

Local hip-hop heads react to Postal Service pandering

String music — the responsible choice ■ Big Jim's New England Roast Beef

SANDY Reader

VOL. 45 | NO. 35 | AUGUST 27, 2020

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Steve Laverson, M.D.

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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.

Gompers not alone

In my experience, even if Gompers Prep teachers unionize (“Two years of turmoil at Gompers Prep,” August 13), their voices may be ignored. Many school boards do not raise questions about school administrators and charter school executives, union or no union.

No one supervises the supervisors, who wield the enormous power of the subjective performance evaluation.

In the example you gave, a supervisor at Gompers walks into a classroom where students are presumably feeling nurtured and safe and are engaged in learning. The supervisor purposely ignores the teacher’s success. He or she interrupts to point out that the teacher is not wearing his badge. This will get written up as the teacher “not being concerned for student safety.” What kind of board wants to employ a teacher who is not concerned with student safety? Unions can delay the process, but ultimately cannot protect such a “bad teacher”.

The teacher who forgot his badge—who just happens to be someone who has irritated admin—will experience more write-ups. His supervisors’ claims may be absurd, unfair, and/or easily refuted with data. It doesn’t matter. The teacher can write responses; the union can pay for legal representation. In the end, it won’t help. I know of one administrator who even bragged on her website that she was a fiction writer in her spare time and had completed two (unpublished) novels. Yet the school board accepted

without discussion the evaluations she wrote. Based on her “findings,” it went ahead and fired a gifted teacher, someone close to me, causing pain and distress for a wide circle of people, including the students. I have also seen this happen at a non-union charter school with an (apparently useless but well-financed) human resources department.

Susanna Heckman
Vista

Stay union

Congrats on eye-opening article on continuing anti-union movement festering in our K thru 12 public schools (i.e. Gompers) by staff writer Joe Deegan.

Retaliation, backstabbing, and harassment for failure to wear badge...all symptoms of “the right to work” virus infecting school classrooms.

Stay strong! Stay union!
Robert C. (Bob) Thomas
Mission Valley

An uglier story

There’s an even uglier story in the details behind the Coastal Commission’s thoughtless decision last month to let the La Costa 48 project move forward.

At the hearing, the developer dumped traffic liabilities on the city, claimed the toxic waste problem couldn’t be solved without using hundreds of trucks for removal, continued to site the wastes under only the low income homes, hinted at the Mayor’s endorsement when her *ex parte* meeting was disclosed, and insulted the widely respected Batiq-uitos Lagoon Foundation.

Opponents pointed out that Commission staff and the developer planned to use nothing more than some paint to “create” a required traffic lane where there is none, on a road where there are no shoulders and minimum easements. The developer also claimed City staff had unreported but planned traffic improvements on its own, so he was presumably off the hook for anything but

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San Diego Reader

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August 27, 2020



ILLUSTRATION BY ROBIN ARTHUR, ROBINART.COM

There will be poop — page 12



Check out Hillcrest's biscuits — page 22



Money bag miasma — page 27

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

EL CAJON

Tiny house > no house

Demo home demonstrates new shelter model

From the city to the unincorporated county, San Diego has of late made it cheaper and easier for homeowners to build an accessory dwelling unit, which can then be rented. But San Diego's granny flats aren't all that cheap. A Craigslist ad asks \$1700 for a 450-square-foot studio in North Park. Tiny houses present a smaller but less expensive option, and as zoning codes catch up with reality, they're becoming more than a rentable asset in a homeowner's backyard. They're forming villages — and serving as shelter for the homeless. On August 11, El Cajon, the city with



A roof over your head, and a toilet within walking distance.

square feet of living space and a porch, but no plumbing. The church will make bathrooms, and possibly showers, available. (The tiny homes on wheels could have toilets and cooking facilities). Similar villages may follow. Staff is looking for residential properties of at least 1.5 acres, to expand the idea where zoning allows. So far they've identified 13 sites with the potential to yield more emergency housing.

“One program that has not been fully explored in the San Diego region is tiny house communities”

the highest concentration of homeless in the East County, approved a pilot project unlike any other in the county: “One program that has not been fully explored in the San Diego region is tiny house communities” to shelter homeless individuals, a city of El Cajon staff report notes.

Short on beds to serve the homeless, El Cajon declared a shelter crisis emergency in 2018. The city council funded various homeless programs such as rapid re-housing, rental assistance, emergency housing, and partnerships with non-profits. Despite this, a recent homeless count found 784 people without shelter in El Cajon. Happily, in August 2019, volunteers from Amikas, a nonprofit that works with the homeless, built a tiny home demo on Meridian Baptist Church's property. The goal was to develop a community of up to six shelters. And since the property at 660 South Third Street wasn't zoned for the envisioned bridge housing and its wrap-around services, a zoning change was made.

The homes-to-be will have wheels, but accompanying framed cabins will require a building permit, which takes more time. The project will start with administrative approval and a zoning permit, and sunsets on December 2023. The first village of six homes will provide shelter for up to 90 days for homeless women, especially veterans, and their children. The 12 x 12 units have 96

Amikas president Shanna Welsh-Levin said they expect the pandemic to increase homelessness as jobs are lost or parents are forced to trade work hours for child care. The homes will be built in the coming months, and Welsh-Levin urges similar collaborations by other non-profits, property owners, and housing providers. “We hope the success of this pilot program will be replicated throughout the county of San Diego.”

SHEILA PELL

ENCINITAS

Mayoral straw poll

Never mind paper ballots, what about paper straws?

As of August 1, a city ordinance required the elimination of plastic straws by gas stations, take out, and drive-thru restaurants. Most have not complied.

The Speedway gas station at the I-5/Birmingham Drive exit in Cardiff by the Sea was one of the first to switch to paper straws in mid-June. “Customers hate them,” said an area manager who asked not to be identified. “They [paper straws] dissolve in their mouths a few miles down the road, so customers are taking five at a time now,” he said. “It's the little things like this that drive customers away,” noting that other local businesses have not switched to paper straws. The manager stated he has over 5000 plastic straws stored

at the station that will be thrown away. “The company keeps sending them. I can't recycle them. I can't return them. Customers beg for them, but we can't give them out or we'll be fined.”

While waiting to order at the McDonald's drive-thru on Encinitas Boulevard, Julia, from Cardiff, was asked what she thought of the paper straws she would be receiving with her order. “I hate them, hate them, hate them, hate them!” she exclaimed, stating she was responding for the other three women in her car, all of whom were nodding in agreement. “They [paper straws] are not recyclable,” shouted one of the women from the backseat. (True, because of the wax content used in manufacturing paper straws. The plastics industry likes to point out it take more resources to make paper straws than plastic.) McDonald's is testing the use of paper straws at some locations in the U.S.; most North County McDonald's still use plastic straws. A San Marcos local posted on Facebook that because of the straw issue, she will no longer be purchasing food from the Encinitas McDonald's.

Steve Amster, owner of Garden State Bagels on El Camino Real, said he doesn't see a problem with paper straws. “The real issue is why I can go to the supermarket and get a free vegetable plastic bag or pay 10 cents for a reusable plastic bag at checkout,” Amster said. “Straws aren't a problem at the beach,” chimed in one of Amster's customers.

