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S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 17 | APRIL 23, 2020

Reader

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LETTERS

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

Cookie Connection

Thank you for the cookie shout outs to Uncle Biff's, the Cravory, & a new one to me, Caked(I'll try it). I've never bought anything other than Biff's "Killer" cookie = THE BEST!

A Reader

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

"San Diego bus riders discouraged, then encouraged to wear masks"

News Ticker

April 14

Today, I was attempting to exit a trolley car that had only three or two other passengers inside. As one of the passengers exited before me; and I gave the legit spacing in-between us -- who were exiting. But as I had the space given to the passenger exiting

before me, there was a female passenger outside -- who was originally not looking happy, as she had to waiting for those to have exit first. She knew they having the right-of-way -- she did not want to wait further on my exiting. As she had to wait for the person before me. So what she did, as I barely walked ahead within stairway of the trolley: she chose to tackle -- by blocking me. My blocked access to exit --- as I was attempting to exit in the spacing she gave between the side of her body and edge of trolley-door. But as there was not enough space, and I could not access out of trolley, she only intended to further block me in. As this be the full intent. When the trolley did its slow take-off: as the widow was partially open, of the trolley-operator, I said "You got trouble in there." (she was looking as if wanting to cause that trouble; as I saw here sitting in the seat -- her face was in a more bothered expression, vs the time of dispute) She had no mask, (presently such attitude that anyone would perceive as) nor was she intelligent to do such; nor would she have cared. One from the Southeast of U.S.

—ised

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San Diego Reader

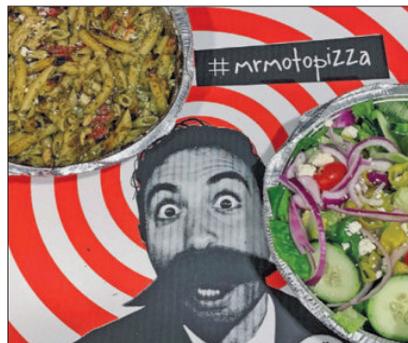
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April 23, 2020



CC UNIT ON YOUTUBE

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

SAN ONOFRE

Rogue surfer proves dumb boater

The siren call of the waves is maddening

On the morning of April 8, surfer and jiu jitsu instructor Don Abadie went live on Instagram. “There’s a big swell right about now,” he said on the 75-second video clip. “Does anybody want to join me with perfect six-foot lowers with no one out? Now look, I got this boat, and space is limited, so anybody that wants to come with me — just show up at Dana Point Harbor and we are gonna



Don Abadie: “We ended up catching one wave.”

go out.” Abadie’s plan to boat in to Lower Trestles sought to dodge the statewide beach ban — but being from Orange County (Dana Point), he likely didn’t hear of our updated April 3 countywide ban of boating, swimming and surfing. Or maybe he did. “We’re only going to have like, I don’t know, a few law enforcements on the beach probably taking pictures of us,” he continued on his Instagram invite, “if something happens, they’ll come and save us ... the boys on the beach might even give us a ride up the hill.”

A surfer named James was the only one to respond to the invite. At about 8:30 am on April 8, Abadie and James loaded their surfboards onto Abadie’s 14-foot Caribe boat, then motorboated south. “It’s about a 15- to 20-minute boat ride,” he told me on April 10. When the pair arrived, they dropped anchor, then paddled out to the sets. “We ended up catching one wave,” Abadie continued. “It



Abadie puts out to sea, quasi-clandestinely.

was probably a seven-foot wave — it doesn’t really barrel out there — but I got to do a few turns and kind of lit it up. Then I kicked off so I could jam back to the boat, and [instead] I got caught inside on the set wave before the rogue wave that came in and just swept everything away. “It was totally my fault, and if I was out another 20 feet, the boat would’ve been fine. I didn’t want to be a jerk and I wanted to be respectful. I got a citation for being a dumb boater.”

“After the vessel came loose of its anchor and capsized in the shore break,” said Kevin Pearsall of California State Parks in a *Surfer.com* interview, “it was required they use vessel assist, which is a tow service. [Abadie] was cited for harbor and navigation codes,” Pearsall reportedly said, “which is basically improper use of a vessel. But they weren’t arrested.”



Federales in Baja hauling away surfboards.

Abadie’s Instagram posts went viral around the worldwide surf community. “You are a bad influence for any young person that looks up for you,” said one Instagramer. “You are the kind of guy that gets your kids into trouble, in this case breaking the law! And putting other people, law enforcement and lifeguards, in life risk, you are far from a joke!”

Then a surfer from Mexico commented, complete with expletives. Baja surfers can relate: photos of *federales* confiscating surfboards along Baja California Sur beaches are floating around the internet. “That picture says a lot — kind of crazy,” Abadie said as we viewed an IG image of two federal UTVs hauling away surfboards. “I used to go to Baja a lot and surf, but I don’t wanna cross the border and get stuck anywhere outside right now.”

Regarding the blowback from his surf excursion, he said, “I would say about 30 percent are keyboard warriors, but it’s been about 70 percent positive. I learned a valuable lesson: don’t act on impulse. I lost a boat, car keys, a bunch of electronics, and a little bit of my dignity. When the beaches are closed, they’re closed, and you can’t even enter the water from boat or ski. The lifeguards and park rangers were very helpful, even though I was the one being a dumbass. I got to give props to them.”

While Abadie and I were communicating on April 10, KUSI News posted an Instagram video of Jack Silverwood, an Encinitas surfer. He was depicted on San Elijo Boulevard in

Cardiff, protesting our countywide surfing ban with a sign that read: Commies Can’t Surf. “I can’t go catch a wave, that’s illegal, I will get a \$1000 fine or go to jail,” he said. “I can’t work; I can’t surf; I might as well bitch about it. I’m protesting our local government; [they] aren’t allowing us to enjoy the things we do, but are allowing people — like, look behind me — to walk the streets, jog, bike, and be in close proximity of each other.” At about the 3:27 minute mark of the KUSI clip, Silverwood pulled out another spray-painted sign that read: Kim Prather is a Kook. “[She’s] a local to Scripps Oceanic Institute,” said Silverman. “She said that through water bubbles and sea breeze, COVID-19 can be spread — with zero proof or anything. That’s an hypothesis and that is not a proven scientific statement, and the city is running with it as science. It’s not science.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

WEEDLAND NORTH

The coast can’t boast

Oceanside thinks the grass is greener in Vista

“The state got us last time,” says David Newman. “And apparently a pandemic got us this time.” With that, Newman allowed as how his second attempt to obtain permission for legal pot shops to open in Oceanside is now dead on the vine. He and the members of Oceanside Voters for Safe Access have decided to pull the plug on their effort to get signatures for



Autumn Helfgott at Vista’s Up North dispensary. Up North is playing it straight, despite the black market.

their initiative. (If enough valid signatures had been collected, voters in November could have forced the city to allow dispensaries to open in Oceanside, defying the city council.)

Newman spearheaded a similar pro-weed initiative in 2018, but it was abandoned. And Safe Access supporter Dallin Young says only 3000 signatures had been collected for the

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Portela was right about Trump — he did bring “a fresh perspective to the process” — but will that be enough to save his gig?

Faulconer flacks furloughed?

Will Portela be shown the door?

Due to talk of draconian layoffs appearing inevitable at San Diego city hall, insider attention is shifting to the expense involved in maintaining the political and public relations operatives employed by termed-out GOP mayor Kevin Faulconer. At the top of the pile is chief of civic and external affairs Matt Awbrey, an ex-Faulconer campaign aide who last year made \$205,967 in pay and benefits, according to figures posted online by Transparent California. And ex-Union-Tribune reporter Craig Gustafson, now Faulconer’s senior director of communications with a 2018 pay and benefits package of \$130,193, and senior press secretary & media relations manager Christina Chadwick, with pay and benefits of \$103,055, may quickly find their compensation under the gun. But one mayoral media handler has the potential to attract particular scrutiny during budget-cutting battles.

Before joining the San Diego mayor’s office last July, national Republican strategist Gus Portela was executive director of Accuracy in Media, a conservative website that styles itself as a take-no-prisoners watchdog. A Trump delegate from Michigan to the GOP National Convention in 2016, Portela told NBC News, “I just think that he [Trump] brings a fresh perspective to the process I don’t think we’ve ever had.”

On January 19 of last year, Portela, identified to viewers as “a Republican strategist,” also appeared on Fox and Friends to tout Trump’s then-climbing Hispanic voter polls. Then, this February, Faulconer, accompanied by PR chief Awbrey, attended Portela’s La Jolla Women’s Club wedding to Julia Hoy, senior director and deputy director of special projects for America Rising Corporation, Politico reported. American Rising describes itself as “an opposition research and communications firm whose mission is to help its clients defeat Democrats. The company boasts that it engages in “top-notch opposi-

tion research, video tracking, rapid response consulting, and earned media communications through on-demand and subscription-based plans and platforms.”

As Faulconer gears up to run for higher office following his departure from city hall in December, the presence of a national Republican political operative on the mayoral payroll is not seen as a coincidence. On October 14, Portela was joined in the press office by Rebecca Rybzeyik, another longtime GOP operative who formerly worked for Republican House member of Shreveport, Louisiana — another Trump backer. The salaries of Portela and Rybzeyik, who both carry the title of press secretary on the mayor’s website, have not yet been made available, but are virtually certain to be in the six figures, making a juicy target for cuts as the mayor and city council are forced into budget reductions by the COVID-19 crisis.

Matt Potter

Soon-Shiong says so long

Nofziger’s neophyte newspaper no more

When billionaire physician Patrick Soon-Shiong bought the L.A. Times, San Diego Union-Tribune, and a raft of other papers two years ago, many hoped that he was finally the Daddy Warbucks with enough free cash to fix the ailing newspapers. Now, evidence is mounting that Soon-Shiong, who made his money in the drug industry, is radically downsizing his newspaper dreams in the face of COVID-19, as he has abruptly shuttered the Glendale News-Press, Burbank Leader, and La Cañada Valley Sun, letting go of fourteen staffers.

“The Times has lost more than one-third of

its advertising revenue, and expects to lose more than half of its advertising revenue in the coming months,” said an April 14 staff memo — first reported by the New York Times — from Chris Argentieri, president of California Times, Soon-Shiong’s newspaper holding company. The papers are furloughing 40 workers, the announcement said. “As part of the austerity plan, pay for senior editorial and business managers at the Times and the Union-Tribune will be reduced by as much as 15 percent for three months, and 401(k) matches will be suspended,” the Times added. “The cuts do

continued on page 33



Like many newspapers of its day, the Burbank Daily Review, later renamed the Burbank Leader, reported on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Now, it’s the paper that’s been killed.

UNDER THE RADAR

Race for a big-bucks cure

Newspaper advertising has fallen off, so billionaire Los Angeles physician Patrick

Soon-Shiong, the owner of the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune, is using his papers to promote a sudden fling into COVID-19 pharmaceuticals by his biotech company NantWorks. “As a surgeon and a scientist, I’ve spent my career studying the human immune system as the body’s innate mechanism to protect itself from these threats,” says a full-page house advertisement from the doctor running in the Times and U-T. “At NantWorks, we’ve been working 24/7 since we learned of the coronavirus outbreak in January, researching the viability of our technology and the potential for a COVID-19 vaccine.”

Promotional videos by Soon-Shiong are featured by the U-T. “The videos are available now on the Union-Tribune mobile app. I urge our readers to download the app and watch the videos.”

Meanwhile, a \$135 million bid by the wealthy newspaper owner to buy St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles out of bankruptcy to set up a coronavirus “central command” center faced early resistance from state Attorney General Xavier Becerra who feared the initial arrangement to complete the deal through Soon-Shiong’s non-profit foundation would create a conflict of interest, because another of Soon-Shiong’s web of companies was a secured creditor in the bankruptcy, according to an April 8 report by the L.A. Times. The current plan is to have Soon-Shiong personally make the purchase.

San Diego-based Sorrento Therapeutics sued Soon-Shiong this month in Los Angeles federal court, alleging that the biotech wheeler-dealer arranged in 2015 to buy a cancer drug from the Torrey Pines firm, then failed to follow through on the deal. “The lawsuit is a cynical attempt to deflect from Sorrento’s own breach of contract. The allegation that we have not developed Cynviloq to protect the sales of Abraxane is false and it ignores the facts. Because it is totally without merit, we shall defend ourselves vigorously against this baseless allegation,” Soon-Shiong told the L.A.

Times. Sorrento is currently at work on a competing version of a coronavirus vaccine with Boston-based Smartpharm.



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra balked at Patrick Soon-Shiong’s planned purchase of an L.A. hospital.

Nepotism isn’t dead

As tax shortfalls due to the COVID-19 shutdown threaten to shake up San Diego city hall’s venerable political patronage system, staffers for mayor Kevin Faulconer are coming under growing scrutiny. Among the well-connected workers in the mayor’s ranks is Byron Conrad Wear, son of former Point Loma Republican city councilman Byron Wear. The younger Wear previously worked as an aide to GOP councilwoman Lorie Zapf, who lost her seat to Democrat Jennifer Campbell in November 2018.

An Eagle Scout, Wear got \$87,022 in pay and benefits in 2018, a sizable jump over the \$73,362 he received the year before, according to TransparentCalifornia.com. Six months later, on May 13, 2019, Wear signed up with Faulconer as a “policy advisor,” and he’s also the mayor’s designee to a seat on the San Diego River Conservancy board. Wear’s pay for that gig hasn’t yet been made available.

According to Wear’s most recent financial disclosure report, filed March 29, his stock holdings include between \$2000 and \$10,000 in the Walt Disney Company, as well as stock valued in the same range in Turtle Beach, a video game accessory maker, and Sun Communities, Inc., a real estate investment trust. Last August, San Diego port commissioners handed Sun a lucrative 66-year lease deal to develop an elaborate R.V. resort on the Chula Vista waterfront. Before the coronavirus meltdown, Sun was expected to do more development here. Disclosure records show Wear was lobbied



Mayoral staffer Byron Conrad Wear flashes that Eagle Scout smile.

by ex-city councilman Jim Madaffer on behalf of Sonder, Inc. to convince the city to “allow the commercial operation of short-term residential rental accommodations in multi-family buildings.”

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

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Dear Hipster:

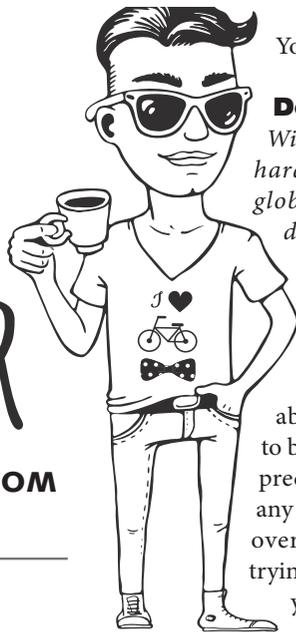
I transplanted here a couple of years ago from Portland, Oregon, and I noticed that on average, hipsters in Portland are way meaner than those in San Diego. What gives?

— PROGRESSIVE GURU

They say correlation doesn't equal causation, but I see a strong correlation between latitude and attitude. As you move north along the West Coast, the hipsters get meaner and meaner. By the time you hit Portland, you are surrounded by hipsters who can get super judgy over even the smallest perceived slights: Oh, wait, what? Did you actually call that kolsch "a kind of lager?" Wow. Seriously, bro. Maybe you should move to LA, or something, and, like, focus on your taco game, yeah bro?

But I digress. You asked why, not whether.

I suspect it boils down to hipsters in purported hipster havens like Portland or New York feeling like legends in their own times. No matter what they do, they're unable to live up to the world's expectations for them, and it leaves them feeling bitter and dejected. At the same time, they struggle with a sense of superiority that can never be conclusively proven because it rests entirely on trivial issues (similar to how San Diegans respond when the conversation turns towards burritos), but which drives them closer together because "other people just don't get it." Can you imagine that? It's like having your dad be perpetually disappointed in you because you didn't fail to live up to his expectations.



You'd be mean too.

Dear Hipster:

Will the coming economic hardships caused by the global coronavirus pandemic be good or bad for hipsters?

— SAM

My supreme hipness is a pathway to many abilities some consider to be unnatural, but I can't predict the hipster future any more than that shady, overconfident day trader trying to swindle you out of your 401(k) can time the market. Thus, although

I know the impending economic catastrophe will have an effect, I cannot say if that effect will be "good" or "bad." If the past is any indication, "good" or "bad" is a simplistic way to look at things.

Hardships are more formative than times of great prosperity. In the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008, a staggering number of intelligent, creative, young people — many sporting fresh college diplomas dearly bought by means of unconscionable debt — suddenly found themselves living in a world that rejected conventional concepts of personal and professional growth and fulfillment. Initially dismayed by the dearth of opportunity, many people threw themselves heart and soul into making the best out of the minimum-wage service and retail jobs they had thought were supposed to carry them through college. "If I'm going to work as a barista forever," they thought, "at least I can make it mean something." This factored into the hipster obsession with "craft" everything, and the rise of the modern hipster is, therefore, directly tied to the economic privation of the Great Recession.

We do not yet know what hardships the coming years will foist upon us, and we do not know what ill or beneficial effects they may have. All we know for sure is: whatever struggles lie ahead will play an outside role in defining a whole generation of hipsters.

—DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

"No shelter for San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles Magazine" Golden Dreams April 8

Sad when a business closes but in the grand scheme of things I don't think most people will miss the magazine. The people who subscribe are not those who count themselves in the middle class or working class. The only time most people even see the magazine is when they are in some waiting room with nothing else to read.

—AlexClarke

"Soon-Shiong folds two ex-Copley newspapers" News Ticker April 17

Like radio, TV, and some of the internet, newspapers are about advertising. Whatever actual news may somehow appear is carefully filtered so that it doesn't offend any advertisers. Much of what looks like news is actually paid promos for some advertiser. No recent *U-T* reporter has ever attended a council meeting of any local city as far as I can tell. They haven't paid attention to local utility rip-offs from companies like Cox, SDGE, Verizon or water utilities. They won't tell you about the 12 story building that the city has approved next door to your house. There's plenty of opinion and filler material. Any nonsense a politician spouts will be duly quoted for the reader's enlightenment. The vast majority

of what looks like news is repeated from news services or syndicated sources. Not everything is bad: Someone there is reporting 'news' from local police activities and NOAA weather reports. That requires an occasional phone call or visit to a website. The political illustrations are excellent. Some stocks of local interest are featured. I have seen good reporting on transportation plans and homeless issues. There must be more good stuff that I can't recall since reading last Sunday's edition. I try to share my paper with neighbors because I'm embarrassed to throw all that dead tree material in the recycle bin, suspecting as I do that it won't really be recycled.

