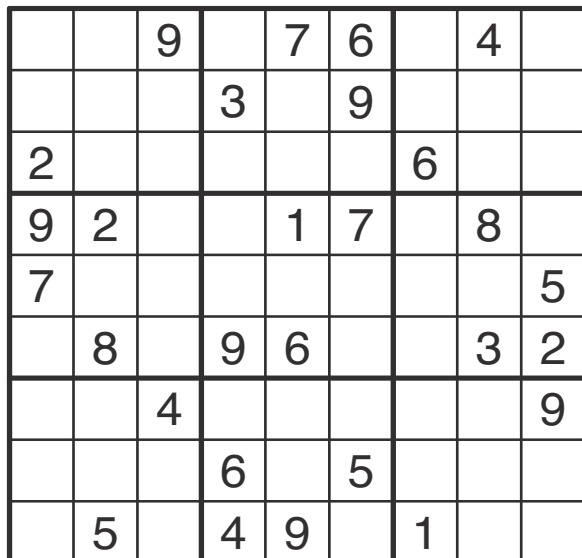
Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk Monday-Friday between 9-11am or 1-3pm.

Heather Svelan, San Diego, 1.

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

SUDOKU

HARD:



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Bill Calderwood, San Diego, 1.

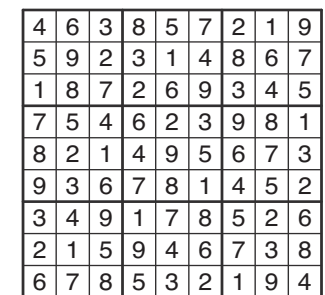
Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:



BIANCHI CAMPAGNOLO ROAD BIKE FOR SALE in Encinitas, \$375, celeste green, 56 cm., call 858-254-5063

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

STREET LEGAL 1972 HONDA Z50 BIKE \$3200 obo, call Frank at 951-313-2638

2016 YAMAHA R6 WITH 8K MILES Bike has always been garaged and never been laid down or even seen rain. Lots of upgrades. \$7500. 770-584-1859

2013 HONDA CRF 450 for sale, \$3900. I've owned it for approximately 2.5 years. Oils and filter changed after every ride as well as cleaning the air filter. Motul 300V and redline transmission oil were the only oils used in this bike. The bike has right under 68 hours of use. \$3900 obo, call or text Kyle (858)204-9130

2004 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL \$9K, standard 1450cc, 4 stroke, very clean, runs and looks great, (619) 887-8020

2008 YAMAHA R1 RAVEN MOTORCYCLE \$6495, in El Cajon, (619) 550-4419

2000 HONDA SUPERHAWK yellow with new tires, oil. Many upgrades, runs great. \$2,650 text 858-231-0067.

AUTOMOTIVE

2016 FORD ESCAPE pristine condition, less than 28,000 miles, \$17,700. Please call Ron 619-414-4022.

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

ORIG TIRE RIM beauty rings fit 15 in rim. For chevy used from 1948 to 58 \$10 each Text only please. 619-631-9258

95 DODGE CARAVAN handicap ramp, V6, runs good. Ph. 619-894-0412

2001 MERCEDES-BENZ C320 low miles 112k, fully loaded, one owner, leather interior, like new, \$4,450. Please call 619-948-1429.

1996 VW JETTA runs well, needs smog and some work, \$750. 619-576-8196

ORIG INNER TIRE RIM fit 15in rim for a Chevy truck used from 1948 to 58. \$10 each. Text only please. 619- 631-9258

1938 BUICK FOR SALE 4 door chopped top Sedan. Olds 350/350 drivetrain. Many extras. Very fast. Contact Bob 760-943-7326. \$11K Firm. Very rare.

HONDA CIVIC 2001 Automatic, power windows, clean title, the interior is a light beige, 4 door, price is \$1000. Contact Gloria at (619)470-0733.

2003 HONDA CIVIC SI 70K clean silver blk red interior, 5 speed. Garaged, 1 owner. \$6999 or best offer. Pics avail upon request. 619-405-4685

1981 CHEVY EL CAMINO in nice shape. Not a beater. Always garaged, \$8,000 obo, serious buyer please. Text due to many call scammers 619-631-9258.

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

LOOKING FOR A 2009 OR 2010 ELANTRA non smoking, no salvage, good condition. 805-341-6551.