Now there are indications that the straw issue may spill over into the Encinitas mayor's race in November. Incumbent and fourth-generation Cardiffian Catherine Blakespear has a formidable challenger in Julie Thunder. Blakespear is known throughout the county as a populist mayor who focuses on a progressive agenda that takes in environmental, mobil-

ity, housing, and inclusionary issues. (Those that normally attend city council meetings in support of such issues love her, and hail the usual 5-0 council votes with “jazz hands,” since clapping is discouraged at council meetings.) She was overwhelmingly reelected in 2018, capturing 85 percent of the vote. But now Blakespear is being accused by Thunder and others as being a friend of developers when it comes to state-mandated high density housing regulations, and criticized



Will support for Blakespear unravel like this paper straw?

for premature closure of both the city's Rail Train pedestrian walkway and beaches during the initial COVID crisis, as well as turning the city's vehicle roadways over to bicyclists through the narrowing addition of city-wide bike lanes and speed humps.

One McDonalds customer, when asked about paper straws in relationship to the mayor's race, joked, “This stupid paper straw thing is the final straw.”

KEN HARRISON

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Dear Hipster:

I have been working in the service industry for several years, and I consider myself a consummate professional. Recently, some office-worker friends of mine and I were having a discussion about work, and how we felt like we were all stuck on some kind of a professional plateau or other. The details don't really matter, but suffice it to say one of my friends asked if I could really be surprised by feeling stuck because, unlike the rest of them, I had "more of a 'job' than a 'career.'" Anyways, this seemed really snobby, and, if I'm being honest, antiquated, considering there are plenty of people who work their whole lives in my industry and accomplish plenty. Does this distinction mean anything, considering we haven't been living in 1962 for a long time now?

— BOBBY

Perhaps antiquated, but not useless. I see it like this. A job

is like the person you dated in college who was always drinking too much box wine and tearfully breaking up with you because you just don't get them, y'know? So sooner or later, you got sick of all the drama, or maybe you were actually the one causing all the drama in the first place and you didn't realize it, and you moved on with your life. You thought it would be a huge deal, but, in retrospect, it actually wasn't that big of a deal.

In contrast, your career is more like the one you meet some unspecified length of time after the first person, who is all rock steady and has their shit together, so when you're the one who drank too much box wine, they're right there brushing your teeth



for you so you don't wake up with death mouth the next day.

Definitely different things, but there's a rub (there's always a rub). People make two kinds of mistakes. One mistake is thinking the second thing is always going to make you happy when you have the first thing; and the other mistake is thinking you're missing out on the first thing when you have the second thing.

Dear Hipster:

When you find out the musicians or other artists you have revered and respected your whole life were, in actuality, terrible people (for whatever reason), do you have to stop liking them?

— KELLE

This thing you have here, it's sort of like hippos. Early on in your life, before you know better, you think of these big, waddy goobers floating in muddy rivers with just their nostrils poking up above the water. So cute. You don't think "raging, 3000-pound death machine," but that's exactly what hippos are. They kill people all the time in the wild because they are insanely territorial, and armed with gigantic teeth. Of course, after you learn the awful truth about hippos, that's all you can think about when you think about hip-

pos. Whenever hippos come up in conversation, your mind doesn't go to that catchy Hungry Hungry Hippos jingle on YouTube. No. You go straight to blood-soaked battles beneath the pounding sun of the sub-Saharan African savanna because, you guessed it, hippos gleefully murder each other in addition to killing thousands of humans and other non-hippo animals.

Once you learn the truth, it's innocence ruined forever, right? Yes and no. While you may be deprived of cute visions of cuddly hippos for life, you have to admit hippos become a lot more interesting when you know the ghastly truth. That's something, right?

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

the cost of a few cans of marker spray paint.

The impacts of unsafe and undue traffic impacts, compounded by public vehicle or pedestrian access to site trails, have also been ignored – especially for a stretch of road that has no sidewalks and missing bike lanes. Personal injury lawyers will have a field day when the inevitable traffic or pedestrian accidents occur, and it is learned that the city and the state decided to ignore project hazards. Hopefully the developer can be added when they name defendants in pursuit of six- and seven-figure settlements.

The Commission reported an *ex parte* meeting with Mayor Blakespear, presumably to discuss the City's approval despite the Commission's concern about waste and toxins (including DDT), so the developer stressed how hard he had worked - to help City staff help him.

The developer then boasted that he outclassed the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF), saying they had refused to meet despite a call with the group just days before. He described the group as unsophisticated and lacking expertise — a small group of disgruntled activists. For decades, the non-profit has managed the Batiquitos Lagoon with quiet diligence, directing tens of millions of dollars in improvements to restore the lagoon from a wasteland dotted by shopping carts to the healthy tidal lagoon it is today. Commission members did not allow Foundation representatives to rebut his statements.

The Sierra Club of San Diego delivered a stern warning about the importance of protecting the lagoon, but technical issues prevented it from being read.

There was time, however, for the developer to regale

the Commission as they spoke fondly together of his efforts to keep Grandma Weston happy in her little house on the prairie, and to protect her from any hardships as the \$70 million dollar project is built.

I can still smell the apple pie on the window sill.

Steve Locko
Leucadia

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

"North River Farms foes face lawsuit heat"
Neighborhood News
Updated August 22

The residents of Oceanside need to rally and support the defendants in this thinly veiled malicious SLAPP lawsuit. The attorney behind it is Bradley Hertz from the Sutton Law Firm who did exactly the same thing to us in Redondo Beach. We were lucky to have the support of our community and we finally won in court after spending over \$900,000 in legal expenses. Sadly, they have appealed the case so it may be years before we see one dime.

—Rescue Our Waterfront

I agree that this is just the sort of thing that anti-SLAPP laws were aimed at eliminating. These people are getting desperate, and are ready to modify the proposal one more time. Hey, if this keeps up, they might actually have a plan that looks like a good way to go. But that's not what they're trying to do — they want to intimidate, and it is working to some degree. I'd be reluctant to get involved in one of these drives if I thought some deep-pockets developer could sue me and try to ruin me. Here in North County, we're seeing more and more developments that just don't fit with the area, become massive traffic generators on already-burdened roads and highways, require massive land reshaping, and don't actually add that much housing after all.

— Visduh

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IMPERIAL BEACH

Eclipse fogged up A different sort of hornblower cruise

At midnight on August 2, some locals in Imperial Beach woke up to blaring foghorns. Residents chimed in on their Facebook accounts: “All boats underway have to blow their horns when fog comes in for nine seconds every two minutes because of loss [of] visibility,” said one person, “I just asked my husband, who is a boat captain.” Another Facebooker responded that she heard the foghorns in Chula Vista, about eight miles northeast of the IB coastline.

