

A \$3.8 million ticket to all the Padres games you can watch

Hipster superpowers ■ Dianne Jacob — cash dispenser ■ Meet Luna Bay Booch

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 29 | JULY 16, 2020

Reader

The last
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agriculture
in coastal
North
County

Editor's picks from this
week's free classified ads

More in the back of this issue

BUYING LOWRIDER, Lowrider Euro, Street Low, and Teen Angel magazines from the 1970s to 2001.

LISA HALLSTADT at VoiceofSanDiego.org please contact Charlotte at Think Dignity #50.

SAN DIEGO ROCK 'N ROLL MARATHON varsity jacket, black, leather sleeves, \$70.

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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.

Categorical edits

Can you please edit your restaurant categories for this Best-Of vote to read “Best Chinese Restaurant” or “Best Indian Food” instead of “Best Chinese” and “Best Indian”? You’ve done it for “Best French Restaurant” but most of the other categories say best Mexican, Greek, Vietnamese, Thai, which denotes that you may be asking someone to give you the name of a person. In this day and age it’s frowned upon to say “let’s go get some Chinese” even though this slang has been used for a very long time.

Jessica Gonzalez
Spring Valley

Comments from SDReader.com — not edited for punctuation, spelling, or grammar. “Spotty internet makes

it hard to stay at home in Descanso”
Neighborhood News
July 7, 2020

We all make choices. One of those choices is where we live. We can go anywhere in the US and live. If one chooses to live in the back country then they should not complain because they don’t have something that is available in the greater metro area. My friend that lives “out back” does so because he does not want to live shoulder to shoulder in the city. He chose to live in east east county. His choice.

—AlexClarke

“Nathan Fletcher’s viral propaganda push”
News Ticker
July 3

I believe Fletcher is looking at higher office. Ms. Gonzalez is embarrassing. You can be strong and independent without being abusive.

—Socks3742

“IB Pier fishermen fight off surfers and restaurant”
Neighborhood News
June 16

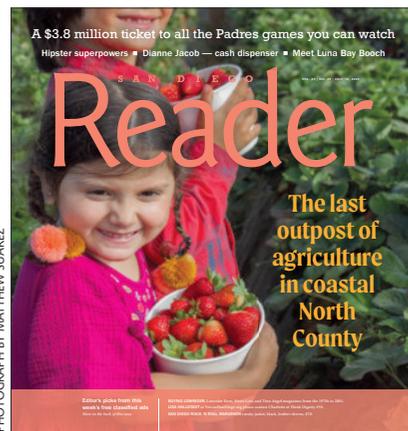
Anyone who eats fish taken out of that sewage water will not have long to com-

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San Diego Reader

SanDiegoReader.com
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July 16, 2020



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

Delicious Carlsbad strawberries — page 12



Is it really waiver worthy? — page 23



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

OCEANSIDE

Club stack hijack Ascendant Dems get low

The latest figures show that only three of San Diego County's 18 cities — Poway, Santee, and Coronado — are majority Republican. And in five cities, Republicans are the *third*-largest voting group, after those who claim "No Party Preference." Since February of 2019, the total voter registration for all voters in the county grew by 60,000. Yet because of migration from the Republicans and No Party Preferrers, the Democrat voter tally countywide actually increased by 90,000. And as the ranks of Democrats grow, competition for endorsements from Democrat sub-groups is getting ugly. There are nearly 50 such groups in the county, identified by geographical area (Democratic Club of Vista, Chula Vista Democratic Club) or by cause (Democrats for Peace in the Mideast, Latina Women's Democratic Club).

"if we identify consultants who are identified with club stacking, we can tell politicians that if they do business with them, they will not be doing business with us."

Oceanside mayoral hopeful Ruben Major was not happy with the dysfunction he claims plagues DEMCCO, the long-time Carlsbad-based Democratic club that serves Oceanside and Carlsbad. So he took dibs on the name Democratic Club of Oceanside and launched a Facebook page asking for new members. Founding members included other Oceanside city council candidates looking for the endorsements that eluded them at DEMCCO. Two months ago, the Oceanside Democratic Club elected its officers, and by that time, Major had stepped back from its steering committee, though he remains a member. "I might not get endorsed by the club I founded," says Major. What he didn't anticipate was something known as "club stacking," where outsiders are brought in to join, just to sway endorsements.

The only requirements for membership in the Oceanside Democratic Club are that you pay \$25 and be a registered Democrat. You don't even have to live in Oceanside. Noticing that a lot of non-locals he had never heard of had joined, Major asked that only Oceanside



CREDIT: ROBHOWARDMAYOR.COM

Rob Howard wants to bring Oceanside together, but he might be getting a little help from out of town.

ide residents be allowed to vote to endorse Oceanside candidates. "It didn't go well," he says, noting that there are people in the new club who have never engaged in Oceanside issues, but who are known to have pro-union leanings. "As I understand it, they go around the county, joining other clubs, and vote to endorse the candidate connected with their special interest."

Zack Beck was elected the first president of the Oceanside Democratic Club. He says the whole point of the new club is to address the Oceanside issues missed by DEMCCO, which has traditionally held its monthly meet-

ings in Carlsbad. "Many Oceanside Democrats wanted to have their own club, based in Oceanside, that's focused primarily on Oceanside political affairs." But Beck did not disclose how many of the 70 members actually live in Oceanside. Beck says any Oceanside Democratic Club member can vote on endorsements as long as they have been a member since June 30. And some Oceanside insiders claim the new Oceanside Democratic Club has been stacked with out-of-town members who will vote to endorse political newcomer Rob Howard for mayor. Howard's candidacy may drain Democratic votes away from Councilwoman Esther Sanchez, thought by many to be the Democratic front runner, and an outspoken opponent of the North River Farms development.

Will Rodriguez-Kennedy is the chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party. The Oceanside Democratic Club is not officially recognized or "chartered" by the San Diego County Democratic Central Committee, but he says the Oceanside club may be granted that status at its July 21 meeting. He admits that

club stacking is a very real problem that has plagued local Dem clubs and their endorsement process. He says there are rules that prevent a club from banning members based on where they live, but he is about to introduce new rules, which he hopes will be adopted by the central committee, that will clean up the club stacking mess. "This has been a problem in the past," he says. "I'm the first chair to even look at this. My intent is to rein in [campaign] consultants. We can't control how consultants interact with politicians, but what we can do is, if we identify consultants who are identified with club stacking, we can tell politicians that if they do business with them, they will not be doing business with us." Chula Vista-based Jesus Cardenas and his Grass Roots Resources was fingered last year for its involvement in getting a number of new Democratic clubs to spring up in the South Bay to impact the endorsement process. Rodriguez-Kennedy would not comment on whether Cardenas was the reason for his new club-stacking rules, but he did say that another problem with club stacking is that if a club peaks out with, say, 100 members during endorsement season, and then falls down to 20 in subsequent meetings, those clubs may not have operating quorums and may not be able to have meetings.

"As the party expands its voter base, these endorsements carry more and more weight," says San Diegan Jess Durfee who is about to participate as a voting delegate, via Zoom, in his fourth Democratic national convention. He's been a member of the Democrat National Committee since 2008. Durfee sees the club-stacking phenomenon as a natural part of the local Democrats' "growing pains," as the party grows in power. Durfee says it's

up to Oceanside locals who are unhappy with club stacking in their local Democratic club to fix the problem themselves. "If I were an Oceanside Dem and serious about running, I would recruit 50 of my closest friends to join and outnumber those who just showed up from out of town."

"I've been hearing a lot of stuff," says Rob Howard. "My focus is bringing Oceanside together. I joined [Oceanside Democratic Club] because I wanted to be a part of a club in Oceanside. I want to speak with anyone who wants to talk to us."

KEN LEIGHTON

DESCANSO

A hole in the (inter)net No 5G antennas in the sticks

In Descanso, 40 miles east of San Diego in the foothills of the Cuyamaca Mountains, internet service is iffy, patchy, and pricey. A digital divide exists within this small community of about 1660 people. "Half the town has AT&T U-verse available, the rest of us have whatever we can afford," says Kerry Forrest, chair of the Descanso planning group. "I have to stress that many people cannot afford the cost of satellite TV, satellite wifi, and cellular systems." Forrest herself has to pay about \$500 per month to keep all three options going. Satellite service sufficient for watching video costs \$150 a month. A service costing roughly half as much provided only 25mbps, "and was useless for any meetings



Descanso's Junction is a different sort of hotspot.

or streaming applications." Some residents sit outside the library and tap into the public wifi system. Others have lost their landlines, and in areas where cellular is unavailable, they have no communication service, Forrest wrote in comments submitted for the county's draft small cell (5G) ordinance.

According to AT&T, 5G is already available in Descanso, but not in the form of antennas clustered next to homes, as is typical in more densely built urban areas. Suzanne Trantow, lead PR manager for AT&T corporate communications, says that "AT&T 5G is live for consumers" in places like Descanso. "It's deployed on traditional cell towers only, and covers larger geographic areas."

It's 5G+, live in parts of San Diego and

continued on page 6



PHOTO CREDIT: ZEHA

analist Hector Felix Miranda, widely known as ‘El Gato’ —and a fierce critic of Jorge Hank. Two other employees of the Baja billionaire were also fingered in the slaying, responsibility for which Jorge Hank has long denied.

The leaked findings of a massive federal investigation of the Hank family — known as Operation White Tiger, after Jorge Hank’s

1991 attempt to smuggle a white tiger into Mexico from the Coronado Cays in United States through the Tijuana border crossing — were ultimately disavowed by Janet Reno, President Bill Clinton’s attorney general. “After the report was leaked, the family began a counter-attack,” writes investigative reporter Lowell Bergman on the PBS program *Frontline*’s website. “They hired high profile lawyers such as former New Hampshire Senator Warren Rudman and began lobbying the U.S. government to disavow the document. Attorney General Janet Reno eventually wrote the family a letter saying the report had been improperly leaked and that she could not endorse its conclusions because it had not been properly vetted.”

Matt Potter

Is Midway the new Soccer City?

More games at the Sports Arena

A fog of intrigue has settled over San Diego city hall’s muddled plans to redevelop the city-owned sports arena and surrounding real estate into a lucrative residential high-rise and pro-sports complex.

It’s a familiar story, including plenty of political cash and even a soccer stadium to lure fans into backing a deal whose financial details remain hidden from the public while would-be developers parade glossy online brochures through a virtual salesroom.

For 11 days starting July 10, online viewers have been offered a chance to review plans by two groups of wealthy would-

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Hank in the House

Trump’s guest not a bad hombre, but maybe close to some

He’s said to be a friend of Mexico’s president and one of the richest men in the country. He’s the nephew of an ex-Tijuana mayor accused by many of being responsible for the killing of a journalist and having ties to the drug world.

Carlos Hank Gonzalez, who attended a July 8 White House dinner commemorating the visit of current Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, is the 48-year-old son of Carlos Hank Rhon, a key figure in the 1996 money laundering case of Raul Salinas de Gortari, brother of Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The latter was Mexico’s president from 1988 to 1994. In June 2001, Carlos Hank Rhon agreed to pay a \$40 million fine to the Federal Reserve for concealing his acquisition of a controlling stake in Laredo National Bancshares through an offshore holding company, per the *New York Times*. Though he agreed to resign as chairman of Laredo, he was allowed to keep his family’s sizable interest in the U.S. financial institution.

But Carlos Hank Gonzalez, tomorrow’s White House guest, has more than just a famous father. His uncle is none other than Jorge Hank Rhon, proprietor of Tijuana’s Caliente track and the city’s erstwhile mayor, as well as a longtime target of U.S. drug, crime, and money laundering investigations. In August 1989, Victoriano Medina Moreno, an ex-Caliente security guard, was convicted of the murder of jour-



PHOTO CREDIT: BROOKFIELD PROPERTIES DEVELOPMENT

Not a lot of social distancing going on in this Sports Arena redevelopment proposal.

UNDER THE RADAR

Politically incorrect Republican county supervisor **Dianne Jacob**, ending her career later this year due to term limits, is giving away wads of cash from her well-stocked campaign fund. Jacob collected the money over the years from a bevy of special interests seeking favorable board votes. During the first half of this year, District Two incumbent Jacob handed out \$131,916, leaving her political fund with \$366,275 in cash for additional expenditures. The political action committee of the San Diego Deputy Sheriffs’ Association — whose president **David Leonhardi** lambasted law enforcement critics in a June 17 *Union-Tribune* op-ed erroneously suggesting eight officers had died during recent protests across the nation — got \$25,000. “Over the past weeks, the duty to protect and serve our communities has been tainted and called into question,” wrote Leonhardi. “When deputies get up in the morning, after having worked a 12-hour shift the previous day defending our public buildings and those who serve in them, it’s hard not to feel the aches and pain from the countless bottles, bricks, rocks and insults hurled at us just the day before. Still, we put on our uniforms, kiss our families, and head out to protect and serve the community.”



Giving away campaign cash makes Supervisor Dianne Jacob smile.

The deputies’ association has endorsed Poway Mayor **Steve Vaus**, favored by Jacob, over GOP former state senator **Joel Anderson** to succeed her in November. Besides the deputies’ money, the Jacob fund gave \$49,000 to a PAC called Public Safety Advocates. Other five-figure donors to that PAC include the Deputy Sheriffs’ Association, Lucky Lady Cardroom, ex-state Senate Democrat **Steve Peace**, and the United Medical Marijuana Coalition PAC. Expense disclosure reports show the PAC spent \$150,265 in February on media opposing Anderson’s supervisory bid. Among other gifts and expenses, the Jacob committee shelled out \$10,000 for a poll by J. Wallen Opinion Research of Newport Beach and donated \$25,000 to the nonprofit Scripps Mercy Foundation.

A couple of hit pieces

One-time National City denizen **Christy Walton** is among the biggest donors to the Lincoln Project. Co-founded by **George Conway** (husband of White House advisor **Kellyanne Conway**), the anti-Trump Super PAC has deployed hard-hitting ads against the president in swing states and Washington, D.C., as well as online. Worth an estimated \$9.1 billion, Walton inherited a sizable chunk of Walmart stock when her husband **John Walton**, then the eleventh richest man in the world, died in a 2005 experimental plane crash at Jackson Hole, Wyo-

ming. A part-time resident of National City with his wife, he came up with \$100,000 for a group led by Qualcomm co-founder **Irwin Jacobs** in a failed 2000 effort employing a volley of hit pieces to bring down incumbent school board member **Fran Zimmermann**. She was a critic of ultimately ousted San Diego city school superintendent **Alan Bersin**.

Last month Trump tweeted that the Lincoln Project’s backers are “all LOSERS,” adding, “Their so-called Lincoln Project is a disgrace to Honest

Abe. I don’t know what Kellyanne did to her deranged loser of a husband, Moonface, but it must have been really bad.”

In addition to her political proclivities, Christy Walton has been identified in news accounts as the principal financial backer of Rose Canyon Fisheries, more recently known as Pacific Oceans Aquafarms, a controversial San Diego fish farming startup by the nonprofit Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. Other charitable causes listed on her webpage include the San Diego Natural History Museum and UCSD’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Movers and protein shakers

American Medical Response, the city of San Diego’s incumbent paramedic provider now in a heated battle to retain its contract, gave \$5996 worth of Zone Perfect nutrition bars on June 16 to the city’s convention center homeless dormitory, called Operation Shelter to Home. The paramedic company gave \$4621 in 40 cases of Zone Perfect bars, along with 60 cases of Lucerna Shakes on June 8, all at the behest of Mayor **Kevin Faulconer**. His office is currently handling the paramedic contest.

Aimee Faucett, chief of staff for mayor **Kevin Faulconer**, pulled in some quick cash from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee, according to the group’s disclosure for the first half of the year, filed July 11. The document reveals that \$5000 was spent February 17 on “Aimee Faucett & Others” for an unidentified purpose. The *Sacramento Bee*’s Voter Guide shows that Faucett, identified as the San Diego “mayor’s chief advisor,” was a winning candidate for the San Diego Republican Party County Central Committee in the March primary election with 8 percent of the vote. Her fellow mayoral staffer, **Francis Barraza**, got elected to the panel with 7.3 percent. Topping the list of six victors in a field of 18 was **Richard Bailey**, mayor of Coronado, garnering 13.8 percent. Big money donors to the chamber



Christy Walton: the Republican face of Trump Derangement Syndrome.

continued on page 18

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Dear Hipster:

Concerning your article about the North Star, the North Star is not exactly above our North Pole. It is about 1 degree off the true North Pole. You mention taking a time lapse photo of the region. Do that and you will see the North Star makes an arc around the North Pole. I will agree at that distance, when you look at it you will be looking as close to true north as you can. There is this thing called "precession." The earth wobbles

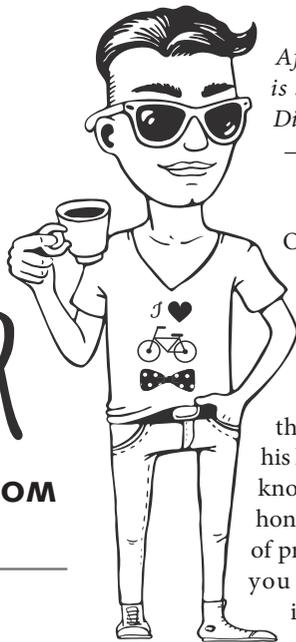
on its axis, causing the north celestial pole to change, and the "north star," with it. This precession takes 23,000 years. The precession is likened to a spinning top and the way the top wobbles. At the time of Christ, the north star was Thuban in the constellation Draco. In 12,000 years, the bright star Vega, in the constellation Lyra, will be the north star. At least then the north

star will be very easy to spot — provided it does not dim in the meantime. Thus, "north star" is a relative term. If it is during the day, you can find north by pointing your right arm east (where the sun rises) and pointing your right arm west (where the sun sets), which will leave your body facing north. More trivia: the location of the North Star above the horizon equals the latitude you are at. Here in San Diego, 33-degrees north goes through Del Mar and Ramona, so the north star is approximately 33 degrees above the horizon here. As a side note, a portion of Bancroft Drive north of Highway 94 has longitude exactly 117 degrees running through it. I thought you — and your readers — would like to know these things.