1995 GMC BANDURA 2,500 high top conversion van, TV, stereo, needs oil pump, sell as is.

Has rust, new \$500 tires, gold, \$1,000 OBO. 619-408-9517

1961 VOLKSWAGEN BUS \$104,888, driven 402 miles, automatic transmission, exterior color: teal, interior color: white, call (858) 304-7274

OEM HONDA CIVIC WHEELS 4x100 bolt pattern alloy "Si" wheels. Very good shape, not perfect. \$300.00 Text 858-603-4190

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) in San Diego is looking for volunteer drivers to help pick up donations from food banks, grocery stores, and restaurants and deliver them to our interim housing facility. PATH provides breakfast and dinner to 100-135 individuals in need every day of the year. Weekly, monthly, and substitute drivers are needed. This is a great opportunity to support our community members in need and decrease food waste. For more information call Sigrid at 619-810-8606 or email sigrids@epath.org

HARPER'S MUSIC ISO MUSIC TEACHERS to teach at our store; piano, guitar, ukulele, banjo, orchestral strings, brass, woodwinds — basically all instruments. Please contact Robert, the manager for details @ (619) 398-2505

REGISTERED CAREGIVERS Immediate work. Hourly/live-in available. Must have reliable transportation. Assertive Care at Home, 8893 La Mesa Blvd., Ste B, La Mesa. 619-466-6890.

CAREGIVER WANTED North Park. Retired man, mid 70s looking for a friendly, outgoing caregiver type lady. Prefer a member of In Home Support Services (IHSS). Need assistance with the following: secretarial skills,

laptop computer, light cleaning, transportation, laundry, cooking, marketing, massage. Call Allan 619-255-1167 between 10am-5pm. 12 flexible hrs/week at \$12.50/hr.

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

DESIGN COORDINATOR Cal Closets seeks Design Coordinator to design/review projects, mentor designers, & devlp. design concepts. Resume: 12254 Iavelli Way, Poway, CA 92064.

FOOD STORE MAINTENANCE We are looking for a food store maintenance worker with a variety of skills with minor construction, electrical and small appliance repair. You must have a clean driving record to drive the company van. \$15-\$24/hr ghwkins@newvistabaking.com

IRON FABRICATION Experienced in mig, arc. Should work with some field. (619) 749-1494

EARN UP TO \$24/HR ONLINE! Teach English online and set your own schedule. Minimal class prep with lessons included! Info at: bit.ly/teacherjaleesa

CAREGIVER NEEDED for quadriplegic Tuesday-Thursday 8pm-10pm. Call or text Ed for details 858-352-7918.

RADIO FOR THE PEOPLE Nonprofit KNSJ 89.1FM seeks volunteers for news, views, music shows and more. Dedicated to social justice. Info@KNSJ.org

VOLUNTEER TO READ TO KIDS Want to make a difference? Join us every weekend to read to a child in need in one of our StoryTents. Visit travelingstories.org/volunteer today!

WATER SHACK Cashier, food and ice cream prep, assist customers with their water refills, and help around the store. Friendly, fun, clean environment. Share tips and free treat each work day. 807 N Santa Fe Vista, CA 92084 www.watershack.net

Have a Spare Bedroom?

Earn a competitive stipend caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home. Minimum requirements: Spare bedroom, proficiency in English, driver's license and high school diploma/ GED. Call today! www.MentorsWanted.com. 858-694-0120.

AD SPECS SALESMAN NEEDED 33% comm. Bonuses. Work from home. Make \$2,000+ a week! Leads provided. Experience a must. Join our team! Call (858)652-8367.

ARMED SECURITY WANTED Open positions 12 hour shifts Armed Officers wanted in San Diego area for more info please email us at nssfamilly15@gmail.com.

HEALTHCARE: Quest Diagnostics Incorporated in San Diego, CA seeks Clinical Laboratory Scientists to test, analyze, report & maintain records of patient test results. Req's: Bach degree or for equiv in Med Tech, Chem, Bio, or related field; CA State Clinical Laboratory Scientist license (or license eligible). All shifts. Resume to: Hanh.H.Le@QuestDiagnostics.com. Job Code "CLS-SD"

DIRECTOR OF QUALITY SYSTEMS in Carlsbad, CA: Direct, monitor and maintain production processes and quality

control systems. Req's: BS in Biz Admin, Industrial Engg or Related + 2 yrs exp. Special Req's: Exp with change order process & FDA quality systems. Apply to: Hygeia II Medical Group, Inc., Attn: HR, 6241 Yarrow Drive, Ste A, Carlsbad, CA 92011