—swell

"Will furloughs haunt Faulconer's city-paid political staff?" News Ticker April 14

Those publicity hound hacks/flacks are a luxury the slobberin' city should have never put on the public (i.e. taxpayer funded) payroll. And as a luxury for Mayor Sunny, they should be the first to go when times get tough. Tough times? If these times aren't tough, what would be? Six-figure salaries, even in the slobberin' city, should be closely scrutinized every year. Heh, heh! We know they aren't scrutinized at all. Yet the revolving door of these flacks has kept spinning for years now, and years before when Sanders was the mayor. They need to go away, now!

—Visduh



Not pictured: Canada, Mexico



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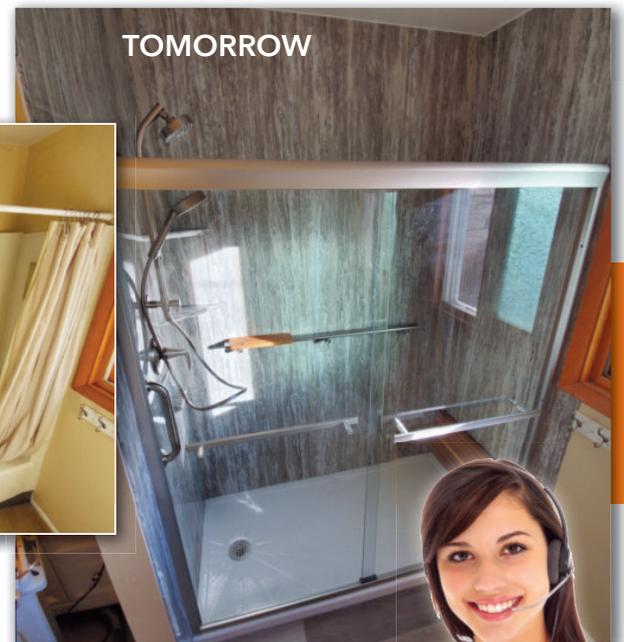
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current petition as of February. The 180-day window to collect 9609 signatures was due to close May 15. “This virus puts all petitions on hold,” explains Newman, adding that the only thing that could save the Safe Cannabis Act petition would be for the governor to sign an emergency act that allowed people to sign petitions via the internet. “But I’m not holding my breath on that.” In addition, insiders say two petitions to recall two councilmembers in Oceanside have become dormant.

Meanwhile, the six dispensaries open in next-door Vista are thriving. They were given permission to exist by the citywide passage of Measure Z in 2018. On a recent Sunday evening, a security guard at Up North Cannabis on Vista Way was checking patrons with a body temp scanner. No one with a fever got through the second glass door. There were about five

that at any given time, there are four to six illegal shops operating in the unincorporated county area between Vista and San Marcos. “A month or two ago, they closed down a shop in that strip, and the very next day, it looked like they opened up across the street,” says Mellano. “It used to be it would take a month to close them down the second time. In this case, they closed them down immediately. It seems like law enforcement is speeding up, and that’s a very good thing.” Mellano says he would like it if the Vista dispensaries were allowed to switch to adult use (recreational use). He says it is conceivable the Vista City Council, long averse to marijuana retail, may see the light, now that traditional tax income is reaching pandemic lows. “I’ll be making my first tax payment, which is seven percent of my sales, to the city on the 30th. They’ll be seeing a bunch of new tax revenue from us, which would probably double if we went to adult use.”

Flora Verde was the second dispensary to



PHOTO CREDIT TWITTER.COM

In the City of Brotherly Love, they love their brothers enough to drag you off the bus for failing to wear a mask.

“I was doubling my business every three days before the Corona hit, If it hadn’t hit, I’d be killing it.”

patrons inside. Flora Verde on Santa Fe Avenue had about the same number of clients. (Vista dispensaries only sell to those with a medical recommendation.)

“I was doubling my business every three days before the Corona hit,” says Mike Mellano, whose Coastal Wellness has been open in Vista for only five weeks. “If it hadn’t hit, I’d be killing it.” Mellano says after the mass



Coastal Wellness. “From what I heard, everyone had a big rush.”

COVID-19 shutdown of three weeks ago, all the Vista dispensaries showed an immediate surge in business. “From what I heard, everyone had a big rush. Everyone out there was stocking up. Now, it’s a little slower. I’d say we are doing 30 percent less of what we were doing that big week. Now, it’s normalized. There’s not a ton of growth, but it’s steady.”

The city of Vista has issued 11 cannabis licenses. Mellano says the six that have opened so far are friendly with each other — and with the sheriff deputies and city staff who visit. His beef is with the black market. He estimates

open in Vista when it debuted six months ago. Owner Justin Christman says his store is about to make its second quarterly payment to Vista. “This one is almost triple the first,” he says, adding that with the six dispensaries open, there is enough profit for everyone. He says only time will tell if eleven will be too many once the other five licensees open. “It’s like supermarkets; you can only have so many to be viable.” And it doesn’t hurt that Oceanside and Carlsbad have no cannabis storefronts. “I would say that 20 percent of our business comes from customers outside of our five-mile radius,” says Christman.

While Oceanside does not permit dispensaries, it has passed ordinances allowing cultivation, manufacturing, and delivery. So far, only one applicant, a delivery service known as MedLeaf, has made it to the conditional-use-permit stage. Manager/spokeswoman Gracie Morgan says COVID-19 has apparently slowed down the approval process: their March 25 approval hearing was postponed indefinitely. “We want to work with the city, and have a ribbon cutting, and make cannabis legitimate just like any other business,” she says.

Once open, Morgan says the MedLeaf business on on San Luis Rey Road in the Oceanside Industrial Park will employ ten

delivery drivers. She says MedLeaf’s main competition will be black market delivery. “We need to have legal delivery with licensed metric tracking.” David Newman says it’s Oceanside’s out-of-touch approach to cannabis that “shoves people like us into the black market.” Newman says his home delivery service, A Soothing Seed, has been making home deliveries in North County for years, and that A Soothing Seed will continue its door-to-door drops.

Meanwhile, Oceanside Planning Commission Chairman Kyle Krahel says it is an “inevitability” that Oceanside and Vista will eventually allow regulated recreational retail shops, although it may be necessary for “new blood” to arrive at each city council. “The ship of state turns slowly.”

KEN LEIGHTON

MASS TRANSIT Blunder bus Drivers press on despite confusing signals

Every day, San Diego’s bus and trolley drivers shuttle thousands of passengers around the county. They are essential workers providing service to other essential workers, including those in healthcare, but uncertainty clouds their daily routine. Two weeks ago, the Metropolitan Transit System announced that five bus drivers have contracted COVID-19. While vehicles are cleaned daily, transit drivers didn’t have to wear masks until April 3, when the county issued a new policy requiring essential workers to wear cloth face coverings. Still, for riders, it’s only a recommendation. (Neighboring Riverside Transit Agency has mandated cloth masks for riders and drivers. So has Los Angeles.)

Because of the virus, worries about a shortage of masks for healthcare workers have led to conflicting advice. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recom-

mended the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of coronavirus. Three days later, the World Health Organization issued a guidance that said healthy people don’t need to wear face masks to prevent the virus from spreading. Only recently did the Metropolitan Transit System change its website guidance to bring it in line with the county’s new policy. Before, they advised riders not to wear masks because masks encourage face touching. Now cloth masks are recommended.

“It’s definitely confusing a lot of people. You don’t know who to believe,” says Rosa Olascoaga, a community organizer with Mid-city Community Advocacy Network. Olascoaga wears a bandanna when she rides the bus, and only goes to the grocery store every two weeks. “I feel the driver implementation was a very smart move,” she says. But she’s not in favor of a policy that mandates riders wearing face masks, because she thinks enforcement could harm low-income riders. She says that people have been confused by the differing advice, and that the problem is that “there is no standard.” The group and its partner organizations have been advocating for rear door boarding and fare suspension. But, she says, while the agency has implemented rear door boarding for everyone except seniors and the disabled and eliminated cash payments, they haven’t waived fares. (So far, she hasn’t heard of anyone being ticketed for not paying.)

Among the essential workers the group represents are cleaners and those in the medical field. Some are unsure as to whether or not they should buy the \$72 monthly bus pass, since they don’t know what will happen to transit service as the outbreak goes on, she says. Starting April 13, the agency reduced services by 25 percent, reflecting fallen ridership — down 75 percent since the statewide stay-at-home order. Still, drivers are out there

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Street Style

BY SAMANTHA ST. PIERRE

Istanbul's chameleon trendsetter

With greater restrictions for going outdoors, I decided to search the world's streets (via the internet) for this week's Street Style subject.

Meet Ece, a brand manager living in Istanbul, Turkey. When she's not working, you can find her traveling around the globe in perfectly curated outfits ranging from oversized sweaters paired with an all-black outfit to chic silk dresses and layered necklaces. Ece's style covers a wide range of the fashion spectrum, and when I inquire about her daily inspiration, she tells me, "Honestly, it depends on anything that triggers my creativity, self-confidence, and positivity. Then, what I pick for that day depends on my mood and how I feel about my body that day."

The two outfits she shares



COLOR COORDINATED NEUTRAL COLORS, DOWN TO THE IPHONE CASE

with me speak to that range. One plays with neutral colors, coordinated flawlessly, down to her phone case. "This may sound a little weird," Ece explains, but I have more than 10 cases. I change them according to my outfit. I see it more than anything during my day, so from my point of view, it makes sense."

The oversized leather button-up (Zara, \$40) over her sleek black blouse (Zara, \$16) creates a square silhouette, giving her outfit a structured feel. Small accessories (Hoop earrings, Mango, \$20; rings, local Istanbul shop, \$100; Tiffany&Co necklace, \$130) complete the ensemble with a touch of femininity.

Her second outfit is anything but



ECE STROLLS DOWN THE AMALFI COAST IN SOUTHERN ITALY

neutral. Bright, sleek, and playful, the red chiffon dress is from one of Turkey's biggest online retailers, *Trendyol.com* (\$20). Strappy Tory Burch sandals (Beymen, local retail store in Istanbul, \$150,) and a colorful fan Ece picked up while traveling

through Italy (Positano, Italy, 30 euros) complete the outfit. In the photo she shares, Ece looks like she's enjoying herself while strolling in Italy's Amalfi coast.

"I really like to bring clothes that fit my travel locations. When I traveled to Marrakesh, [Morocco,] I actually brought all the hippie-chic, bohemian outfits that I don't normally wear a lot during summer in Turkey. When I traveled to Africa, I brought all of my light clothes that have African figures, easily convertible pieces, head wraps, and loose dresses with me. I like to become a chameleon trendsetter when I'm a traveler."

Ece's go-to shops for new clothes are mostly online: Asos, Trendyol, Zara, and H&M. Among her inspirations, she lists Princess Diana and Cher. "They're the ones I think of when I feel nostalgia. They take me back to the good old times." ■

Find more Street Style at sandiegoreader.com/style



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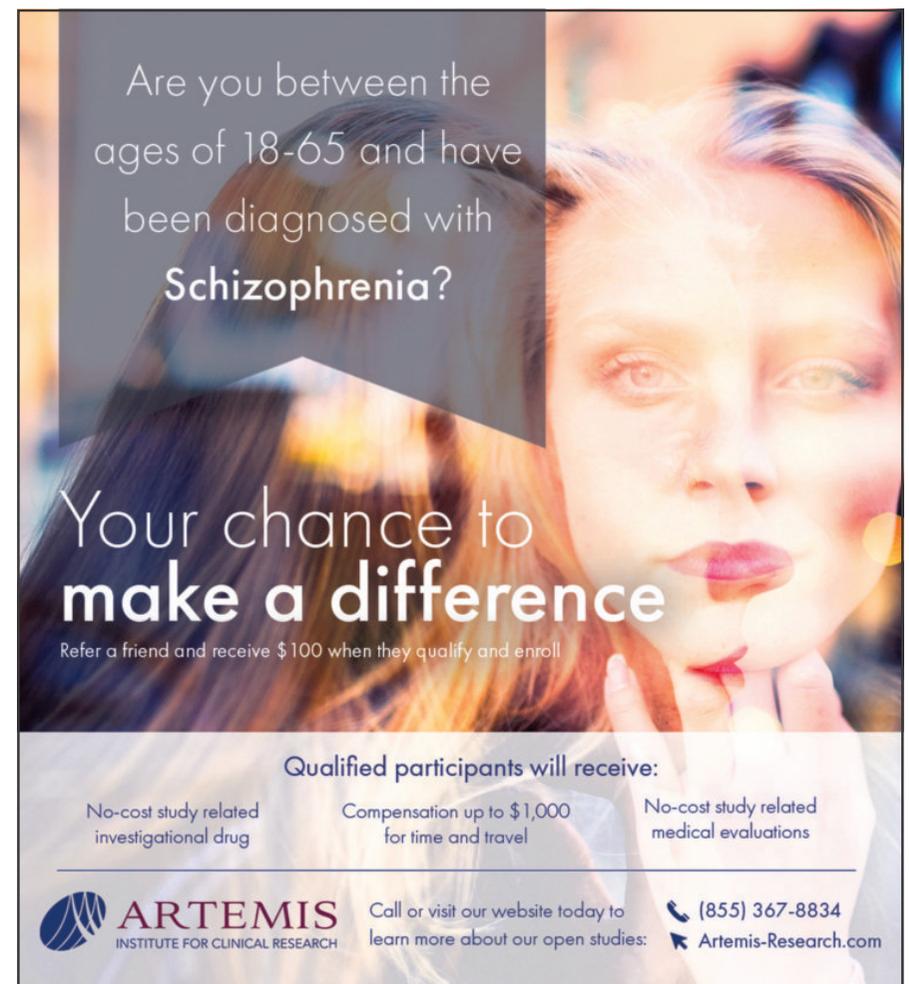
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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

As with just about every other facet of daily life, the spread of coronavirus has dramatically reshaped the real estate market in recent weeks.

Appraisers are working limited schedules or avoiding property inspections entirely, thus delaying valuations needed to complete home sales. Banks fear a coming wave of missed mortgage payments and have tightened lending requirements, stripping many would-be buyers of the financing they need



A home designed to frame your life like a gallery frames a work of art.

to purchase homes. Buyers and sellers are equally wary of venturing out to tour a stranger's home or to invite some into their own.

Despite all the chaos, while the market has slowed, it hasn't entirely ground to a halt. Realtors' associations have successfully lobbied to

have residential real estate services declared "essential," exempting agents from stay-at-home orders. Photographers have begun advertising

contactless virtual tour services — a team enters a home, photographs it and takes video, then disinfects and vacates in 30 minutes or less — as the majority of home showings move online.

New inventory is still coming to market, but since the first month of spring traditionally serves as a kickoff for the busiest few months of the year in home sales, 2020's selling season so far looks bleak. That's true across the board, but the slump is particularly pronounced in the ultra-luxury market. Of the nearly 120 homes currently offered in San Diego County for more than \$5 million, just a dozen were listed in the last month.

A newly-constructed 4300-square-foot home just a few hundred feet from the coastline in Car-

diff by the Sea is among those recent listings.

"Inspired by the white cube aesthetic of New York City's contemporary galleries, this home exhibits the form of Avant Garde architecture at it's best," opens the *Realtor.com* pitch for 1329 Cornish Drive in Cardiff. "The aesthetic was introduced to minimize distractions from the art, emphasizing color and light. Where the white walls framed the bare abstract canvases, this home is designed to frame you."

Exterior finishes to the residence include "tropical wood 'machiche' siding and high tech ultra compact ceramics" that give way to a white stucco façade. Interior access is gained through an "extra large Pivot mahogany entry door," and once

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Philip Burow: teacher, grocery bagger, and calming influence among nervous customers.

The cashier's tale

Tara has come out for a smoke. It's nine at night. Break time. Her store, Vons, is about to close. She lights up, sitting in her car. All you can see is the red glow of her cigarette when she takes a tug.

"Coming to work every day is stressful," she says. She has been a Vons cashier since 2011. "You have to make sure that you're geared up for it all, be ready to deal with customers who aren't very happy with the situation. Like, paper products have been an issue from Day One. That, and water. They get angry when you limit them."



Tara: this is the front line

She was as shocked as anyone when the pandemic hit.

"I'd had foot surgery right about then. When I got back, beans, rice, everything was gone. Everything that was non-perishable. Frozen vegetables, canned vegetables, gone! Our entire aisle of pasta went. And pasta sauce, gone! I just wish some customers would realize, this is not our fault.

"Most know that we're in the same boat. We get a whole lot of people who are very grateful for us being here. You can almost pick out the ones who are going to be a problem. The ones who don't wear the masks. Younger men, mostly. I just want to say, 'You are potentially risking my life, my friends' lives, other

customers' lives."

Which, she says, includes the whole RV park where she lives. "Because the neighbors there, they aren't leaving. I am one of the only ones that goes out of the park. I do shopping for several people over there. One of my friends and her husband both had surgery recently, and they can't leave. I have another friend who has had cancer therapy, chemo and stuff. He can't come out.

"So I stop by on my way to work, and I pick groceries up for them here. I'm getting ready to send my stepdad a box of non-perishable groceries (because he can't figure out *Vons.com*). He's got COPD really bad. And he's on oxygen 24-7. So he cannot risk getting the virus or it will kill him."

Has she ever considered quitting?

"I have. There are times when it has weighed heavily on me, because I don't want to get everybody in my RV Park sick. I don't want to be the one to bring it home.

"Then I had my foot operation. It was when I came back to work that I saw the Vons sign saying you must have your face mask now. All of it was just too much for me. I had to tell my boss, 'I'm sorry. I can't do it today. I just can't.'

And I couldn't. I mean, I was in tears. And I don't just cry over nothing. Everything just weighed. I came back next day, but this COVID thing is very serious. And some people don't take it seriously."

The *Washington Post* reports that as of April 12th, "thousands" of supermarket employees across the US have already caught COVID-19 and "at least" 41 have died.

Tara needs to get back. She stubs out her cigarette.

I have to ask: "COVID attacks the lungs. How come you are still smoking?"

"Because," she says, "I am stressed out. That's my excuse for it today."

When you go by bicycle

Stay in lockdown? Not these retired police captains. It's 8:52 on a sunny Tuesday morning, and all five of them are sitting around outside Chase Bank at Tenth and Orange in downtown Coronado. They've just pedaled their bikes 17 miles up from Bonita, and are about to make the return journey. And here's the thing: they're all between 70 and 80 years old.