Can you see the North Star?

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLEY DACE



After all, your column is subtitled, "Advice You Didn't Know You Needed."

— DALE DICKERSON, RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Ordinarily, I hew pretty closely to the old "ask a simple question, get a useless answer" format, but who am I to deny Mr. Dickerson the chance to showcase his hipster wealth of trivial knowledge? Bravo. Way to honor the hipster tradition of prioritizing information you want to know over information you might need to know.

Dear Hipster:

Would it be a more hipster superpower to fly or be invisible?

— KYLIE

Ah, yes, the question that supposedly reveals the supervillain hidden inside anyone who selects the latter option as a means of accomplishing sinister acts

of theft and espionage, whereas heroic individuals select the former. But what would an invisible hipster stand to gain? He could no longer be seen about town. People might inadvertently step on his toes in crowded bars, wherein he would stand, perpetually unnoticed by the bartender, hopelessly trying to order a cocktail. The invisible hipster's Instagram feed contains

no selfies flattering, ironic, or otherwise. His potential dates swipe perpetually left, puzzled by the use of empty landscapes for profile pictures. Invisibility, the power of the secretive, would be ill-suited to the inherently social animal that is the hipster.

Flight isn't much more useful, because what is the hipster going to use it for, flying to Coachella? Still have to wait for friends driving the van. Flying to the bar so you don't drink and drive (or deal with parking)? Still have to wait for friends in the Uber. In truth, hipsters have no real use for either power, but at least flying doesn't have the downside of perpetual, Three Dog Night-worthy loneliness.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

plain about surfers. The EPA states, "Eating fish containing chemical pollutants may cause birth defects, liver damage, cancer, and other serious health problems."

— William50

"Off-roaders head to desert but watching for thieves" Neighborhood News May 12

How heartless can they be stealing stuff from people who just want to have a bit of fun in the desert? Last year, a few of my friends and I went on a weekend off-road trip. A friend of mine also lost some of his stuff. We were busy fixing some stuff since we set up a small camp. I got a ton-

neau cover which I bought from 4wheelonline. Good thing I locked it and the thieves weren't able to snoop my things.

—SD33z

"How to get to the river path from Sports Arena Boulevard" Neighborhood News July 3

Speaking of the one's "defeats the purpose": Does it defeat the purpose for MTS to endorse support of this issue? For the reason of several perspectives, in a different form of transportation. ADD to support bicycles going in the same direction. We as a society, and MTS as a public transportation agency, all know that the bike path will become undersized.

—ised



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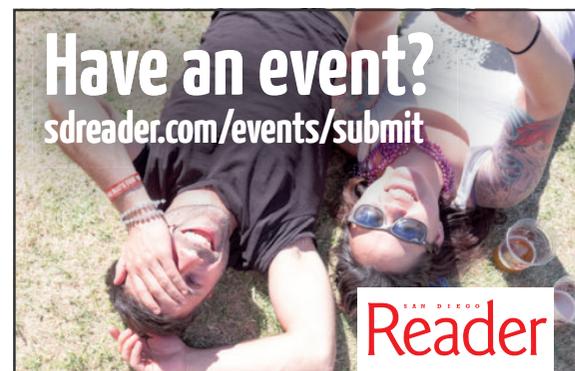
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other cities, which uses small, short-range cells placed close together — and which has drawn criticism from citizens concerned about aesthetics and possibly health risks. To tap into the 5G network out in Descanso requires a 5G-capable mobile device and an address that receives service.

The Cedar Fire, one of the largest in state history, burned through the area in 2003. When there is a fire, cell towers go down and anyone without a generator with satellite service is cut off. Now, SDG&E outages, put in place to prevent fires, often cause a lack of connectivity. “In a fire or SDG&E system shutdown, if you don’t have back-up energy sources such as solar batteries or a gas generator, you are in real isolation,” says Forrest. So as the county developed its small cell wireless zoning ordinance last summer for the 5G rollout, the Descanso community planning group offered support for fewer restrictions. Not because they have fewer concerns than people in other towns. They’re just tired of the gaps, void, and crawl. “Our rural community strongly supports the development of wireless and optical fiber infrastructure in our community,” their letter stated. “Currently, Descanso residents have very few choices for reliable cellular service as well as high speed affordable internet and wifi.”

SHEILA PELL

B A J A

Baja’s noble experiment “Beer is not essential.”

According to Mexican news outlets, on July 2, approximately 10,000 containers of beer in a delivery truck were seized by the city council of Mexicali. There was no mention of the location of the bust, but the reports said the beer runner was en route to distribute ten pallets of beer to multiple stores within the border city. According to *SintesisTV.com*: “Netzahualcóyotl



Diego Knight: “Within an hour all the beer in Rosarito was bought.”



This Bud’s not for you, or anyone else south of the border.

PHOTO COURTESY JORGE HERAS FACEBOOK PAGE

Jáuregui, secretary of Mexicali’s city council, said the distribution of beer is currently suspended, as it is not considered essential, and in addition, [even if the suspension was lifted, the truck driver] is required to have a

risking getting caught. That extra checkpoint is for COVID-19 — why are they also checking for beers? Isn’t that the freakin’ job of the *aduanas* (customs checkpoint)? That’s legit wack, bro.” Roberto was referring to a Face-

“2284 beers were reportedly seized and emptied within a three-day period as Americans and Mexican nationals crossed the Calexico/Mexicali border.”

permit from the municipality of Mexicali to be able to distribute significant quantities of the product. The 10,000 containers of beer were insured, and are currently safeguarded in the basement of the Mexicali municipal palace. [Jáuregui] assured that the seizure was carried out in compliance with the law and municipal regulations, and said that the beer will be destroyed.”

On June 12, a restriction of beer sales was implemented within Mexicali to help deter mass gatherings. Because of the citywide beer ban and shortage, Mexicali residents have been traveling 45 miles east toward San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora to stock up on beer, Jáuregui reportedly stated. The weekend prior to the 10K beer bust, 2284 beers were reportedly seized and emptied within a three-day period as Americans and Mexican nationals crossed the Calexico/Mexicali border. “They should each stay in their respective countries until this [COVID-19] is controlled,” suggested Ed, a Mexicali resident. “And close the borders between municipalities. People are dumb and do not understand that beer is not essential. On the contrary, it only generates crowds between people, and therefore more contagions are eminent. Let’s be responsible!”

The beer busts also continued 1000 meters to the south. “My bro in Mexicali told me to buy some *cheves* (beers) from the Smart & Final in El Centro,” said Roberto V. from Encanto. “But my wife saw Facebook clips of *retenes* (checkpoints) making you throw away your beer when you cross them into Mexico. I’m not

book video posted on July 2 by Jorge Heras, a Mexicali news reporter. Heras’ six-minute clip begins with a man emptying two six packs of Michelob Light on the side of the road next to his white van. “We have to follow the law,” he says. “[The police] said we can only have one 12 pack per car. They’re checking car by car, and it takes ten hours [waiting in traffic]. People get discouraged and return home.”) Heras then interviewed a seemingly irate man as he cracked open Bud Light cans and emptied them into a metal trash receptacle. “I’d rather drink this beer with you,” he said to Heras. “I’ve already spent one fucking hour in line, and last Friday, four hours in this line. And had to work the next day.”

“The question is if they bring the beer in for re-sale purposes and if it’s really for consumption,” opined Raquel from Calexico. “With all due respect, they did this man a favor for his health.”

Diego Knight, a American reporter who lives in Rosarito, has been monitoring the beer movements throughout Baja. “The Mexicali beer checkpoints started sometime in June, and that’s when people began to bring beer across the border. In April, the beer situation began with the stop of production of Mexican breweries — since they were considered not-essential. But they had enough of supply to last the month of

April. Well, May began, and the big breweries still couldn’t produce, although the microbreweries began to work more. The microbreweries began to sell bottled and draft beer in Rosarito, although it was difficult to locate Indio, Tecate, Dos Equis, Bud Light and others in stores during May. Americans began bringing them down from the U.S., and some got busted and some didn’t. In the middle of June, large breweries began to deliver, including Tecate, Modelo, Indio, Corona, and Dos Equis, but they were in limited numbers, and once the beer was delivered, customers hoarded them. Within an hour, all the beer in Rosarito was bought. One of the problems was that some people bought beer for their restaurants. Then there was a limit on how many cases one could purchase. So residents would ask their friends or relatives to buy extras. As of July 6, in Rosarito you could find beer, but you had to get to the store early. I went to Smart & Final yesterday afternoon and only could buy Tecate *rojo*. My friend was there in the morning and saw various brands. Don Pisto liquor stores didn’t have beer until a week or so here in Rosarito, and not all of the stores have beer. Then, last weekend, Ensenada began the prohibition of any alcohol past 9 pm. They were considering going dry like Mexicali, but decided not to go that way.”

“And draft beer?” I asked Knight.

“Not too many places have draft beer here, and no one knows when the kegs will be delivered.”

MIKE MADRAGA

OCEANSIDE

Fading Clutch? Pops’ protege Pope hopes nope



(Far) East Coast style — Pope got his start cutting friends’ hair while in Japan.

Ex-Marine Richard “Pops” Sanders launched his Unisex House of Style in the historic Dolphin Hotel on Coast Highway to serve men and women, way back in the ‘80s. But during its last ten years or so, it has served mostly men, many of them Marines. Its vibe as a cultural and social hub led many to say it

continued on page 8

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was the closest thing North County had to the all-Black barbershop in Ice Cube's 2002 movie *Barbershop*. "It was home to a lot of Marines from the East Coast, West Coast, from overseas, wherever," says USMC Sgt. Darius Pope. "There were hilarious characters. It was always the barbershop to come back to. People would come just to hang out before their haircut, after their haircut, and just to watch football and basketball."

Pope, who is seven years into a 20-year commitment to the Marines, says Pops Sanders gave him his break. "When I wasn't licensed, he allowed me to cut under him as an apprentice when no one else did." Working around a deployment aboard the *USS Boxer*, Pope eventually finished barber school and stayed loyal to Pops, even though Pops' declining health kept him out of the shop all last year. Then Pops died in December.



The late Pops Sanders at Oceanside's answer to Ice Cube's Barbershop, Unisex House of Style.

"In January, they gave us two weeks to get out," says Pope of the new ownership of the Dolphin Inn. "Pops told his wife and his daughter he wanted me to take over." Pope bought the chairs and fixtures and put them in storage. Last March, he opened Clutch Cuts a few doors to the north. "Just days after I signed the lease, COVID hit," says Pope. He says he got the impression his landlord could not afford to cut her tenants any pandemic consideration when it came to rent "I knew it was a bad situation, but I didn't panic."

Pope lives in barracks on Camp Pendleton. "I used space in the barracks to cut hair. I figured out if I cut hair from 10 am to 8 pm all day Saturday and Sunday, plus Friday nights, I could make it happen." So for 18 weekends, Pope scheduled a haircut every 30 minutes in the barracks area. He says he charged \$20 a cut. Rent at his new shop was covered, even though it was closed in March, April, May, and most of June.

"I've always been up for a challenge," says Pope, who was in foster care until he was adopted at 11. He says his now-deceased birth mother struggled with drugs and prostitution. "The best thing I got out of the Marine Corps in perseverance through challenging times. You get discipline and structure to better your life." His latest struggle is negotiating the new Oceanside, which is bent on upscaling. The city has encouraged the opening of new cafes, breweries, and wine bars. Once the major high-rise condo and hotel complexes are finished this year, it is expected that commercial rents will climb. Currently being built in the space formerly occupied by Unisex: Switchboard, a "Hawaiian-inspired speakeasy."

Pope knows that gentrification has arrived: "I know it's a good thing, but for the history part of Oceanside it's not so good. I wonder if there will be a place for some of these small businesses? Part of me thinks small businesses don't have a place in the new Oceanside. Look at how they kicked out the [Firewater bar]. They just said, 'You're not good enough to be here.'"

Gentrification or no gentrification, Camp Pendleton is not going anywhere. Thousands of Marines still need to get a haircut every two weeks. So Sgt. Pope's new Clutch Cuts competes with at least 20 other barbershops in Oceanside that focus on military grooming. Marines can get their regulation fades on base at the MCX for less, but Pope says that they would rather pay more elsewhere. "They only do it on base because they don't have transportation."

Another concerned business owner is Gerardo Diaz, owner/operator of the Kingsmen dry cleaning/tailoring shop, which has served Pendleton Marines on Coast Highway for over 50 years. He says his building, built in 1912, has a new owner, that he does not have a lease, and that he has not been told if he can stay long-term. One longtime proprietor of a different dry-cleaning/tailoring business who declined to be named says back in the 1990s, the city of Oceanside urged him and other military-serving businesses to move out of downtown. But he says the city of Oceanside has not provided any recent incentives to move away, even as the high-rise, pier-view condos and hotels continue to be built.

Michelle Geller, Oceanside's economic development manager, says Oceanside is bullish on small business. She says Oceanside has created programs to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19 by providing loans, utility relief, and a plan that lets restaurants utilize outdoor space for seating. She says the 6.3 percent vacancy rate downtown "is quite



The lot at Washington Street and Coast Highway will not be used to sell used cars again.

healthy. There may be a few high visibility vacancies along Coast Highway with 'For Lease' signs that catch the eye, leading to a perception that there is a higher than normal vacancy rate. But the data do not support that."

KEN LEIGHTON

COUNTRY ROADS Making the call for sprawl Board of supes lacks will to infill

On July 1, a new state law aimed at curbing vehicle emissions took effect, and the county must now change the way it reviews development impacts. Nowhere does it matter more than in rural areas. Two weeks ago, the county board of supervisors settled on one of three different options the planning department has mapped out to comply with SB 743, which encourages growth near city centers. Speaker after speaker argued that only one of the alternatives actually meets the intent of the law, which they said was less driving. It wasn't the one staff recommended. "This is really a shell of a program," said Dan Silver,

of planning changes. Vehicle miles are how much extra auto travel a project will create. A 10-mile trip is 10 vehicle miles traveled. The average for an area is the total vehicle miles traveled divided by the population.

Planners recommended putting the options in a transportation study guide for use in preparing California Environmental Quality Act reviews. One big part of the study guide concerns geographic boundaries, which set the size and location of unincorporated areas dubbed "vehicle miles traveled efficient." These are areas within the county that are already 15 percent below the average on auto trips – not having a significant impact. That designation could exempt an area from the vehicle miles analysis. Only plans above 15 percent would have to do a study. In a comment letter, Dan Silver said the county's proposal would screen out "vast amounts of vehicle miles traveled," which would never be mitigated due in part to the selected geography.

Option A was to treat the entire county, 2.9 million acres, as a geographic boundary.

Instead of making way for traffic, the new goal is to reduce it, and the old "level of service" metric has been traded for "vehicle miles traveled"

executive director of the Endangered Habitats League. He said the methodology used would exempt a huge number of units from traffic analysis. Noah Harris, transportation advocate for the Climate Action Campaign, said the county's recommended option would make it "much easier and more cost effective to develop sprawl than infill."

The county currently reviews the traffic impacts of projects by focusing on congestion relief — achieved, say, through road widening. That approach can no longer be used, said Rami Talleh, deputy director of Planning & Development Services. Instead of making way for traffic, the new goal is to reduce it, and the old "level of service" metric has been traded for "vehicle miles traveled" — a major switch the county must make in this first phase

Environmental groups preferred it. It placed 2467 acres of vehicle miles traveled efficient areas within the unincorporated county — areas in Lakeside, Via De Oro, North County metro and Borrego Springs. It also achieved the most greenhouse gas reductions, had the most environmental review, and required the most mitigation. It offered the least support for infill in the unincorporated county, and the least benefit from alternative travel, such as walking and cycling — which some residents didn't mind. "Traffic mitigation of adding sidewalks and bike lanes are useless, if not impossible, in the backcountry," said Michael Casinelli, a member of the Jamul Dulzura community planning group. "You cannot add bike lanes on a two-lane road with

continued on page 36

165 6TH AVENUE #2804 | EAST VILLAGE, 92101

BEDS: 4 | BATHS: 3 | CURRENT OWNER: Schneider Family | LIST PRICE: \$3,850,000

UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

As professional sports leagues attempt in fits and starts to restart their respective seasons, one thing is clear: there won't be any fans in the stands. So if you want to see live baseball in San Diego this year, your only shot is going to be from the deck of one of the luxury high-rises surrounding Petco Park.

Listing materials for unit 2804 at 165 6th Avenue downtown retrieved from Realtor.com describe it as "possibly the best condo in San



Governor Newsom can't stop you from watching a Padre's game from your own living room.

Diego." From its 28th-floor perch, the 3138-square-foot residence boasts "incomparable and unobstructable views of San Diego Bay, Pacific Ocean, Point

Loma, Coronado, Mexican islands" and a peek into the adjacent ballpark.

The "award-winning custom-built light bright open modern" unit is billed

as a "one-of-a-kind penthouse in a one-of-a-kind aerial community." The Metropolitan complex "is a small and exclusive community of about 35 ultra-

luxury residences atop the Omni Hotel," which occupies the building's lower floors and has a skybridge that (usually) offers direct access to Petco.

Current owner and real estate professional Jeffrey Schneider purchased the property new in 2008 and hired architect William Bocken to lend a custom design to the unit that occupies half of the 28th floor, ensuring "the only residence of its size or layout in the Metropolitan."

"No expense was spared or detail overlooked," the listing promises. Ten-foot floor-to-ceiling windows offer views from virtually every room, while a home automation system controls "integrated lights, blinds, audio-visual, and heating and air conditioning systems."