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Nordson Corporation (Carlsbad, California) seeking Research Associate to support the Technology Pathfinding and Problem Solution Group and work on analysis data that requires a review of identifiable factors. Will design and perform experiments using electronic equipment and mechanical hardware; develop maintenance and testing procedures for electronic components and equipment; evaluate systems and recommend modifications, work with project managers on production efforts. Requires bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering (or related field; foreign degree equivalency accepted); 2 years of experience in engineering. Experience must include 1 year of using match and statistical analysis skill, software programming, C++, and Visual Basic, oscilloscopes and test equipment. Send cover letter and resume to: A. Ensign, Nordson Corporation, 28601 Clemens Road, Westlake, OH 44145.

JOBS WANTED

CAREGIVER-HOUSECLEANER I am looking for a house cleaner or a caregiver job in Clairemont or Point Loma area. Nancy 858-505-0685

EX MARINE SEEKS ODD JOB Looking for work, light cleaning, preferably in church. Please call 619-761-2102, ask for Travis.

AUTOMOTIVE

SMOG CHECK \$19⁹⁵

Year 2000 and newer. Plus \$8.25 certificate. By appt only. Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.

OIL CHANGE

up to 4 quarts & oil filter
Most 4 cylinder cars,
Trucks extra.

\$16⁹⁵
+tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
- Parts & Labor
- Turn Rotors / Drums
- Premium Pads
- Most 4 cylinder Cars + tax

\$129
Free Inspection

NEW TIRES

From
\$59



30K/60K/90K/120K mile SERVICE SPECIAL

Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

\$149

Plus tax & hazardous waste fee. 4 cylinder, most cars, regularly \$200 prices may vary depending on make & model.

TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE

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

\$54⁹⁵

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

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Most cars



\$34⁹⁵

ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

\$39

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS?

We can diagnose and repair any electrical issue.

AC SERVICE

\$29

Most cars, freon extra

12,000 mile, 1 year warranty

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

Just off the 905 freeway • Se habla español

Must present ad prior to service. Expires 2-17-20



CHULA VISTA KUSH
24 HOURS

OPEN 24/7

HAPPY HOUR 12am - 12pm Daily! \$10 PR Grams!
Private Reserve **3 grams, \$30** or **5 grams, \$45**
Top Shelf **\$8** per gram • Midshelf **5 grams, \$20**

- Left Coast Cartridges **Buy 2, Get 1 for 50% OFF!**
- Twisted, Dank, Diamond Stixx **\$20** or 2 for **\$35!**
- Moonrocks **\$10** per gram
- Golani Pre-roll **\$10**
- Edibles **Buy 2, Get 1 FREE**
- Wax, 3 grams Maya or Brass Monkey **\$45**

FTP FREE
GRINDER
LIGHTER
JOINT
& EDIBLE

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(619) 823-6149

New Customers up to 1 OZ FREE
with Qualifying Purchase

Premium Bubble Hash Starts at \$125 Half Oz.	Full Gram vape Carts 5 for \$100
PreRolls 5 for \$20	Wax 6g's for \$100
	All 8th 4 grams

More Specials & Full Menu at:
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San Diego Cannabis Attorney

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Questions about how to open your Cannabis Business
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STAY HOME AND RELAX THIS MLK DAY. WE WILL DELIVER!



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SAVE 15%
on delivery orders that are \$100 or more.
Please use the code **IHAVEADREAM15** at checkout.

*No delivery fee. Offer good for delivery only. Not valid in store or for in store pick-up. Must enter code at time of checkout. No discount will be applied at the time of delivery. Must be 21+ w/ state issued valid ID. Qualifying total must be pre-tax. 20mi delivery radius from Mankind Dispensary. Expires 1/23/20.

WWW.DELIVERYKIND.COM

San Diego Reader January 16, 2020 59

BALBOA AVE COOPERATIVE

ADULT MEDICAL & RECREATIONAL C10-0000180-LIC

8863 BALBOA AVENUE, SUITE E

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION:
FITNESS

FIT-NESS EDIBLE
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THURSDAY, JAN 16TH

HAPPY HOUR 20% OFF

9-11am & 6-8pm

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7AM - 9PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK



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Most Popular Shop in Chula!