"We were mostly involved with police work, or teaching, or government," says Keith Enerston (80). He was assistant chief of SDDP, Jerry Sanders' number two man. Until the corona virus, they would ride most days of the week. Gil Dominguez (78) is wearing a tee shirt that says "O.G.O.B. Old Guys On Bikes."

As they always do, they get a coffee at



Old Guys On Bikes, power pedaling since 2000

Keith says there's something special about touring a foreign country by bike. "A bicycle can take you into unexpected experiences. You usually go through small villages and towns because you take the road less traveled. And

"The French maintain those graveyards and fields like we maintain our museums. They're immaculate."

Panera. Except this time, they can't sit inside.

Keith says the ride up from Bonita is not competitive. "It's a shared enjoyment of the ride. We wouldn't get up at 5 o'clock every morning and meet at 6:30 if it wasn't enjoyable."

But what about all those stay-home, social distancing rules?

you get the word that the French are rude, and maybe they are, in Paris. But in Normandy they were just really nice people, very friendly, and went out of their way to give us directions. And the French maintain those graveyards and fields like we maintain our museums. They take care of them. They're immaculate.



Seventeen miles still to pedal

"We don't ride to any parks or beaches, and we try to stay six feet apart. I think it's really important that you get some kind of exercise every day, and this is low impact, very safe. Nothing in life is without risk, but I think this is minimal."

"And we have done bigger things," says Jim. "Like the California-Arizona-Nevada ride."

"Or the Oceanside to Annapolis 12-day," says Keith. "I've ridden in Australia, the Netherlands, the UK, or" — and here, his eyes light up as he looks at his wife Josie — "that French ride. Two years ago, to the beaches and battlefields of Normandy. A friend of mine had been a paratrooper who jumped on D-Day."

"So here's what happened. There were a lot of little restaurants, and we go in and the menu's in French. And I don't speak or read French. But I stood up and looked at it, and this gentleman came over and he said 'I speak English and French. Can I help you?' And I said yes, I wanted to order something. So he told me what it was, and I said, 'Thank you for doing that.' And he said 'No, I thank you. My father was in the French Resistance, and spent the war in a prison camp. I'm free because of the Americans.' And then he grabbed me, and gave me a big hug. It really was an emotional moment. I'll never forget it. Things like that happen when you go by bike." ■

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GHOST CATCHES CREEPS

Jessica is pretty, petite, and young — 5'2" and slim, according to her profile on the dating app. Golden bangs cascade across her forehead, and in her profile picture her sweet, silly smile is reminiscent of a young Miley Cyrus.

Jessica is 14 years old.

Jon is a big man with tiny eyes and brownish-blondish hair, styled in a crewcut. He's got a long mustache and a balbo goatee. He's looking for "friends, dating, chat," according to his profile.

Jon is 39.



Hi there wyd

Hii. Wats up



Not much just chillin at home. Whats up with you

I'm from Oceanside



Me to.... What would you like to do

Tbh I'm actually 14 lol.
Hope ur not mad



Jon initiates contact: Hi there wyd

Jessica: Hii. Wats up

Jon: Not much just chillin at home. Whats up with you

Jessica: I'm from Oceanside

Jon: Me to.... What would you like to do

Jessica: Tbh I'm actually 14 lol. Hope ur not mad

Jon: No not mad

Jessica: Kk cool:)

Jon: What are you wanting to do with older guys

Jessica: Umm anything I'm not picky

She asks him for a selfie; he sends her one and she sends back three, one with a "doodle" puppy filter.

As soon as he gets the photos, Jon responds:

Have you had sex with a older guy?

Jessica: 15 ya. Hbu?

Jon: Yes only with older females

Jessica: Ohh cool:) Ya I'm free today

Jon: Oh yeah so you want to have sex?? I can get into a lot of trouble.

Jessica: Umm today if u want

Jon: What have you tried so far

Jessica: I just had ex bfs

Jon: OK did you sex with them? Do you suck them off?

Jessica: I did everything lol

Jon: Oh yeah you wanna do it all with me. I will show you how great sex is.

They arrange to meet at 5 pm. Jon suggests "somewhere low key," like a field off Mesa Drive and El Camino Real. Jessica says she'd rather meet at a store, and they agree to meet at the Vons across from the Carlsbad mall.

Jon: What do you want to do

Jessica: Umm anything. Wats on ur mind?

Jon: Sex. I really want



Jon denies any knowledge of a chat, as well as Ghost's claim that "you came out here to have sex with a minor." He insists he came to CVS to pick up some pictures. Ghost again tells him he has all the evidence on his phone and asks whether he should call the police.

my dick sucked.

The chat continues. Jon asks for "naked pictures" but she says she doesn't send nudes; he tells her she can "sit on my face" and that he's "a great kisser."

A little while later, Jon texts her that he's running a little late; he's on foot and "these hills suck," so he's hoping a bus will come along. Jessica says she just got out of the shower and he responds, "Mmm wet and naked awesome."

En route, Jon tells Jessica, via text, that he has to pick up some photos at the CVS in the same strip mall as Vons.

A few minutes later, Jessica texts, "I'm inside cvs where r u?" Jon responds, "Walking in the parking lot.... I have a black hoodie with blue jeans on and a sucker in my mouth."

* * *

Jon is a real person. Jessica is not. Her profile was created and posted to one of the more popular dating apps by a young North County college student known only as Ghost. We're not going to tell you his real name, or what he looks like, or where he lives. Let's just say that growing up, Ghost heard more stories than he cared to

from his friends, mostly young women, about a creepy neighbor, uncle, or friend of the family. There were stories of uncomfortable stares, inappropriate comments, and from time to time, unwanted touching or unseemly propositions. "Did you tell someone, or call the cops?" was invariably the first thing Ghost would ask. But in every case, he got one of two responses: either "No, I didn't, because nobody would believe me," or, "Yes, I did, but no one cared."

So eventually, Ghost decided to do something about it. As a teen, he says, he was a big fan of *To Catch a Predator*, a Dateline NBC reality show in which host Chris Hansen confronted adults arriving at a sting house to have sex with a minor. The "minors" were members of the show's staff, impersonating underage boys and girls (generally 12 to 15) in online chat rooms. *To Catch a Predator* ran from 2004 until 2008, when it was canceled after an assistant district attorney in Rockwall County, Texas shot himself after he was caught talking to and exchanging pictures with a volunteer posing as a 13-year-old boy.

Using pictures of real teens he obtains, with permission, from friends, Ghost began posing as underage boys or girls on several dating apps — Tinder, Grindr, Zoosk, and the like — and was surprised at how many responses he received from older

men who didn't seem to mind at all that the boys and girls with whom they were flirting were 14, 13, or even 12. "Having seen *To Catch a Predator*, I always wondered how many of these guys lived in our area," Ghost says.

He rallied up some friends to form an informal outfit known as the Creep Catchers Unit, or CC Unit. His plan was to post fake profiles, and then expose the adults who hit on them by arranging a meeting and filming the results, which would then be posted to the CC Unit Instagram account and YouTube channel. YouTube videos start with a flashing Guy Fawkes mask. Lightning strikes over a twilight shot of the downtown San Diego skyline, and then comes the disclaimer: "Warn-

ing. Some viewers might find the following video disturbing. Viewer discretion is advised."

Ghost set up his first decoy account, pretending he was a 13-year-old girl, on August 2, 2018. "As soon as I made it, I had 15 messages already," he says. "One guy, named Oscar, messaged me 24 times. Within an hour I met him at an Oceanside Walmart and busted him, using my iPhone."

Since that first bust, Ghost says, he's caught, and exposed, over 100 predators. His YouTube channel has 15,700 subscribers, and the more than 40 videotaped encounters he's posted have amassed a total of more than 1.5 million views. On Instagram, the CC Unit has 24,800 followers, many of whom

continued on page 29

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 23

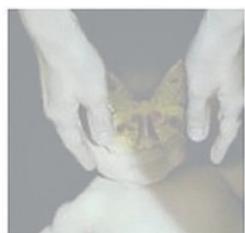
CORNEL/HENRY ART EXHIBIT: JENNIFER GEORGESCU

Tour an online exhibition of the 'mother series' by Jennifer Georgescu, a San Diego based photographer and mother. Georgescu's background is in painting and photographic arts, and she utilizes medium format film photography, installation, and digital technology. Her projects analyze

dualisms in language, relationships, mythologies, and control. Georgescu is part of the Photolucida 2019 Critical Mass Top 200, the 2019 recipient of the John Chervinsky Scholarship of Griffin Museum of Photography, and the 2019 recipient of the William Male Foundation Award.

WHEN: Everyday. Through Friday, May 29.

WHERE: cornelhenryart.com/jennifer-georgescu



Crosby grew up in Northern Idaho before striking out on the road at the age of 17 to make his living as a full-time touring musician. His newest album *Postcards From Magdalena* displays his penchant for personal slice-of-life stories, some of which he'll likely showcase in a livestream concert performed from his home as part of the daily Nuncheon Sessions.

WHEN: Friday, April 24, 11 am.

WHERE: [facebook.com/sweetheartpub](https://www.facebook.com/sweetheartpub)

Saturday | 25

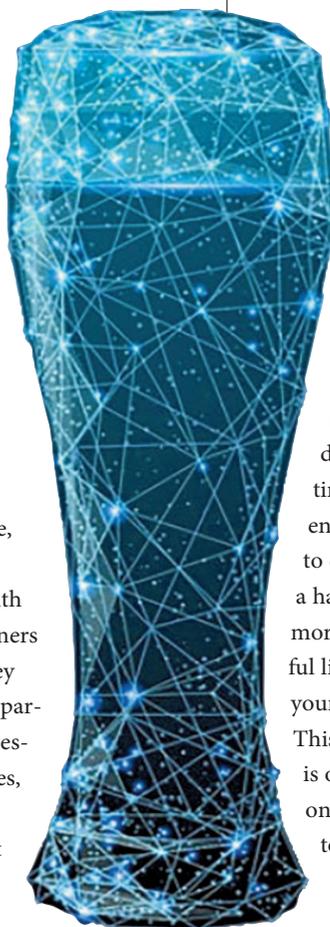
VIRTUAL BEER FESTIVAL

San Diegans can enjoy a beer festival from their houses via a premiere video that happens online. A box of ten different local and regional craft beers arrives for the participants before the event. During the premiere, they will get to go through a tasting with the brewers and owners of these brands. They can chat with other participants and ask questions of the breweries, which will also be online. The event also features

performances from local bands and interactive games.

WHEN: Saturday, April 25, 7 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: rockstarbeer.com



Monday | 26

MEDITATION, MINDFULNESS & MANAGED ENERGY

Established in 1998, the Dharma Center employs the practices of Trikaya Buddhism. Join Varada from the Center and explore how integrating meditation, mindfulness and managed energy practices into your daily routine can enable you to create a happier, more peaceful life for yourself. This class is offered online due

to the Coronavirus pandemic.

To participate, visit the website, click on DConline, and scroll down to the Zoom link.

WHEN: Mondays, 6 pm to 7 pm. Through May 4.

WHERE: dharmacenter.com

Tuesday | 27

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM LIVE

The museum is going live on Facebook to bring some daily activities into your home. Join for a live storytime by Ms. Whitney, view sing-a-long music videos, and check out Tinker Time projects you can make at home with your little ones. Make sure you like and follow San Diego Children's Discovery Museum on Facebook to receive a



notification for when things are happening. You can visit the "Videos" tab on the profile when it is time for livestreaming.

WHEN: Weekdays, 12:30 pm to 12:45 pm. Through May 3.

WHERE: [facebook.com/sdcdm](https://www.facebook.com/sdcdm)



WEEKDAYS, THROUGH MAY 3: CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM LIVE

Friday | 24

NUNCHEON SESSIONS: JEFF CROSBY

Nashville-based Americana singer-songwriter Jeff



JEFF CROSBY

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Congregational Church of La Jolla

Contact: 1216 Cave St., La Jolla 858-459-5045

www.lajollaucc.org

Membership: 125

Pastor: Timothy Seery

Age: 27

Born: Great Falls, MT

Formation: Harvard University; Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

Years Ordained: 2.5

San Diego Reader: What's your main concern as a member of the clergy?

Pastor Timothy Seery: Just two months ago, I would never have imagined we would be where we are now regarding the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced us to think outside the box – since my congregation skews

toward the elderly, a group not necessarily well versed with technology and virtual meetings. We thought about doing a Zoom service, but it didn't feel like something that would work. So we had to figure out: how do we get the church to the people usually in the pews on Sunday. The staff and I put together an at-home worship packet for each person through email every Saturday night—email was the lowest common denominator, technologically speaking. All our members have an email. In each weekly packet, I focus on a different famous person who had to be quarantined or stayed at home for one reason or another, and what they were able to do with that time.

The packet includes scripture readings, music recorded in audio files, and my sermon. We've been sending these packets for four weeks now. Our first week, for instance, we focused on the French artist Henri Matisse, who was confined to his house for the last ten or so years of his life. We focused on Sir Isaac Newton in the second week—Newton was quarantined because of the plague, and it was during that time that he made some of his most important discoveries. ... Through these packets, I try to inspire my congregation about the possibilities that can come with staying at home. I'm also asking them to send me pictures of what they're

doing at home. People have sent pictures of themselves making masks, learning to cook pasta from scratch, all sorts of things – good books they're reading – and I share this in the worship packet which I title "Virtue Fellowship Hour" – you just have to bring your own cookies. This is a format where we can keep up with each other's lives, and stay connected even though we're not visiting face to face. **SDR:** What is the mission of your church? **PS:** To spread the good news of Jesus in our community, work for justice and inclusion, care for all people, gather together for worship and celebrating the sacraments, and be an outpost of inclusive religion



Timothy Seery

in the La Jolla community.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PS: I don't know. I'm on this journey just like everyone else is and don't profess to know the heart of God. But from what I believe, feel and see in the world, when we pass on, we enter the arms of love in a way that we never could imag-

ine in our earthly life. We feel that sense of completeness, acceptance and love. That really is the final culmination of it all and what we've been looking for and crave so much as humans. That's our fullest completion – this feeling that we've arrived home. The people I've been with when they've died have all, in their last day or hours, mentioned something about home. So there must be something to that – home is a place of love and safety. I don't believe in hell. The God and the Jesus I know have such love, forgiveness and compassion that exceed anything that we could do.

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

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.

BEER

Virtual Beer Festival Enjoy the beer festival from their houses via an online video. A box of 10 different local and regional craft beers arrives to the participants the days before the event. During the premiere, they will get to go through the tastings with the brewers and owners of these brands. The event features performances from local bands and interactive games. Saturday, April 25, 7pm; \$30. 21 and up. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Lovejoy Creations Studio Live Painting Sessions Daily YouTube live painting sessions and videos. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; through Friday, May 29, Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Theatre Arts School of San Diego Online Classes Free and low cost online classes available for young theatre artists to feel inspired, supported, and engaged. Participate in classes remotely from home using ZOOM. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Thursday, April 30, Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

enjoy a fun drinking game and take part in our audience Q&A as our experts answer your questions. Invite your friends for a virtual hang out. Fridays, 4pm; through Friday, May 29, free. 21 and up. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

PWSD Virtual Meeting Member Susie Schaefer will present "The Sticky Note Method" during their first Zoom meeting. She will discuss ways to gain momentum on your manuscript even without an outline. The meeting will be free and it will happen at the same time as the regular meeting, but it will be conducted in the comfort of your

own home. PWSD will send out instructions in the meeting notices the week before the meeting, along with the link. If you have any questions, send them to Robbie@bookstudiobooks.com. Saturday, April 25, 10am; free. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ART

Panache Art Auction Panache is an intimate evening with award-winning art, delicious food, fine wine, and an atmosphere where artists and collectors can mingle and forge new connections. This annual fundraiser benefits the arts programing and education the EAP provides to the local community. Saturday, April 25, 5:30pm; \$55. 18 and up. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

And Something Different Studio: Art Classes Online art classes with Leslie Pierce/ And Something Different Studio. Thursdays, 12pm; Fridays, 12pm; Saturdays, 12pm; through Saturday, May 30, free. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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Bolt rebirth

“Why isn’t he known as the Father of San Diego Beer?”

Out! Out! I’m not having my car stunk up with fish and chips!”

Sigh. These Scots. One minute they’re all about how they have the best fish and chips — “shark and taties” — in the wurrrld, next, they’re kicking you out of their cars.

And that’s how come I’m standing on India Street with a polystyrene box of fish and chips, another box packing a bacon cheese burger in a sea of fries, and this pint of Bolt’s Dan Stouts beer in a dangerously squeezey 16-ounce plastic soup container. Gotta do something before it belches and floods the rest. Now I get a text. “I’m home. Don’t worry. Got plenty of leftovers.”

This is mid-Saturday afternoon. Half an hour ago, Annie and I were trolling India Street for late-lunch takeout.

“Not pasta,” said Annie.

“We’re in Little Italy, but no pasta?”

“Pub food,” Annie says. “Something simple.”

On India, at Grape, I spot a pint of beer shining golden in a sunny open window counter. Bolt Brewery. Behind it, the saloon in the gloom looks like a darkened movie set.

So we’re just crossing India as Annie gets a call. “My sister, Scotland,” she whispers. “I’ll be in the car. Burger, anything.”

“Beer and a snack,” says the sign on the Bolt’s countertop. Ooh. So tempting. They also have a sign. “Please do not drink your to-go beer here.”

This guy Chris hands me their one-page menu. Definitely bar food: starters are the likes of fried zucchini with Parmesan and ranch for \$9.95, or six wings for \$13.95. So yeah, Little Italy prices here. But they have three sliders for \$11.95, with grilled onions and American cheese on Hawaiian buns, so that smells like a deal.

Then the heavies in the burger department: The Bacon Cheese Burger is a half-pounder with cheddar, lettuce, tomato, pickles, and “Bolt

sauce,” whatever that is. Costs \$13.95. Or you can upgrade to the “All-American Burger,” which is also a half-pounder, plus bacon,

American cheese, onion rings, and BBQ sauce, for \$15.99.

The bacon-free Bolt Burger is cheaper at \$12.95, and a BLT on thick “Texas Toast” goes for \$11, and simple grilled cheese on toast is the cheapest at \$8.

Oh, and then under “Favorites,” fish and chips: four pieces of cod with the usual fries, cole slaw and tartar sauce. Not bad for \$13.95. Or chicken tenders with choice of sauces, including blue cheese, also \$13.95. And a Caesar salad (with romaine, parmesan, Caesar dressing, croutons), \$11.95.