An "expansive great room" provides space for

entertaining with "a modern eco-friendly fireplace and sophisticated entertainment center including surround sound, five in-ceiling speakers and 65" TV that can rotate 180 degrees to accommodate viewers anywhere in the living or kitchen areas.

That "professional and stylish kitchen" includes "gorgeous customized Alno cabinetry imported from Germany, modern Caesarstone counters, Italian glass wall tile, and Bosch high-end appliances, including two dishwashers and a Bosch Induction cooktop."

The master suite has its own surround sound system and a pair of data ports, along with an "award-winning spa-like master bathroom with Italian glass wall tile, both a deep soaking tub and a

continued on page 36

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The last outpost of agriculture in coastal North County



It's the last outpost of agriculture in coastal North County, plainly visible from the freeway. A vast field of green just east of Interstate 5 and north of Cannon Road in the heart of Carlsbad, dotted, in the spring and summer with field workers stooping and rising, stooping and rising, as they pick juicy red strawberries from the rich loam that for years fueled the farms for which this area was once known. They are carrying on a tradi-

tion that dates back nearly 100 years, when the farms of North County provided steady employment for Mexican field hands, some of them partisans of Pancho Villa who migrated north to escape the turmoil.

The fields closest to Cannon are marked "U-Pick," where families, many with young kids, may pick their

own strawberries for \$10 a bucket. It's been a Carlsbad tradition for 20 years. I remember taking all three of my boys here when they were toddlers, as one of the rites of spring, along with a visit to the nearby Flower Fields and Legoland.

It's been a Carlsbad tradition for 20 years.

These are the famed strawberry fields of Carlsbad, farmed by the Ukegawa family since the 1950s on land leased from San Diego Gas & Electric Company – and preserved by the good voters of Carlsbad in November 2006 when they passed Proposition D, which zoned 208 acres of farmland on the southern shores of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon as open space and promotes agricultural uses “as long as feasible.”

Residents rejoiced when Proposition D was passed. California loses one square mile of farmland every five days, according to the state’s Department of Conservation. The orange groves that gave Orange County its name have been obliterated, paved over for mass tracts of suburbia and Disneyland. In Lemon Grove, all that’s left is the name: the last grove of lemon trees was paved over for streets and single-family homes in 1962. And here in Carlsbad, the post-World War II housing boom wiped out the avocado orchards on the west side of town, while a similar fate, decades later, awaited the tomato fields on the east side. One particularly large tomato patch is now home to Legoland.

But Carlsbad voters who believed their

November 2006 vote would mean strawberry fields forever were sadly mistaken. Only about a quarter of the 25-acre site currently used to grow strawberries by the Ukegawa family’s Carlsbad Strawberry Company sits on the protected land. “We moved west, closer to the freeway, because after years and years of growing strawberries the soil became depleted,” said Ukegawa, a tall, lanky figure who looks younger than his 60 years. As a result, strawberries are now grown mostly on land that has been zoned for commercial development. As for the remaining 25 percent, there’s that tricky little caveat in Proposition D: “as long as feasible.” And Ukegawa maintains the feasibility factor is fast eroding as land values, labor expenses and water costs climb, while crop prices don’t.

“That’s why we’ve had to be innovative,” Ukegawa says, “and figure out ways to sell our strawberries directly to the public.”

The Ukegawas used to sell strawberries to supermarkets all over the country, but they were ultimately priced out by inexpensive produce from Mexico. “There’s no way we could compete, when south of the border they can produce strawberries way cheaper than we can,” he says.



Carlsbad Strawberry field owner Jimmy Ukegawa says that since the pandemic started business has picked up. “We’ve never been this busy, especially on the weekends. We’re even getting a lot of people who just come out to take pictures in the field. We’re getting calls from Arizona, Las Vegas. Our business has easily tripled, maybe even quadrupled.”

Grocers such as Albertson’s currently pay about \$10 for an eight-pound box of strawberries, Ukegawa says, while his break-even cost is \$14. Supermarkets prefer strawberries with a longer shelf life than the Albion strain Ukegawa grows. “You go to the grocery store and you’ll get what I call ‘red cucumbers’ — they are white on the inside,” he says. “Our strawberries taste much sweeter because they have a much higher sugar content, but that also means they don’t last as long on the shelf. Our strawberries might only last two or three days in the refrigerator, whereas

store-bought berries are already three days old by the time they get put out. We’ve never sold a day-old strawberry at any of our fruit stands.”

The Carlsbad Straw-

berry Company maintains four fruit stands during strawberry season, which typically runs from Christmas through July. One is in front of the Flower Fields, another in

Del Mar, and a third at the company’s 44,000-square-foot warehouse on Aviara Parkway. But the U-Pick stand on Cannon Road is by far the biggest money-maker – especially this year, Ukegawa says, “Because we are considered an essential business, we never shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic,” he says. “And maybe because people want to be outside — they feel safer — we’ve never been this busy, especially on the weekends. We’re even getting a lot of people who just come out to take pictures in the field. We’re getting calls from Arizona, Las Vegas. Our business has easily tripled, maybe even quadrupled. We used to get hundreds of people through here. Now, it’s in the thousands.”

U-Pick

It’s a hot sunny day in June — the antithesis of

PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

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“June gloom” — when I visit Jimmy Ukegawa at the U-Pick patch off Cannon Road east of Interstate 5. It’s tricky to find the driveway; you have to shoot past the dirt parking lot and make a U-turn about a quarter of a mile down Cannon. Four other cars make the U-turn with me; three of them pull into the Carlsbad Strawberry Company’s parking lot.

I meet Jimmy beside the whitewashed wood fruit stand, where a line of people is waiting to buy either U-Pick tickets or harvested strawberries at \$6 a basket (or \$25 for a six-pack, tightly packed into a corrugated cardboard Carlsbad Strawberry Company box). He’s wearing jeans and a Dave Matthews Band t-shirt. “This is pretty much my uniform,” he says.

I follow him to the entrance — a pop-up



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

The Ukegawas used to sell strawberries to supermarkets all over the country, but they were ultimately priced out by inexpensive produce from Mexico. “There’s no way we could compete, when south of the border they can produce strawberries way cheaper than we can,” he says.

where a friendly young man is collecting U-Pick tickets — and we start on the short trek to the U-Pick patch. Even though it’s midweek and so hot that anyone with free time on their hands should be

at the beach, the patch is crawling with people. It looks like a pre-school “mommy and me” field trip: mostly camera-clutching young women and little boys and girls. Some are dressed up, oth-

ers are dressed down and racing to see who can fill their buckets with strawberries the fastest.

“The idea came to me in college,” Ukegawa says. “My physics lab partner asked me what my family did, and I told him we grow tomatoes and strawberries in Carlsbad. And she asked me what a strawberry tree looked like. She was from San Francisco, and had never been to a farm before. Kids these days don’t know where their food comes from. They

think it comes in a plastic container. And at first my dad thought it was a joke, but later on it really picked up.”

A mother and two little girls walk by. The mother looks a little flustered as the girls, maybe 6 and 8, tug at her sleeves. They’re anxious to get started. Jimmy directs them to a row of strawberries closer to the freeway. “There are more red ones there,” he says. “Those are the sweet ones.”

Catherine Miller, a longtime friend, says of Ukegawa, “He’s very proud not only of his Japanese heritage, but also of his family history here in Carlsbad. No one loves Carlsbad more and cares more about its future, than Jimmy.”

To keep the money coming in

When the strawberry season ends, Ukegawa says, it’s time to “work the ground and get it ready for next season — it’s a year-round process.” And to keep the money coming in, he says, the Carlsbad Strawberry Company operates a pumpkin patch every September and October, something he

started seven years ago to help pay the bills.

The pumpkin patch includes a corn maze and an antique tractor ride out to a field where giant pumpkins are grown and still on the vine. On the west side of the pumpkin patch is a corn maze which has become popular in recent years among teens and young adults — particularly at night, when the maze is “haunted” with scary actors through a partnership with the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation.

“It didn’t start out so well,” Ukegawa says. “The first year, I grew the wrong variety of corn, and it only came up four feet. Then a storm kicked up and the whole thing leaned over sideways.” These days, the corn maze stands an impressive 12 feet and covers five acres. I went there last October and it took me more than an hour to find the way out.

Even with the pumpkin patch, the Carlsbad Strawberry Company is having a tough time making ends meet, Ukegawa says. This year, thanks to the uptick in “U-Pick” business, is the first in many that the farmer



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Ukegawa says he plans on selling his warehouse on Aviara Parkway and buying a smaller one, "so I can invest the money and absorb the loss we take on the strawberries every year. We're still hanging on, but most years we take a loss. It's a slow bleed."

So why keep doing it? "It's tradition," Ukegawa says. "My kids tell me all the time, when they come home from school, 'Hey, dad, do you know we're famous! We own the strawberry fields.' It's a legacy thing – our family has been doing this for generations, and I'd like to turn it around so I can pass it on to the next generation.

"We've got people who have been working for my family for 40 years – in some cases, two or even three generations of the same family. I can't suddenly just shut down the business and throw them to the wolves. I need to try to make this sustainable."

"The strawberry fields are an icon of our community," says Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall. "I run into people all the time who tell me they are so glad the fields are still here because they remember picking strawberries with their parents when they were little kids."

Family farm

Jimmy Ukegawa's grandparents, Fukutaro and Tomoye Ukegawa, were first-generation immigrants who moved to Tustin (Orange County), bought some property, and began farming tomatoes for a living. His father, Hiroshi Ukegawa, was born there in 1921. As a Nisei, or second-generation Japanese-American, he was sent back to Japan to attend

elementary school, as was the custom at the time. He returned to Orange County to attend Tustin High School as a Kibei, a term used at the time to describe Japanese Americans born in the United States who returned to America after receiving their education in Japan.

When World War II broke out, the Ukegawas were among the 112,000 people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast forced into internment camps by President Franklin Roosevelt shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Ukegawas were sent to a camp in Poston, Arizona, in Yuma County. Like other internees, by the time they were released they had lost everything, including their farm in Tustin, which was taken away for nonpayment of taxes.

Hiroshi Ukegawa joined the Army and served the country that had imprisoned his family as a paratrooper in Europe. Upon his discharge, his family had already been released from the camp and settled down in Oceanside, near another family with whom they had shared barracks in Poston. They began farming the fertile San Luis Rey River Valley and eventually expanded their operations into Carlsbad. In the meantime, Hiroshi had met, and married a young woman named Miwako, who had been born on the island of Borneo, where her father had a black pepper plantation, and then come to the United States after the war to study cosmetology. In December 1959, a month before Jimmy Ukegawa was born, his parents moved from Oceanside to Carlsbad, into the same house on

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In addition to selling his own strawberries at the Aviara Parkway warehouse, Ukegawa rents out stall space on the dock to growers of citrus and other fruits and vegetables. This year visitors can buy fresh milk from the Hollandia Dairy; eggs from the Fluegge Egg Ranch in Valley Center; avocados from Escondido, oranges, limes, and lemons from Valley Center; flower bouquets from the Carlsbad Flower Mart, El Nopalito chips and salsa from Encinitas; and even gelato.

Skyline Drive where his now-93-year-old mother lives today. (His father died in 2009.)

The Ukegawa farming operation expanded significantly in the 1960s and 1970s, into Olivenhain and Del Mar. “My father prided himself on being a tomato grower,” Jimmy Ukegawa says. “He started growing strawberries on the side just to keep workers busy during the off season. Tomatoes

grow from July through Christmas, so they were a natural complement.”

The Ukegawa family provided high schoolers with summer jobs, sorting and packing tomatoes. “They couldn’t pronounce my dad’s name, so they all used to say, ‘We work at Roaches.’”

At one point, Jimmy Ukegawa says, his family was farming 1500 acres of tomatoes, 10 acres of squash, and 200 acres of

strawberries. They maintained smaller patches of bell peppers, beans, and cucumbers. “At one point my dad owned quite a bit of property in Oceanside and Carlsbad, but he had to sell it off over the years because farming had its ups and downs,” Ukegawa says. “When I was in high school he grew 50 acres of corn, and if you ever try to sell corn at a nickel an ear and make money, you can’t do it. So he did it ei-

ther to keep the [produce] stands busy or us busy.”

By “us,” he’s referring to his siblings. Hiroshi and Miwako Ukegawa had four other children besides Jimmy. Older brother Joe, a Carlsbad High graduate and heavy smoker, died of lung cancer in 2016; younger brother Leslie, born with Down’s syndrome, passed away a year ago. A third brother, Jack, now lives in Portland. And sister Alice lives with mom on Skyline Drive.

In the 1960s and 1970s, North County growers relied largely on migrant farmworkers from Mexico to tend their fields and pick their crops. Many of them lived on the farmland, camping out in the canyons of east Carlsbad and elsewhere. In the early 1970s, Cesar Chavez began organizing California migrant laborers into the United Farmworkers Union, working his way down from the lettuce fields of Salinas to the tomato and strawberry fields of North San Diego County. The drive never really caught on, and in 2006 the *Los Angeles Times* said an investigation by the newspaper found that Chavez’s heirs

“run a web of tax-exempt organizations that exploit his legacy and invoke the harsh lives of farmworkers to raise millions of dollars in public and private money. The money does little to improve the lives of California farmworkers, who still struggle with the most basic health and housing needs and try to get by on seasonal, minimum-wage jobs.”

These days, Ukegawa says, the Carlsbad Strawberry Company has a full-time staff of 45, of whom about 20 focus on picking fruit. A handful of seasonal workers “come back year after year after year,” he says. All either have green cards or are U.S. citizens, “and they all live here, except one who commutes from Tijuana.”

Mexican produce

Jimmy Ukegawa graduated from Carlsbad High School and attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1983. By then the Ukegawa farming operation was in trouble. Crop prices were being driven down by inexpensive produce from Mexico, and Ukegawa gave up plans to attend graduate business

school — his undergraduate degree was in plant and soil biology — to help run the family business with brother Joe.

A few years later, legal trouble hit. In July 1987, 40 current and former employees of what was then known as Ukegawa Brothers Inc. filed a civil suit in Superior Court in Vista. According to a story published at the time in the *Los Angeles Times*, the workers accused Ukegawa officials “of shooting, beating, and threatening farm laborers, most of them illegal aliens from Mexico who said they lived in the fields near land farmed by Ukegawa.” They asked for \$89 million in punitive damages, “plus undetermined amounts for general damages and other costs.” One farm worker accused Joe Ukegawa of firing a pellet gun at him, for sport.

The Ukegawas countersued for \$55 million, accusing the former employees of damaging equipment, starting work slowdowns, and threatening other workers. Both lawsuits were later dropped.

Since then, making a living at farming has been a constant battle, Jimmy

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An increasingly popular item is a 25-pound box of assorted produce — “it changes every day,” Ukegawa says — that sells for \$25.

Ukegawa says. The ups and downs he referred to earlier became a downhill slide, as the big supermarket chains turned to cheaper produce from Mexico, where the Baja California peninsula had suddenly become a hotbed of agricultural activity. Prior to the 1980s, agriculture had never gained much of a foothold in Northern Baja, due to a lack of water. In the south, in the state of Baja California Sur, sugar cane had flourished for more than 100 years, until the early 1950s, when a severe drought combined

with falling sugar prices led the sugar industry in the area to collapse. The last sugar cane processing plant was shuttered in 1974.

Agriculture in Baja California Sur was revived with the construction of the transpeninsular highway in the 1970s, coupled with the end of the long drought. Meanwhile, desalination technology made it feasible to irrigate farmland inexpensively in the north. “When I first went down there in the early 1980s, they grew mostly grains and garbanzo beans in

the south,” Ukegawa said. “Fresh crops came later. But Northern Baja had already started with tomatoes and strawberries.”

For a time, the Ukegawas tried farming in Baja California as well, growing tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers in San Quintin, about 100 miles south of Ensenada, plus further south in the now-booming agricultural district of Baja California Sur, centered around Ciudad Constitución. But while labor was cheaper, the other costs remained the same. And the fact that they were viewed as out-

siders didn't help, either.

The Ukegawas survived mostly by paring down their North County land holdings and shrinking their farming operations. By 2010 they had pulled out of Mexico entirely. “I even left a bunch of tomato stakes and several small tractors behind,” Ukegawa said. Two years later, in 2012, they planted their last tomato crop in Carlsbad and got out of the wholesale produce business completely in favor of growing only strawberries and selling them directly to consumers.

Save the strawberry fields!

In 2015, Jimmy Ukegawa was at the center of a bitter civic debate over a shopping center Los Angeles developer Rick Caruso wanted to build on the south shores of Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Under the plan, Caruso would buy 203.4 acres of land from SDG&E, build a 27-acre shopping, dining, and entertainment complex, anchored by a Nordstrom department store, next to the freeway, and deed back the rest of the land to a conservancy with the mandate to pre-

serve it as open space for perpetuity.

Ukegawa became one of the plan's biggest champions, since it promised to protect the strawberry fields whose fate, then as now, was uncertain.

But there was one hitch: after a disingenuous petition drive by Team Caruso to “save the strawberry fields” was presented to the Carlsbad City Council in August 2015 with 20,000 signatures, council members opted to approve the proposal outright, without a public vote. A group of citizens, angered at not

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having a say in the matter — and at what they said was a deceptive campaign — promptly mounted a month-long petition drive of their own and gathered enough signatures in just four weeks to overturn the council action and put the matter on the ballot. Measure A was scheduled for a public vote in February 2016.

The contentious campaign ultimately led to voters rejecting Caruso's mall, leaving in its wake a divided city and a split City Council. Ukegawa did not emerge unscathed. Critics brought up the old labor lawsuit as well as new accusations that chemicals from his agricultural operations were spilling into Agua Hedionda Lagoon and polluting the water. Four years later, emotions remain high among both the pro and the con factions, but Ukegawa says he has no regrets.