“I live two miles away from the beach,” said Cristbel Adams, “and the horns [sounded] like the ship was next to my house, it was loud. At the beginning, I thought it was my cell phone or my neighbor’s fax machine.” Adams, a freelance copywriter, mother, and housewife, has lived in IB for about five years. “I never heard something like this, and the

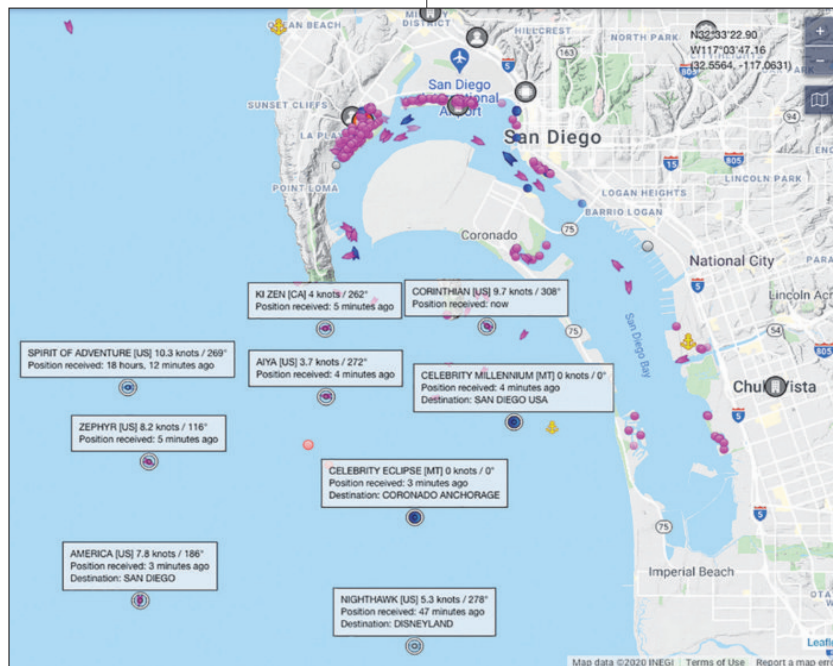


Cristbel Adams: “I thought it was my cell phone.”

horn was on and off throughout the night.”

“It started around 9 pm [on April 1],” said April Olthoff. “They were loud, but in the distance, and it happened every three minutes, obviously for safety reasons.” Olthoff, 30, has lived in IB her whole life; she’s never heard the foghorns here, either. “I was taking care of my dog after we got home from the emergency vet that night; [we were] up all morning. At about 2-3 am, they sounded farther away as if the ship turned and the horns weren’t facing directly towards shore. It was foggy, and it was zero percent visibility. The horns were on and off throughout the night. Some people said it was a Navy ship and other ships, but I don’t know.”

NF has lived in IB for about 50 years. Like Olthoff and Adams, she’s never heard the audible fog warnings here. “It sounds like two ships signaling to one another: [one] short, one long and one medium blast. We’ve never had two cruise ships anchored off the shore for four months. They are making sure the other ship knows where they are.”



IB has heard the horns at midnight.

Olthoff and NF referred to the Celebrity’s Eclipse and Millennium cruise ships, which have been anchored off their city’s shoreline since the CDC suspended cruise ship sailings around the U.S. on March 14. “A third ship, the Disney Wonder, was anchored in San Diego

remained quarantined on the Eclipse, along with hundreds of crew members.”

“Both ships are down to minimal staffing levels of about 80 crew members to maintain the vessels and keep them operational,” said Royal Caribbean Cruises spokesman Jonathon

“We’ve never had two cruise ships anchored off the shore for four months. They are making sure the other ship knows where they are.”

for the first few months of the pandemic, but departed May 30,” ABC News 10 San Diego reported on July 3. “After thousands of passengers disembarked from the Eclipse in late March, test results came back showing several passengers were COVID-19 positive. More than a month later, in May, 63 passengers

Fishman. “As of now, they expect to stay in this position through the summer until our return to service plans are finalized.”

ABC News 10 San Diego added, “The ships occasionally pull into port to refuel, but otherwise stay anchored off the coast to avoid port fees that can exceed \$10,000 a day.”



“The ships occasionally pull into port to refuel, but otherwise stay anchored off the coast to avoid port fees that can exceed \$10,000 a day.”

As of August 16, the Eclipse and Millennium cruise liners were still in our waters, according to marinetraffic.com. Other vessels in the vicinity included a U.S. government vessel, the Legend, Condor and Excalibur passenger vessels, Maersk Launcher, a fishing boat, a tug boat or special craft, and a pleasure craft.

MIKE MADRIAGA

HILLCREST

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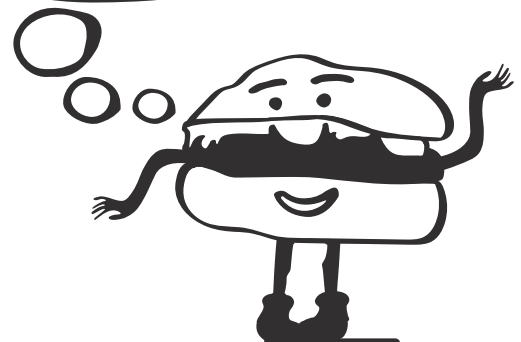
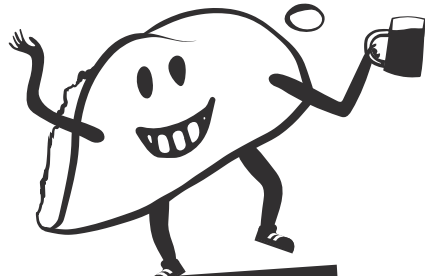
More than 800 San Diegans have petitioned San Diego City Councilmember Chris Ward to step in on a tug of war that pits Hillcrest and El Cajon Boulevard business districts against what they see as a stealth move funded by a developer to create an overlay tax authority on parts of their districts. Neighborhood assessment district wizard Marco LiMandri is planning an L-shaped maintenance assessment district, tentatively called the West End, that stretches from east of Texas Street down El Cajon to Park, includes the San Diego Unified School District property north to Meade and west to Campus, and then heads south on Park to Robinson. It also grabs up the triangle formed by Park, University and Normal Street — including the coming Normal Street Promenade and the H.G. Fenton infill project planned for Harvey Milk and Normal Streets. (LiMandri and staff at New City America Inc. did not respond to requests for comment.)

Benjamin Nicholls, executive director of the Hillcrest Business Improvement Association, called the proposed district ‘a gerrymandered map’ last week when he sent out an email urging people to “Save the Pride Plaza.” “The pride flag will not be in Hillcrest, it will be in the west end,” he wrote. “Why do we need this now? Because it’s easier to pass a tax when no one is paying attention. If they can grab the valuable parts of the neighborhood here, they can do it anywhere.”

“They” is developer H.G. Fenton, which has just completed the 165-apartment project BLVD on El Cajon Boulevard between Alabama and Florida streets. A second, an 82-unit project at Harvey Milk and Normal streets, is in the planning stages. Disclosures filed with the city clerk for January to June 2020 indicate that Fenton staff began weighing in on the Promenade project more than a year ago. Since at least March 2019, according to city lobbyist disclosures, Fenton executives have been meeting with Ward staffers Molly Chase and Brittany Bailey about the formation of the “El Cajon Boulevard BIA,” though it isn’t clear exactly when the idea of what LiMandri is calling a “community benefit district” emerged. Fenton, in the disclosures, describes their lobbying as: support planning and execution of the proposed Normal Street Promenade that enhances placemaking and

continued on page 16

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

This week, we visit what *realtor.com* promotional materials describe as a “sophisticated coastal contemporary farmhouse” sitting on just over a quarter-acre of land at 900 Alameda Boulevard in Coronado.