That’s it.

Chris has his pencil ready to rip. He seems to be manning the post alone until this glam girl in a red face bandanna comes out from the kitchen.

Molly. Wife of the owner.

“Sorry for the wait,” she says, “but we’ve only got one cook, my husband.”

“Working hard?” I ask.

“Well, we’ve both been at it 25 days straight. Ten-twelve hours, since corona began.”

Hmm. Dishes not the cheapest, but I’m spending way less since the lock-down. So I get the fish and chips for Annie, and the bacon cheeseburger for me.

“Won’t be long,” says Molly. “Clint’s cooking. He’s fast.”

Turns out Clint Stromberg started Bolt Brewery back when there were no San Diego breweries. Guy looks too young, hauling out a basket of crinkle fries from the deep fat, with his orange cap on backwards and his star-spangled bandanna. But at age 19, in 1987, he launched Bolt before Stone, before Strauss, before anyone.

“I started home brewing when I was like 16,” he says, when he brings the food up in bags. “I couldn’t drink it legally, but I could brew it.”

And pretty soon, Clint and buddies went



The outside counter. No, he’s not drinking that beer



Chris holds up the temptation: a pint of Bolt beer. But to-go only



My bacon and cheeseburger

whole hog and started selling their beers as Bolt Brewery — named for the Chargers — out of a hole in the wall in Fallbrook.

Oh man, the saga that follows would fill a book. Being buried by the financial meltdown of 1989, years building craft breweries around the world, a return to roots and restarting Bolt Brewery in 2014.

That was in La Mesa. Then he saw this spot. “I had to have it, even though we had spent every dime on the other place. I shoved all the chips into the middle of the table for this one. And it worked out, until five weeks ago. Now, corona, and I’m chief bottle washer and cook again. But you know what, I love it! We both do. It’s like a kind of rebirth.”

Oh, no! Annie. She’ll be sitting in her car. I grab my bags and run the two blocks down. I swing the car door open.

“Ed!” Annie says. “I’m *not* having that smell-ing up my car...”

The Place: Bolt Brewery and Eatery, 1971 India Street, Little Italy, 619-917-6082

Hours (take-out only): 4pm-8pm, Monday-Friday; 12pm-8pm, Saturday, Sunday

Prices: Beer and parmesan fries, \$14.95; fried zucchini, parmesan, ranch, \$9.95; wings (6), \$13.95; three sliders (grilled onions, cheese), \$11.95; Bacon Cheese Burger (half-pounder, cheddar), \$13.95; All-American Burger, half-pounder, bacon, American cheese, onion rings, BBQ sauce, \$15.99; Bolt Burger (no bacon), \$12.95; BLT, \$11; grilled cheese on toast, \$8; fish and chips (fries, cole slaw, tartar sauce), \$13.95; chicken tenders, \$13.95; Caesar salad, \$11.95

Bus: 83

Nearest Bus Stops: (Northbound) India at Cedar; (Southbound) Kettner at Grape

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Nearest Trolley Stop: County Center/Little Italy

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Restaurant delivery, without the delivery apps

2496 Broadway, Golden Hill. It's been a dozen years since I first started getting tacos and burritos from Los Reyes Mexican Food in Golden Hill. The family business has been at it since 1991. But only since restaurant dining rooms have been closed due to the 'rona has it added a new service: local delivery within a three-mile radius (\$20 minimum order).

It's worth noting, that doesn't require a third-party delivery app, such as GrubHub, DoorDash, or Postmates. Los Reyes has added delivery on its own initiative, in response to the current public health crisis. When my order arrives, the masked young man delivering it is part of the family; in normal times, he works behind the counter. I paid him a tip, but I didn't have to pay any of the fees associated with third party apps.

Those apps, and the Silicon Valley tech execs behind them, are rightfully under a lot of scrutiny right now. Because, even as they typically charge customers delivery fees, they charge the restaurants. You may have seen the *Food & Wine* story decrying their practice of collecting a 20 to 30 percent com-

mission on each order.

We can credit these apps with establishing a technological infrastructure that brings efficiency to ordering and delivery. But during these socially distant times, when restaurant sales overall are down, and the entire industry is at risk, how easy is it for more restaurants to do like Los Reyes and cut out the middleman?

FEAST!

To deliver themselves? It's not unprecedented. Unlike tacos and burritos, pizza has a long tradition of delivery behind it. Not only chains like Dominos, either, but among local, independent restaurants.

Mr. Moto Pizza House, which was already in the delivery game well before anybody heard of covid-19. To better understand how that's been working out, I reached out to Mr. Moto founder Gibran Fernandez.

Since 2015, he's expanded Mr. Moto to five locations; a sixth is (still) due at Seaport Village this summer. And all of them employ delivery drivers, and delivery accounts for half their business, more or less. Often more. Fernandez reports delivery orders at his small counter shop in North Park account for 80 percent of its business some weeks.

Mr. Moto is available through all the delivery apps, and Fernandez estimates they generate half his delivery business on average. While these orders aren't as profitable as orders direct to the restaurant, he doesn't entirely begrudge them. He notes they help his restaurant



Mr. Moto Pizza House, Ocean Beach location.



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reach a wider population of customers, and makes it easier to manage the number of drivers he needs.

Like many local restaurants during coronavirus, Mr. Moto has put together family meal specials meant to feed four: \$29 for a large one topping pizza, plus pasta, salad, and garlic knots. For that, I had to call in my order. But most of my Mr. Moto deliveries over the years have come from orders I've



Los Reyes Mexican Food, Golden Hill, now with a banner advertising free delivery.

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placed through the Mr. Moto web site or smart phone app. They're simple applications, just sophisticated enough to let you choose half and half toppings on your pizza. But they work, and the customers who use them wind up paying less for their pizza delivery than those using a delivery app. Fernandez speculates that, while overall business is down during the pandemic, Mr. Moto is suffering less of a hit thanks to its established delivery apparatus.

Los Reyes doesn't have an app — it does have three restaurant locations serving a mix of traditional Mexican meals, tacos, burritos, soups, sandwiches, and juice bar offerings. But it does now deliver, and I hope it helps my local taco shop keep going another thirty years.

Note to readers: if you know of a local restaurant delivering its own meals during coronavirus shut down, please let us know.

by Ian Anderson

Observing one month in isolation with take-home sushi

2321 Fifth Avenue, Bankers Hill. The seven pieces of sushi were packaged in the sort of container you'd expect to find in a grocery store: one of those rectangular trays with a clear plastic, snap-on top. Except grocery store sushi boxes usually feature bland ahi, yellowfin tuna that owes its bright red color to preservative, carbon monoxide treatment.

Not the case here. One of the *nigiri* in this box features the lighter pink of a more flavorful piece of tuna, *chutoro*, a top cut from tiny, belly portion of the prized bluefin tuna. And beside it, a piece of the even choicer *otoro*, cut from the bluefin's most tender underbelly. The *otoro* is a lighter pink still, mottled by so much fat that it melts in the mouth; so much it can barely hold itself in one

piece on pressed pat of rice, inside that plastic box.

These are but two stand-outs from one of the best take-out orders I've enjoyed since going into isolation: the seven-piece \$26 chef's selection *nigiri* combo from Azuki Sushi in Bankers Hill.

In normal times, I wouldn't deign to order take-out sushi, certainly not from any of the city's top sushi restaurants. One of the best things going for modern sushi bars is the visual experience: the expert knifework on display by its resident sushi masters, the artful presentation of dishes, the interaction with the chef.

At the top end, sushi restaurants are there for celebrations, special occasions, for nights of self-indulgence. Unfortunately for those with birthdays and anniversaries during this shut down, nights out don't exist right now. As dining rooms have been order closed, most fine-dining establishments



Chef's selection nigiri from Azuki Sushi, including chutoro fatty tuna, otoro fatty tuna, yellowtail belly, sea bream, king salmon, and halibut.

have closed with them. Without the upscale service and atmosphere, without the being-seen-ness, the calculus of business suggests fine food alone cannot eke by on

a take-out model.

But while some sushi restaurants offer luxurious and high-priced meals to compete with the best of them, incredibly, most of our best sushi

establishments appear to be open and serving takeout.

I found this surprising, at first, given how delicate and perishable uncooked fish is by definition. But then I remind myself that, centuries ago, sushi originated as street food: compact and easy to transport. And while in person dining contributes much of the joy of the sushi bar, the number one reason to indulge is still exceptional fish.

So, with nowhere to go and nothing to celebrate, I marked one month of sequestered life by ordering myself a box of exceptional *nigiri*, to go. Beside the fatty tunas, there was a piece of king salmon, a cut of fatty yellowtail, plus delicate pieces of sea bream and halibut.

Other top sushi bars still serving during the pandemic include San Diego's most revered, Sushi Ota, in Mission Bay, as well as sushi restaurants opened by family and protégés of its master chef Ota: Himitsu in La Jolla, and Shino Sushi + Kappo in Little Italy.

Also active are Point Loma's Umi Sushi, and Coronado's Saiko Sushi.

North County home diners may enjoy authentic sushi from Kaito Sushi in Encinitas, while the south bay has Goody's Sushi.

Dozens of sushi restaurants at every level still are open around the county; most likely, your favorite among them.

by Ian Anderson

POUR OVER

BY IAN ANDERSON

Stay caffeinated, San Diego, and support local coffee roasters

Normally, a late morning visit to the **James Coffee** co-op in Little Italy would mean searching for a place to park, bumping into someone I know on the street, standing in line for a pour over coffee, then finding a spot to linger a couple hours while human life bustled around me.

But this morning, weeks into the pandemic, parking is easy, and the spacious warehouse venue is all but empty. All the small shops that share the place with James Coffee are closed. The only people there are a pair of baristas behind the coffee counter, each wearing a mask, as I am. They tell me no pour overs are available, but there is batch coffee, the espresso menu, and cold brew. I ask for the latter, plus a 12-ounce bag of Ethiopian coffee beans to go.

At the last minute, I add a chocolate and almond croissant to my order. Freshly baked by downtown French bakery, **Le Parfait Paris**, the chocolate-coated pastry tantalizes from inside its glass case. It's the first impulse buy I've made in a month. I stick my credit card in the reader, gather up

my food and drink, and retreat to my car. Coffeehouse culture may be at a standstill, but I can still get my fix.

Back in March, when most people were panic-buying toilet paper and hand sanitizer, I was stocking up on locally roasted coffee beans. Priorities, right? It wasn't yet clear how coffee roasters would be affected by retail closures and stay at home orders, and I wanted to make sure I had enough beans to get me through.

Indeed, many neighborhood coffee shops have closed, but weeks into the public health crisis, coffee roasters have responded with different COVID-19 business models as they try to stay afloat. Online ordering, shipping, and take-out orders are how coffee business is being done now. Most roasters now keep at least one retail location to sell beans and serve take-out food and drinks, and some, like James, accept online take-out orders to reduce contact.

Dark Horse Coffee Roasters initially closed all locations, but now offers beans and (for the first time) cans of cold brew from its North Park and Golden Hill locations only.

Better Buzz Coffee is serving only from its six locations equipped with drive-thru service, while Barrio Logan roaster **Café Moto** has set up a temporary drive thru operation at its shop.

Lofty Coffee is serving drinks only out of its Encinitas roastery. But as Lofty Provisions, it delivers baked goods and dairy products in addition to coffee beans and tea leaves; free home delivery three days per week throughout North County with a \$50 order.

Mostra Coffee, the nation's reigning Micro Roaster of the Year has its Carmel Ranch shop open regular hours, serving take-out coffee orders as well as beans. But if you prefer to have beans mailed to you, Mostra ships free with a \$35 minimum order.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters has closed its retail locations. And though it's shipping beans free with a \$30 minimum, it's halted roasting operations for the second half of April, so sup-



James coffee beans and cold brew to go, plus an impulse buy pastry

ply is limited.

Rancho Bernardo's **Manzanita Roasting Company** has closed its coffee bar, but continues to roast twice a week in small batches. One of the county's best kept coffee secrets, it offers free shipping on beans with no minimums.

Whether open for retail or online shipping orders, here's a current list of open coffee roasters, countywide — subject to change.

Bankers Hill
James Coffee Co. (2870 Fourth Ave, Suite 107)

Barrio Logan
Café Moto (drive thru, 2619 National Avenue)

Ryan Bros Coffee (1894 Main Street).

Café Virtuoso (1616 National Avenue)

Carmel Mountain Ranch
Mostra Coffee (12045 Carmel Mountain Road, Unit 302)

Carlsbad
Steady State Roasting (2562 State Street, Suite G)

Sleeping Tiger Coffees (2906 Carlsbad Boulevard)

Downtown San Diego
Achilles Coffee Roasters (703 Ash Street, 800 B Street)

Encinitas
Lofty Coffee Encinitas Roasting Works (97 North Coast Highway 101)

Pannikin Coffee and Tea (510 North Coast Highway 101)

Ironsmith Coffee Roasters (458 South Coast Highway 101)

Zumbar Coffee (111 Chesterfield Drive #115)

Escondido
Better Buzz Coffee (1831 South Centre City Parkway)

Golden Hill
Dark Horse Coffee Roasters (811 25th Street, Unit 100)

Little Italy
James Coffee Co. (2355 India Street)

Miramar
Jaunt Coffee Roasters (8680 Miralani Drive, Unit 134)

North Park
Coffee and Tea Collective (2911 El Cajon Boulevard)

Holsem Coffee (2911 University Avenue)

Caffè Calabria (3933 30th Street)

Dark Horse Coffee Roasters (3794 30th Street)

James Coffee Co. (4379 30th Street)

Oceanside
Camp Coffee Company (101 North Cleveland Street)

Ocean Beach
OB Beans (4879 Newport Avenue)

Pacific Beach
Better Buzz Coffee (822 Grand Avenue, 1186 Garnet Avenue, 1909 Garnet Avenue)

Point Loma
Better Buzz Coffee (1480 Rosecrans)

Poway
The King's Craft Coffee Co. (14530 Espola Road)

San Marcos
Better Buzz Coffee (904 West San Marcos Boulevard)

Sorrento Valley
Zumbar Coffee (10920 Roselle Street)

Online shipping orders only
Bird Rock Coffee Roasters

Leap Coffee

Modern Times Coffee

Manzanita Roasting Company

Parabola Coffee Roasting Co.

Seven Seas Roasting Co.

Tired Eyes Coffee

blurt the inside track

Virtual open mic The world of live music came to an abrupt halt in mid-March as concerts large and small were canceled. While most of the local attention centered on the postponement of major events such as Coach-

his usual role as the event's host. Miller can view all the participants waiting at the bottom bar of his screen and introduces them in a split-screen set-up. When it is time for their performance, Kelly then switches the participant



Open-mic night at P.B. Cantina has gone online, and international.

ella and The Rolling Stones at SDCCU, a beloved institution for many musicians was put on ice as well — the open-mic night. PB Cantina has a long-running open-mic that takes place every Monday evening. Instead of throwing in the towel, one of the participants pitched moving the event to the virtual realm.

“Our good friend and musician Patrick Kelly has been playing the open-mic here ever since day one,” PB Cantina open-mic host Jeremy Miller explained. “He had the idea to not only do an individual stream but to somehow organize it and broadcast it where you have a sign-up list ahead of time and he can choose who goes up to the main screen. It’s a good open-mic set-up for virtual.”

While Zoom is becoming a nationwide sensation for family group chats and virtual happy hours amongst friends, it isn’t the ideal technology for a virtual open-mic. Kelly utilizes a platform called Be.Live to manage the various participants who are all checking in on different devices. During the live-stream he oversees the technology while Miller plays

to fullscreen when they begin their song.

“He’s kind of the director doing all the tech stuff, and I’m doing the hosting stuff at the same time,” Miller explained. “So, we’re kind of co-hosts of this new thing. Then it broadcasts out live to the Facebook Live feed on the PB Cantina open-mic page and also the YouTube livestream as well.”

One interesting facet of this house arrest open-mic set-up is that it is no longer limited to participants who live close to the physical location of the PB Cantina. Miller mentioned how a former open-mic local performed live from her new digs in New Zealand. “I think it was 12 noon Tuesday for her, but she still found the right timeslot for us and her stream actually worked out really well,” he said.

While Miller is itching for the live-music scene to return to normal where you “cheers with actually clinking beers instead of video cheers-ing” he does recognize that the adaptive measures taken by musicians at this moment may have some positive long-term effects.

“People are now going to have this experience and have good streaming set-ups at their homes from all this experience we are gathering,” he explained. “There could be virtual festivals, or even just a nightly virtual open-mic when it wouldn’t be feasible to have a physical one every week. It’s going to be interesting to see if this continues after everything goes back to normal!”

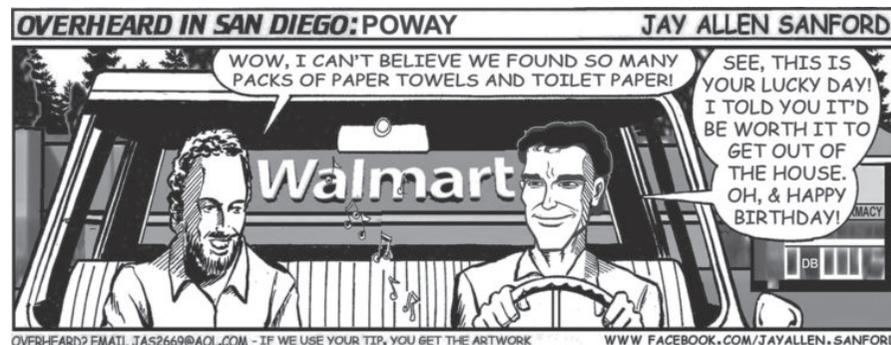
He continued, “I think it’s a crazy, alternate universe of music happening right now.

People used to be on stage with all this production and lights and sound and now everyone’s back to playing in a living room with a guitar. It’s kind of the ultimate open-mic — it’s literally just the guitar player/singer and a microphone. At the same time, they’re by themselves in the living room but also, they’re playing in front of these huge online audiences and making pretty decent Venmo tips. Everything’s kind of backwards, but it’s really cool.”

— Dryw Keltz

“Our commitment to analog contrasts the quick-fire nature of many other artists within the increasingly digital industry,” says soul-inspired trio Thee Sacred Souls. The band insists on recording their tracks on vinyl and debuting songs in their physical form, before later releasing on music-streaming platforms and YouTube.

Bassist Sal Samano (Fake Tides) and drummer Alex Garcia were raised in Chula Vista, where they built up an impressive vinyl record collection of favored old



funk and soul music associated with Chicano lowrider culture. Bands such as War and Marvin Gaye were their main influences when they began writing instrumental music together in 2018. But a collaborator was needed to complete the mix.