"Whether I was part of it or not, I would have backed that deal," he says. "It still think it was a good deal for Carlsbad. The site of the proposed mall is zoned for development and one day something's going to be built there, probably housing. But that's not what sold me on the deal. He was going to gift back to Carlsbad all the open space, almost 200 acres. And that would have been something."

Erik Staley, a longtime Carlsbad resident who did public relations for the citizens group opposed to the Caruso project, says he still harbors resentment over the "misleading" pro-mall campaign, in which Ukegawa and the strawberry fields were prominently featured.

"He was featured in a lot of advertising by Caruso in which he said he would lose his strawberry fields

and his family farm if the measure got voted down," Staley says. "And here we are, four years later, and his operation seems to be going just fine."

Community supported agriculture

It's another blazing hot June afternoon, a day later. Jimmy Ukegawa takes me to his warehouse, "where we turned half the dock into a farmers market," he says. It's on Aviara Parkway just south of Palomar Airport Road; the farmer bought it 30 years ago when his agricultural operation was still wholesaling produce to supermarkets around the country.

In addition to selling his own strawberries, Ukegawa rents out stall space on the dock to growers of citrus and other fruits and vegetables. This year visitors can buy fresh milk from the Hollandia Dairy; eggs from the Fluegge Egg Ranch in Valley Center; avocados from Escondido, oranges, limes, and lemons from Valley Center; flower bouquets from the Carlsbad Flower Mart, El Nopalito chips and salsa from Encinitas; and gelato made in Carlsbad by GelatoLove Carlsbad Village in the Carlsbad Village Faire shopping complex.

An increasingly popular item is a 25-pound box of assorted produce — "it changes every day," Ukegawa says — that sells for \$25. Ukegawa and other farmers who belong to North County Community Supported Agriculture collectives all contribute crops to the boxes, which may be ordered online and picked up, curbside, in the warehouse parking lot. Ukegawa and his team will deliver. In a typical week, customers

will buy upwards of 1000 CSA boxes.

The warehouse is ground zero for Ukegawa's charitable endeavors. Over the last couple of months, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, he's given away thousands of pounds of produce, both his own and donated by other farmers, to three local charities: the Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad, the city of Carlsbad Senior Center, and the Carlsbad Unified School District, which through a food drive began handing out food to needy families after the mid-March closure of schools disrupted the school lunch program.

"Every week, we support 150 seniors with multiple pieces of fruit and multiple vegetables," he said. "Then, we gift to 90 families through the Boys and Girls Club. And for the last two and a half months, we've been gifting fruit and vegetables to another 90 families each week through the Carlsbad Unified School District food drive."

The giving, like the farming, is inherited. When Ukegawa's sister Alice was a year old, her fever shot to 113 degrees and she stopped breathing for 10 minutes. The Carlsbad Fire Department came and revived her, and though she suffered brain damage, she survived. Every year, her grateful mother loaded up the family station wagon with strawberries, which she delivered to the fire station across from city hall. As Carlsbad grew and more fire stations were built, the practice expanded, "and we continue to do it today, 58 years later," Ukegawa says. "Like farming, it's a family tradition."

— Thomas K. Arnold

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

Both Southwest Strategies and Laing Communications are heavyweight political fundraisers, frequently bestowing their own money on campaigns, as well as serving as a cash conduit for others to a bevy of city council members.

Four finalists were said to have been in the bidding, the *Union-Tribune* reported June 17, noting the city would not provide their identities.

But when the city opened the doors of its online showroom, hosted by city council Democrat Jen Campbell, just two contenders remained: Brookfield Properties of New York, and a newly constituted local outfit calling itself Midway Sports & Entertainment District.

Brookfield's proposal identifies its partner as ASM Global, formed by the October 2019 merger of SMG and AEG Facilities, a subsidiary of Anschutz Entertainment Group Inc, owned by Colorado billionaire Philip Anschutz.

AEG Management SD, LLC, and local partners hold the current lease on San Diego's venue, called Pechanga Arena. The firm has been lobbying for a "short term" extension, according to an April 10 registration by downtown influence peddler Southwest Strategies.

The second contender, the self-styled Midway Sports & Entertainment group, is a creation of San Diego real estate promoter David Malmuth and his partner, mini-mansion developer Toll Brothers Properties.

The project is keyed around a temporary soccer stadium, as envisioned by a third partner San Diego Loyal SC, per Malmuth's online presentation. Dennis Cruzan, a longtime friend and associate of ex-Padres owner John Moores, is listed in the mix.

To counter AEG and company, Malmuth and associates have retained the services of Laing Strategic Communication, run by ex-Jerry Sanders mayoral aide Rachel Laing and her husband Greg Block, a ex-Falconer media aide, per

a June 30 disclosure filing.

Both Southwest Strategies and Laing Communications are heavyweight political fundraisers, frequently bestowing their own money on campaigns, as well as serving as a cash conduit for others to a bevy of city council members.

AEG began ingratiating itself with mayor Kevin Faulconer by way of \$5000 that the entertainment giant kicked in for One San Diego, Faulconer's non-profit operation, back in March 2018. AEG arena partner Ernie Hahn remains an ongoing source of political funding to city officeholders.

The current competition is another redo in a long history of failures for the administration of Kevin Faulconer in its efforts to reboot the deteriorating sports arena.

After quietly dickering with AEG and its local partners, in April 2019, the city issued a so-called request for proposals regarding a three to five-year occupancy, with a closing date of May 31 that year.

"It is of the utmost importance to the City to have continuity in the operation of the Property, including the event types and usages that are currently common and ongoing for the Property," said the document.

"It is the City's desire that [the] Property continue to operate with minimal if any interruption in service to the regional community."

In August 2019, the U-T reported that Anaheim Arena Management, owned by Orange County billionaire Henry Samuelli, proprietor of the NHL's Anaheim Ducks and its San Diego farm team which plays in the sports arena, had prevailed in the contest.

Details were to be "negotiated in coming weeks."

"From the outset of this process, our goal was to improve the experience for the arena's users and

guests, enhance the volume and quality of programming and increase revenue for San Diego taxpayers," Tim Ryan, chief executive of Anaheim Arena Management, said in a statement to the paper.

"We are excited that the selection panel agreed with this vision and selected our bid."

But Ernie Hahn, AEG's partner in the Sports Arena operation, told the U-T that he and AEG would "defend our position as the arena operator as we have for the last 28 years."

Whether another round of soccer hype, as envisioned by Malmuth and San Diego Loyal, will meet with more success than now-defunct Soccer City remains to be seen, but some local sportswriters have already taken the bait.

"Modular stadiums have become a popular option for soccer clubs in America," said TV station KNSD in a July 10 account.

"They're temporary facilities that have the look and feel of traditional stadiums but are built at a fraction of the price, often in around four months. They've been used by Sacramento Republic and the Vancouver Whitecaps in MLS and multiple USL Championship clubs with great success.

"San Diego's version would sit in the southeast corner of the 48-acre parcel and take an estimated \$15-\$20 million to construct, all privately financed."

Matt Potter

Under the radar

continued from page 3

PAC included trash hauler Republic Services (\$10,000); real estate giant H.G Fenton (\$20,000) and Kilroy Realty (\$10,000).

— 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/.

Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



THE DEARS

Hernandez will be in conversation with exhibiting artists on Instagram Live. Join the Charla on Thursday with Cog-nate Collective (artist duo Amy Sánchez Arteaga and Misael Díaz) who work across the United States-Mexico border region, developing public interventions and installations.

WHEN: Thursday, July 16, 11 am to 11:45 am

WHERE: mcasd.org

Thursday | 16

NPR LIVESTREAM: THE DEARS

Montréal quintet the Dears, led by husband and wife Murray Lightburn (guitar, vocals) and Natalia Yanchak (keyboards), call their music orchestral pop noir. They recently celebrated their 25th anniversary as a band, though Yanchak didn't join up until around three years after the group was founded, and they didn't put out an album until 2000. They're celebrating the quarter century benchmark by releasing their album *Lovers Rock*, which takes them even further into the prog rock field.

WHEN: Thursday, July 16, 1 pm
WHERE: livesessions.npr.org

TO TAME A WILD TONGUE CHARLA (TALK)

From July to November, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego will host virtual *charlas*, "talks" in Spanish, related to themes of Chicano, Latino, and Border Art. Curator Alana



Friday | 17

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS: MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

Watch Woody Allen's film in an out-

door movie theater. While moping around the city after dark, a Hollywood screenwriter (Owen Wilson) discovers a midnight portal that transports him back to the storied Paris of the 1920s, where he rubs elbows with Salvador Dali, Ernest Hemingway, Luis Bunuel and F. Scott Fitzgerald.



TENILLE TOWNES

WHEN: Friday, July 17, 8 pm to 10 pm

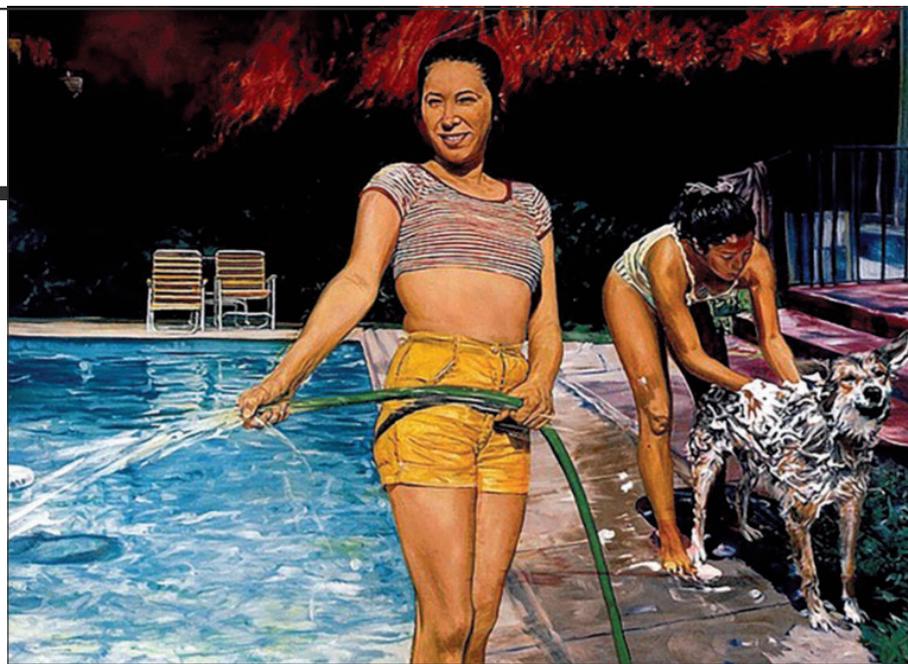
WHERE: 4040 Goldfinch Street, Mission Hills. topspresents.com

Saturday | 18

ROYAL ALBERT HOME VIRTUAL COUNTRY CONCERT

London's Royal Albert Hall and Nashville Meets London have partnered for a virtual country music concert as part of the venue's recently launched livestream series, Royal Albert Home, to stream on the Royal Albert Hall YouTube channel. The free event will have performances by two American acts, southern rockers the Cadillac Three and country singer Michael Ray, as well as Alberta, Canada singer-songwriter Tenille Townes, and Yorkshire native Twinnie.

WHEN: Saturday, July 18, 11:30 am
WHERE: YouTube.com



THURSDAY, JULY 16: TO TAME A WILD TONGUE CHARLA

Wednesday | 22

COMIC-CON AT HOME

Enjoy Comic-Con@Home for free with panels about upcoming comics, films, gaming, a Masquerade, television, topics from publishers, and studios. There will be an online Exhibit Hall and between 300 and 400 virtual panels, almost all of which will be filmed ahead of time. Expect to see at least some of the actors from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the voice cast and creators of *The Dragon Prince*, and a Fan Favorite



panel with *The Flash* and *Upload* star Robbie Amell, *What We Do in the Shadows*' Harvey Guillen, and *Star Trek: Picard*'s Jerri Ryan.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 22 through Sunday, July 26, 10 am
WHERE: comic-con.org

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Grace Church of San Diego

Contact: 2716 Madison Ave, University Heights, 619-280-1495 www.gracesd.com

Attendance: 1200

Interim Lead Pastor: Nolan Lee

Age: 35

Born: Niwot, Colorado

Formation: University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend preparing your sermons?

Pastor Nolan Lee: Our sermons are always focused on the exegetical first, but we teach in a topical manner. We have four preaching pastors who rotate. I lead the preaching and I encourage the pastors to preach to their strengths and passions. Usually, each pastor will preach once a month. It usually takes me

about 20 hours a week to put a sermon together.

SDR: What's your favorite subject on which to preach?

PL: One of my favorite moments with Jesus is when he meets the disciples after they've been traveling on the road to Capernaum (Mark 9:33-37), arguing about greatness. Jesus reprimands them lovingly, saying that if you want to be the greatest of all you must be the servant of all. "He who is the greatest among you will be your servant," he says in Mark 10:43. So I could preach on that passage every week. We have completely lost sight of what true humility is. Jesus defines greatness for us and how it is found in humility. We as

humans tend to try to separate those two ideas out, but that view of greatness and humility reshapes anything and everything within us. It frames how we're meant to view the world.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

PL: A lot of people have a strong call to ministry. My call was more a matter of submission. I wanted to do football or something other than ministry. But God knows what's best for me. Football ended poorly for me because of my ego. When I went away to college, I went off the deep end and partied. To be honest, it was through the partying that I wound up losing my

spot on the team because of some dumb mistakes. So that's how my football career ended. Humility, though, has taught me so much. God has placed me in this role and I take comfort in listening to how, in the Bible, God equips and calls on those who will do his work. Most of the time, these figures in the Bible don't have everything figured out. But God calls those who are faithful. That's what brought me in: I followed after God, asking, "What do you have for me next?" and taking the next step.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PL: Our mission is simple. It is the great commission



Nolan Lee

(Matthew 28:16-20). We help people find Christ and help them become his mature followers. The vision of our church is to be the safest community in which people can grow in their faith. When people hear that word "safe," though, they misinterpret it. They think of safety as the world frames

that word — but we're basing our understanding on the fact that Jesus is the definition of true safety. The woman at the well (John 4) is such a good example. He loves this woman but he also calls her to the truth.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PL: I don't view heaven as the pearly gates or anything like that, but as being united with God and being in the full presence of God. Likewise, hell is the complete absence of God. It's a traditional view of heaven and hell, but it's not the secular stereotypes of what heaven and hell are.

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 sdrreader.com/events/submit.

ART

Art of Elan: Keir GoGwilt

The San Diego Museum of Art is pleased to announce its partnership with Art of Elan to host an online video series featuring musical performances inspired by works of art from the Museum's permanent collection. This edition features Keir GoGwilt - Violinist; artwork pairing: Doors I by Claudia Fernández. Tuesday, July 21, 6pm; youtube.com/user/SanDiegoMuseumofArt. (ONLINE)

Comic-Con International at Home From July 22-26, fans will be able to enjoy the fun of Comic-

Con@Home for free with exclusive panels and presentations about upcoming comics, films and more. Wednesday, July 22, 10am; comicon.org/toucan/comic-conhome-ses-july-dates. (ONLINE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Brad Thor Warwick's will host #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, Brad Thor, as he discusses his new book, *Near Dark* (Scot Harvath #20), in conversation with host of The Premise podcast, Jennifer Thompson. This is a free virtual event via Crowdcast. Wednesday, July 22, 7pm; warwicks.com/event/brad-thor-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Heather Cocks & Jessica Morgan Warwick's and Liz Fenton & Lisa Steinke will host the Couch Surfing Book Tour with creators of the celebrity fashion blog, Go Fug Yourself, and authors of *The Royal We*, Heather Cocks & Jessica

Morgan, as they discuss their new book, *The Heir Affair*. This is a free virtual event on Zoom. Tuesday, July 21, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/socks-and-morgan-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Kevin C. O'Leary Warwick's will host political scientist, journalist, and author of *Saving Democracy*, Kevin C. O'Leary, as he discusses his new book, *Madison's Sorrow: Today's War on the Founders and America's Liberal Ideal*, in conversation. This is a free virtual event on Zoom. Wednesday, July 22, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/oleary-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Lacy Crawford Warwick's will host journalist and author of *Early Decision*, Lacy Crawford, as she discusses her new book, *Notes on a Silencing*, in conversation with internationally bestselling author of *Crazy Rich Asians*, Kevin Kwan, and producer of *This American Life* and author of *Empty*, Susan Burton. This is a free virtual event on Facebook Live. Thursday, July 16, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/crawford-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Leah Franqui Warwick's will host the author of *America for Beginners*, Leah Franqui, as she discusses her new book, *Mother Land*, in conversation with author of *The Henna Artist*, Alka Joshi. This is a free virtual event on Facebook Live. Thursday, July 16, 6pm; warwicks.com/event/franqui-and-joshi-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream:

Lysley Tenorio Warwick's will host award-winning author of *Monstress*, Lysley Tenorio, as he discusses his new book, *The Son of Good Fortune*, in conversation with award-winning author of *In the Country*, Mia Alvar. This is a free virtual event on Zoom. Monday, July 20, 6:30pm; warwicks.com/event/tenorio-2020. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

American Buddhist Healing Practices

Join Varada for guided healing meditation utilizing Mantra recitation, Tonglen (Taking and Sending) practice and chakra meditation. All are welcome; no experience necessary. Monday, July 20, 6pm; **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com/. (ONLINE)

Barrio Stories

This class is open to Latino/a writers who want to write about their experiences growing up in a Latino family and culture. There is an absence of the Latino voice in literature. Being raised in Barrio Logan, Vera Sanchez wants to help those in similar communities share their stories. Email kristen@sandiegowriters.org for your link. Sunday, July 19, 10am; \$30-\$36. 18 and up. sandiegowriters.org/july-barrio-stories-vera-sanchez/. (ONLINE)