Custom-built in 2013, the home was designed by local architect Christian Rice and custom-built by Lorton Mitchell, both island-based contractors. With seven bedrooms, seven full baths and three powder rooms, there’s more



“The spaces are designed to engage the courtyard, lending a sense of openness.”

than 8300 square feet of living space under roof including a detached guest house and finished basement.

“The beautiful spaces

in the home are designed to engage the courtyard with pool and spa, lending a sense of openness and light to the home,” the listing continues.

Indeed, massive walls of glass retract to open the kitchen and dining area to the outdoor living space focused around that private courtyard.

“The orientation of the ‘L’ shaped main home and linear guest house and covered patio” create that space on the “relatively large, yet unusually shaped lot.”

“The aesthetics take inspiration from the simple, clean lines of a traditional ‘A-frame’ barn, intermixed with sleek, minimal detailing that gives the home a contemporary flair.”

Building material and color selections were made to “reflect the bright, vibrant hues and textures of the seaside locale.” Some of those choices include white oak hardwood flooring, Quartzite, marble, and custom tile installations, along with board-and-batten wood paneling. Other features include automated window coverings and the Fleetwood

door system, multi-zoned climate control system, backlit bathroom mirrors, and custom built-in cabinetry in the office and playroom.

The “gourmet kitchen” includes two islands and features Wolf and Subzero appliances, including a pair of dishwashers. There’s an entire second kitchen outside under the covered loggia adjacent to the guest house (which, of course, has a third kitchenette).

To maximize the living space on the lot, a finished basement houses two en-suite bedrooms in addition to a sitting room, game room, private theater, and wine tasting area. The main level owner’s retreat includes a “spa-like bathroom and closet system” along with a second office area. The

continued on page 37

Street Style

BY MIRANDA POTMESIL

Travel ink

Maggie Sepeda is an avid traveler who spent a good part of the last three years (pre-pandemic) exploring the other side of the world. Along the way, instead of souvenirs, she collected tattoos. “I love tattoos,” she enthuses, “because to me, they are an extension of who a person is. It’s an art form, a statement, and a community.”

I ask her to tell me her favorites, and she starts with the black and white sunflower tattoo that adorns her right hand. (Queen Bee Tattoo, Springfield, Oregon, \$400). “I



“HAVING TATTOOS IS PART OF MY IDENTITY.”



MAGGIE'S HALF SLEEVE

got the sunflower because for one, I’m a Leo, and I feel a strong connection to the sun and all things sunny. It’s also my favorite flower, and I’ve had a lot of meaningful coincidences involving sunflowers throughout my life.” Eugene, Oregon is where Maggie spent 10 years

of her adolescence, and a city, she says, where tattoos are a lot more common and accepted than the typical U.S. town.

The tattoo directly above the sunflower portrays an abstract hand (Elysian Tattoo, Perth, Western Australia, \$180), which Maggie got on a flash tattoo day.

It was tattooed by artist Tahlia Underlegt, who also happened to design and create the spotted stingray that wraps around the middle of Maggie’s arm (Elysian Tattoo, Perth, Australia, \$430). “The stingray was inspired by my time living in my favorite place in the world, Coral Bay, Western Australia. It’s a tiny beach town on the Indian Ocean in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by the Australian desert. Every day around the same time, orange-spotted stingrays would come out by the dozens and hang out near the shore. So stingrays are really representative of that time and place for me.”

Maggie feels tattoos serves as markers as one navigates through life, and as a sort of therapeutic, visual life story. “I’ve grown more comfortable in my skin, the more tattoos I’ve gotten. I feel they have

continued on page 37

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The Mitchells' four-year chicken journey has been a bonding experience, Carrie says. "When we got them, we just looked at them as providers of eggs," she says. "We didn't realize they were going to become pets, but then we named them and, well, they became our pets."

Who's going to clean the chicken yard?

This is a story about chickens and the ordinary people, like me, who raise them in their backyards. It's a story that is centered around trendy buzzwords such as "sustainable living" and "urban farming" – and connected to the COVID-19 pandemic because, with so many more people stuck at home, it appears that backyard chicken farming is more popular than ever.

The Country Feed Store in Vista normally sells about 500 chicks a week,

says Cat Womack, who has worked there for the last 18 years. The second week of the pandemic, she says, "we set a new record: 550 chicks in five and a half hours. That was the same time schools were closed and parents needed something to keep their kids busy."

Robert Maudsley, a 54-year-old tech support engineer who launched the San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page in 2017, says that after the stay-at-home orders were handed down, "I

started going from one or two new members every couple of weeks to sometimes getting 10 a day. And the only thing I can figure is that everyone's home and looking for something to do, and raising backyard chickens is pretty easy."

His page currently has more than 2700 members.

"Chicken ownership, for sure, is on the increase," says Heather Thelen, who has owned and operated the Hawthorne Country Store in Escondido for 22 years. "Let's say you've got a family and you've been thinking about chickens. Now, you're stuck at home for several months on end, so now is the time — and the kids are home as well, to go through the whole process, watch them grow up, clean up, learn socialization."

The covid-induced surge in backyard chicken farming comes after more than a decade of steadily increasing sales of baby chicks and supplies, from chicken feed to chicken coops.

Thelen says that over the last 10 years, chicken sales have increased by about 15 percent per year. "Normally, we bring in 4000 chicks for Chicks Day, our annual sale, and then 500 to 800 chicks every two weeks," she says.

Thelen and Womack both attribute the growing popularity of backyard chicken farming to the move toward sustainable living and urban agriculture that began in the mid-2000s and accelerated when celebrities began posting photos of home flocks on social media. Lately, a number of reality shows also have featured backyard chickens, including

the 2016 Amazon Original *Backyard Chicken Coops*, the Discovery Channel's *Coop Dreams*, and the YouTube channel *Becky's Homestead*, which has nearly 420,000 subscribers.

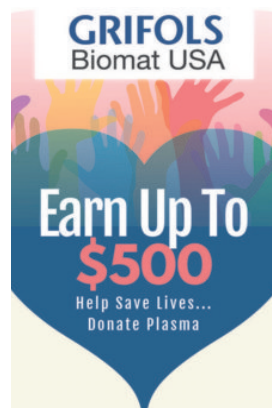
Locally, the trend started accelerating in January of 2012, when the city of San Diego amended its municipal code to allow residents of single-family homes to keep and maintain chickens. The number of fowl allowed varies depending on the size of the lot and zoning, but generally, most single-family homes are allowed up to five chickens, provided the chicken coop is in the backyard, at least five feet from side property lines and 13 feet from the rear property line.

Today, 17 of the 18 cities within San Diego County allow chickens, with most limiting ownership to hens, since roosters, with their early-morning crowing, tend to trigger noise complaints. The only exception is Coronado, where the city council last addressed the issue in December 2011 by voting to uphold a long-standing ban on chickens and other barnyard creatures, maintaining that lots in the city are too small to make chicken farming practical. "We have to protect people who don't want these critters next to them," Councilman Mike Woiwode said at the meeting. If the ban is lifted, he said, "these people will lose the ability to control their environment."