The duo went on Instagram and found City Heights singer Josh Lane, a former Sacramento music student who relocated to San Diego in 2017. Calling themselves Thee Sacred Souls (a partial nod to Chicano rock heroes Thee Midnitters), they officially began playing gigs between San Diego and LA in early 2019. They debuted at the Casbah by opening for likeminded locals the

Gabe Roth, aka Bosco Mann, saw them perform in Fullerton and signed the group to an old-fashioned label contract, one just as inspired by 20th century templates as the band’s music, allowing them to maintain their commitment to analog vinyl releases. The trio has been working out songs at Garcia’s home studio in Chula Vista, and then making regular trips up to Riverside to lay down tracks with the label’s production crew.

Those recordings are all being completed in analog formats, to be released direct to vinyl. The old-fashioned process may still be favored by those who disdain digital tweaking, but dedication to analog makes it hard to get

release from Bosco Mann’s new Riverside-based Penrose Records, an imprint under Mann’s successful Daptone Records. That label’s origins date back to the early 2000s and Mann’s group the Dap-Kings (who backed both Sharon Jones and Amy Winehouse), with a catalogue of releases featuring top-selling acts such as Lee Fields, the Budos Band, Antibalas, Charles Bradley, the Sugarman 3, and around a dozen others.

How does a band with less than a year of gigging, which refuses to record or release digitally, get signed as the debut act on a major label spinoff? It helps that Mann, a two-time Grammy winner, has long championed analog



Thee Sacred Souls were named in partial tribute to Chicano rock heroes, Thee Midnitters

Sure Fire Soul Ensemble and served a Monday night residency at the Soda Bar. They earned a huge boost in local exposure with an opening slot for a sold-out Mac Ayres show at the Music Box, a surprise gig they landed with only two days advance notice.

Daptone Records honcho

the music into the public’s hands until more recording is done. As such, only one vinyl single is so far available, “Can I Call You Rose?” a title said to be inspired by a flower design on a large woven carpet hanging on the wall of Garcia’s home studio.

The single is the debut

over digital. As he once told *Sound on Sound* magazine, “Show me a computer that sounds as good as a tape machine, and I’ll use it.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELENE WASIL



SPIRITUAL MOTELS

"We released a new video for an original song called 'Alone Together' about life in quarantine," says Amy Day of indie-folk band the Spiritual Motels. "We did this by getting video clips from our friends, fans, and families about what they're doing to cope while at home in these strange times. We wrote and recorded the track on our phones in different houses, in our bathrooms while our kids yelled in the background, on an app called BandLab. We hope it can lift some of the heavy weight that the world is currently

feeling." The video was released on Facebook and soon included on the band's YouTube channel as well. The 2020 San Diego Music Awards nominees for Best Pop were founded in 2018 by Day (a law school writing professor) with Omar Musisko (a school psychologist), a pair who also worked together in the Peripherals. Their debut Spiritual Motels album, *Super Tiny Disappearing Oceans*, was recorded, mixed, and mastered by Mike Kamoo at Earthling Studios in El Cajon.

BELLADON

"The first side of our double-EP *Dreaming* is coming out May 16, but we're putting out a single on April 28 called 'Modern Monets,'" says Aimee Jacobs of Belladon. Founded in 2017 and nominated Best New Artist at the San Diego Music Awards, the band will release the EP in two parts, with the second edition, *Dreading*, due later this year. "We divided our songs into two four-song categories to make the EP. One side will have all our dream pop songs, and the other has our gothy nasty '80s songs." The single

for "Modern Monets" was tracked and mixed by Ben Moore at local Singing Serpent studio. "You'd be hard pressed to find a better engineer or studio in town, especially if you're going for a heavy sound. I just got first mixes back today and my excitement is finally starting to trump my stress level. I'll most likely implode before the release from a series of overwhelming emotions I can't control." The single sports a sleeve photo of a vintage Juno keyboard dropped onto a broken mirror.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PABLITO DIEGO, BRAZIL



WHITNEY SHAY

Local jazz singer Whitney Shay's new *Stand Up* album earned a three and a half star review in the May issue of *Downbeat* magazine. It's only the latest in a growing collection of accolades that have declared her "a future blues icon" (*Blues Matters!*), "one of the next best things in soul music" (*Blues and Rhythm Magazine*), and "the epitome of a rising star" (*Elmore Magazine*). Her previous album *A Woman Rules the World* scored Album of the Year awards in *Blues Music Magazine* and France's *Soul Bag Mag*, and high ratings in Norway's *Bluesnews Magazine*. She was a 2019 Blues Music Award nominee, and she took home Best

Blues Album and Artist of the Year trophies at the 2019 San Diego Music Awards, after which she booked a tour of Brazil running through April. That July, she played her first festival in Europe, on July 6 at a blues festival, performing before 5,000 people backed by the Michael Zito Big Blues Band featuring BB King's horn section. Shay's groups have included Shay & the Hustle, the Whitney Shay Quartet, Whitney Shay & Robin Henkel, and the JazzKatz Orchestra, as well as fronting the blues/R&B group Whitney Shay & the Shakedown.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACOB BOLL



WATKINS FAMILY HOUR

The new Watkins Family Hour album *Brother Sister*, produced by Mike Viola (Jenny Lewis, Mandy Moore, J.S. Ondara), features seven original songs co-written by Nickel Creek's Grammy Award-winning siblings Sara and Sean Watkins, along with three covers: Courtney Hartman and Taylor Ashton's "Neighborhood Name," Warren Zevon's "Accidentally Like A Martyr," and Charley Jordan's "Keep It Clean," which features guest vocalists David Garza, Gaby Moreno, and John C. Reilly. The siblings first began hosting weekly Watkins Family Hour events in L.A. during a Nickel Creek hiatus, attracting an all-star lineup of players.

A self-titled Watkins Family Hour album was released in 2015, promoted with a performance on Conan O'Brien's TV show and an NPR Tiny Desk Concert. Consisting of only covers, the debut album mirrored the experience of their stage residency and featured guests Fiona Apple, Don Heffington, Greg Leisz, Sebastian Steinberg, and Benmont Tench. *Brother Sister*, their first release in five years, pairs the handful of covers with original tracks that focus on the musical and lyrical chemistry between Sara and Sean, who released the album via Family Hour Records/Thirty Tigers.

PIERCE THE VEIL

Vic Fuentes, frontman for Pierce the Veil, has been appointed CEO and co-chairman of the Living the Dream Foundation, a non-profit helping children and young adults affected by life-threatening illnesses. The Foundation has previously worked with Papa Roach, Corey Taylor, and local Blink 182 star Travis Barker to provide dream experiences for ill fans. Pierce the Veil, which plays aggressive metallic punk somewhere between Kiss and Green Day, was founded in the early 2000s by Fuentes and his drummer brother Mike, both former Mission Bay High School students who previously played with Early Times and Before Today. They made their initial mark as a live act on festival tours such

as Warped and Taste of Chaos. Their recorded breakthrough came with 2010's *Selfish Machines*, described by the band as "basically a mix of heavy music with a little Spanish feel," which debuted at number one on *Billboard's* Heatseekers Chart. They've continued to see their releases land in the top ten, with their most recent album *Misadventures* reaching number four on the U.S. *Billboard* 200 chart, as well as hitting the number one slot on *Billboard's* charts for Independent Albums, Top Rock Albums, Top Hard Rock Albums, and Top Alternative Albums. It also topped England's Rock & Metal Albums chart.



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

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, 12pm — Tayla Parx: Couchella.
Thursday, 1pm — Virtual Music Lounge.
Friday, 12pm — Casbah Live.
Friday, Monday, & Wednesday, 5pm — Hangin' at Home:
Friday, 7pm — Neil Young's Fireside Session.
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 12pm — Room Service Music Festival.
Friday, 6pm — Shut In & Sing: Smithsonian Folkways.
Friday & Monday, 2pm — Vanessa Silberman Couch Concert.
Saturday, 6pm — Don LeMaster of San Diego Musical Theatre.
Free.
Saturday, 1pm — Marc Broussard: Live from Dockside Studios.
Saturday, 5:30pm — Ron Pope Live From Home.
Tuesday, 6pm — Elephant Stone.
Free.
Wednesday, 2pm — Fireside Sessions with David Nail.
Wednesday, 10am — Jason Mraz La La La Livestream.
Wednesday, 5pm — Whiskey Sour Happy Hour.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

London Symphony Orchestra: Stravinsky London Symphony Orchestra performs a live concert featuring Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. *Sunday, April 26, 12pm*; Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

London Symphony Orchestra: Tippett London Symphony Orchestra performs Tippett's *The Rose Lake*. *Thursday, April 23, 12:30pm*; Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

Seattle Symphony Online Concerts Live concert performances broadcast online every Thursday and Saturday. *Thursdays, 7pm*; *Saturdays, 7pm*; through *Saturday, May 30*, Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

If it isn't Baroque...

A few weeks ago I outlined some binge listening plans. I've completed two of them. The first was all 32 of Beethoven's Piano Sonatas. The second was a survey of Baroque music.

The Beethoven took about 11.5 hours, while the Baroque tour I put together for myself was about 14.5 hours. I'm holding off on Wagner's Ring Cycle for now.

I must admit that the slow movement of every Beethoven sonata is now a personal favorite. We all know the *Moonlight Sonata* slow movement and the slow movement from the *Pathétique Sonata*, but what about the others?

If you're short on time, just try out the slow movement of Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No. 4*. This sonata

was written in 1796, which makes it early Beethoven. But when it comes to the slow movements, there is no early, middle, or late Beethoven. It's just Beethoven at his finest, every time.

For the Baroque tour, I divided the 150-year-long era into three. That's pretty standard practice, I've learned. I then listened to three composers from each period: Early, Middle, and Late Baroque.

My Early Baroque composers were Giovanni Gabrieli, Claudio Monteverdi, and Heinrich Schütz. The Middle Baroque was represented by Henry Purcell, Arcangelo Corelli, and Alessandro Scarlatti. Wrapping it all up in the Late Baroque were Antonio Vivaldi, George

Frideric Handel, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

I accidentally neglected the entire French Baroque, but no need to worry. I'm going to do more Baroque in May — and probably June, July, and August. I think I have a Baroque addiction.

How did I manage to plow through 14.5 hours of music? For the most part, I listened to the music passively: in the car, on walks, while I was writing emails. But every now and then, I stopped everything and focused on just the music. My idea was to immerse myself non-stop in Baroque Music.

By the end of the week, I felt like a king, like the absolute monarch of my personal realm. Baroque



"Baroque music has a sense of graceful occasion which I found to be rather intoxicating."

music has a sense of graceful occasion which I found to be rather intoxicating. Hence my May, June, July, and August plans.

I think listening passively might have helped the music seep into my mindset more effectively than active focused listening. When I

listened with focus, I found myself evaluating the musicianship of the artists, the quality of the recording, the tempos, the phrasing, and a number of other elements that put my mind onto something other than the actual music.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

UPCOMING SHOWS

Amplified Aleworks:

Saturday, May 2 — Awake at Last and Assuming We Survive.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:

Saturday, May 2 — West of 5.
Free.

Belly Up Tavern:

Friday, May 1 — DSB.
Sunday, May 3 — Allan Rayman.
Thursday, May 7 — Amyl & the Sniffers.
Friday, May 8 — Margaret Glaspy and Kate Davis.
Saturday, May 9 — Real Estate and Meg Baird.

Casbah:

Friday, May 1 — True Widow.
Sunday, May 3 — LA LUZ.

House of Blues:

Sunday, May 3 — Kiefer.
Thursdays, May 7 — Bombay Bicycle Club.
Friday, May 8 — Mxmtoon and Temporex.
Saturday, May 9 — Astrid S.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Saturday, May 2 — Judy Collins.

La Fleur's Winery:

Saturday, May 9 — Jess Wright.
Free.

La Mesa Wine Works:

Sunday, May 3 — Rolf Olsen Quartet. **Free.**

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, May 2 — Mayor Wells & Friends.
Tuesday, May 5 — Citizen Cope.
Saturday, May 9 — Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, May 8 — Miss Demeanor.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, May 7 — The Sickstring Outlaws.
Friday, May 8 — Black Cherry Lightnin'.
Saturday, May 9 — The Traumatiks.

Music Box:

Friday, May 1 — Macy Gray. \$40-\$42.
Saturday, May 2 — Fruition and Proxima Parada. \$18-\$20.
Sunday, May 3 — Mrs. Henry Presents Music From The Band. \$14-\$16.

Monday, May 4 — Tops and Sorry Girls.

Friday, May 8 — Jack Harlow and Guapdad 4000. \$20-\$22.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, May 1 — The Garden and George Clanton.
Thursday, May 7 — The Glitch Mob.
Saturday, May 9 — The Buttertones and Iguana Death Cult.

Old Town State Historic Park:

Saturday, May 2 — Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo. **Free.**
Sunday, May 3 — Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo. **Free.**

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Apr. 30 — Tayla Parx: Couchella.
Thursday, Apr. 30 — International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert.
Thursday, Apr. 30 — Virtual Music Lounge.
Friday, May 1 — Casbah Live.
Saturday, May 2 — Ron Pope Live From Home.
Sunday, May 3 — Shut In & Sing: Cantina Navarro.
Wednesday, May 6 — Jason Mraz La La La Livestream.

Wednesday, May 6 — Shut In & Sing: AMA UK Showcase.

Wednesday, May 6 — Whiskey Sour Happy Hour.

Thursday, May 7 — Tayla Parx: Couchella.

Thursday, May 7 — Romeo Entertainment Group: Couch Concert Series.

Friday, May 8 — Casbah Live.
Saturday, May 9 — Shut In & Sing: Shut In & Pluck (Instrumental).

Open Air Theatre:

Saturday, May 2 — Keshia and Big Freedria.
Wednesday, May 6 — Russ.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Friday, May 8 — Ozuna.

San Diego Civic Theatre:

Monday, May 11 — Dead Can Dance and Agnes Obel.
Saturday, May 16 — Ravi Shankar Centennial Concert.

Soda Bar:

Monday, May 4 — Loving and Michael Seyer.
Friday, May 15 — Supersuckers

and Scott H. Biram.
Saturday, May 16 — CHOLO GOTH NIGHT feat. Dave Parley.

Soma:

Wednesday, May 13 — Tycho.

South Coast Winery Resort & Spa:

Thursday, May 7 — Granger Smith. \$48-\$160.

Spanish Landing Park:

Thursday, May 7 — Gator By The Bay. \$35-\$55.
Friday, May 8 — Gator By The Bay. \$35-\$55.
Saturday, May 9 — Gator By The Bay. \$35-\$55.
Sunday, May 10 — Gator By The Bay. \$35-\$55.

Stage Room:

Friday, May 1 — Soccer Mommy and Emily Reo.

Winstons Beach Club:

Saturday, May 9 — Hot Buttered Rum and MohaviSoul.



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Children's Intelligence Agency

Two months' worth of bi-weekly trips to the multiplex yielded at least a dozen opportunities to memorize the trailer for *My Spy*. Originally slated for a mid-March opening, it was the next film on the screening schedule until the studio — not looking to go up against *Trolls World Tour* — got cold feet and pushed the release date back to early summer.

However, all things being what they are, the film's San Diego premier can now be held in your living room.

Trained to kill by US Special Forces, JJ (Dave Bautista) appeared to be making the right career move when he accepted a position as a CIA operative. But his first mission — to infiltrate and diffuse a plutonium exchange between Russians and Arabs — goes terribly wrong when the poster boy for steroids takes out everyone involved except the one terrorist destined to make his getaway with the highly coveted isotope in tow.

The boss (Ken Jeung, thankfully setting his patented snarky sniveling on low boil) is so unimpressed by the bungled debut that he condemns JJ — along with tech support wizkid/his biggest fan Bobbie (Kristen Schaal, the star with most ductile kisser currently twinkling in the Hollywood heavens) — to Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood. Their mission is to spy on ER nurse Kate (Parisa Fitz-Henley) and her ridiculously precocious daughter (*aka* the main motivation for downloading the picture) Sophie (Chloe Coleman). Why them? The CIA have a hunch that bad guy Marquez (Greg Bryk), a character so brutal that he made his sister-in-law Kate a widow, may be paying a visit to the Windy City.

The plot is unremittably predictable. After being made by a 9-year-old girl, JJ is blackmailed into becoming her magic genie of sorts. When she's not manipulating his hulkiness to her advantage, Sophie, a mini-reconnaissance expert in her own right, spends much of the running time alternating between boning up on the ins-and-outs of espionage and grooming JJ as her replacement dad. She even goes so far as to strongarm her pet gargantuan into putting in an appearance at her class's "My Special Friend" day. It would have been easier for JJ to part the Red Sea than to make it to the front of the classroom with disrupting one desk after another.

Alone in the house, I found myself much more engaged than anticipated. When JJ and Sophie are onscreen, it's a laugh-out-loud delight to watch. And to the filmmaker's credit, this goes darker than most family fare (hence the PG-13). There is a running gag involving ex-mercenary JJ fantasizing about various ways in which to quickly and quietly dispatch Sophie.

And as unaccustomed to dining in public as he is, the dinner conversation quickly turns to talk of bashing lizard skulls and drinking one's urine as a means of survival. The bi-racial gay couple across the hall give JJ a "queer-eyed" makeover for his date with Kate, and there is even a twist towards the end destined to catch audiences off guard. It's no *Crying Game*, but it is an unexpected development, which is notable in this context.

We mock the things we are to be. For two-thirds of the picture, director Peter Segal (*Tommy Boy*, *Grudge Match*) and his writers take delight in mercilessly goofing on action movie tropes, particularly the one that involves characters walking towards the camera as the world flares up behind them. But in the end, it's just these sorts of routine chases and explosions that will no doubt draw yawns from even the film's prepubescent target audience. And there's a penny in it for the first one able to guess what shot caps the big action scene.