Consciousness Expansion with Sound & Meditation

Teresa's joyful presence is a blessing. Take time out of your busy life to sit with her in the bliss of meditation and explore the expansion of consciousness through the power of sound. Thursday, July 16, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Exploring the Spiritual Path

This class meets regularly on Saturday mornings and consists of seated meditation and a Dharma talk that speaks to integrating ancient Buddhist teachings into our 21st Century daily lives. Saturday, July 18, 11am; **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Meditation & Mindfulness

Join Karuna for seated meditation and mindfulness discussion. Tuesday, July 21, 7pm; **free**. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Morning Meditation

Join Karuna for a half-hour seated meditation. Tuesday, July 21, 7am; **free**. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Music Appreciation: West Side Story, Porgy & Bess

Love and drama doesn't get better than Bernstein, Sondheim, George and Ira Gershwin. This hour will embrace you with gorgeous melodies and engage your heart with fabulous lyrics. A day with "I Feel Pretty," "Maria," and "Summertime" is an enriched day indeed. Registration required. To register, please visit online. Tuesday, July 21, 1pm; **free**. ljcommunitycenter.org/calendar. (ONLINE)

Painting Animals Virtual Summer Art Camp

Campers will acquire painting skills combining elements of composition and color theory using acrylic paints. The objective of the class will be to paint the student's favorite animal. Register at the following link: <https://luxart.wufoo.com/forms/w1sp9hc0r6pbc/> If you have questions or concerns, please

send email to LUX Art Institute's Education Department at: education@luxartinstitute.org or call : 760.436.6611 ext. 200. (Ages : 8-11) Price: Members - \$200, Non-members - \$220. Monday, July 20, 9am; Tuesday, July 21, 9am; Wednesday, July 22, 9am; \$200-\$220. (ONLINE)

Recycling 101 with the City of Lemon Grove

Each week will feature a mover and shaker from the local sustainability movement and provide a forum for the specific recycling questions you have. 1. Recycling for Your Community: Wednesday, July 15 we will talk with long time community champion Erik Hauenstein, a Lemon Grove resident, Environmental Engineer, and experienced volunteer in local community clean-ups. Wednesday, July 15, 4pm; **free**. eventbrite.com/e/recycling-101-with-the-city-of-lemon-grove-tickets-112513974326. (ONLINE)

Tune Time Musical Creations

This camp combines music, art, and storytelling encouraging kids to use their imagination! Campers will get creative and share musical ideas with each other. Throughout the week, campers will make personalized homemade instruments, learn to improvise with them, and create their own musical masterpieces. Campers will also practice painting to music and creating original musical stories. Register at the following link : <https://luxart.wufoo.com/forms/w9s5h911ykq4nx/> If you have questions or concerns, please send email to LUX Art Institute's Education Department at : education@luxartinstitute.org or call : 760.436.6611 ext. 200. Thursday, July 16, 9am; \$200-\$220. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

Webinar: Communication Skills

Specifically for care partners: Develop new skills and strategies for connecting and communicating with a person experiencing memory

NOW OPEN

LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm

PACIFIC BEACH TUESDAY MARKET

TUESDAYS 3 pm to 6 pm

Markets are focused on farm and packaged grocery items, with limited prepared food to go and non-food. Safety protocols are in place.

For more info go to sandiegomarkets.com



loss, and responding when interactions are challenging. Thursday, July 16, 10am; free. <https://alzsd.org/services/education/>. (ONLINE)

Wednesday Connect: Staying Active While Staying Put Staying Active While Staying Put: Keeping active, especially during these uncertain times, is as important as ever to maintain our physical and mental health. This talk will cover whole-body strength and flexibility exercises using little to no equipment to promote strong muscles, improved posture, and overall quality of life. Registration required. Wednesday, July 22, 10am; free. To register, please visit ljcommunitycenter.org/wednesday-connect. (ONLINE)

Write a Blog Post for Maximum Visibility Writing an effective blog post is essential for maximizing visibility on Google search. To increase a post's readability and SEO rank, certain steps need to be taken. I will share these easy tips on how to create a WordPress post which will garner more visitors and traffic. We'll cover internal and outbound links, a keyphrase, meta description, image attributes, and more. This class will be taught at San Diego Writers, Ink, and capped at 10 participants to adhere to all social distancing and safety protocols. Face masks are required for attendance. Sunday, July 19, 10am; \$30-\$36. 18 and up. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

COMEDY

Drive-Up Comedy: Adam Ferrera & Ry Doon Enjoy the thrill of a live performance from the safety of your car. Get the luxury of attending a stand-up comedy night of laughs, while also practicing social distancing. Soak up the audience energy of everyone parked beside you, as you relax in your vehicle and watch comedians. Saturday, July 18, 7pm; \$45. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Artist Roundtable Meet the winners of our 2020 "Joy of Being Outside" Billboard Competition: Anna Bogh and Mollie Garre! Learn about the inspiration behind their artwork and have your questions answered by the artists themselves. Thursday, July 16, 10:30am; free. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

FARMERS' MARKETS

Escondido Certified Farmers Market Local, organic and delicious produce from certified farms. Also, a variety of local hot food vendors such as El Veganito, Evelias, Little Someone Japanese

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Luna Bay Booch's San Diego story

Bridget Connelly lives and surfs in Encinitas, and it was in local waters that she decided to start a hard kombucha company in summer 2018. "Surfing is a lot of the time where I feel the most peace and clarity in my life," she says, "Where the vision for Luna Bay became clear was out in the ocean."

The marketing professional and yoga enthusiast had recently moved back to the area after work had taken her to Chicago, Australia, and Africa, including a stint as social media strategist for active apparel brand **Lululemon**. She saw opportunity in the emergence of hard kombucha, as the beverage has skyrocketed in appeal among those with active lifestyles, like herself. "I've always been very health conscious," she points out,

"but I also come from a big Irish family, and like to have fun."

She reached out to a childhood friend, Claire Ridge, a yoga instructor and kombucha homebrewer in Chicago, and the two founded **Luna Bay Booch Co.** However, Connelly knew starting in San Diego would be tough, due to the presence of **Boochcraft** — which established the hard kombucha market here in 2016 — and a then starting out **Juneshine**.

"I didn't want to launch in such a competitive market space," she says. However, while Boochcraft was spreading rapidly up the west coast, the Midwest was another story. "California sets the trends," she thought, "Let me take this to Chicago... hard kombucha hadn't made it there yet."

So Luna Bay became the first hard booch brand to launch in Chicago, brewed in a contracted facility there beginning last October. They consulted with a sour beer brewer and brewery microbiologist to refine and can Ridge's booch, which, rather than tea, is made from a yerba mate base. Connelly notes a yerba based kombucha takes longer to brew, but "We're willing to take longer in the tanks, because it is a flavor that we love."

Within six months, the brand had already outgrown its Chicago brewing capacity, and had entered into another similar arrangement with Denver, Colorado's **Crazy Mountain Brewery**, where production is led by Luna Bay's female head brewer, Joanna Denne.

Brewing in Colorado makes it easier to ship west, and so, in March, the brand reached an agreement with **Scout Distribution** to take on an increasingly crowded San Diego market; not



COURTESY LUNA BAY BOOCH

The cans say "Born in Chicago," but the idea for Luna Bay Booch was born in the waves of San Diego.

as an upstart, but as an established and growing brand. Though, to better meet San Diegans' expectations, the brand embraced 16-ounce cans for the first time.

Of course, we all know what else happened in March. "We launched in the most competitive market in the middle of a pandemic," Connelly says with a laugh, "literally the day shelter-in-place started." However, despite the added challenge, Luna Bay's sales team, includ-

ing Connelly herself, has managed to place the brand's aluminum cans in virtually all the region's kombucha-friendly markets, including **Whole Foods, Barons, and Jimbo's** supermarkets, pushing flavors of ginger lemon, hibiscus lavender, and the newly launched huckleberry basil. "We've been able to build relationships through our masks," says Connelly.

Beyond its social media and sales teams, she adds that one reason the brand has been able to move so quickly was the decision not to invest time and resources in building and licensing a brewery. "For us," she says, "it makes more sense to contract and not own or lease our own space."

With the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, it could be the case for some time. Luna Bay now distributes to seven states and counting, acquiring its own brewery could eventually prove a wise move, and she hasn't ruled out making Luna Bay's permanent home in San Diego, most likely if a turnkey brewery opportunity arises. "It would probably make our lives a lot easier."

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

cuisine and much more. Tuesdays, 2:30pm; through Monday, December 27, free. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

FOR KIDS

Free Diaper Drive-Throughs Miracle Babies is extending its diaper drive-through events throughout the summer. The July events will be occurring at separate locations in San Diego County. The diaper donations will be open to all San Diego families in need during this difficult time. For families who currently have a baby in the NICU, parents can write "NICU NOW" on their dashboard to receive a special care package. Diapers will be loaded directly into the families' vehicle for a no-contact experience. Visit www.miraclebabies.org for more information on Miracle Babies and the diaper drive throughs. Saturday, July 18, 10am; free. National City Library, 1401 National City Boulevard. (NATIONAL CITY)

FUNDRAISERS

Rides4ALZ Rides4ALZ is an annual charity motorcycle ride to benefit Alzheimer's San Diego — a local nonprofit organization that provides free support to families impacted by dementia. This 100-mile ride goes through beautiful San Diego County and ends at AleSmith Brewing Co. All bikes are welcome. Even if you don't ride, join us at the After Party at AleSmith. Every dollar raised will stay local for Alzheimer's sup-

port and research. Saturday, July 18, 9am; \$20-\$50. Alzheimer's San Diego, 6632 Convo Court. (CLAIREMONT)

LECTURES

Racial Resilience: Antiracism as Spiritual Praxis Racial Resilience is an anti-racism training seminar with the primary goal of becoming an anti-racist member of society. We will utilize compassion-based contemplative practices to teach participants critical race theories. Collectively, these two aspects will hone our capacity to define, identify, and sustainably dismantle internalized, interpersonal, and structural racism. Saturday, July 18, 9:30am; \$100-\$400. belovedsandiego.org/racial-resilience.html. (ONLINE)

MUSIC

Old Globe: Word Up Ric Scales is one half of the San Diego hip-hop group 18scales. Taking from both the old and new school, adding in storytelling and varied content, he tries to push boundaries musically and consciously. With beginnings in battle rap, he developed a skill for freestyling that helped him become the multiple-time champion of No Sucker DJs Battlebot monthly hip-hop tournament. As an artist, he has opened for acts such as Yasiin Bey (Mos Def), KRS-1, Raekwon, and 2 Chainz. Friday, July 17, 6pm; Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)

NATURE

Reopening Celebration The aquarium will open with new pathways and new procedures to

keep guests safe and healthy. Guest capacity will be limited during this initial phase, so advanced reservations will now be required for all guests. Timed tickets are available online. Don't miss the new ocean-view Shark Café and updated

exhibits. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 9am; Wednesdays, 9am; through Friday, July 31, Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

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Stolen lunch

She's looking at me, horrified

Fresh air! That's the answer to catching coronavirus (if you believe those 240 scientists who claimed it can be transmitted through the air). And there's no fresher air than here, half a mile out on the longest concrete pier in the world.

It's a beautiful, sunny, windy afternoon on the Ocean Beach Pier. Armadas of pelicans fly slow, arrow formation, overhead. Gulls line the railings. People flick lines out to catch dinner.

Except this afternoon, there's a notice.

"Jumpers Only Beyond This Point."

Say what? But they mean it. Dozens of kids in red and lime-green swimming gear are lining up to jump off the pier, four at a time, and then swim out to some kind of pontoon below. Tons of screams, yells, stern adult loudspeaker voices. "OK. One, two, three, four!"

Turns out to be a junior lifeguards training program.

But what I'm interested in juts out just beyond, a little old cantilevered cafe with a crazy-beautiful name, "Walking On Water Cafe," aka WOW Cafe.

Oh yeah. Been here. The owner is a strong Christian. Also, generous with her lobster tacos. I tried one. Man! I still remember it. Ton of lobster flesh, shredded cabbage, pico de gallo, cheese, white sauce. Eight bucks, and from memory worth every cent. But there were other things I swore I'd come back for. Like their clam chowder in a bread bowl (\$10), their fish and chips (\$13), and maybe the best deal, their Ocean Beach Pier Sinkers, breaded and deep fried cream cheese-stuffed and jalapeños, \$5 for four. Oh, and their fish and chips — most popular dish on the menu, the lady said, second only to their lobster taco. Cost \$13.

But now I'm seeing this gal hauling out a

burger that looks deliciously burn-grilled, hand-molded, big.

This is Olivia. Political science and economics major working as a server here during her covid vacation. Says I can sit anywhere outside. Oh yes.

They do have a nautical-looking dining room reaching over the water, but Newsolini's orders: no eating inside for three weeks.

Not a problem! The railing along one side's set up with stools for eating, and they have a bunch of tables on the other. And in this

breeze, they've locked umbrellas to the railing so they don't fly away.

As I sit down, I notice a bunch of seagulls on the roof, tracking my every move. Hmm. Better watch those guys. And that reminds me! Last time, when I was here on a stormy lunchtime, with

waves cresting along right outside the window, there was Igor the Pelican. Igor had visiting rights into the restaurant and would grab your arm with his beak if you didn't come up with at least a couple of French fries.

No sign of him now, though, so I try to pay attention to the

blowaway menu Olivia left with me. First up, I see there's only one burger. Costs \$10. But it's a half-pounder, and comes with the place's own hand-cut fries.

But tons of other choices, including a lobster Caesar salad for \$14. Or \$9 for the salad and \$5 for the lobster add. Or the "ultimate nacho supreme," promising a ton of chips with nacho cheese, shredded beef, sour cream, and the usual fixings for \$13. Olivia says it's big enough to split between four as an appetizer.

And hey hey! Breakfast is all day. Lobster omelet (3-egg) runs \$14, with potatoes and toast. And the basic "Pier Combo" of two eggs, potatoes, and toast goes for \$8. Best deal? Probably two



Thief!



Moment of truth: Junior lifeguard candidates, about to jump

pancakes for \$4. But my eye also flicks to the Fisherman's Special. Has two eggs, potatoes, three buttermilk pancakes plus bacon or sausage, for \$12.

First up, I invest \$5 in four "OB Pier Sinkers." And then I order the burger, and add cheese for \$1 more.

The jalapeño-cream cheese sinkers are fun. Plenty of heat in there, gentled down by the deep-tasting shell of breadcrumbs.

But then, oh wow. This ragged half-pound of beef between two buns. You can see it has been ground right here and then molded by hand. Tomatoes, pickles, onion, swishes of mustard, ketchup and mayo color it up. I take one big bite, and the combo, but specially the burnt edges of the patty, make this a scrunchy winner. Only thing I want is a touch of salt and pepper. I get up and head for the door where Olivia's standing.

She's looking at me, horrified.

"I just wanted some salt," I say. But she's pointing towards my meal. I turn around. OMG. Three of the roof seagulls are on my plate, grabbing bun, meat patty, bun. In and out in seconds. Two other gulls come in for the fries. Now they land 20 feet along the railing, and start enjoying their lunch.

I turn and lunge towards them. The one with the



Olivia with my burger

top bun is nearest. He does five gulps while he batters off a young gull with his wing. The bun's as wide as him, but he squishes that whole thing in. I can see it outlined as it floats down inside his neck.

"Do we call the police?" I say.

"I'll get you another one," Olivia says. "They're just used to people giving them food. Uh, are you new here?"

Whatever, she's good to her word, and I enjoy finally chowing down, slowly, while the gulls watch from the roof, waiting for me to blink. Hey, this is the wild world out here on the sea. ■

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Hot as you like it

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Moved to tears by Dave's Hot Chicken

Dave's Hot Chicken; 1001 Garnet Ave Suite 100, Pacific Beach. "Due to its extremely hot nature, eating a Dave's Hot Chicken reaper carries with it the potential for certain risks, some of which may be reasonably foreseeable."

So reads the "reaper release," the liability waiver you're asked to sign when you order the "reaper," the hottest of seven levels of spiciness served by Dave's Hot Chicken. The Nashville hot chicken franchise from Los Angeles recently opened its first San Diego location, in Pacific Beach, having garnered long lines and near universal praise since

opening in 2017.

The tongue-in-cheek waiver would release the restaurant from liability in case of "bodily injury, property damage, emotional distress, or even death," and I suppose that last part would be a bit funnier if Pacific Beach hadn't recently been tabbed a "coronavirus hot spot". Nevertheless, I donned my mask and braved the socially distant line that already seems a permanent fixture outside the joint.

FEAST!

Why? Because fried chicken is awesome, and with Nashville hot chicken finally trending in San Diego, this promises to be our fieriest rendition to date. Also, my girlfriend's kids wanted to see if I was really tough enough to handle the reaper. And the youngest not so secretly hoped it would be hot enough to make me cry.

Like many restaurants these days, Dave's is take-out only, so I made it in and out of Pacific Beach without spending more than a couple minutes inside the restaurant — order online, and they'll bring it to



A hot chicken slider from Dave's Hot Chicken.



A Nashville hot chicken tender, served on white bread.



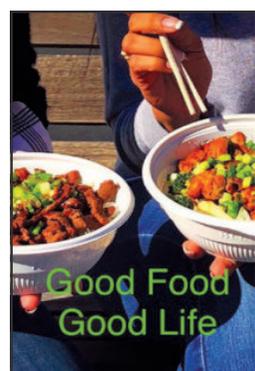
A Los Angeles hot chicken franchise draws lines in Pacific Beach.

you curbside.