**OPEN
24/7!**

**Thirsty
Thursdays:
10% Off All
Drinks!**

**HUGE CBD
SELECTION!**



**BACKYARD
greens**

**Best \$5 House
in Chula!**

**2518 Main St.
Chula Vista, CA 91911
619-451-4646**

**Happy Hour 4-6pm daily:
All \$15 Grams are \$10!
All \$25 Grams of Wax are \$20!**

WE WILL MATCH ANY OTHER SHOP'S ADVERTISED PRICE!

Must present this and the other ad before 1/15/20. Not valid for flower pricing.

FIRST-TIME PATIENT DEALS!

FREE GRAM!

Any patient gets a free house gram added to their first purchase! Must mention ad.

FREE GOODIE BAG!

with min. \$50 donation on your first visit.

FREE PRE-ROLL AND DAB!

for any patient that mentions this ad on their first visit.

FLOWER DEALS

**\$15 /G or 2 for \$25
Secret Stash**

\$10 /G Exotic

\$8 /G Private Reserve

\$5 /G Top Shelf

**\$20 /3G Exotic Gorilla
Glue #4**

PRE-ROLLS & EDIBLES

**\$20 Sweeter Deals Edibles
(500mg. Reg. \$40)**

10% OFF All Other Edibles!

**\$15 or 2 for \$25
Golani Pre-Rolls**

\$10 Twisted Moonrock Pre-Rolls

\$10 Hooligan Pre-Rolls

**\$12 or 2 for \$20
Hooligan Wer Pre-Rolls**

\$20 Galaxy Pre-Rolls

VAPE DEALS

**\$30 (0.5G) STILZY
\$45 (1G)**

\$20 (1G) H.H. Vapes

**\$30 (1G) Connected
(\$10 Off! Reg. \$40)**

\$20 (1G) 710 KINGPEN

**\$20 (1G)
(Or 3 for \$90!)**



\$20 (1G) Exotic Cartridges

**\$12 (0.5G) House Vapes
(Or 2 for \$20!)**

\$25 Jeff's Sessions

\$20 Bloom Carts

\$20 Smart Carts

\$28 Plume Carts

\$15 (0.5G) FlavRx

CONCENTRATES

**\$25/g Exotic House Wax
(\$10 Off! Reg. \$35)**

\$20/g Moonrock

\$20/g House Distillate

\$25/g OG Sauce

\$25/g Exotic Crumble

**FREE EXOTIC CART
with any \$50 donation!**

**FREE SWEETER HIGH EDIBLE
with any \$30 donation!**

**FREE PRE-ROLL
with any donation!**

**Cheeba
Chews**

Kushy Punch

**Seniors, vets,
and disabled
get a 10% discount**

**LARGE Private Parking
Wheelchair Accessible • Pet Friendly
ATM On-Site • Armed Security for Customer Safety**

FIND US ON WEEDMAPS AND LEAVE US A REVIEW!



NEW DAILY DEALS

20% OFF
DOMPEN
MY BEST BUD
HEADSTASH
KINGS
GARDEN VAPE

\$1.00
CRU PRE-ROLL
WHEN YOU BUY
1/4 OF CRU FLOWER

15% OFF
CRAFT CANNA
3.5 GRAMS
TOP SHELF

\$1.00
OUTCO FLOWER
GRAM
WHEN YOU BUY A
1G OUTCO VAPE

\$2.00
CONNECTED
PRE-ROLL
WHEN YOU BUY A
1/8 OF CONNECTED

\$5.00
1 GRAM OF
REMEDI RSO
WHEN YOU BUY
2 RSO'S

\$1.10
2 GRAMS
PLATINUM VAPE
FULL GRAM
PV CARTRIDGES

\$5.00
DRIVN CARTRIDGE
5G VAPE
WHEN YOU BUY A
DRIVN 5G CARTRIDGE

\$5.00
FLAV .5G
CARTRIDGE
WHEN YOU BUY
1G FLAV VAPE

10% OFF
ALL THC
DRINKS

\$5.00
HAPPY STICK
CARTRIDGE
WHEN YOU BUY
1G OF HS VAPE

\$5.00
KINGS GARDEN
1G SHATTER
WHEN YOU BUY
BALLER JAR

\$5.00
PLATINUM
GUMMY
WHEN YOU BUY
2 PV CHOCOLATES

\$3.00
DIXIE BOY
1 GET 1
MINTS, DRINKS,
GUMMIES

Happy Hour
ANYTIME

10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE

ALL SPECIAL OFFERS VALID IN-STORE ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. HAPPY HOUR COUPON CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS. MINIMUM PURCHASE MAY APPLY | LIC #: C10-0000323-LIC / C10-0000634-LIC