County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, perhaps the county board's biggest champion of agriculture, applauds the growth in chicken farm-

ing. "I think it's fantastic and healthy for people to be able to grow their own chickens, whether it's for the eggs or to eat," she says. "And it helps kids... learn about where food comes from and how to grow it. There's always something good that comes out of a tragic situation like the one we're in right now, and I think this is one of the very positive things."

With COVID-19 further fueling interest in backyard chicken farming, Thelen says that until recently, she had trouble keeping up with the demand, due to limits on chicken sales in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties by state and federal health officials. Chickens in those three counties were under a Virulent Newcastle Disease quarantine, jointly imposed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Virulent Newcastle Disease is a virus that affects birds, particularly poultry,



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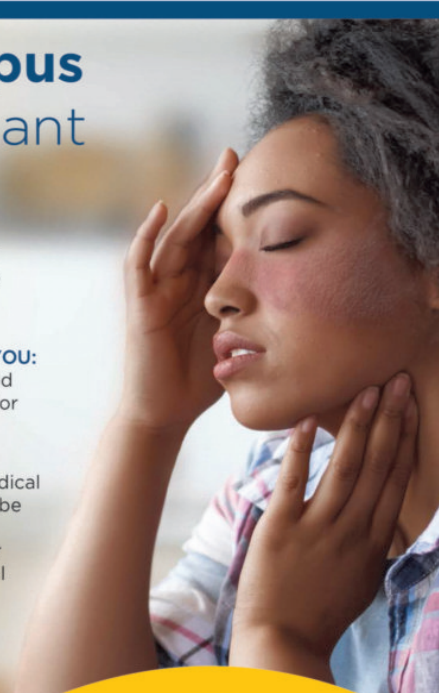
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striking their digestive, nervous and respiratory systems. The latest Newcastle outbreak was detected in May 2018 in Los Angeles County. By December, the virus had spread extensively in backyard poultry in the Los Angeles basin and also infected commercial flocks. After prolonged disease control efforts, the last confirmed positive case was detected in February 2020. The quarantine was lifted on June 1, a move that once again allowed poultry to move freely within the state.

“The lifting of the quarantine really helped,” Thelen says. “We can once again bring in birds from trusted hatcheries and also bring in a greater variety of birds. During the quarantine, it was very difficult. We had to drive on the 8 to Arizona to avoid the quarantine area, and we were only able to bring back 300 to 500 birds, at the most, on each trip.”

Since the lifting of the quarantine, Thelen says, sales have once again been at an all-time high. The Hawthorne Country Store sells most breeds of chickens for \$8 a bird from birth to two weeks of age. The price goes up by a few dollars



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

“Chickens make a lot of people happy,” says Cat Womack at the Country Feed Store in Vista. “And for families, they can teach kids responsibility and really tighten the bonds between family members. It’s surprising how many kids have never seen a live chicken. It’s pretty fascinating watching kids come and get chicks and chicken supplies with their parents.”

every two weeks, maxing out at \$50 when the chicken is four to five months old.

A similar pricing structure exists at the Country Feed Store. “There’s much more of an abundance of chicks right now due to the lifting of the quarantine,” Womack says. “Before, a lot of stores only had adult hens. But now we can get baby chicks in the mail again.”

Womack says top-selling breeds are Rhode Island Reds, Ameraucana, and Buff Orpington, a British breed that dates back to the

late 1800s, known for their above-average size and docile dispositions. “But there are over 100 breeds, and as people become more interested and do more research, they might find other breeds that are better suited for them. Some want dual-purpose birds, for eggs and for meat, while others just want them for their eggs.”

Thelen cautions that “the most popular breeds and what we recommend are two different things. We really want to focus on people having a suc-

cessful chicken experience, and certain things would deter them from that. For example, a lot of people want Silkies or Brahas, or something really different, like Polish Crested, with big hairy heads. But we also know those breeds are not pre-sexable at the hatchery, so you run the risk of rooster problems. The other thing is people want breeds they know. They will ask for a Rhode Island Red when maybe a New Hampshire Red or a Buckeye would make a better pet, because they’re not so aggressive. The Plymouth Rock is another super fun breed, and so is the Black Australorp, which does really well in heat.”

Aside from running a feed store, Thelen has long been an advocate of home chicken flocks. “We feel very strongly that it’s important for people to raise some of their own food for health, for enjoyment, and so we don’t lose those home skills that are a part of our heritage. What happens is,

everyone gets comfortable, and it’s cheaper to buy at the store, so we’ve kind of gotten away from doing things ourselves.”

“Chickens make a lot of people happy,” Womack adds. “And for families, they can teach kids responsibility and really tighten the bonds between family members. It’s surprising how many kids have never seen a live chicken. It’s pretty fascinating watching kids come and get chicks and chicken supplies with their parents.”

Thelen says “there are things you can do to affect the quality of the eggs. You can get an Omega Plus type of feed and the eggs will be higher in healthy fatty acids, or a purely organic feed.”

Beyond eggs, Thelen says, “They’re kind of fun. We call them pets with benefits. I have one customer who goes out every morning and has coffee with her chickens. She loves doing it, and I can understand that. It just becomes part of your world, like petting your cat.”

A pile of dead chickens

Back in the summer of 2010, I traveled to the southern Chinese city of Guiyang for work. I had plenty of free time to explore the city of more than 4 million, and while walking near Qian Ling Park, known for its roaming monkeys, I came across a chicken man selling freshly slaughtered and plucked fowl from a pull cart. I was so fascinated I had my oldest son, Justin, who was traveling with me, take a picture of us.

Looking back, I still don’t quite know what captivated me about

this man and his pile of dead chickens. I suppose chickens have always intrigued me. Years ago, as a little boy, my Mama took me to the San Diego Zoo virtually every Saturday. At the time, chickens — Rhode Island Reds — roamed freely, particularly in the long-gone Monkey Yard area. My greatest joy was feeding them bits of bread we had brought along for the goats in the Petting Corral. Other kids would always chase the chickens. This infuriated me. “Stop chasing the chickens!” I’d yell. I spent hours at the hatchery in the Children’s Zoo, where you could pick up baby chicks as soon as they crawled out of the egg.

Fast forward to 2020. Most everyone I know has started a vegetable garden, and I’m finding that a growing number of my friends and acquaintances have begun raising chickens.

So one day in early July, I’m scrolling through Nextdoor on my iPhone. I’m getting tired of people sniping at each other for not wearing masks, bemoaning the latest salon shutdown order, and complaining about dogs peeing on their front lawns. I turn to the “for sale” section, and right there at the very top is someone offering “four egg-laying hens” with coop, nesting boxes, feeder and water dish, all for \$40. I text the number to see if the chickens are still available, then tell him I am leaving for the Grand Canyon for four days, and if they are still available when I return, I may pick them up.

I go on Facebook and pose the question to my friends: Should I get chickens? Within

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PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Diana Arnold puts the chickens to bed and sits with them awhile when the sun goes down. A flight attendant, she's named the smallest and most personable one "Jet."

a few hours, I've gotten 24 responses, most of them affirmative. Observation: there's no political divide here. Among those telling me to forget it are a diehard Trumpist and a liberal mother of three with a bad case of Trump Derangement Syndrome, both of whom say chickens attract rats and piss off the neigh-

bors. But 16 responses are positive, including the mayors of both Poway and Encinitas.