The chicken was still tender inside and crispy outside when we settled down for a hot chicken picnic in the grass of Mission Bay Park. At \$3.50 apiece, I'd picked up seven chicken tenders, ranging from beige to magenta, each representing a different level of spice. For those who don't appreciate heat, the level one, no-spice chicken is pretty tasty in its own right. It's not until level four, medium, that you really start to sense a little burn, and not til level six, extra hot, that I was ready to admit, through capsaicin-induced hiccups, that yes, this is some spicy fried chicken.

I could have left it at extra hot and been happy, but the kids wanted a show, so I started digging into a reaper tender. It tasted fantastic, and with the children watching, my tentative first bite quickly became a hearty fourth bite. Problem is, this spice is a creeper.

At 30 seconds, my lips went numb, then started to burn, like I was trying to kiss a toaster. By 45 seconds, the heat began to build on the back of my



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Just before July 4th, Mostra Coffee opened a new cafe in 4S Ranch.



Coffee and tea still served in 4S Ranch, it's just local these days.

tongue. At a minute, my nose started to run, and I started breathing hard in a futile effort to cool my mouth. Not long after, my eyes began to water. That was enough for the kids.

"The reaper made Ian cry!" they crowed.

Served with sliced pickles and white bread, the tenders come with a chipotle-mayo

dubbed "Dave's sauce," and small packets of honey, which works pretty well to contrast the heat. The more popular order seems to be the \$5.50 chicken sliders, where the hot chicken tenders are served on a bun with kale slaw, pickles, and sauce. As hot as you like it.

by Ian Anderson

Mostra Coffee is finally caffeinating 4S Ranch

Mostra Coffee 4S Ranch; 10550 Craftsman Way #187, 4S Ranch. Though the pandemic continues to disrupt the restaurant industry, it hasn't stopped the community of 4S Ranch from receiving a significant

upgrade at the coffee shop. Reigning micro-roaster of the year Mostra Coffee delayed the debut of its newest north county location, due to coronavirus. However, the shop finally arrived just ahead of the 4th of July weekend, meaning just ahead of the re-closing of indoor dining.

However, Mostra had already decided to open its stylish café as a take-out only operation, for starters. Masked customers enter through the front door, then collect their beverages and exit out the side door, to a pleasant courtyard paved with bricks and featuring a small fountain.

The business joins 4S Commons Town Center, taking

over an end unit that previously housed a Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. It's heartening to see an independently owned shop, especially one owned by locals, with ties to 4S Ranch and the surrounding community, replace a hum drum national chain here.

Pastries were quick to sell out in Mostra's first days open, and apologies to those in line behind me but I got the last of the almond croissants. The drinks menu is what they really wanted anyway. Any 4S residents who lamented the loss of the Coffee Bean shop will quickly learn the quality of drinks poured at this location has improved considerably. Tea

is brewed from rotating loose leaf varieties, while the usual espresso and coffee drinks are brewed from fresh beans straight from a roastery in nearby Carmel Mountain.

For your summer coffee needs, I'm going to recommend Mostra's award winning cold brew concoctions. Boasting almost no noticeable acidity, the slow brewed Brazilian coffee helped establish the Mostra brand and a 16-ounce pour proves an easy \$3 pick up every day.

Still, heading into the holiday weekend I looked to the more distinctive \$4.75 flavored cold brew menu, which incorporates natural flavorings, such as a special Neapolitan flavor featuring banana milk and strawberry.

The signature drink here is the Brazillion Coconuts, brewed with coconut and vanilla. It's smooth and sweet like a dairy coffee blend, but not so saccharine and far more refreshing. Every neighborhood deserves good coffee; 4S Ranch is especially fortunate to have it home grown.

by Ian Anderson

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the inside track blurt

Dig it, man Jazz guitarist Peter Sprague had just returned to San Diego from a Danish tour with vocalist Sinne Eeg when the pandemic struck, and the musician soon found himself on lockdown

Cox Cable, and was told that my house in Leucadia was an 'internet island,' and it is too far from the closest pole. They suggested getting together with my neighbors and come up with \$12,000 to make



Peter Sprague dug a football field-length trench in order to get the internet speed he needed to produce high quality online concerts.

with the rest of us — no live gigs, no face-to-face guitar lessons, and no sessions in his acclaimed home studio. He looked around and saw the plethora of musicians doing livestream concerts, and decided he wanted to do something similar — with a higher sonic signature.

"It's actually been a thought in my head for several years," Sprague commented over the phone. "I like the idea of doing the concerts, but the sound is usually really compromised with so much of the stuff you hear. It's marginalized because of the technology."

The downtime afforded by the pandemic gave Sprague the opportunity to address the notion of presenting high quality concerts from home. That opportunity didn't come without sacrifice from the pocketbook and significant sweat equity.

"I had a really crude internet connection with an upload capacity of about 1.5 megabytes" says Sprague. "I talked to AT&T, and they weren't interested, and I called

that happen."

That was not possible, so Sprague sought out allies from the political and cable worlds and found that if he were to obtain permission from a neighbor, he could dig a substantial trench (375 feet), bury conduit that ran to the closest pole, at which point Cox would run the cable. There was no guarantee that all of that labor would actually pay off, however, since the signal usually trails off after 300 feet. Somewhat miraculously, Sprague's neighbor consented to the intrusion and the guitarist and a good friend were able to dig the trench and bury the conduit in two days. It was not without challenges though.

"We had to crawl through bushes and we hit some cactus, of course. Even though I wore gloves it was still pretty brutal on my hands. Plus we had to navigate around a huge palm tree and other obstacles and the whole thing could have gone wrong in so many ways. But at the end, they were able to pull the cable through

and hook it up, and now I have really righteous internet speed, which has opened the door to do these streaming concerts."

As of this date, Sprague has broadcast three live concerts from his home studio. The concerts take place every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Each musician arrives wearing a mask and then heads to a separate room with its own sound and video. Even though the guitarist has performed

thousands of gigs over the years, and made hundreds of recordings at Spragueland Studios, now that the internet connection issue has been solved, there is still plenty to worry about.

"We were kind of nervous about the technology aspect. We did a dry run before the first show, and nothing worked!

Everything is rife with danger and possible trouble. But we're getting better each time. It took a while to not be thinking about the details and concentrate on the music."

Sprague's livestream concerts appear via YouTube every Thursday evening at 7:30, and each concert features a revolving cast of musicians. There's even a tip-jar to pay the band. How is that part working out?

"Pretty good. It's comparable to a good gig. Which is great because I spent a ton of money on necessary gear."

How long does he plan on doing the livestream?

"The congregation of large amounts of people close together doesn't look to be coming back anytime soon, so I think we're going to keep at it."

— Robert Bush

"We're documentarians, and this year seems important," says bandleader and record label honcho Alfred Howard, who launched a new 2020-themed



streaming site, Alfred Howard Writes With Friends. "A pandemic, a social justice movement, a heated election, a fractured America — I wanted to capture the year in song and turn things around quickly, with quality, but have the capacity to be reactionary to what's going on. Making albums sometimes takes away that capacity. At the same time, it's not going to be all newspaper. There's the personal developments of a year which coincide with the external. The goal is just to get it all out there to see and hear and reflect on."

Streaming content planned for the subscription website includes other locals who committed to creating new and timely music that encapsulates events happening in the world at the same time that the tunes were crafted. "Gonna have Shelbi Bennett of the Havnauts and the Midnight Pine; Dawn Mitschele of Cardinal Moon, John Meeks, Rebecca Jade, Birdy Bardot, Dani Bell, Erik Canzona of the Heavy Guilt, Anias Lund, Ian Owen of Oh Spirit, and Ellis Bryant. As for San Diegans, I'm sure there will be more as the year unfolds. It's a year commitment, a hundred songs in a year, two songs a week."

Oh, Spirit singer-guitarist Ian Owen (who also plays with Howard in Dani Bell & the Tarantist) just recorded a track with Howard called "Hasn't Been Long Enough." "It's been awhile since I released anything on my own," says Owen. "I've spent the last few years playing guitar and

writing songs for others. Over the past few months, I've been working on some of my own material." The collaboration with Howard is the first of those new tracks to go public.

Don't you take it too fast, it's all time and a half

It's all about patience and pacing and wading through the fiction for facts

The end always comes, can't depend on the sun

Are you really that careless, naïve, and fearless

That you'd risk everyone?

"I know Ian mostly as a guitarist," says Howard. "I've heard him do some backing vocals in Dani Bell's band, but they keep him nice and low in the mix. But Ian sings this week's song. And it's really good. Like extremely good. It actually upsets me how good it is, and that it is Ian.



Alfred Howard's committed to two songs a week for a year.

And I have to tell him how he made songs great again. Ian actually had a pivotal role in the genesis of this website. I had been putting lyrics out there on Facebook during quarantine, inviting strangers to do versions of them, and not getting a huge response. And there were some lovely takes of songs I wrote, but

there was one version of a song I did that was so different than how I heard that song sounding that it was almost the last straw on a frail camel's back that sent me off into the sunset. Then Ian did a song the next day and I was like "This is really good. I wish it wasn't Ian. But it's really good." And it was honestly at that moment that the idea for this site came together."

The song — which Owen first debuted live on Instagram — features backing vocals by Shelbi Bennett, as well as Jason Littlefield (upright bass), Elizabeth Goodfellow (drums), and a string arrangement by Tim McNalley (New Archaic). Another recent addition to Howard's site is his own track "America," co-created with Erik Canzona (The Heavy Guilt).

"Music has been a lifeline this year," says Canzona. "Not only as a distraction, but as a way to process the mess we're in."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



SEAN PECK

Locals who've made headlines by joining bands of established international players include Justin Pearson, who teamed up with Slayer's Dave Lombardo to form Dead Cross, former area Yes tribute bandleader Jon Davison actually fronting Yes after they ditched Jon Anderson, Van Halen tribute frontman Mark Huff getting recruited by Quiet Riot, and local tribute specialist Eric Sage (who usually impersonates Jon Bon Jovi) somehow landing a brief gig headlining a 2000-teens version of the Bay City Rollers. San Diego singer Sean Peck — who led bands such as Nomad, The Three Tremors, and Denner/Shermann — is best known from locals Cage, who developed a huge fol-

lowing overseas, especially in Germany, where Peck's fame and the respect accorded his talents by the German press tend to place him on the same level as OG metalheads such as occasional San Diegan Rob Halford. Peck is now fronting a progressive hard rock band called Death Dealer, alongside Symphony X bassist Mike LePond, guitarist Ross the Boss (the Dictators, Manowar), guitarist Stu Marshall (Night Legion, Dungeon), and Into Eternity drummer Steve Bolognese, who previously played with Ross the Boss. That lineup recently recorded the band's third album, *Conquered Lands*, due to be released in the fall via the Steel Cartel label.



JESSIE LARK

Jessica Lerner has been performing since age 8, including at local malls and private venues. By 2009, she had sung the Star Spangled Banner ten times for the San Diego Padres and Chargers and had fronted the Rockin Jazz Big Band. Accomplished on piano and guitar, Lerner was 19 when she recorded her self-titled debut, which was followed by a Christmas single, "From This Christmas and On." She describes the title of her most recent full-length, *After (h)Ours*, as "A play on words. We had to record late at night because our studio is not soundproof — after

hours — and the other part of it highlights that all of the songs tell stories about what happens in different phases of relationships: after ours." She recently announced that she has taken on the stage name Jessie Lark and will be using that moniker for future recordings and performances. One of Lark's frequent bandmates, Victor Santana (who also plays with Radios Silent), is recording with the Rogue Pilots as they work on their debut album with Rolling Stones producer Alan Sanderson at local recording studio, Pacific Beat.



HOWLIN' RAIN

Led by Oakland-based singer-guitarist Ethan Miller (who co-founded psych rockers Comets On Fire and Heron Oblivion), and featuring local guitarist Daniel Cervantes (Whiskey Circle, Mrs. Henry, Creature and the Woods), swamp jam rockers Howlin' Rain have released a one-hour and 19-minute double album of unheard material called *Lost at Sea: Rarities, Outtakes and Other Tales from the Deep* on two-LP vinyl, CD, cassette, and digital formats. The release comes courtesy of Silver Current Records, the label behind previous Howlin' full-lengths such as their fifth LP *The Alligator Bride*, which remains their most evenly distilled batch of

liquor store bong rock. "Lost at Sea spans a decade of never before heard or released material," says Cervantes of set (which was inspired by the Grateful Dead's comprehensive fan-targeted archival releases), "including three epic outtakes from 2012's *The Russian Wilds*, two outtakes from 2014's *Live Rain*, as well as outtakes from *Mansion Songs* and *The Alligator Bride*, a 2011 exploitation film soundtrack theme, and multiple tracks from an unreleased lost album recorded in *The Russian Wilds* summer of 2012 as a power trio with what is now the Once and Future Band rhythm section."



THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS

In 1993, DJ Greyboy was DJing at the Green Circle Bar when he decided to team up with Lenny Kravitz's saxophonist Karl Denson (who also plays flute) to co-found the Greyboy Allstars. Together, they began building from a template of acid jazz and '60s and '70s soul jazz, for a sound Denson has described as barroom boogaloo. The duo had earlier collaborated on Greyboy's albums *Home Cooking* and *Freestylin'*, featuring Greyboy spinning tracks over the band's instrumentals. Their debut 1995 Allstars album, *West Coast Boogaloo*, features James Brown bandleader

Fred Wesley (Count Basie, Parliament-Funkadelic), who has arranged for Ray Charles, Van Morrison, and has performed with the Allstars on stage as well. They released a live album in 1999 and then became somewhat inactive for several years, but have since returned to occasional touring and releases such as *A Town Called Earth*, *Inland Emperor*, and *What Happened To Television?* With almost no advance notice, the Greyboy Allstars just dropped their fifth studio album, their first in around seven years, *Como De Allstars*.



ART OF ELAN & KEIR GOGWILT

Created by Demarre McGill (principal flutist for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra) and Kate Hatmaker (a violinist with the San Diego Symphony), Art of Elan says it "Aims to expose new audiences to classical music, explore, and expand the horizons of the classical music scene, energize audiences and musicians alike, and ultimately educate and cultivate a future generation of classical music lovers." This month and next, the ensemble is partnering with the San Diego Museum of Art to host an online video series featuring musical performances inspired by accompanying

works of art from the Museum's permanent collection. This edition features violinist Keir GoGwilt paired with a painting called *Doors* by Claudia Fernández. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland and raised in New York City, GoGwilt is a violinist, writer, musicologist, and founding member of the arts company, AMOC. She has soloed with ensembles such as the Chinese National Symphony, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and others. The performance takes place online Tuesday, July 21, on the Museum's YouTube channel.

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, 5:30pm — Mike Pinto Acoustic Livestream.

Thursday, 1pm — NPR Livestream Session: The Dears. Friday, 2pm — Guided by Voices World Tour 2020.

Friday, 6pm — Old Globe: Word Up.

Saturday, Monday, & Wednesday, 12pm — Live From the Grammy Museum Archives. Saturday, 11:30am — Royal Albert Home Virtual Country Concert.

Sunday, 5pm — Dex Romweber Livestream From the Cave.

Old Globe: Word Up Ric Scales is one half of the San Diego hip-hop group 18scales. Taking from both the old and new school, adding in storytelling and varied content, he tries to push boundaries musically and consciously. With beginnings in battle rap, he developed a skill for freestyling that helped him become the multiple-time champion of No Sucker DJs Battlebot monthly hip-hop tournament. As an artist, he has opened for acts such as Yasiin Bey (Mos Def), KRS-1, Raekwon, and 2 Chainz. Friday, July 17, 6pm; Online Internet Events. All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Saturday, Aug. 8 — Dennis Quaid and the Sharks. \$30-\$53. Friday, Aug. 14 — Queen Nation.

Casbah:

Friday, Aug. 7 — Guttermouth, The Line, Authentic Sellout. \$18. Saturday, Aug. 8 — Owen. \$20.

Ferry Landing Marketplace:

Sunday, July 26 — Miss Demeanor.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:

Saturday, Aug. 15 — Shinedown.

Kensington Club:

Saturday, Aug. 15 — Spanish Love Songs and Future Teens.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Wednesday, Aug. 12 — The Mavericks.

Music Box:

Friday, Aug. 14 — Sweet & Tender Hooligans and Shake Before Us. \$20-\$22.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, July 23 — Mike Pinto Acoustic Livestream.

Friday, July 24 — Lori McKenna Livestream Album Release.

Friday, July 24 — Old Globe:

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Classical music inspired by nature

Having spent the last eight days in the Santa Cruz Mountains and having walked many a forest path, I began to consider the greatest music inspired by nature. What follows is by no means a comprehensive list. However, I've tried to include a variety of geographical locations.

Alexander Borodin was a Russian chemist and amateur composer. His symphonic poem *In the Steppes of Central Asia* is our first stop. Borodin included the following abstract with the score. "In the silence of the monotonous steppes of Central Asia is heard the unfamiliar sound of a peaceful Russian song. From the distance, we hear the approach of horses and camels and the bizarre and melancholy notes of an oriental melody. A caravan approaches, escorted by Rus-

sian soldiers and continues safely on its way through the immense desert. It disappears slowly. The notes of the Russian and Asiatic melodies join in a common harmony, which dies away as the caravan disappears in the distance."

Moving west we get to "Die Moldau" from Bederic Smetana's *Má Vlast* (My Fatherland). The Moldau River, also called The Vltava, flows along the forests of Bohemia, thorough Prague and then into the Elbe River which empties into the North Sea. The Moldau is the national river of the Czech Republic. It is crossed by 18 bridges in Prague of which the statue-lined Charles Bridge is the most famous.

We move from river to forest, where we find the titular character in Wagner's opera *Siegfried* resting under a Linden tree beside

the ruins of the dragon Fafner whom he has slain. Siegfried looks up through the tree and becomes enchanted by the "Forest Murmurs" and the bird song which he can understand because he has been covered with the dragon's blood.