— Scott Marks

VOD New Release Roundup

Butt Boy — Chip Gutchell's (director and co-writer Tyler Cornack) protagonist clearly learned his trade at the hands of a prison rapist, yet somehow the bewildered, unhappily married IT tech leaves the exam a new man. The sudden desire to lodge things up his backside is very much a new development, and isn't sated by a bar of soap or a board game piece. Jump ahead nine years: a missing child case remains unsolved, and recovering alcoholic Chip once again gets the itch, only it's not for a cocktail. A tyke goes missing during his company's Take Your Child to Work Day celebration, and the detective assigned the case is the same one assigned Chip as his AA sponsor. (As Detective Fox, Tyler Rice suggests a young, greasy Stephen Baldwin, whether he likes it or not.) I'm all for playing satire straight, but boy,



My Spy: We mock the things we are to be.

with so little shading and coloration, Cornack's performance is that of a somnambule. And a film that borrows a cup of premise from Howard Stern's never-produced *Fartman* shouldn't take itself so damn seriously. 2019. S.M. ★ ★ (Available on VOD/Digital)

Selah and the Spades — Think *Heathers* without the bite. The five factions in charge of the various vices at the prestigious Haldwell School gather 'round a meeting table — complete with artfully mismatched chairs — located in the middle of a forest glade. How silly. Selah (Lovie Simone) remains under suspicion for the manner in which she treated a former member of the Spades. So when it comes time for her to take an underclasswoman under her wing to serve as her pet (a superb Celeste O'Connor), one senses an impending call for history to repeat itself. But there isn't any real sense of what it's like to be a student at the pretentious institution. The only educator in view is Headmaster Banton (Jesse Williams), an authority figure who has just slightly more on the ball than does Bayside's Mr. Belding. And there are enough canted angles and surplus space to fill an aircraft hangar. There's a way to make anything work, but *Selah* doesn't quite find it. At least it didn't end in psycho-sexual thrills or unnecessary violence. 2019. S.M. ★

She's Allergic to Cats — Much of filmmaker Michael Reich's glaucomatous experimentation can be traced back to its shot-on-VHS origins. The closest disentranced video artist Mike Pinkney (as himself) has come to Tinseltown prominence is the iconic Hollywood sign that looks down upon the dog washing emporium where his job is to groom and express Fido's anal glands. One should master the rules before breaking them: all of the imperfections Reich delights in putting on view do not approximate storytelling. Nor does he cast his lead's disillusionment in a thought-provoking

light. A tight shot of dog crap in the road is followed by the title card: "My life is shit." When Reich shifts from low-fi camcorder to au courant digital, his pictures sharpen only in terms of physical clarity, not visual storytelling. There is a romantic subplot, but as is the case with many a beautiful woman who, when confronted by an imponderable man-boy... well, it doesn't take a spoiler to alert one as to the direction this will take. (Knocks aside, the shot of the banana-woman was sublime, but not enough to warrant an endorsement.) 2016. S.M. ● (Available on VOD/Digital)

Thousand Pieces of Gold (newly restored in 4K) — A simple and true (based on fact, but also and nonetheless true) story of a Chinese peasant girl sold by her father into slavery in the late 19th Century, taught some useful English phrases such as "I live at the saloon," and resettled among the "white demons" of Oregon, where she manages to avoid whoredom but remains unaware that slavery is there prohibited until a black man comes into the saloon one day in quest of a beer. Nancy Kelly, shying off at anything resembling action, directs with strong but never sloppy feeling, and a fresh, never flowery eye. And Rosalind Chao, together with her asymmetrical dimple, is a marvelously expressive actress. Her fugitive moments of happiness inside general petrification are very touching indeed: her first discovery of the gold camp's Chinatown; her first acquaintance with American apple pie; her first rounding-up of a laundry customer as an independent entrepreneur. And talking of what's touching: Chris Cooper, as a gentleman among roughnecks, has one of the most naturally touching faces on the American screen, sort of a cross between Richard Basehart and Ralph Meeker, but a bit more featurelessly worn down, as though by a millennium of wind and sand. 1991. D.S. ★ (Available on VOD/Digital)



PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE (1959)

Camp isn't made, it's born. Anyone who sets out to intentionally bring forth a bad movie will find the goal an easy (if not particularly rewarding) one to reach. Say what you will about the finished product here — the cardboard sets and flying percolator lids that wage a rear-screen attack over Hollywood skies are more convincing than any of the performances — Ed Wood was a man of conviction and resourcefulness. Morphine-soaked Bela Lugosi's last role was cut short by death, causing the enterprising Wood to "double" him with his (much younger) chiropractor. Tor Johnson makes Casey Affleck's mumbblings sound like Rod Serling, Bunny Breckinridge checking out his fellow actors' crotches is sublime, and never have the seams in a backdrop been more laughably noticeable. All this and Criswell, the man with the hypno-spitcurl, alerting viewers to the perils of "future events that will affect you in the future."

— Scott Marks

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NOTICES

READER BRUNCH AT THE PARK 2020 Join the San Diego Reader at our second annual Reader Brunch at the Park event on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at NTC Park in Liberty Station. Brace yourself for the most brunch-tastic event around. A brunch battle like no other, attendees will spend the afternoon munching on unlimited brunch bites from 20+ vendors. Don't forget to cast your vote for the Best Classic Brunch Bite. Brunch without booze is just a sad breakfast, so be sure to stop by the bar for your full-sized pours. Proceeds from the bar will benefit Traveling Stories, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing books to kids who don't have any and inspiring a love for reading everywhere. Mingle with other like-minded brunch enthusiasts under the San Diego sun while listening to live music and enjoying photo ops, lawn games and so much more... because brunch is always a good idea!

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BRAND NEW PIONEER DJ CONTROLLER Brand new Pioneer DJ DDJ-1000SRT 4-channel professional DJ controller for rekordbox dj. Shipping and handling charges worldwide is free. Contact: dj.gadgetbazaairtd +14089163765 dj.gadgetbazaairtd@gmail.com

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Senior trombonist selling collection of tenors, W/F, valve, marching, bass, euphonium/ baritone. Call for details/info - 619-264-3686.

VIRTUAL CHRISTIAN OPEN MIC NIGHT Date/Time: Every Saturday night at 6 pm. Location: online (Zoom Platform). How to sign up/participate: Email me at ypmusicent@yahoo.com

and I will send you the details. ypmusicent@yahoo.com



ORLANDO 1950TH ELECTRIC GUITAR - \$450 New condition. This is big guitar: 16" wide. Like new condition. Made in Japan. Leon 858-922-9580 (858) 922-9580



RODGERS DIGITAL CHURCH ORGAN Rodgers Insignia 577 2-manual church organ.\$2500. Self-contained speakers. Great instrument for practice or for a small church. (619) 490-5981

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.

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

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PETS

GUINEA PIGS BABIES 14-16 weeks old. Re-home \$15ea or 2/\$20 East County Area. Shelly 510-316-9278

KITTENS WANTED Caring family of three looking for a couple of cute and cuddly kittens 3 to 6 months, will get lots of love. Cal Laura 619-549-5994 (619) 549-5994

POODLE/TERRIER PUPPIES
Born 2/29/20, 9 females & 4 males, white & beige fur, very playful \$150 each. Contact Gloria 619-470-0733.

BIRDS Birds were not meant to be caged!!!

SADDLE Treeless. Enduro style. Black. Leather. Extra padded. New. Never used. \$250.00. 619-438-4567.

BLACK BULLY STANDARD PITBULL PUPPY I have one female all black bully standard ready for her new home. She has her first round of shots, first deworming, health records available. She has a shiny hair coat and good muscle structure. 619-703-7469. (619) 703-7469

PRETTY KITTEN AVAILABLE IN LA MESA \$150 rehoming fee — text only 619-940-2648 (619) 940-2648

YORKI AND WIENER DOG IN ESCONDIDO I have this little white and brown 8 months old, full grown puppy. I'm trying to rehome him to a great home. He is not neutered. He is always so happy and loves to play. My

phone number is (928) 233-2898 (928) 233-2898

\$500 REWARD FOR OUR SUKI (NATIONAL CITY) To the nice person that picked up my baby Suki. \$500 dollar reward. She's a brown Pekingese, one blue eye, one brown eye. Last seen in National City, Highland Ave./24th St. (619) 317-9977 or (619) 739-0101 (619) 317-9977

CAT LOVER? Come and volunteer at Natcat! Call 619-469-8771 if interested. www.natcat.org

FOSTER ORPHAN 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.

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\$20 BOOGIE BOARDS I have six excellent condition Morey boogie boards for sale. All have leashes. Body Glove, Morey, Boogie are in perfect shape and \$20 each. For more information text at 619-277-7451 (619) 277-7451



AUTHENTIC CHARGERS HELMET 24 SIGNATURES!
\$300 This is one other helmet I'm selling with 24 signatures and will pass any major certification company (PSA, JSA, Global, Upper Deck, Steiner, or any other major company) If you decide to you really want a COA. 619-319-0232 (619) 319-0232

BASKETBALL STAND - \$50
Huffy sports pipe basketball stand for sale for \$50 in El Cajon. Phone calls only 619-588-1225. I take credit cards, debit cards and cash (619) 588-1225



NBA BASKETBALL JERSEYS
Karl Malone / Charles Barkley jerseys in great condition. \$8-\$12 (760) 215-1014

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SCHWINN VINTAGE late 85-90 ladies beach 5-speed cruiser. Refurbished, very clean, toled, rims trued rust free. 26 inch step thru frame. Asking \$60 or best. Please call @ 619-317-2883.

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had it for 20 years. I'm selling my Free Agent 26 inch racing bike for \$500 — or best offer on both. Both bikes are nice and work. My name is Bill and my number is 619 478 9338. (619) 478-9338



1968 SCHWINN FAIRLADY STINGRAY BICYCLE I purchased this bike over 36 years ago from original owner here in east San Diego. Bike is a girls 3 speed (stick shift) Sturmey Archer hub dated 1968. Bike is all original except tires were replaced with nos ones. Original seat is in like new condition. Bike has been inside since I've owned it. Rides and shifts perfect. The sky blue color is awesome. Definitely a must see bike and pics do not justice. Some very light pitting on rims/fenders. \$1200 or make me an offer (619) 540-8793 (619) 540-8793

1950S SCHWINN EXCELSIOR CRUISER It looks like it has been restored. All original except spokes and fenders. Still has the original copper head badge. \$325. Call if interested. (760) 224-0512

1982 COLNAGO SUPER - \$899 Size 52cm top tube center to center. Repainted close to molteni orange, new decals and clear coated. Very clean condition. (619) 920-4924

MOTORCYCLES

WANTED OLDER MODEL CRUISER Please call 760-727-4393.

2015 VESPA PRIMAVERA 150 5,000 miles. Full automatic CVT transmission, 100mpg, electric start, 65mph, front disc brake, butter smooth operation and loads of fun on the open roads of San Diego. \$3795. (619) 280-1718

2016 HARLEY DAVIDSON FXDB - \$8400 For sale is my 2016 Dyna FXDB with 9000 miles. Willing to trade for van/camper van/conversion van. Asking \$8400 OBO. Text me at 313-600-8351 (313) 600-8351

2020 HUSQVARNA VITPILEN 701 - \$9499 The VITPILEN 701 takes everything we love about motorcycles and combines them - a big, single cylinder motor, lightweight chassis, spartan aesthetics and a sporty riding style. (760) 746-6001

CASH FOR YOUR HARLEY Lifestyle Cycles will pay you top dollar for your new or used Harley-Davidson. WWW.LIFESTYLECYCLES.COM (714) 490-0155

CUSTOM CHOPPER S&S 113 - \$12,000 Gorgeous custom chopper S&S 113. Show bike that made Easyriders magazine. 28K build pictures say it all. \$12k obo (909) 255-1944



2008 KAWASAKI VULCAN 900CC CUSTOM, \$3,400 Garage-stored. Detachable windshield pops on and off. 19,606 miles. Clean title. Low mileage on back tire. I'm throwing in some extras including

Tourmaster leather saddlebags and mounts. (518) 391-3323. (518) 391-3323

SUZUKI INTRUDER 1400 Recent car rebuilt, always garaged. Reuben 619-857-5691

AUTOMOTIVE

FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA \$20,000 Cascadia 2012, DD-15 motor, 13 transmission. Info: 68 62 03 75 55. \$20,000, 1m in Mexicali, BC (686) 203-7555

02 HONDA CRV Mint condition, smog cert, \$3900, 2.4 liter 4x4 automatic, runs and drives great, one owner. 167 k miles but in perfect condition. 9-20 tags clean title. 760-807-5093 Dan call or text

OLD VW BUG AUCTION - \$300 Initial offer \$300-\$500. The auction will be on Saturday at 9 am, it is an auction open to the general public; to register you must do it in person at 8968 Siempre Viva Rd, San Diego, CA 92154. (619) 661-0808

1995 CHEVY LUMINA SEDAN great 3.1 V6 engine, \$1000. Phone 619-631-7040

2003 HONDA CIVIC SI 70k miles, clean, silver, black/red interior, sunroof, s speed, garaged, one owner. Pics available upon request. \$5,990 OBO. Call or text 619-405-4685



02 BLACK HONDA CVC EX/ARM Excellent condition, 4-door, alarm/sunroof, 160K miles, tuned, new starter, catc, snrs, tires, TB/WP, extras, \$2500, 619-267-6356; Message. (619) 267-6356



2012 AUDI A6 3.0 T \$14,500. 2012 Audi A6 3.0 T premium plus supercharged AWD Quattro. Clean title. Clean Carfax. Automatic transmission and only

84,000 miles. 760-906-1790 (760) 906-1790

2013 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT - \$5,900 Automatic transmission, clean title and clean Carfax. Cloth interior, full power, CD player, key alarm., 4 cylinders, current registration, drives excellent. 619-636-5373. (619) 636-5373

GMC TERRAIN 2010 - \$6,950 Clean title, automatic, leather seats, good tires, smog ready, we deliver. 160,000 miles. Economic Cars, 16551 Palm Ave. San Diego, 92154. Financing available. 619-816-5732 (619) 816-5732

2000 LEXUS SC300 Under 65k miles, super condition, new tires & wheels, BT dvd usb, backup camera & backup sensors. call for info. (619) 840-8149 / mjackson8070@outlook.com

1999 VW JETTA excellent mechanical condition, drives like new, street body, \$2,200. 619-997-8913

2008 BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GTC 2008 Bentley Continental GTC with only 28,000 miles. 1 owner, convertible and priced to sell now. Call or text (760) 895-5285 - www.desertimportexport.com (760) 895-5285

2011 TOYOTA CAMRY FOR \$5,750 Car has never had any mechanical issues; excellent condition. Regularly serviced every 4,000 miles. Clean title, never been in an accident. \$5,750, below KBB price. 619-781-5236. (619) 781-5236

CHRYSLER '03 PT CRUISER Grandpa's car. Chrysler 2003 PT Cruiser. Special ed. Woody 4cyl auto A/C very low miles, 50,102 original miles. One owner, hardly driven. 35mpg fully loaded. Like new, clean title. \$4995/OB. 808-398-8568 (808) 398-8568 / petrar30@yahoo.com

1962 RAMBLER two door custom station wagon. 350 v8, needs a lot of work, salvage title. \$1,900 OBO, trade for complete drum set. 619-541-2723

1981 EL CAMINO \$8,000. might take less with trade for 63 to 69 Dodge truck or same 66 to 75 Chevy/GMC same condition. Text 619-631-9258 can be after lockdown if more comfortable.

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

97 CROWN VICTORIA v8 auto, heavy duty suspension, have smog and service records. \$2,200 619-542-0472

HELP WANTED

BIOVIA R&D QA MANAGER Dassault Syst./mes Americas Corp. - San Diego, CA. BIOVIA R&D QA Manager. Dsgn performance testing frameworks to ensure syst reliability, capacity & scalability across mult web & client-server apps in mult configs. Submit resume to: nam.recruitment@3ds.com. Ref # 2187056.

DELIVERY DRIVER FOR DOMINOS PIZZA IN ENCINITAS \$13 an hour, full-time, part-time. (760) 753-1855

DELIVERY DRIVER FOR HOME DEPOT In Lemon Grove (619) 589-2999

DOMINOS PIZZA IN CORONADO Needs delivery driver. (619) 437-4241

DELIVERY DRIVER FOR VONS Delivery driver for Vons in La Mesa, CA 91941. Part-time (619) 464-1011

VONS IN IN OCEAN CREST AREA Needs part-time delivery driver. (619) 575-2200

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99 RANCH MARKET IS HIRING! 99 Ranch Market is hiring! Visit our store or email us for more information. hr@tawa.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT MANAGER Own office, phone line, money and times negotiable. Must have own transportation, by UCSD. Some computer. mikegarlicguy@yahoo.com

HIRING CAREGIVERS Walk-in interviews are welcome. Always Best Care Senior Services, 3665 Ruffin Rd. Ste 100, San Diego, Ca. 92123. (619) 757-1114 Tell them App-A-Minute Employment sent you. (619) 757-1114

SHIPYARD STAFFING IS HIRING Shipyard Staffing is hiring for the San Diego shipyards. Firewatch, general labor, welders, electricians, pipefitters, riggers, machinists, painters. Email resume or call/text, 619 930 9144. cajobs@shipyardstaffing.com (619) 930-9144 / cajobs@shipyardstaffing.com

THE U.S. CENSUS IS HIRING! Taking applications at www.2020census.gov/jobs or call 800-877-8339 to apply (800) 877-8339

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.

HANDY PERSON WANTED Dependable, able bodied, energetic worker wanted for Mira Mesa home repairs and yard work. \$8 per hour, non-negotiable. mysandiegocarl@yahoo.com

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IRON FABRICATION Ornamental iron fencing, gates, ADA hand rails fabrication. (619) 749-1494

SEAFOOD PROCESSORS Summer jobs in Alaska! From July 1-September 1. \$12.19 per hour straight time, \$18.29 overtime. We offer referral bonuses and a travel incentive for those completing the season. Come join our team! Visit us at www.hookedonfish.com. Petersburg Fisheries, Division of Iclce Seafoods, Inc., 1-877-772-4294.

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

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!

JOBS WANTED

HVAC WORK helper or installer, have truck + all tools. Scott-858-987-6864

MECHANIC FOR HIRE General mechanic and automobile electronic technician. Call if you need a quote: (619) 538 8718. (619) 538-8718

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I AM LOOKING FOR PROJECT CAR Will pay cash and tow away any model car running or not. DMV paperwork problems O.K. call or text me at 760-807-5093 Dan (760) 807-5093

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*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

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

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

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OR ALTERNATORS
Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

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We'll beat any written estimate!

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CASH FOR BROKEN TABLETS AND SMARTPHONES Cash for tablet and smartphones — cracked, scratched and broken conditions are OK; must be functional though. 619-567-9329 (619) 567-9329

WANTED OLD STEREO EQUIPMENT Working or not, ok. Amplifier, receiver, tuner, turntable, speaker, microphone, preamp, or? Call or text 619-279-7833.