On the drive home from the Grand Canyon, I get a text from the hen seller that says, "Still interested?" I text back yes, and a day later my 18-year-old son Hunter and I pick up the chickens, the coop, and the other accesso-

ries. Their new home: a fenced off portion of my side yard, with plenty of sunshine and a high wall so the chickens can't fly the coop.

Lucy means food

Joe Donnelly and his wife Pam have been raising chickens in the backyard of their San Marcos home for more than a decade. They bought their first two chicks when daughter Julia, now 20 and a UCLA student, was 9.

"We got them for Julia, two baby chicks just a few days old," says Joe Donnelly, a 54-year-old executive with a healthcare IT firm. "She wanted to take care of them." One was a black-and-white Barred Rock named Oreo, and the other a reddish-black Ameraucana, known for laying light blue eggs. "She was a spastic chicken," Pam Donnelly says. He name was Zoey.

Julia took care of the chickens in a cardboard box covered with chicken wire, kept in the garage, until they were eight weeks old. In the meantime, Joe, Pam, and Pam's father built an outdoor chicken coop, four feet by four

feet and tall enough to stand in. It included a perch and nesting boxes. and was attached to an eight-foot-long "run," four feet wide and high.

The original Donnelly chickens lived for eight and ten years, respectively. After the second one died in 2019, Pam Donnelly says, she was going to toss out the coop, since Julia was going away for college, but relented, "because my dad built it with Joe, and it's just the memory of my dad, who passed away three years ago." When the pandemic was declared, Julia moved back home, and two months later the Donnellys got three more chickens: a Speckled Sussex (so called because of the white spangles on the ends of its dark mahogany

feathers) named Tulip; a Black Australorp, Petunia; and a Golden Sex-link, yellow and white, named Lily. They were purchased from the Country Feed Store in Vista and the Hawthorne Country Store in Escondido.

"They're all friendly, with mild temperaments," says Pam.

The Donnelly chickens eat organic chicken feed and table scraps. "We feed them leftover lettuce and vegetables and tomatoes that are going bad," says Joe Donnelly. Pam adds, "And they go crazy for snails."

Joe Donnelly concedes one downside of raising backyard chickens is the stench. "Yes, they can smell, especially if you don't keep the coop fairly clean,"

he says. "But what we do is add a deodorizer: Stall Refresher & Pet Deodorizer from Sweet PDZ. They sell it in feed stores — it's used in horse stalls — and that takes away the smell."

I remember the warnings I got about rodents. Again, Donnelly has solution: "I make sure I have plenty of [rat] bait stations around, so it's not really a problem."

Marc and Carrie Mitchell, 47 and 45, are both in the car business. They live in Carlsbad, and bought their first chickens four years ago. "Marc is the one who brought it up. He thought it would be neat," Carrie says. "I think what prompted it was that our son, Jimmy, was eating a couple

continued on page 35

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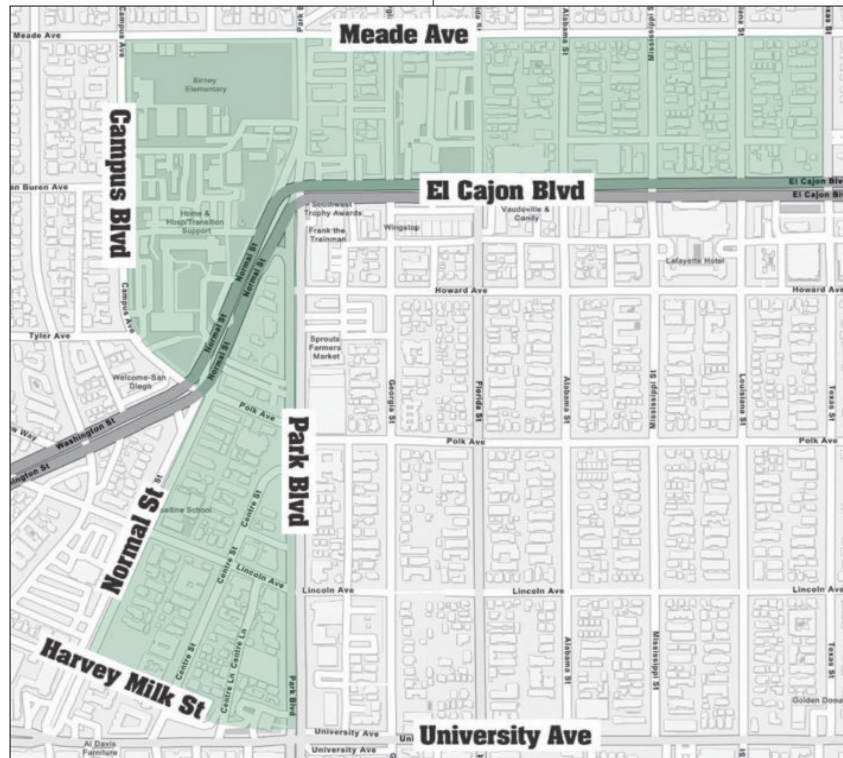
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

pedestrian/bicyclist experience and creates positive impacts for surrounding properties while retaining appropriate access to future development sites. When and why it shifted to the hybrid, which resembles a maintenance assessment district, isn't clear.

The city's map of business improvement districts shows a gap between the Boulevard and Hillcrest business districts, but the proposed maintenance assessment district snatches out pieces of both. North Park already has a maintenance assessment district, managed by the Parks and Recreation Department; that starts a block east of Park and goes east to the 805, south to Juniper and north to Monroe. These districts are voted into existence by the businesses and property owners that live within them. Their votes are weighted by the size of the property, such that the votes of a single large land owner — like Fenton in the proposed district — can make it far easier to impose the “fees” on all properties in a district. The districts have become a way to provide enhanced services to areas hampered by low real estate tax income — though the courts have been clear that the services must be ones that go above and beyond what the



Will the West End end before it starts?

city is required to provide.

The Boulevard's executive director Tootie Thomas says the plan usurps work already done with money raised from its members —

starting with the branding of the area as the West End and the iconic Boulevard sign. “He is carving off parts of our district and calling for the use of our brand marketing and parking

funds,” Thomas says. “That’s not just a MAD, and it’s got us mad.” The existing business districts are particularly irritated that LiMandri will operate the proposed district while he runs a for-profit corporation that will take up to \$120,000 a year in administrative costs — according to a letter he sent in April — from people already paying fees to existing nonprofit districts. Fenton, meanwhile, answered a spate of questions through spokeswoman Margie Newman confirming its apartment projects are in the proposed district but holding it at arms’ length. “Neither the Normal Street Promenade nor The West End are H.G. Fenton Company projects. We would direct you to CCM Ward’s office or New City America, respectively, for information specific to their projects,” Newman wrote in an email.

Sources say that Ward is sending out emails saying he is not involved in the proposal, which is being reviewed by the City Attorney, and his response seems to indicate he is neutral on the proposal. “Both MADs would be beneficial in this area, as it has long struggled with needs for additional services and resources that the City does not provide,” according to Ward’s communications manager Jake Estrada. “MADs do not create new neighborhoods, and regardless of any new MAD, the HBA retains control over the Pride Flag.”