Turning south, we approach the Alps and Richard Strauss's *Eine Alpen Symphonie*. This is Strauss's largest non-operatic composition. It requires an orchestra of 125 and describes a day on the mountain including a ferocious storm.

Continuing over the Alps we arrive in Italy and the hear Ottorino Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*. The final movement is inspired by the pines of the Appian Way as the ghosts of the Roman legion march by in triumph.

Next we fly northwest



The Moldau flows through the Czech Republic.

across Europe and over the English Channel until we see the cliffs of Cornwall. "On the Cliffs of Cornwall" is the title of the act II prelude in Dame Ethel Smyth's opera *The Wreckers*. Smyth was inspired to write the opera after taking a walking tour of the cliffs.

Leaving Cornwall, in Great Britain's extreme southwest, we cross England to its east coast where we hear the "Four Sea Interludes" from Benjamin Britten's Opera *Peter Grimes*. Britten grew up in the Suffolk town of Aldeburgh on the shores

of the North Sea, as did the fictional fisherman Grimes.

Other compositions inspired by nature include the obvious *Blue Danube Waltz* and *Tales from the Vienna Woods Waltz* by Johann Strauss II, *Hungarian Dances* by Brahms, *Symphony No. 6*, by Beethoven, *The Hebrides* by Mendelssohn, *Upon Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring* by Delius, and *The Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams. But these are just a few of the hundreds of pieces of classical music inspired by nature.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Ament, Jehnny Beth, Fern Ford. Friday, July 31 — Old Globe: Word Up.

Open Air Theatre:

Sunday, Aug. 2 — David Gray.

Palomar Starlight Theater:

Friday, July 24 — Elton: The Early Years. Friday, Aug. 7 — DSB.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Tuesday, Aug. 11 — Camila Cabello.

Veranda at Rancho Bernardo Inn:

Thursday, July 23 — Rick Harchol. Free.

Viejas Arena:

Monday, Aug. 10 — Janet Jackson.

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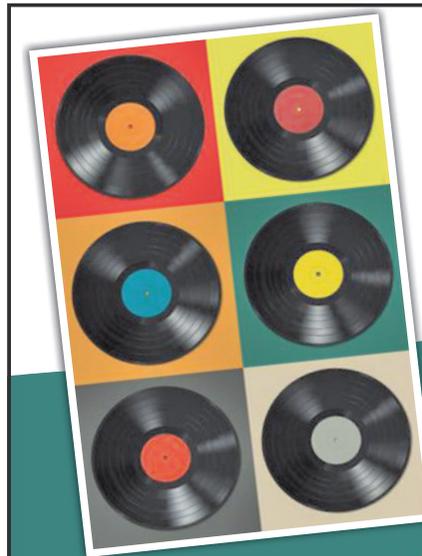


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Bittersweet Ballard

There are those whose knowledge of Kaye Ballard is limited to the caricatured screaming Italian she playing opposite demure Eve Arden on TV's *The Mothers-In-Law*. Ballard's ball-shaped eyes, radiating angst from beneath a perfectly manicured pageboy, clung for dear life as the stirred-up *signora*

stormed the stage with half-gnawed index finger firmly clenched between her teeth. *Kaye Ballard - The Show Goes On*, well, goes on to showcase a performer of incredible range who never received her due.

Born Catherine Gloria Balotta, she originally went under the name Kaye Ballard because that's what she sang. Most people, when pronouncing her name, instinctively added the "t," so it stuck. She got her first legitimate break via an old showbiz cliché: a Detroit club owner introduced Ballard to bandleader and satirical mangler of the classics Spike Jones. "If you ever come to California," said Spike, "give me a call and I'll give you a job." Acting under the guise of what she called "the authenticity of innocence," Ballard bought a one-way ticket to Los Angeles.

Sure enough, after three days making calls to Paramount, man of his word Jones got back to 16-year-old Ballard and gave her a job as a singer/impressionist. Was Jones miffed when, a short time later, Ballard ditched the band for the lure of the Broadway stage? You bet he was — but Ballard wasn't the type to hitch herself to a proven commodity, particularly at an age where she was just discovering how to expand her reach as an artist.

She was either present at or the motivating factor behind many defining artistic moments, but like Forrest Gump (with brains), she never received the credit due her. She was in the audience the night Elia Kazan had to push her friend, a nervous Marlon Brando, on stage for the premiere of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Richard Avedon photographed two *LIFE Magazine* covers, and Ballard was one of them. It was Ballard, not Sinatra, who introduced the world to "Fly Me to the Moon." And while "Maybe This Time" was not in the Broadway version of *Cabaret*, that doesn't mean it was composed expressly for the movie. John Kander and Fred Ebb originally wrote the song for Ballard with an R, not Liza with a Z.

Some have wondered if Ballard's agita-inducing *signora pazza* was in part inspired by Sara Berner, a radio and cartoon mainstay of the 1940s best remembered as the voice of Beaky Buzzard's mother in *Bugs Bunny Gets the Boid*. If so, Ballard elevated the stereotype to an art form. She was also an accomplished

actress, singer, mimic, musician, champion of animal rights, stand up comedienne, and what her dear friend Jerry Lewis would have called, "a funny broad."

Woody Allen, Ann-Margret, and Carol Burnett — celebrities who generally shy away from providing biopic testimonials — all turned out for Ballard, but none of what they say can top the lady herself. "You'll Never Know" never took home an Oscar," she observed before prickledly adding, "but 'Shaft' did." A clip from *The Mancini Generation* where bad mother-in-law Ballard riffs on Issac Hayes' racy funk anthem kept me laughing for days.

It's a pity Ballard doesn't allow director Dan Wingate to peel away enough layers of the showbiz mask to allow the real person to peek through. And the only family member given more than passing mention is her maternal grandmother. Still, the look of love and pride in Ballard's face as she sings to her in the front row of *The Mike Douglas Show* can be felt to this day. Ballard never married, and while I'm not fishing for dirt, the only hint of intimacy here came in passing. While discussing her relationship with Brando, she noted, "I'm Catholic and afraid of sex." She was a performer capable of generating love and affection among millions, yet was unable to speak of love in terms of anything but her audience. The show goes on. ★★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

Greyhound — Toward the outset of World War II, a devoutly religious but in-over-his-head Navy captain (Tom Hanks) leads a military escort of Allied ships through the North Atlantic — with a wolfpack of six Nazi U-boats hot on their tail. At a time when starring roles for middle-aged heroes are at a premium, Hanks chose to script a plum part for himself by adapting novelist C. S. Forester's *The Good Shepherd*. It's Hanks' show, and while



Kaye Ballard: The Show Goes On - Ballard goes out with a roar.

the dialogue rings authentic — the source material was used as a text at the Naval Academy — the ancillary seamen spend most of the show in the service of shifting eyeballs. Between "Yes sirs!" and "No sirs!" second-in-command Stephen Graham displays an uncanny flair for wielding a compass while Elisabeth Shue's five-minute appearance contributes nothing. The CG work is impressive, and considering all of the prolonged running times behind him, Hanks carefully corrals his action-packed story into 91 minutes. As for the director, Hanks left the driving to Aaron Schneider (*Get Low*). 2020 —S.M. ★★★

The Last Day of American Crime

— Four years up the road, and a new branch of law enforcement run out of out D.C. is about to take the training wheels off its latest enterprise: the American Peace Initiative, a signal that acts as a "synaptic blocker," prohibiting people from intentionally performing unlawful acts. A trio of outlaws (Edgar Ramirez, Anna Brewster, Michael Pitt) can buy 30 minutes of time the day the signal is enabled, just long enough to pull off a billion dollar heist and make it across the Canadian border. Lest you get too excited by the promising premise, it clocks in at an unwieldy 148 minutes. It might have worked had director Olivier Megaton (*Transporter 3*, *Taken 2*) focused more on the last crime committed in America rather than yielding to the comic book trappings that surround it. Michael Pitt seems to be having the most fun, but considering how muddled things become, you'd swear he's relying on overacting as a crutch, simply because the actor, along with the audience, doesn't know what the hell is going on. 2020. —S.M. ★

We Are Little Zombies — Four orphaned Japanese teenagers who meet at the crematorium on the day of their parents' incineration go on to form a rock band. Stop me if you've heard this one. Why must a tale of at-times-unrelenting despair be cast in shades of an overcast winter's day? Prepare for a chromatic overdose: this tale of four seemingly unemotional characters is told with a range of cinematic expressions the likes of which we haven't seen

in...too long. First time writer-director Makoto Nagahisa has a way of transforming the everyday — the side of a building, the tip of a smokestack, etc. — into a unique worldview. And it's not all frivolous angles and style without substance: at its core are four kids looking to replace a parent's love with online "likes." But don't allow downer me to detract from the fun. Experience it firsthand. 2020. —S.M. ★★★



THE COTTON CLUB: ENCORE (1984/2019)

Robert Evans, Mario Puzo, and Francis Ford Coppola, the team that brought you *The Godfather*,



The Cotton Club: Fred Gwynne and Bob Hoskins share a moment.

bring a musical gangster film that, if you listen hard enough, you still hear bombing at the box office. Richard Gere stars as the first caucasian musician to work the legendary mob-run Harlem nightclub, where the performers were predominantly black and clientele exclusively white. Last year, Coppola screened his director's cut of the film as a Fathom Event. A blu ray release

soon followed. Watching both versions side-by-side shows this isn't a simple case of reinstating individual scenes, but a longer (by 12 minutes), restructured cut that is in many ways superior to the Orion Pictures release. The studio was more interested in showcasing Gere and leading lady Diane Lane than they were

Gregory Hines and Lonette McKee. This cut restores balance to the parallel love stories. Gere and

Lane make a comely twosome, but no matter the running time, Coppola skips over their romance like a stone on a lake. Regrettably, there is no new footage of Bob Hoskins and Fred Gwynne together. In spite of the show-stopping feats of musical pyrotechnics that surround it, their urinal confab on Gere's future is the film's highlight.

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PERSONALS

BRANDI PIERCE I will always love you, Jerry B.

GOD'S LOVE "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." CMR

PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR Z with some OB (Ocean Beach) love covid free.

REMEMBER Save \$ on toilet paper, use both sides :o)

HOLY RFK Much akin to a handkerchief used by the Blessed Pope John Paul, never underestimate the healing powers of a garment anointed with the backbake sweat of Baja beach futbol. Unfortunately there will be no Copa de Calavera this year. Lake Baptism? LV

MARTIN WEHR you are the love of my life. Love you sweetie 3.14. Your tortiller'a with tattoos.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Hendrix my boy.

I RECENTLY BOUGHT a toilet brush. Long story short I am going back to toilet paper.

LISA HALLSTADT at VoiceofSanDiego.org. Your expertise and input are needed for a habitat project. Please contact Charlotte (#50) at Think Dignity. Thanks

MERNIE & PAT Hope that next year we can enjoy the La Mesa Foothills Dems bbq. Brian B

PAT GRIFFI of El Cajon, glad Roscoe will be around awhile. Cherish him BB.

S.O.S. Maybe surfing wasn't meant 4 me. Am "outback" holding up 3 fingers, surrounded by sharks! My shadow of a rock star, remember? A friend.

HBD TO MYSELF Happy 36th! love life and every adventure life presents. Keep striving towards positivity and forward motion. Be wise, and grow wiser each year. Vow to oneself, be truer than true even when you're bluer than blue.

LV IN AGONY Let's make sure we do some laundry after getting that toe fixed. The perspiration and sunscreens stains are a permanent reminder of our emotional win together. Guess the location under the bottle cap to find me. RFK

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MIRACLE MONDAYS ON ZOOM 6:30 p.m. Devotional singing and readings from A Course in Miracles and A Course of Love.

For link e-mail denisermg@gmail.com.

SELF-GUIDED SCAVENGER HUNTS Navigate a series of locations that you are guided to where you are required to answer questions or solve puzzles to receive your next instruction. All you need is your own mobile device and an Internet connection. A pandemic friendly activity. darren@puzzlingadventures.com

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CAMPO INDIAN RESERVATION your culture and traditions need to be passed to your young ones your heritage is more valuable than any wealth take pride.

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!

COWBOY THEATER Watch the 100 best B-Western movies on COX cable, North 18 and South 23. Free! 12 noon Mondays, 2PM Wednesdays, 9AM Fridays.

TACOTOPIA 2020: TACOS VS BURGERS Presented by Anheuser-Busch, this year only, we are celebrating the pure magic of both tacos and burgers! The San Diego Reader and Anheuser-Busch are pleased to invite you to the biggest clash of the cuisine festival, know as 'Reader Tacotopia 2020: Tacos vs Burgers Presented by Anheuser-Busch!' The largest UNLIMITED taco and burger event in San Diego on November 7, 2020. This event will take place in beautiful Golden Hill Park. At Tacos vs Burgers, we will take advantage of our SoCal surroundings by gathering the very best taco and burger vendors all in one place for your gastronomic pleasure. At the end of the day, attendees will ultimately decide who will win the Best Taco Award and the Best Burger Award. The unlimited taco and burger tastings, full-sized Anheuser-Busch beer pours and margaritas available at the bar, live music, lucha libre wrestling, lawn games and San Diego sun will make this our most popular event ever! ReaderTacotopia.com

AVIATION THEATER is on Youtube. San Diego pilots, airplanes, and aviation adventures.

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BEGINNERS MOSAIC CLASS IN VISTA This is not an online class. it's an outside class. You will learn the basics: primers, adhesives, grouts, mortars, concrete colors, etc. You will learn how to create works of art. mosaicforms@gmail.com

FREE BLACK TIGER SILAT ZOOM CLASSES Indonesian martial art (lineage dates to 1610 AD) exercise class for those interested and prospective students for physical classes. Imagine a yoga class that is effectively a tiger based combat system. www.meetup.com/Black-Tiger-Silat-Free-Zoom-Classes/

VIRTUAL BAGEL MAKING CLASS This is a meetup group for people who want to learn and teach various Jewish baking techniques. We've done classes on bagels, bialys, pita bread, rye bread, challah, rugelach, and more. https://www.meetup.com/Jewish-Baking-Meetup/

VIRTUAL BOLLYX - THE BOLLYWOOD WORKOUT CLASSES Virtual BollyX is a Bollywood-inspired dance-fitness program that combines choreography and intensive workouts with upbeat music from around the world. richajfit@gmail.com

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DOWNTOWN \$573-825. Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry,

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REAL ESTATE

4BED/3BATH OCEAN BEACH VA/FHA Stylish remodelled townhouse 1716 sq ft-open floor plan,new flooring,cabinets,fixtures,sinks ,tile baths,appliances,quartz island,butcher block counters farmhouse sink,2 balconies,2 patios and 2 parking.Pool,spa etc \$639,000. Agent (619) 384-7330

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MUSIC

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KISS BAND T-SHIRT \$15 KISS band t-shirt, has worn look on print, brand new with tags - \$15. Brand new, size large. (858) 263-5049

OVATION ACOUSTIC GUITAR 1985/86 Celebrity Ovation acoustic classical guitar - made in Korea - \$240 (619) 995-7058

YAMAHA DRUM MACHINE Chuck @ (619) 496-3621

YAMAHA YAS-23 ALTO SAXOPHONE Yamaha YAS-23 alto saxophone - \$475 (619) 279-7833

TROMBONE- KING 2B Great horn! Fake books Bb, C, Eb, bass clef, call for prices and details (619) 264-3686.

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

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

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HORSE CORRALS 2 at \$150.00 ea. Corral metal shade cover. 10 ft. X. 12 ft xlnl shape. \$100.00 text (619) 438-4567.

WANT TO BUY OR feed lease sound gaited horse for trail. (619) 438-4567 text please.

FREE PET SUPPLIES Large dog bed, 2 large dog bowls, leash, dog sweaters and shoes, food & treats. Pickup in Imperial Beach. Text (619) 709-7766.

MALTIPOO PUPPIES Maltese and poodle - designer breed puppies, 9 weeks old, shots/ dewormed. 1st grooming. M/F \$1000-1500 rehoming fee. (619) 362-7753

FREE CLOWN LOACH FISH We have 2 clown loaches that are healthy and active. Free for pickup in Ocean Beach 92107. 1 is about 5". 1 is about 3". Text Tim, (619) 933-1310.

PUREBRED BENGAL KITTENS Born June 25th. Forever homes August 25th. 3 of the 8 have deposits. (619) 597-9729

REWARD FOR LOST TABBY CAT My cat was lost on Illion St, San Diego, CA 92110. Closest intersection is Milton/Illion Bay park if you see him contact me anytime. (619) 248-0975

SIAMESE RAGDOLL KITTEN I have a male flame point Siamese kitten ragdoll mix. He is 8 weeks old, completely weaned, litter box trained, and great with kids. I am asking a fee of \$500. (619) 940-7927

LOST YORKSHIRE TERRIER Lost Yorkshire terrier on East H Street in Chula Vista (619) 249-2221

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

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

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

SPORTS

COME PLAY FLAG FOOTBALL AT UNIVERSITY CITY Games are at Nobel Athletic Field from 10:30 - 1 pm on Saturdays. Look for people setting up cones and warming up with footballs. Usual spot is by basketball court in center of park. Occasionally play on the soccer fields on the south end of the park. www.meetup.com/Nobel-Park-Flag-Football-Meetup/



FLAT BAR SKATE RAILS FOR SKATEBOARDING - \$110 I make custom flat bars in any size or height. Prices start at \$110 w/ bare metal. I can deliver to North County area for a small fee. Hit me up with any questions you might have. (760) 622-7260

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SET OF 4 TENNIS RACKETS I have a four tennis rackets for sale - willing to split - make me an offer. 1 (185) 853-1701

SAN DIEGO RUNNING MEETUP Wednesday, July 8, 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM. Every week on Wednesday. Starbucks,

5416 Lake Murray Blvd (Lake Murray & Kiowa, La Mesa), La Mesa. <https://www.meetup.com/SanDiegoRunning>

BICYCLES

MEN'S CYPRUS 8 SPEED BIKE
brand new, sell for \$375 firm. (760) 330-3677



1980S DIAMONDBACK MINI VIPER 16" - 100% original with pads. \$88 — (858) 254-5063 — serious only.