ADULT TRI-WHEEL BIKE does not need to be perfect. Buying on budget \$50 or less. Need delivered text 619-631-9258

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES Rock & roll. I buy 1950s-1980s concert posters, flyers, handbills, used-unused tickets, programs. Pls call 619-522-0283. Private party.

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TRADE GAS LAWN MOWER Craftsman rear bag lawnmower; I just put new rope in. Good run but hard starter. For electric mower with bag. Text only please

619-631-9258 can be after lockdown.

US VETERAN SPONSORSHIP NEEDED Living room set, dining room, household furnishings, pots and pans would be appreciated. Please call 619-488-0822.

WANTED: NEW HF HAM RADIO Will trade for my \$800 violin. Please text 619-393-2253

WANTED: SPEAKERS, AMPS and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Aitec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 1(619)-303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

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WILL PAY CASH... For records, CDs, DVDs, and clothes. Professional singing lessons available. Musicians wanted. Call Jeff Clark, 858-382-7396.

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FOR SALE

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TWO MID 50'S ELECTROLUX VACS need repair \$30. 47to 58 chevy truck tire beauty rings fit 15 in rim \$ 30. Text only please 619-631-9258.

WETSUITS Beaches to reopen soon! XL Billabong Foil 3.2 wetsuit \$120, L Rip Curl 3.2 wetsuit \$110. Both are nearly new! 760-274-5264.

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2805 ask for your free trial. (619) 888-2805

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NINTENDO SWITCH BUNDLE - \$600 Brand new and never opened, with extra accessories. Includes case, 128gb sd card, 12 months Nintendo online and screen protector. Please text 619-609-7982 if interested. (619) 609-7982

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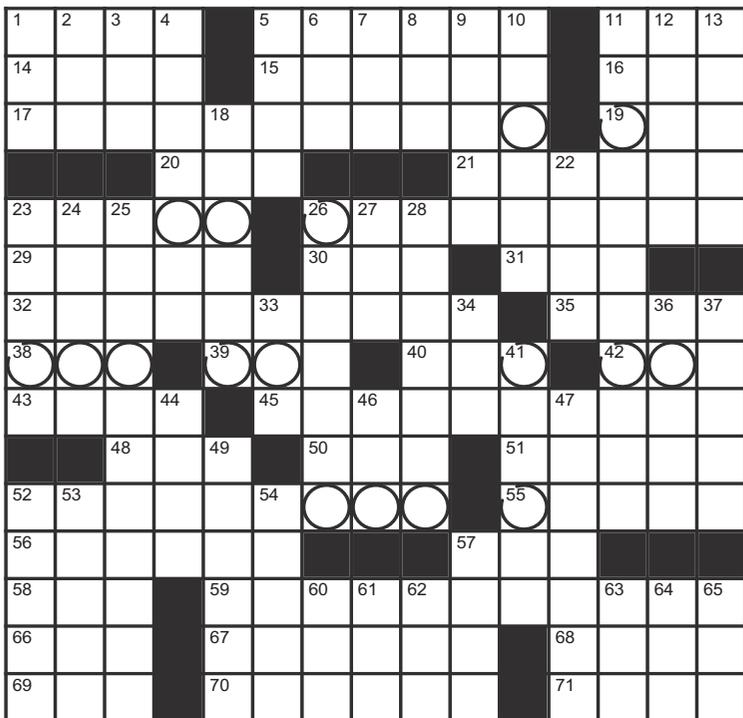
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Across

1. One might be slipped
5. Fistfight souvenir
11. Auto additive brand
14. Army no-show
15. French star
16. Address bar address
17. Instagram, Twitter, etc.
19. Modern sweetie
20. Low mil. rank
21. Tree that giraffes snack on
23. Fictional professor said to be based in part on J.K. Rowling's childhood chemistry teacher
26. Get the sniffles
29. Hunt of "As Good as It Gets"
30. "Ben-____"
31. Side often candied
32. Only place on Earth where crocodiles and alligators co-exist
35. ____ dixit (unproven assertion)
38. Wite-Out seller
39. Prefix with dermis
40. "Iron Man" Ripken
42. Org. for Federer
43. Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
45. Sports equipment seen in a British pub
48. School media depts.
50. Inits. in 1970s-'80s rock
51. "I'm innocent!"

52. A great teacher might be one
55. Cookbook amts.
56. Prime rib choice
57. "____-hoo!"
58. Wet blanket?
59. Some athletic injuries ... or this puzzle's theme
66. "Why ____ even bother?"
67. Savory Chinese snack
68. Piggish remark
69. Alternative to an Airbnb
70. San ____, Calif. (border town opposite Tijuana)
71. Cunning plan

Down

1. "____ Kapital"
2. ____ Jima
3. Lib. arts major
4. Los Angeles NBAer
5. Pool surface
6. 24-hr. cash source
7. Body part you may wiggle
8. Thing on top of things
9. Hipbone-related
10. Swell
11. Ford Fiestas and MINI Coopers, e.g.
12. Appalachian ____
13. Make a case
18. Pay back
22. Superfood sometimes called "purple gold"
23. Queen of ____
24. Author Shute of "On the Beach"
25. Two-time Emmy winner for "30 Rock"
26. Bound, in a way
27. IRS agt.'s review
28. Green Day drummer
33. Retro-cool music purchases
34. Cinch ____ (Hefty bag)
36. Lumberjack's remnant
37. Weapons with bell guards
41. Slow musical passages
44. "____ plaisir!"
46. Copa Mundial cry
47. 1987 sci-fi film set in near-future Detroit
49. Raunchy
52. ____-wip (dessert topping)
53. Result of a leadoff single
54. Great Plains natives
57. Often-mocked '80s car
60. Bollywood star Aishwarya ____
61. Flanders who inspired the band Okilly Dokilly
62. Ballpark figure: Abbr.
63. Rap's ____ Nas X
64. Brian in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
65. Shade of blue

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ Fabianna Barrett, San Diego, 1.

Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____ Phone # _____

SUDOKU

HARD:

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

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.
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Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ Michael Russe, Vista, 13.

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

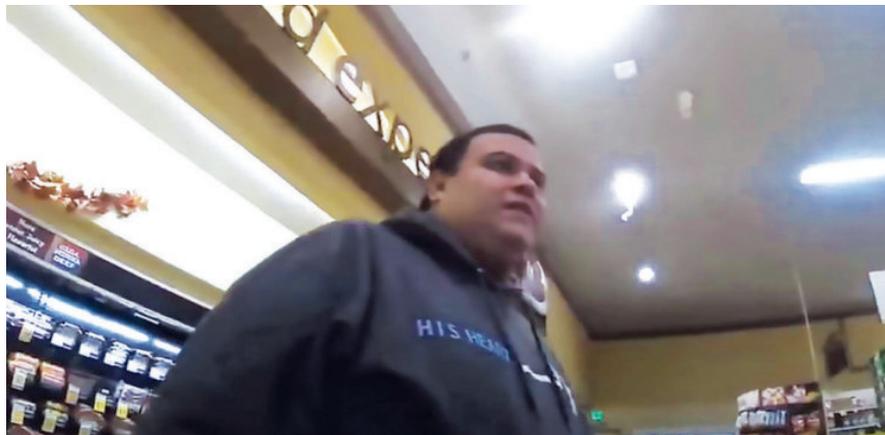
8	6	4	9	7	2	3	5	1
5	1	7	3	8	6	4	9	2
2	3	9	4	5	1	6	7	8
6	7	3	2	4	5	1	8	9
4	2	1	6	9	8	7	3	5
9	8	5	1	3	7	2	4	6
1	4	8	7	6	9	5	2	3
3	5	2	8	1	4	9	6	7
7	9	6	5	2	3	8	1	4

continued from page 13

regularly tune in for live streams of “busts.”

One encounter was with a 19-year-old young man who arranged to meet with what he thought was a 13-year-old girl. The opening montage shows photos from his Facebook page. In one he’s standing beside boxer Muhammad Ali’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In another, he’s clad in full Eagle Scout regalia.

Then comes the chat log, scrolling slowly. The 19-year-old “hits up” a 13-year-old girl, and upon discovering her age, responds “Damn... u a bad girl?” He invites her to “meetup” and offers to buy her dinner in exchange for oral sex. The chat turns increasingly graphic, with all sorts of lewd propositions; the “girl” agrees to meet him at the Michael’s



A youth ministry coordinator at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Fallbrook was suspended after he was outed by CC Unit for arranging a meeting with a 14-year-old boy on the dating app Grindr in November 2019.

store on Vista Way in south Oceanside.

Ghost and his team spot the young man, who is wearing a Patagonia jacket and green baseball cap, and approach him. “Yo, dude, what’re you doing here?” Ghost asks, shaking the man’s hand. “Can I have a word with you?”

Ghost asks him his age and tells him he wants

to talk to him. The man, clearly nervous, toggles from one foot to another, simultaneously swaying back and forth. He knows exactly why he has been confronted.

“I can have a word with you or I can just send this over to the police,” Ghost says, holding his phone out. “And it’s not going to be good for you.”

“Okay,” the young man

responds. He admits he’s there to meet up with a 13-year-old girl he met, and propositioned, on a dating app.

“Why do you think that’s, okay?” Ghost asks.

The man responds, “I know it’s not okay — look, I’m having a family emergency and I’m making bad decisions. I’m in a bad place right now.”

“You could have put this girl in a bad place, too,” Ghost says.

The conversation stretches on for more than 20 minutes, with Ghost calling the young man out “for all the dirty and disgusting things you said to her” and letting him know he intends to expose the encounter on his YouTube channel. The young man apologizes and pleads, “Can you please not do this? I don’t want this to happen to my life right now.”

He starts to cry; Ghost tells him, “If you want to clear your name, get therapy. There’s no excuse for this.”

The encounter, posted to the CC Unit’s YouTube Channel, has more than 148,000 views.

Another encounter involves a gay couple, both 26, who arrange to meet a 13-year-old boy. “Are u free ryt now?”

Wanna hang out,” they ask, via chat. When the “boy” says he will be free that night, the couple ask if they can pick him up to play video games at their home. They instruct him to tell his older brother that he plans on hanging out with “friends from school,” because they don’t want to get in trouble. They also ask him if he is a cop. When he responds, “No,” they ask if he had any shirtless pictures. “Only in person,” he says. The chat turns explicit. They agree to meet at Vons.

Ghost meets the two young men inside the supermarket. “Hey, how you guys doin’?” he says to the startled pair. He asks them what they are doing there; they say they are shopping for dinner. “You sure you’re not doing anything else?” he asks. “Why are you shaking? Why are you acting

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Reader

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so nervous?” Flustered, the two say nothing. “You don’t think I know what you’re doing?” Ghost asks. “I know what you’re doing. You were talking to me.”

A clerk approaches the group; one of the young men says he’s being harassed. Ghost tells the clerk the two came into the store to meet up with a 13-year-old boy and the pair hurriedly departs, one putting his phone to his ear. Ghost and his CC Unit team follow them outside. “Call the cops,” Ghost yells after them. “We’ll show them the chat logs.” The two get into a car and Ghost, still filming, says, “Let’s get their license plate.” As they drive off, he yells after them, “Hey, I’m going to post this online.”

A few days later, Ghost makes good on his threat. The video is one of CC Unit’s least popu-

lar — just 17,755 views.

Out of his more than 100 encounters, Ghost says, only one turned physical. “The guy started throwing some punches at me,” he says. But there have been plenty of threats and frequent attempts to grab his phone, all caught on the GoPro camera Ghost wears around his neck. That’s why he always makes sure to bring along a handful of fellow CC Unit members, all of them in their early twenties.

“I’m not a military veteran, I’m not police, I’m not a security guard — just a plain old college student who catches predators and exposes them,” Ghost says. “I always wanted to change the law so that these guys get what they deserve. But of the more than 100 predators I’ve caught, only two or



Iran Martinez had sent pictures of his penis to what he believed was a 14-year-old boy. “Police saw the catch live — a police car drove by as I was walking after the guy, trying to talk to him,” Ghost says.

three of them actually faced any legal punishment, although we generally do call the cops. That tells you how bad it is — they know they get a slap on the wrist, if even that, if they get caught. A lot of cops have told me that since there is no real victim, there’s no crime. I’ve always wondered why it is like that, that there has to be

a victim — why does it have to get to that point? Why can’t get they get arrested and sentenced without someone’s life getting ruined?”

Ghost and his CC Unit are not alone. There are a handful of similar operations across North America, including Predator Poachers in Houston and Predator Poachers Toronto,

which has 14,200 YouTube subscribers and 13 videos posted to its channel. In March 2020, a similar operation in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, called South-Bound Productions, was the subject of a critical article in the local newspaper, the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, which reported, “Anonymous video vigilantes using

online messaging and YouTube to snare suspected child predators in the Woodstock area could be doing more harm than good, experts say. Taking justice into their own hands sets a ‘bad precedent’ while hampering proper police investigations and hurting the Crown attorney’s ability to successfully prosecute these cases, a Laurier University professor said. “The biggest problem is it sets up a culture of vigilantism,” said Scott Blandford, the program co-ordinator of Wilfrid Laurier University’s policing and master of public safety programs and a former London police officer. “It’s a whole host of problems for the police and prosecution. Instead of going to the police and showing screenshots of the conversations and letting the police take it

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from there, you have a public sideshow.”

Ghost bristles at the suggestion that he is engaging in vigilante justice. “I’m more of an activist than a vigilante,” he says. “I’m not taking the law into my own hands, or arresting these people, or beating them up. I’m just filming and documenting, taping and interviewing them. Then I post it all online, and if law enforcement contacts me and wants more — which happens quite often — I will send them over the entire chat log.”

In the spring of 2019, a Camp Pendleton Marine was court-martialed, sentenced to six months in the brig, and dishonorably discharged after his military superiors saw a recorded encounter with Ghost and his CC Unit team. The Marine had been chatting with

a 13-year-old girl, asking her for sex. “The reason he got into trouble was he was in the military system, not the civilian system,” Ghost says.

Last November, a youth ministry coordinator at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Fallbrook was outed by the CC Unit after arranging a meeting with a 14-year-old boy on the dating app Grindr. He was subsequently suspended by church officials. According to an article in the *Fallbrook Village News*, Kristine Almada, a pastoral associate, said in a statement, “Toney Renteria has been suspended from his position as youth ministry coordinator, effective immediately. St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Parish is working closely with the appropriate parties, including law enforcement and the

Diocese of San Diego, to investigate these allegations further. We are following the policy of the Diocese of San Diego and are taking the allegations against Mr. Renteria seriously. It is our responsibility to protect those entrusted in our care, especially children and youth.” The paper further reported that San Diego Police “confirmed that a criminal investigation into the allegations has begun.”

In February, Carlsbad police arrested a local man for sending obscene matter to a minor. The incident came to light through a CC Unit encounter; the man had sent pictures of his penis to what he believed was a 14-year-old boy. “Police saw the catch live — a police car drove by as I was walking after the guy, trying to talk to him,” Ghost

says. “I flagged it down, and showed the officer the chat log. His sergeant came and arrested him on the spot.”

At end of the YouTube video clip chronicling the encounter, three Carlsbad police officers are seen handcuffing the suspect. A request under the California Public Records Act confirmed the arrest outside 2608 El Camino Real of 22-year-old Iran Martinez, a student who lives in Calexico, on a child molestation charge. Asked whether the department works with the CC Unit, Paula Crewse, senior projects manager for the Carlsbad Police Department, said the department “has no comment regarding groups such as the CC Unit.”

Oceanside police are more forthcoming. Spokesman Tom Bussey says the Oceanside Police

Department has a mixed reaction to Ghost and his CC Unit. “From a police standpoint, anything that comes to us that is investigatable, we would certainly take a look at,” he says. “That’s just the way we do business. We wouldn’t take something like that and totally blow it off. But it’s not something we advocate — putting yourself in danger, you don’t want to do that. If you confront somebody, it could cost you your life.”

* * *

CC Unit members are gathered inside the CVS drug store, watching the front door, as Jon walks in. I am with them. Jon walks to the photo department, picks up a pack of photos, and pays at the register. Ghost approaches him from behind, his GoPro strapped to his chest:

“Jon! What’s up, Bro?”

Why are you sweating? How ya doin’? What are you doing here?”

Jon, startled: “That’s my business.”

Ghost: “I know what you’re doing. I have your chat log. Do you understand me?”

Before Jon can respond, the cashier rings him up. Ghost moves around Jon toward the exit, turns around and faces him. “I’ll be waiting on this side,” he says. “Just so you know, the last guy who tried to lie to me, he got arrested.”

Jon: “Okay.”

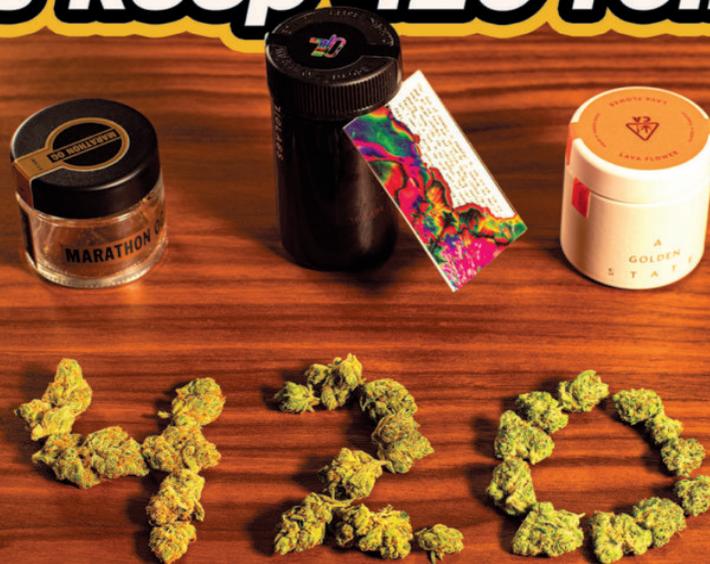
Ghost: “So it’s better for you to just talk to me.”

Jon pays the cashier, in cash, and as she counts out the change Ghost loudly proclaims, “So you think it’s okay to come have sex with a 14-year-old girl?”

Jon: “I just came here to pick up pictures.”

Ghost: “Is it okay if I

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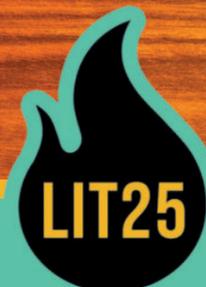
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call the cops right now?"

Jon: "No."

Ghost: "You sent pictures to this girl, you said, 'I can get into a lot of trouble,' right? I've got everything on screen shot, from A to Z — your pictures, everything you sent, how you wanted to have sex with her, you asked her if she was a virgin, all of that."