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MISSION VALLEY

1299 CAMINO DEL RIO S.
SAN DIEGO CA, 92108

*** LOCATION 2 ***
SORRENTO VALLEY

10150 SORRENTO VALLEY RD.
SUITE #110
SAN DIEGO CA, 92121

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License Number C-10-00004 72-LIC

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CANNABIS

got pot?

\$35 1/2 OZs
PURPLE TANGIE & ALIEN OG
first time patients only

\$49 1/2 OZs
SD JACK HAZE & GELATO
first time patients only

FREE DOCTORS RECS
with minimum purchase

ORDER ONLINE WWW.JAXXSD.COM

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619.206.5274

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Best Prices in San Diego & Chula Vista!!

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Awesome Rewards Program

Buy One
Get One 50% Off on



Platinum Vape



Select Vape



PV Gummy Coins
& PV Bars



Heavy Hitters



Dixie Elixirs
& Edibles



Punch
Edibles



ORGANIC CANNABIS DELIVERY
STARTING AT \$6/GRAM!

OUR QUALITY IS GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

20% OFF
for First Time Patients!

10% OFF
for Early Orders!

Valid for next-day deliveries or orders from 6am-9am!

- Product Lines: DNA Genetics P.R.G. Genetics
- Backyard Organics Flower Firebird Touch Therapy
- Imperial 710 Unspoken Peace Nothing But Net 710 labs

Visit our website, call, or text for more information.
We deliver to all of San Diego County!

7 days, 6am-9pm (last order by 8pm)

CANNABIS HUNTER
Premium-Cannabis-Delivered

619-322-2309
(San Diego)

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(North County)

cannabishuntersd.com

After-hours orders will be delivered the next morning. Offers cannot be combined.

Discounts for Seniors, Disabled, and Students
with valid ID. Call for details.

Delivery Available!

15% Off First Time Customer

Delivery or In-Store

Credit Cards Accepted on Delivery or In-Store
for Purchase of \$75 or more



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Recreational Cannabis Dispensary

San Diego's 1st Legal Licensed Dispensary



All Budtenders Bilingual with over 30 Years Combined Experience
Free Cannabis Consultation • Plenty of Safe, Free Parking
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2335 Roll Drive #4 • San Diego CA 92154
(619) 920-8500

Full Dispensary / Delivery Menu: AGreenAlternative.org

Find us on Leafly.com & iheartjane.com

License No: C10-000341 • Cannot Combine Offers • While Supplies Last

CALIFORNIA CANNABIS DELIVERY

Serving San Diego Since Day 1! • Mention ad for special pricing

619-627-4697 • 8AM-12AM DAILY

www.CaliforniaCannabisSDDelivery.com • @calidelievery

FREE 3.5 GRAMS OF NUGS + FREE 100MG EDIBLE!

First-time patients only. Must mention ad. Min. \$40 for deliveries to East County. Min. \$100 for deliveries to North County.

TEXT "ADD" TO 833-349-2722 TO RECEIVE OUR DAILY DEALS!

TOP-SHELF

\$5/GRAM

Any patient, no limit!

PRIVATE RESERVE

\$8/GRAM

Any patient, no limit!

V.I.P. SHELF

\$9/GRAM

Any patient, no limit!

OZ Specials

\$40/\$60/\$100



\$25

Shatter & Crumble **\$30/G**

24K Gold Shatter 10g **\$100**

Vinyl White Budder **\$25** (0.5g)

Jeff Sessions Happy Rocks **\$35**

Off White **MOONROCK** **KINGPEN & Clear**
5 for **\$100** (1G Vapes) Mix & Match with many more brands! FTP only.

\$40 (1G Vapes)

STIIIZY 1G Vape + Battery \$70
Must mention ad. Limit 1 per customer.

Mystery Baking Black Label Bar **\$40** (100mg Edible)

7 for \$100 (100mg Edible)

Lemon Drink **\$10**

Chief Kief Pre-Rolls **6 for \$100**

4 Rice Krispie Treats **\$10** (100mg each)

Babylon Gardens **\$35** (100mg Edible) Must mention ad.