MARTY GRAHAM

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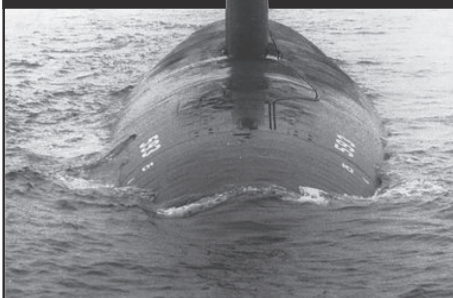
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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



Thursday | 27

HISTORY OF THE MODERN ATTACK SUBMARINE, 1941-1961

Enjoy a Living Room Lecture by Captain Jim Bryant, U.S. Navy (Retired) on the evolution of the modern attack



JIM BRYANT

submarine from 1941 to 1961. In 1941, submarines became sophisticated weapons of war, but were still just torpedo boats that could submerge for short periods of time to avoid attack.

Over the next 20 years, thanks to changing shapes and the development of sensors, submarines became quieter, faster, and capable of operating at increased depths. These significant improvements resulted in the THRESHER Class submarine, the template for all modern nuclear submarines. Event held via Zoom.

WHEN: Thursday, August 27, 5:30 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: sandiegoarchaeology.org/submarine

Friday | 28

CARBONARA MAKING CLASS

Cook with Giacomo, an Italian Chef who grew up in Tuscany helping his parents with their

restaurants. “We started doing some online cooking classes, which are very fun, and the food that we make is totally authentic. We deliver a kit with ingredients the day before the event.” You will receive everything needed to create a Carbonara for two people: guanciale (pork cheek), eggs, pecorino romano DOP, and bucatini pasta.

WHEN: Friday, August 28, 6 pm

WHERE: ACasaMiaSD.com

BELLY UP LIVESTREAM: THE SCORE - CARRY ON

NYC alternative rock duo The Score first earned notice when one of their songs was used for a TV commercial advertising a supermarket chain. Its popularity led to their being signed and releasing a series of hit singles — like this summer’s “All Of Me,” with local Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker. They’ll do a livestream performance from the Belly Up stage featuring their new album *Carry On*, which drops at the end of the month.

WHEN: Friday, August 28, 12 pm

WHERE: nocapshows.com



THE SCORE



FRIDAY, AUGUST 28: CARBONARA MAKING CLASS

Saturday | 29

INSIDE LANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Outside Lands music festival moves indoors to present Inside Lands, a virtual event to celebrate past performances and premiere new livestream content. The virtual festival will be streamed exclusively on Twitch, showing a lineup mixing archived material with new performances, plus producer and artist interviews.

WHEN: Friday and Saturday, August 28 and 29, 4 pm

WHERE: twitch.tv/sfoutsidelands

Theater company member Donnie Duncan, Jr., who is creating a new work from The Hague, Netherlands. All five new works will be debuted in The Virtual Box, filmed and streamed live from the Tenth Avenue Arts Center. Following the Friday evening virtual performance, there will be a talk-back with artists about the season and their performances.

WHEN: Thursday, August 27 through Sunday, August 30

WHERE: therosinboxproject.com

Sunday | 30

THE ROSIN BOX PROJECT AUGUST SERIES

A weekend of all-new premiere works choreographed by artists of The Rosin Box Project: Bethany Green, Brian Heil, Katie Spagnoletti, Carly Topazio, Jeremy Zapanta, and a guest choreographer: Netherlands Dance



THE ROSIN BOX PROJECT

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 sreader.com/events/submit.

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Animal Care Camp Kids in San Diego will get to experience what it's like to have an awesome career with animals! This camp involves unique hands-on activities from our professional animal care staff to give campers experiences with the different aspects of animal husbandry. Campers will be encouraged to follow their passion and explore their skills with animals of all kinds. Spots are extremely limited, so register today! Questions? (858) 756-4117 x 318 or education@animalcenter.org. October 10, \$200. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

BLK Box Gallery Grand Opening BLK Box Gallery will have its grand opening, with the gallery and creative center open to the public

with directed entrance per COVID guidelines. Art pieces, food, fun, and live entertainment. Saturday, August 29, 5pm; **free**-\$10. 21 and up. BLK Box Gallery, 102 East Park Avenue. (SAN YSIDRO)

Internal Combustion Virtual Art Exhibition The San Diego Watercolor Society proudly pres-

ness wasn't in much of a hurry. As Scott said, they would take "baby steps."

Last year, that someday finally arrived, and they started looking for retail locations in the North Park area. The micro-roaster had established a following in its home neighborhood, with Dane Coffee beans retailing in the likes of Barons grocery store and Parkside Market. But as Dane steadily added other neighborhood groceries — such as Windmill Farms in Del Cerro, and Stumps Family Marketplace in Point Loma — the two-pound roaster in the Clarks' kitchen starting working overtime.

"We had to get out of our kitchen, basically," says Brielle with a laugh, "Our production was building pretty fast, and the neighbors started to wonder what was happening."

A friend turned them on to the growing emphasis on locally owned businesses at La Mesa's Grossmont Center mall, and eight months ago, they signed a lease on a small storefront. They moved roasting operations into the shop, and were readying for a spring opening when the pandemic hit.

Although covid ups and downs left them paying rent on a retail storefront they couldn't open yet, it also brought a silver lining. "I got even more busy," Brielle tells me, "because people were drinking more coffee at home."

POUR OVER

BY IAN ANDERSON

Dane Coffee brings cold brew mocktails to La Mesa

When last we saw Brielle Clark, she had secured a cottage license that allowed her to roast coffee in her North Park kitchen. She and her bandmate/husband Scott used it to launch Dane Coffee in 2014, roasting a pound at a time to provide beans to local retailers, make the occasional coffee beer collaboration, and appear at a handful of farmers markets.

As 2016 approached, the Clarks looked forward to the arrival of both a new, larger coffee roaster and their first child. Someday, they told me, they would set up a little café for their fledgling coffee enterprise. But the homespun busi-

ents "Internal Combustion, a Virtual Art Exhibition." Exhibit runs from August 2-29, 2020. The paintings are by our very talented members and are shown in our online slide show as well as the Online Store. Sundays, 12:01am; through Saturday, August 29, \$9. www.sdws.org. (ONLINE)



The new Dane Coffee café: cozier than the usual mall coffee shop

The pickup in wholesale business helped the Clarks pay their new rent, and they were finally able to open to the public as of mid-August. They can't host sit-down customers yet, so Brielle hasn't been able to fully outfit the European inspired café she'd envisioned: cozy chairs and a rug in front of a faux fireplace. But the reclaimed wood, plants, and eclectic décor she has in place give it a much homier appearance than any other mall coffee shop I've seen.

Brielle keeps a record player behind the bar, drawing from a vinyl selection that ranges from

old Sergio Mendes albums to '70s garage rock. She works the shop herself most days, tending to the coffee roaster between customers. After years of roasting only, she says, "It's fun to actually serve a cup of coffee, to make our own drinks."

Opening a coffee shop during a heat wave wasn't the ideal, but in addition to drip and pour over drinks, the former bartender has developed a menu of delicately flavored coffee mocktails using Dane's organic Peruvian cold brew.