The cashier interrupts: "You need to take that outside."

Ghost steps outside, waits for Jon to leave the store, and then follows him, with the rest of the CC Unit — maybe half a dozen guys and one girl — in tow. He's headed toward the bus stop on El Camino Real.

Jon denies any knowledge of a chat, as well as Ghost's claim that "you came out here to have sex with a minor." He insists he came to CVS to pick up some pictures.

Ghost again tells him he has all the evidence on his phone and asks whether he should call the police. This goes on all the way to the bus stop, with Ghost telling him he has the entire chat on his phone and even has Jon's picture and Jon denying everything.

Clearly frustrated, Jon pulls the sucker stick out of his mouth and throws it on the ground.

One of the CC Unit members says, "Jon, now you're a litterbug, too."

Jon: "I am not a litterbug. I wasn't raised that way." He picks the stick up and deposits it in a trash can next to the bus stop sign.

More accusations, more denials. Jon picks up his phone and says he's calling his mother to pick him up. Ghost says, "Oh, I can't wait to tell her what you did."

Jon breaks. Sweating



Carlsbad police, flagged down by Ghost and his crew, arrested 22-year-old Iran Martinez in February 2020, charging him with sending obscene matter to a minor.

profusely, he admits his role in the chat, but insists he wasn't going to follow through. "I don't want to get in trouble," he pleads. "I don't want to go back to jail."

Ghost questions him about jail, and Jon admits he spent time behind bars for a narcotics violation.

He starts walking north along El Camino

Real, Ghost and the CC Unit following behind. Ghost continues to badger him: "You know what you did was wrong. How could you think having sex with a 14-year-old was a good thing to do, Jon?"

They cross the onramp to State Route 78, then the bridge over the freeway, then the offramp,

then Vista Way. The entire time, Ghost continues to lob questions at Jon.

At the next corner, Jon turns and responds, "It was a bad decision, all right? I wasn't going to do anything. It wasn't nothing but for my own amusement, that's it."

Ghost tells him he doesn't believe him — if it was merely for amusement, then why did Jon follow through and not only arrange a meeting, but actually show up for the meeting?

"Come on, I'm not interested in jailbait," Jon says, sweating more and his eyes welling up with tears. "My preferences are the women."

Two girls come out from a nearby strip mall. "Should we call the police?" one asks. "We were watching the live stream on Instagram."

Jon pleads with Ghost

to leave him alone. "I served 15 years in the Navy," he says.

"Do you think the Navy would approve of what you're doing?"

Jon: "No."

Ghost: "Why would you dishonor the Navy like that?"

Jon, flustered: "It wasn't, it wasn't... just words. I only came to pick up the photos."

Ghost: "And to have sex with a minor?"

Jon: "Not really. That's not what was going to happen. I wasn't going to do anything."

Ghost: "So why would you talk about it?"

Jon has had enough. He turns and bolts across El Camino Real, dodging cars in six lanes of traffic.

Ghost does not follow. He's done his job. In a few days, there will be a new video on the CC Unit YouTube channel.

— Thomas K. Arnold

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

said company leaders would meet with union representatives to address “cost-saving initiatives.”

Three days later came the word of the satellite newspaper closings. The Glendale paper dates back more than a hundred years to 1905, when wealthy Illinois gas magnate and publisher Ira Copley, whose flagship paper was the *Union-Tribune*, bought the *Glendale Daily Press* and the *Glendale Evening News* and combined them. The paper has had a series of owners after Helen Copley, the widow of Ira’s son Jim, unloaded it in 1974. Times-Mirror, then-owner of the *L.A. Times*, purchased it in 1993. The *Burbank Leader*, formerly known as the *Burbank Daily Review*, was also an early Copley acquisition, and was sold in 1974, ending up with Times-Mirror. In the Copley days, the paper served as an important Southern California Republican base — and launching pad for the political career of noted GOP operative Lyn Nofziger.

After graduating from San Jose State, Nofziger, who later became a well-known advisor to president Ronald Reagan, got his start as an intern at Copley’s Glendale operation. From 1950 to 1956, Nofziger worked at one or the other of the two papers, serving as editor of the *Daily Review* from 1956 through 1958. Nofziger then spent eight years as Washington, D.C. correspondent for Copley Newspapers before jumping into politics full-time at the behest of Jim Copley, famous for his behind-the-scenes efforts for Richard Nixon.

“The call came on a cold day in early January of 1966,” wrote Nofziger in 1992’s *Nofziger: A Reagan Insider and Spokesman in His Own Words*. “The caller was Captain E. Robert Andersen, USN (ret.), the chief aide to James S. Copley, who owned the chain of newspapers for which



The gallery aesthetic won't distract from the views.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

inside, prospective buyers are treated to luxury treatments including European oak hardwood floors, Calcutta quartz counters, and plumbing and lighting fixtures “by the most prestigious contemporary designers of New York and Chicago Kitchen and Baths.”

Oversized multi-paned windows and dual sliding doors emphasize the Southern California tradition of blending indoor and outdoor living spaces, opening the property up on the main level to a covered patio with an outdoor kitchen boasting its own pizza oven that’s adjacent to the “magnificent pool with jacuzzi and Baja beach finished with glass tile and pebble and glass plaster.” A rooftop deck takes advantage of sweeping views of the famous Swami’s surf break west of the estate.

The home’s builders had an eco-friendly buyer in mind when installing a solar system that listing materi-

als estimate will provide for most of the home’s power needs. There’s also extra insulation for the plumbing, multiple tankless on-demand water heaters, an ultra-efficient kitchen appliance package, and a rainwater retention system that’s part of the property’s low-impact landscape design.

While the Cornish Drive estate’s listing may be new, it’s not the first time the property has been offered for sale. Originally purchased as vacant land for \$1.2 million in 2015, marketing efforts for the new home began in 2017 before ground was even broken. After attracting no buyers with a \$5.2 million price tag, construction was completed in 2019 and the home was re-listed, first at \$7,350,000 and again at \$5,850,000 — again, without attracting a buyer.

After being pulled from the market in late November, the home was re-listed in mid-April with its asking price reduced to \$5,395,000, which remains unchanged to date. ■

I worked. “He came right to the point. ‘Jim, would you like to take a leave of absence and come out to California and be Ronald Reagan’s press secre-

tary for his campaign for governor?’” Nofziger died in March 2006, leaving his papers to Stanford’s Hoover Institution.

Matt Potter

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

on the frontline, making about 100,000 trips per day. "I think they did a really good job keeping the routes in place."

SHEILA PELL

THE COURTS

Distant justice

Virtual court leads to IRL verdicts

Defense attorney Matthew Roberts appeared wearing a silky scarf around his face, adorned with tiny tassels that jiggled as he talked. Someone in the courtroom joked, "He's going to start belly dancing in a minute." Roberts then held up his hands so everyone could appreciate that his scarf and gloves were all color coordinated with his suit and tie. It was April 9, the first, experimental day of video-teleconferencing-hearings in San Diego's North County Superior courthouse.

Four men from the court's IT Department sat on the edge of their chairs; they swiftly resolved problems that came up during each of the day's seven hearings. Honorable judge Harry Elias presided from Vista; the first two cases were telecast from Las Colinas women's jail in Santee. At one point, the IT guy told a female defendant named Ramirez



Justice may be blind, but it isn't immune.

to find a guard who could take the call off mute. Ramirez put down the old-style phone handset she held to her face and walked away from the camera to find a deputy. She was seen walking down a hallway and opening a door to call for a guard; apparently, she had been left alone for a private teleconference session with her defense attorney. The judge remarked, "Well, so much for security at Las Colinas." Ultimately, all charges were dropped against Ramirez, who was seen crying into the phone as she said, "Gracias."

Defendant Argelia Murillo, 43, pleaded guilty to concealing and disguising a transaction that exceeded \$25,000, last January. She could have gotten four years in prison. Judge

Elias warned her that this was an aggravated felony, and that she could be expelled from the USA if she was not an American citizen. She responded through the interpreter that she did understand, and that she wanted to go forward with her plea deal. Murillo was to be released the same day, with credit for time served.

When defendant Fidel Moreno appeared, the judge noticed he was turning 24 next week and wished him a happy birthday. The defendant thanked the judge. Moreno pleaded not-guilty to attempted murder, assault with a firearm, and mayhem. His next court date was set for June 25. (Between defendants, a deputy was seen cleaning the stainless steel seat.) Fernando Castaneda Oliveros, 24, pleaded not guilty to five counts of sexual abuse of a child. He switched from a public defender to a private defense attorney, and got May 27 for his next court date. Angel Alberto Rivas, 37, pleaded guilty to auto theft, and he admitted two prior auto thefts. He was to be released immediately on his own recognizance, and was required back in the court June 8 for sentencing. He could get up to four years in prison. A prosecutor remarked that Rivas phoned his girlfriend with the victim's phone while he was stealing her car, but this did not concern the judge. "The main thing is, don't steal a car between now and June, that shouldn't be that difficult, I should think," judge Elias said.

Rivas replied, "Yes sir, thank you, sir."

Defendant Matthew Elias Toll, 22, admitted stealing \$10,000 worth of lottery tickets from a Mosen gasoline store last September. His attorney, Charles Millioen, wore a black velour scarf with a rust-colored foliage pattern, no fringe. The plea deal for Toll was 16 months local prison time that would run concurrent with another conviction out of Los Angeles County. The next court date for Toll is June 8. From a jail in Chula Vista, Joseph Rodriguez, 24, pleaded guilty to assault for benefit of a criminal street gang. He was to be released immediately on his own recognizance, and is next expected in court July 9, when he could be sentenced to up to a year in custody. Judge Elias warned Rodriguez that his sentence could go up if he re-offends while out of custody.

Defendant Nhat Vo, 46, pleaded not guilty to felony animal abuse, misdemeanor vandalism, and trespass. But coordination between attorneys, a Vietnamese interpreter (somewhere,) and the judge in the Vista courthouse proved insurmountable, and the matter was delayed until the following week. Defense attorney Joe Hallare requested Nhat Vo to be moved from the downtown jail into the Vista jail, but he was informed that because of the virus scare, the sheriff was not moving inmates around.

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<p>1000mg EDIBLE</p> <p>Weed4less \$35 MSRP \$40 Competitors \$50</p> 	<p>BARE BLUNTS</p> <p>Weed4less \$25 MSRP \$30 Competitors \$30</p> 	<p>STANDARD GYMMIES 400mg</p> <p>Weed4less \$15 MSRP \$20 Competitors \$25</p> 
<p>FULL GRAM LIVE RESIN WAX</p> <p>Weed4less \$20 MSRP \$40 Competitors \$50</p> 	<p>5 GRAM 1/8TH MOONROCKS</p> <p>Weed4less \$40 MSRP \$60 Competitors \$70</p> 	<p>FULL OUNCE OF THE BEST FLOWER!</p> <p>Weed4less \$200 MSRP \$280 Competitors \$340</p>

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4/20

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<p>BUY 2G SELECT VAPE ONLY \$110</p>	<p>BUY 1.5G PLATINUM VAPE CARTRIDGE ONLY \$115</p>	<p>BUY HAPPY STICK CARTRIDGE GET .5 VAPE FOR \$5.00</p>	<p>TRU CALL BEACH BUM PRE-ROLLS REGULAR 7PK- 2 FOR \$50 INFUSED 7PK- 2 FOR \$60</p>	<p>BUY 7G NUG FLOWER ADD JOINTS FOR \$5.00</p>
<p>BUY (2) HY DISPOSABLE GET 3RD FOR \$5.00</p>	<p>BUY CONNECTED & ALIEN PRE-ROLL GET 2 FOR \$20</p>	<p>BUY PLATINUM EDIBLES ONLY \$32</p>	<p>CANNABIS-INFUSED LUNCH EDIBLES CHOCOLATES ONLY \$23</p>	<p>BUY 1G HY CARTRIDGE GET 1G \$5.00</p>
<p>BUY DRIVN VAPE CARTRIDGE GET .5 VAPE FOR \$5.00</p>	<p>JETTY DISPOSABLE 1 FOR \$25 2 FOR \$40</p>	<p>MOON BAR DEAL 1 FOR \$15 2 FOR \$28 3 FOR \$39 4 FOR \$48 5 FOR \$55 6 FOR \$60</p>	<p>BUY (1) DIXIE CHOCOLATES GET 1 FOR \$5.00</p>	<p>BUY (6) CLONES ONLY FOR \$100</p>

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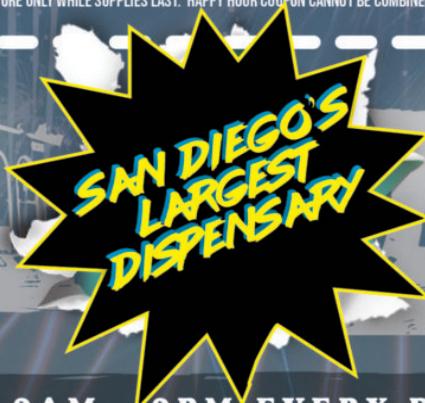
MISSION VALLEY

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•LOCATION 2•

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3 Grams
Organic Bubble Hash

4g Exclusive flower,
1g House Shatter,
1 pre-roll

1 Gram
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& 2 Shatter Joints

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OZ Special

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All For **\$45**

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(min \$20)

3 Grams FOOL'S
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(limit 2) \$45 Value

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Shatter
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Brass Knuckles,
Heavy Hitters
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1 for **\$20** or
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Offers good through 5/15/20 ● Cannot combine deals ● 1 coupon per customer per day
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Open 24/7!

Exotics \$8/Gram \$225/oz

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Multiple strains to choose from!

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(100mg)

Exotic Shake 5G

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\$20



Shatter & Crumble
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2G \$30

OZ SPECIALS

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2 For \$30



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\$10

Babylon Gardens Gummies

\$30 (1000mg)

Twisted Moonrocks Pre-Rolls

3 For \$25

Eternal Vapes

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House Shatter

G \$13
3G \$35

Uplifted Vapes

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STIIIZY

\$50 (1G Vapes)

\$5 OFF ANY 1G CART OR 1G CONCENTRATE

Cannot be combined with other deals.

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\$45 OZ

TOP SHELF
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\$100 OZ

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BRASS KNUCKLES/HH

\$35

UPLIFTED 1G

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STIIIZY 1G

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HOUSE
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\$30 Uplifted (1G Vapes)	2/\$35 & Unreal Vapes	\$25 2/\$45 Jeff Sessions (1G Vapes)
\$20 Punch Chocolates (225mg)	\$30 Babylon's Garden (1000mg Gummies)	

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TEXT "ADD" TO 833-349-2722 TO RECEIVE OUR DAILY DEALS!

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\$20 & H.H. Vapes	Shatter \$15/G	White Fire Budder \$35	Exclusive Shake 4 OZ \$100	
Off White KINGPEN & Clear 5 for \$100 (1G Vapes) <i>Mix & Match with many more brands! FTP only.</i>				
\$40 (1G Vapes)	Rove Carts \$20	Stoney Patch Candy \$10 (150mg)	STINZY \$35 (Real Deal) 1G Pods! All day, every day!	
Mystery Baking Black Label Bar \$40 (1000mg Edible)	6 for \$100 (100mg Edible)	Babylon's Garden \$75 Diamonds \$40 Crumble	Volcanic Crumble 6G \$100	
5 Rice Krispie Treats \$10 (100mg each)	Babylon Gardens Edibles \$35 (1000mg) \$10 (150mg)	7 for \$100	Moonrocks \$20/G	House Pre-Rolls 4 for \$10
Best CBD Selection in San Diego!		Free 100mg Edible + Exclusive Pre-Roll! with every order for returning patients only. Must mention ad.		

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TOP SHELF SHAKE \$25 /OZ	EXCLUSIVE INDOOR SHAKE \$50 /OZ	
WEDDING CAKE \$45 /OZ	CANDY FROST \$80 /OZ	SUNSET SHERBET \$90 /OZ
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SHATTER \$15 /G		CRUMBLE \$15 /G
\$20 (1G VAPES)	ROVE \$20 (1G VAPES)	STINZY \$20 (1G VAPES)
\$10 (500MG GUMMIES)	STONEY PATCH \$10 (500MG GUMMIES)	HOUSE PRE-ROLLS \$5
		KIEF 2G \$10

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Pick your favorite flower for just \$8/G!

Exclusive Shake \$5 /G \$100 /OZ	Select Strains \$5 /2G	Shake \$50 /OZ	Wax \$10 /G	Moonrocks \$10 /G	Full Nugs \$50 /OZ
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\$20	Exotic Carts \$15	H.H. Vapes \$20	Jeff Sessions Vapes \$25	Uplifted Vapes \$35	

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MARIO & EXOTIC
CARTS
\$15 (1G VAPES)

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\$30
(1G VAPES)

TWISTED
MOONROCK
PRE-ROLLS
3 FOR \$25

BABYLON'S
GARDEN
\$30
(1000MG GUMMIES)



GOLDEN SHATTER
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\$15/G

OZ
SPECIALS
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House Shake \$20 OZ Fire Shake \$50 OZ			 Trim Shatter & Crumble \$15/G Nug Shatter & Crumble \$25/G			
 \$25 (1G VAPES)	West Coast Cure Vape \$45 /1G	Full Green Nugs \$50 /OZ	Full Green Nugs \$100 /OZ	STINZY Pods \$25 (0.5G)	Plug and Play \$35 (1G VAPES)	
Dabwood Vapes \$15	& H.H. Vapes \$20 (1G)	Exotic Cartes \$15	Uplifted Vapes \$35	Jeff Sessions \$25 (1G Vapes)	Diamond Sticks \$20	Twisted Vapes \$20 (1G)
Presidential Pre-Rolls \$10	Hurricane Pre-Rolls \$10	Twisted Moonrock Pre-Rolls \$10	Golani Pre-Rolls \$10	7G \$50 Select Strains	Diamond Sauce \$65/G	710 Shatter \$20/G
Wow Rice Krispie Treats \$10 (500MG)	Blackout Brownies \$35 (1000MG)	Moonrocks \$10/G	Hash \$15/G	House Nug Shatter \$15/G	Kief \$5/G	Wax \$10/G
 \$15	Stndrd Gummies \$10 (200MG) \$20 (400MG)	Babylon Gardens \$35 (1000MG Candy)	Sour Belts \$10 (300MG Gummies)	Caviar Candy \$35 (1000MG)	The Syrup \$35 (1000MG)	Cbd Tincture \$40 (1000MG)

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