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700 x 40mm silk shield tubeless ready in good or fair condition. Plenty of life left in them. Has some sealant residue. \$20 for both. Call/text (310) 968-6910



ROAD SADDLE FIZIK KURVE BULL \$125, 220 grams, brand new, never used, original price \$155 (I have the receipt) just didn't fit my seat post, box included (858) 500-2806



SINGLE SPEED - \$165 Rides great however the brake pads are newer and still squeaky. Also the front rim is a little tweaked side to side. You can't feel it at all when your riding it. (619) 341-0094



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CAR STORAGE IN NORTH PARK Well lighted, wide, short, very easy to get in/out of. No large SUVs/vans. Car storage is ok. Uncovered. Not a garage. On 4400 block of Boundary St. \$95/month; \$80 for storage. Call/text Rob (619) 581-4479... and repeat your phone number twice. (619) 581-4479 / robgworek@yahoo.com



1995 FORD ESCORT Under 140000 miles. Manual transmission. Great on gas, excellent on commuting. Everything works. Recent service - oil change and brakes. More pictures, questions, or to take for

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2004 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SUV perfect condition, like new, 138 K miles, white over gray. Everything works, all clean title and plates and insurance. \$6450. Cream puff. Must leave message (760) 420-3641, San Marcos

2001 MERCEDES BENZ C320 low miles, fully loaded, leather seats, non smoker, well maintained, one owner. \$4,450 call (619) 948-1041

1981 EL CAMINO \$8,000 OBO. very nice condition, has 231 v6, always garaged on non op serious buyer please text (619) 631-9258.

1995 GMC BANDURA 2500 high top conversion van, TV, stereo, needs oil pump, sell as is. Has rust, new \$500 tires, gold, \$1,000 OBO. (619) 408-9517

HELP WANTED

BUSINESS DATA ANALYST (Req# IIC1308) Analyze info from SAP to validate rules setup in Informatica. Perf data auditing on the invalid records to ensure Data Quality in Material Master Data. Req Masters. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1309) Collaborate with GIS & business teams to design appl solutions by analyzing business req, studying & creatively leveraging standard SAP capabilities. BS+5yrs rtd exp. Will accept Bachelor's equiv based on combo educ/ exp as determined by a prof eval service. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

DEEP LEARNING/AI ENGINEER (Req# IIC1306)

Dvlp infrastructure, sys & predictive modeling & tools to enable proactive & predictive maintenance in support of the Service & Support organization. MS+6months rtd exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

LOGISTICIAN: Freight trucking company. Mail resume to Unified Global Logistics, Inc., 9375 Customhouse Plaza #A-2, San Diego, CA 92154

PS SENIOR CONSULTANT, Teradata Operations, Inc., San Diego, CA. Translate's customer master data mgmt. reqs into an MDM tech spec and oversee dsgr, dev, testing and implementation of MDM sol'ns by leading teams. Must have Bach. or foreign equiv in Comp.Sci., Comp. App., or rel field and 7 years exp of which 5 is prog post-bach exp OR Master's or foreign equiv. in Comp App., Comp Sci., or rel field and 5 yrs exp. Travel 80%. Emp will accept any suitable comb of edu, training, or exp. TO APPLY: Please apply by email to STAFF.TDPM@Teradata.com (Job Number - 207356)

SOFTWARE ENGINEER II, Teradata Operations, Inc., San Diego, CA. Responsible for all phases of software development life cycle from software design through customer support. Minimum requirements: A Master's degree in comp. sci., comp. engg. or rel. field, and 2 years' industry exp. TO APPLY: Please apply by email to STAFF.TDPM@Teradata.com (Job Number - 206996).

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HANDY PERSON WANTED Dependable, able-bodied energetic, experienced worker wanted for yard work, home cleanup and repairs. \$8 per hour cash paid daily. mysandiegocarl@yahoo.com

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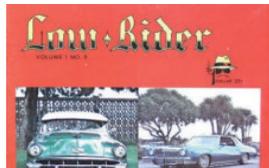
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BUYING LOWRIDER MAGAZINES Buying Lowrider, Lowrider Euro, Street Low and Teen Angel magazines from the 1970s to 2001. Email me photos / list. Thanks, John the1pjjohn@yahoo.com

ISO PUPPY \$200 OR LESS I'm in search of a puppy \$200 or less. Please, big breed or any, just text me (619) 779-1670.

3-WHEEL VOLKSWAGEN TRIKE in excellent condition, clear title, clean, must be immaculate. Will trade. San Marcos, (760) 420-3641. Call, must leave a message.

WANTED: OLD VW BUG, BUS Clean out your yard and garage. I buy parts too. Cell/text# (619) 279-7833.

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

TRADE CRAFTSMAN GAS LAWNMOWER with bag for electric lawnmower with bag, any shape as long as it works. Bit hard to start but once going runs great. Text (619) 631-9258.

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FISHING TACKLE Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, & misc. by Heddon Creek Chub, Pflueger, South Bend, Shakespeare to name just a few. Call or text pictures to: (619) 972-3488.

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

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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I BUY GARAGE SALE LEFTOVERS If you're having a garage sale this weekend call me before its over I will buy leftovers for \$20 or more. Give me a buzz, I have a 5-star rating on Yelp and a cool guy. (619) 670-6611, Cobain.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE Multi-family moving/yard sale, 12581 Brickellia St. (Park Village). Saturday, July 11, 8:00 am-12:00 noon. Everything must go. Stop by and check it out. Furniture, household appliances, sports equipment, electronics, and much more. Come on by. ktakamori4@gmail.com

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ESTATE PLANNING SOFTWARE Quicken WillMaker Plus - 2016. Originally purchased from Best Buy in Dec 2015. chiefsan@sbcglobal.net



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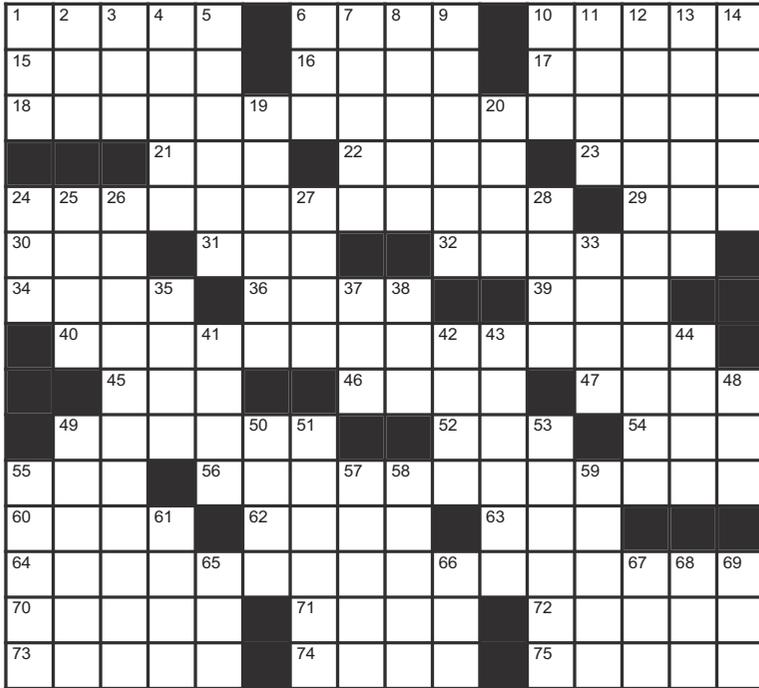
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Across

1. Honda rival
6. Enjoy Joyce, Carroll or Oates
10. Man of letters?
15. Japanese or Javanese
16. "Picnic" playwright
17. Upright, maybe
18. Flattering thing for artist Kahlo to hear when she walks in a room?
21. China's Chiang ____-shek
22. Cookie that's often pulled apart
23. Airline that doesn't schedule flights on Shabbat
24. Something in the sky in early February?
29. '70s radical grp.
30. Bill in a tip jar
31. Rocket interceptor, for short
32. Sad, in French or Spanish
34. "Bottled poetry," according to Robert Louis Stevenson
36. Go ____ great length
39. Smear
40. Excitement over an evening festivity involving poop?
45. "Curb Your Enthusiasm" lead, casually
46. Quito's land: Abbr.
47. LAX guesstimates
49. Home of the NHL's Senators
52. Vowelless deli order
54. It helped bring dinos to life in "Jurassic Park"
55. "Who ____ to judge?"

56. Pic posted by Charlton Heston that was taken on the set of a 1959 movie?
60. Knight's equivalent
62. Gateway Arch designer Saarinen
63. Michele of "Glee"
64. "Hurry it up!" ... or an apt description of 18-, 24-, 40- or 56-Across
70. Off the table, perhaps
71. "____ only known ..."
72. Big name in cameras and lenses
73. Tech support callers
74. "Dragonwyck" novelist Seton
75. Many new parents could use it

19. One of the lesser apes
20. Pucker-producing
24. Boar's mate
25. Teaspoon or ton
26. It's from Latin words meaning "almost last"
27. Luxury hotel chain
28. Evening, in ads
33. Put money in the bank
35. Part of QED
37. What candles may indicate
38. Active ingredient in marijuana
41. "Fiddlesticks!"
42. "Waltz Across Texas" country singer Ernest
43. Seasonal song words after "gay apparel"
44. Prego competitor
48. "Aaron Burr, ____" ("Hamilton" song)
49. Natives of Nebraska
50. "What time?"
51. Singer of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" at Barack's inauguration
53. Immune system protectors
55. "Au revoir!"
57. Ballpark player?
58. Buzz Lightyear's buddy
59. Superman's Kryptonian name
61. At all
65. USCG rank
66. Aunt in la familia
67. Conk out
68. Team's best pitcher
69. Toy dog's bark

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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:

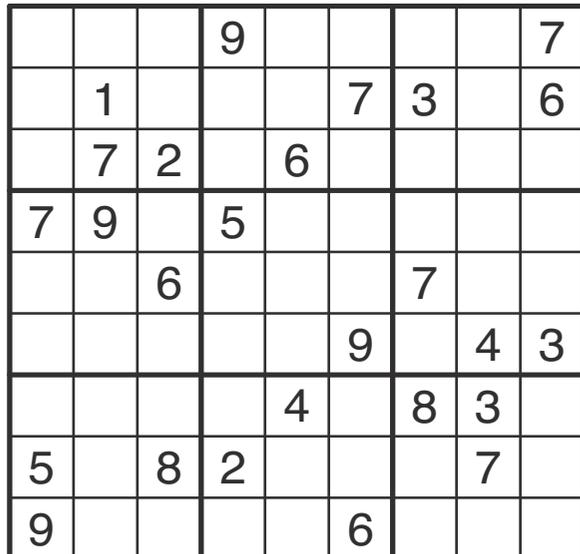
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

👉 **K.J. Rayner, San Diego, 9.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



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.
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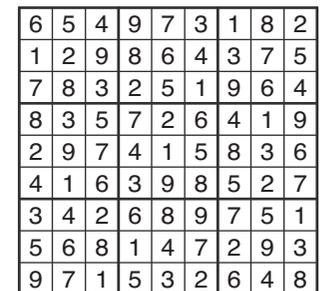
👉 **Robert Harper, La Jolla, 1.**

Name: _____
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Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



Aw, Snap!

— A police officer in West Yorkshire, England, shared the thoughts of many after being called to the scene of a wreck involving a \$300,000 Lamborghini that lasted only 20 minutes on the road before it was totaled on June 24. "It's only a car," the officer tweeted, but he "could have cried." According to the BBC, the car suffered a mechanical failure during its virgin drive and came to a stop in the outside land of the M1 motorway, where it was rear-ended by a van. The driver of the van suffered non-serious head injuries in the crash. The Lamborghini driver was not identified, nor was it clear whether he was hurt in the crash.

Idle Hands

— TikTok user Kevin Wise told KSLA he was looking for his five minutes of fame when he jumped into a fish tank at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier, Louisiana, in late June. "I said that if I got 2,000 likes, I would jump in the tank," Wise said. "I got way more than that and didn't want to be a liar." Shopper Treasure McGraw recorded video of Wise swimming around in the tank before he climbed out and ran through the store, soaking wet. "We heard a big splash, and I thought it was one of the fish," McGraw said. Initially, Bass Pro Shops said it would not press charges, but on June 26, the company filed a complaint with the Bossier City Police Department, noting that it had to empty the 13,000-gallon tank and clean it after Wise's swim. Wise wouldn't recommend the stunt to others. "Don't do spur-of-the-moment crap like

I do," he warned.

Repeat Offender

— Devin Roberts, 32, of Bardwell, Kentucky, caught the attention of local media after being arrested three times in one week. Carlisle County Sheriff's deputies first encountered Roberts on June 23, WSIL reported, when he called the sheriff's office to say he had taken a case he found next to a dumpster that turned out to contain items belonging to the city. When officers arrived, they determined the case had been removed from a city building. The following Saturday, Roberts was accused of fighting with a grocery store clerk and making lewd comments to female employees. Sheriff William Gilbert found Roberts at his home, passed out in a running vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. He had also left his 3-year-old son at home with another inebriated person. Finally, on June 28, deputies pulling over a car on suspicion of drunken driving found Roberts in the passenger seat, drunk and in possession of alcohol, which violated the terms of his earlier bonds. Roberts faces multiple charges related to all three encounters.

Questionable Judgments

— The Sun reported on June 29 that two Ryanair pilots are in the (chicken) soup after they recorded themselves getting silly with a rubber chicken in the cockpit of a Boeing 737-800. In the video, thought to be recorded as passengers boarded the plane in Birmingham, England, the

first officer and pilot trade off using the chicken to operate the airplane's throttle and making it squeak while mugging for the camera. Other crew members laugh in the background. A spokesperson for Ryanair commented: "These pictures and videos show crew on the ground in a parked aircraft with the engines shut down. While the images are unprofessional, the actions in them posed no risk and safety was never compromised. ... (Nevertheless) we are investigating the matter further."

— Merseyside Police responding to the scene of a crash in Huyton, England, in the wee hours of June 28 say they arrived in time to witness a woman "finishing off a glass of wine," according to the Echo. In the collision, a white Mercedes had plowed into a parked Ford Focus, with both cars sustaining significant damage. Photographs from the scene showed the Mercedes to contain an empty wine bottle on the floor of the passenger seat, along with a wine glass, and another full bottle in a storage compartment. Police announced the arrest of two women, 33 and 35, on suspicion of unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle and drunk driving.

This Old House

— Firefighters were called to a home in Guilford, Connecticut, on June 29 where a resident had fallen through a wood floor in the 177-year-old house and down about 30 feet into a well, WHDH reported. The victim treaded water for about 25 minutes while responders worked to

hoist them out. Apparently, the well had been covered over by an addition made to the home during a 1981 renovation. "Some of these older, historical homes may have hazards that were not updated by current code," the Guilford Police Department tweeted. The victim was taken to the hospital but had only minor injuries.

Chutzpah

— Fisherman Dawson Cody Porter, 22, of Eagle River, Alaska, was arrested June 27 outside the Fisherman's Bar after arriving there driving a stolen fire truck with its emergency lights flashing, the Anchorage Daily News reported. Bristol Bay Borough police said Porter broke into the King Salmon Fire Station around 9 p.m., where he started the truck and drove it through the station's closed bay doors, making his way west on the Alaska Peninsula Highway about 15 miles to Naknek. Police Chief John Rhyshek said Porter caused about \$10,000 in damage and put the fire truck out of commission while repairs are made to it.

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UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 9

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including a second pool, gym, valet parking (the condo comes with three reserved parking spaces), laundry, and housekeeping. Room service from the on-site restaurant is available.

Outside the building, dozens of entertainment and dining venues are within a few blocks, as is the convention center, trolley access, and the bayfront.

The Metropolitan penthouse is currently valued by the county assessor at just under \$1.5 million, owing to California's Prop 13 tax advantages for longtime owners. That assessment still carries an annual tax bill in excess of \$18,000.

After staying off the market for nearly a dozen years, the home was offered for sale in late 2019 with an asking price of \$3,888,000. That listing expired in early January and the unit was re-listed about a week later — the list price of \$3,850,000 remains unchanged to date. ■



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

no shoulders or mitigate traffic with sidewalks when large isolated developments are miles from the nearest business and employment centers." Level of Service mitigation would still be needed to offset negative traffic impacts in the backcountry, he said. That is, adding traffic lanes, turn-pockets, and signals.

Option B was the unincorporated areas, 2.2 million acres, putting about 45,000 acres in vehicle miles traveled efficient areas. It supported infill in the unincorporated county and areas of its western edge. Talleh said the county recommended it because it balances the goals of reducing emissions and infill development within villages. It also encourages development in areas that could have alternative travel and puts vehicle miles traveled efficient areas closer to jobs and services. The building industry supported it, and it was the option the board chose, though supervisor Nathan Fletcher opposed it. "There are areas in the unincorporated county where housing is simply not appropriate," he said, citing auto trips, emissions, and wildfire. He made a motion to adopt the recommended plan — but making the geographic basis option A. Under B, a large number of General Plan compliant projects within villages along the western edge of the unincorporated boundary would not need a vehicle miles analysis.

Option C, based on five sub-areas within the unincorporated area, aligns with general plan goals to focus development within villages throughout the unincorporated area, Talleh said.

At the meeting, supervisor Diane Jacob asked if critics were right that under B, the unincorporated area, three-quarters of projects would really have no vehicle miles traveled analysis? "That is accurate," Talleh said. Based upon the location of vehicle miles traveled efficient areas, it would consider about 30 percent of the General Plan capacity as "less than significant."

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