Stndrd Edibles **\$12** (100mg) **\$20** (200mg)

6 for \$100

BEST CBD SELECTION IN SAN DIEGO!

FREE 100MG EDIBLE + EXCLUSIVE PRE-ROLL! with every order! Must mention ad.

OPEN 24/7 IN CHULA VISTA!

Private Reserve **\$9/G • 5G \$40 • \$250 OZ**

Top Shelf **\$6/G**

House Shelf **5G \$20**

OZ Specials **\$65/\$85/\$100**

FREE JOINT WITH THIS AD!

Mention the Reader or show this ad and get a free joint with any donation!

\$10 PRE-ROLLS

BABYLON GARDENS **\$35** (1000MG EDIBLES)

MARIO & EXOTIC CARTS

2 FOR \$30 (1G VAPES)

STIIIZY \$25 \$45 (0.5G) (1G VAPES)

FREE GRAM! when you refer a friend! See store for details.

FREE EDIBLE! Buy 2 Babylon Gardens edibles, get 1 free! Equal or lesser value only.

PAYLESS MEDS

1214 Broadway

(entrance in the back alley behind Dollar Tree)

Chula Vista, CA 91911 • 619-909-1175 • OPEN 24/7!

OPEN 24/7!

4-2-0 El Cajon

OPEN 24/7!

\$10/GRAM ANY JAR IN THE STORE!
\$130 1/2-OZ
\$240 OZ No limit! Must mention the Reader ad.

TOP SHELF

\$5/G • \$65 1/2-OZ • \$125 OZ

PRIVATE RESERVE SHAKE
\$100 OZ OR 14G \$60

HOUSE SHAKE \$20 OZ
FIRE SHAKE \$50 OZ

TRIM SHATTER & CRUMBLE
1G **\$20** • 2G **\$35** • 3G **\$50**



NUG SHATTER & CRUMBLE
1G **\$30** • 2G **\$50**

\$25 (1G VAPES)

\$45/1G

\$65/\$100 OZ

\$15/1G

\$30(0.5G) • \$55(1G)

\$15

\$25 (1G)

\$15

\$40

\$25 (1G VAPES)

\$20

\$20/1G

\$10

\$10

\$10

\$15 OR 2 FOR \$25

\$50 SELECT STRAINS

\$65/G

\$20/G

\$10 (500MG)

\$40 (100MG)

\$15/G or \$25 2G

\$15/G

\$10/G

\$10/G

\$10/G

\$15

\$10 (200MG) **\$20** (400MG)

\$35 (100MG CANDY)

\$10 (300MG GUMMIES)

\$35 (1000MG)

\$35 (1000MG)

\$40 (1000MG)

Open 24 Hours

1645 N. 2nd St. El Cajon, CA 92021 • 619-733-4451

OPEN 24/7! IN JAMUL!

FREE 3.5 GRAMS OF NUGS + FREE 100MG EDIBLE!
First-time patients only w/min. \$10 donation. Must mention ad.

TEXT "DANK" TO 714-41 TO RECEIVE OUR DAILY SPECIALS!

TOP-SHELF \$4/G or 3G \$10
Any patient, no limit!

PRIVATE RESERVE \$8/GRAM
Any patient, no limit!

V.I.P. SHELF \$9/GRAM
Any patient, no limit!

\$30 OUNCE
Full nug, no shake!

\$115 1/4-POUND
Limit 1 per patient.

\$400 POUND
Limit 1 per patient.

\$20

3 for \$100 (1G VAPES)

\$25 (1000MG)

\$7

\$20

Starting at **\$30**

\$20

2 for \$25

\$15/Gram
Limited time only! Limit per patient.

\$10/GRAM

\$7/G

\$10

\$100

\$20

\$300

\$50
Choose from 25 different strains!

STIIIZY STARTER KIT + 1G VAPE \$70
Limit 1 per customer.

\$15

\$10

Starting at **\$15**

MUST PRESENT AD FOR SPECIAL PRICING. OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED.

Rancho-Jamul Meds

13881 Campo Rd, Unit A1
Jamul, CA 91935
619-597-5376 • Open 24/7!



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HIGH** WRIGHTWOOD
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ONLY \$59.75 PER VISIT

**4 DAY
POWDER PACK**

\$239

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Save more than 33%

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