Last week, she was serving the Mexican hot chocolate-inspired Cocoa & Cinnamon, the vanilla-infused Orange Blossom, and the Hint of Mint — the last one was especially refreshing in the summer heat.

As Dane Coffee works to build a following in La Mesa, its "baby steps" expansion will continue. By winter, the Clarks will add an espresso machine to help it compete with the mall's Starbucks. And with baby number two due in the fall, Brielle is eyeing a way to increase batch sizes of her increasingly in-demand coffee. "I definitely need a bigger roaster, she says. ■

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream: Dan Mathews Warwick's will host Senior Vice President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Dan Mathews, as he discusses his new book, *Like Crazy: Life with My Mother and Her Invisible Friends*, in conversation with New York Times bestselling fitness guru, Jillian Michaels. This is a virtual event. Thursday, August 27, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/mathews-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Finola Austin Warwick's will host award-winning founder of The Secret Victorianist blog, Finola Austin, as she discusses her new book, *Brontë's Mistress*, in conversation with author of To Have and to Hoax, Martha Waters. This is a virtual event. Tuesday, September 1, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/austin-2020. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Active Kids Yoga Class: Ages 5 to 8 A KidzToPros sports instructor will guide kids in various exercises and physical activities according to the theme of the class. New families can use promo code "MyFirst" to get their first ActivityHero Live class for free. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class. Tuesday, September 1, 3pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/2CQGDxB>. (ONLINE)

Advanced Cold/Hot Process Soapmaking Class Soapmaking 210 is an intense soapmaking class for intermediate and advanced soapmakers. The information pre-

sented in this class relates to both cold and hot process soapmaking. Students learn the desirable soap-making characteristics of different fatty acids and the fatty acid profiles of various natural oils. Each student receives five small bars of soap. Attend in person or online. Prerequisite: Soapmaking 101 or 1 year of experience. 3.5 hours, includes one 15-minute break. Class fee: \$59. Materials fee: \$18. Sunday, August 30, 10:30am; \$77. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Carbonara Live Class A Casa Mia cooking class with Giacomo, an Italian Chef from Tuscany. "We started doing some online cooking classes, which are very fun and the food that we make is totally authentic. We deliver a kit with all ingredients the day before the event." Friday, August 28, 6pm; <https://bit.ly/31jD8RN>. (ONLINE)

Creativity through Songwriting Learn how a simple 3-step process can get anyone creating their own songs — no musical experience necessary. This workshop will introduce the fundamentals of writing original songs to non-musicians and musicians alike, as well as showcasing a go-to creative process that can get you creatively unstuck in all aspects of your life. If you sign up less than 24 hours before the start of the class, please email Kristen at programs@sandiegowriters.org for your link. Saturday, August 29, 10am; \$22-\$27. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3lbCuyP>. (ONLINE)

Intro to Chess: Ages 5 - 13 The chess class will teach students how to form a basic chess strategy and how to win a game of chess. Students should know basic piece movement. New families can use promo code "MyFirst" to get their first ActivityHero Live class for free. Saturday, August 29, 3pm; Wednesday, Septem-

ber 2, 3pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3gnKwRN>. (ONLINE)

Know Your Rights Workshop Want to know more about your rights as an activist or individual? Learn what you can or should do when you're out as a protestor or when stopped by police at the Know Your Rights Workshop, presented by the North San Diego County NAACP and the Dansby Law Group. Saturday, August 29, 6pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3goP5Lm>. (ONLINE)

Landlord/Tenant Law Earl B. Gilliam Neighborhood Law School: Free educational seminar about Landlord/Tenant Law in California with Q&A Session. Wednesday, September 2, 6pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3j2ddFi>. (ONLINE)

Live In-Person Musical Theatre Summer Camps Star Rep Theatre is offering seven weeks of In-Person Theatre Camp Programs with three different age groups between 5-16, from July 20-September 4. Each camp is one week, and includes: Frozen, Moana, Annie, Seussical, Hamilton, Newsies, Backstage Tech, Six, Grease, Mama Mia, 13, and Hero/Villain. Normally our summer camps have over 30 campers. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, only 12 campers allowed per camp. Mondays, 8am; through Friday, September 4, \$195-\$525. Star Repertory Theatre, 329 East Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Melanzane alla Parmigiana Live Class A Casa Mia cooking class with Giacomo, an Italian Chef from Tuscany. "We started doing some online cooking classes, which are very fun and the food that we make is totally authentic. We deliver a kit with all ingredients the day before the event." Sunday, August 30, 11am; <https://bit.ly/34rwyvC>. (ONLINE)

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SHEEP AND GOATS

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Born: Royal Oak, MI

Formation: Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; University of California-Berkeley Law School; St. John's Seminary, Camarillo

Years Ordained: 15

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

Father Anthony Saroki: What is God doing through the events that are happening these days — both COVID and the social unrest that has followed it? Part of this is supposed to be an

opportunity for purification and renewal in the Church, and I don't know if we're responding to it well. There had already been a crisis of faith prior to COVID — so many people are only nominally Christian, and Christianity is much less important in people's lives. So this has been something long developing. These current disruptions are God's way of getting our attention.

SDR: Why did you become a priest?

FS: I grew up in a great Catholic family, the oldest of six. I was taught generosity and responsibility in my upbringing. But I had an adult conversion to Christ through a number of spiritual experiences and people I met as an undergraduate

student. I went from not going to Mass to going to Mass every day. I still expected to become a lawyer and was looking forward to being married, having children and a Catholic family. But after my first year of law school, in 1997, I went on a trip to France with some friends from college, led by a couple of great Jesuits. At the time, World Youth Day was in Paris. Prior to that event, I went on a five-day silent retreat. In the quiet of that prayer, I began to sense God calling me to the priesthood, and that call became clearer over time.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

FS: Love, praise and proclaim Christ. We look to the basics of Christian life — liturgy and

personal prayer, service and fellowship — and how we live these out in different ways. But we want to share Christ with others too — through outreach, for instance, to fallen-away Catholics. We also have beautiful celebrations of the sacraments, and outreach to the poor, including a huge two-year process of advocating for a low-income housing community next to the parish, which was an amazing experience.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

FS: Catholics believe in three options — heaven, hell, and purgatory. I like Benedict XVI's whole treatment of that in his encyclical *Spe Salvi*. His description of purgatory is excellent. Basically, Benedict



Father Anthony Saroki

says, nothing unclean can enter heaven, which we know from Revelation (21:27). So something has to happen between the moment of our death and fully enjoying God in heaven. It's an act of purifying love from God to free us from our tendency to sin so that we can actually enjoy God in heaven. So God does something for

us to complete our sanctification. Benedict focuses on one of Paul's letters where he talks about each of us being built with different materials, and that which was built with straw is burnt away (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). That said, the suffering in hell is a hopeless suffering, a separation from God and a primary pain of hell is that there's no prospect of seeing God face to face. But suffering in purgatory is a hopeful suffering. One who is there knows that he'll see God face to face, but he needs to endure certain things to enjoy that experience of being in God's presence.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

Save Your Scraps Webinar

Come hungry to learn about reducing food waste in the kitchen, from smart shopping and proper storage to repurposing food scraps. Hear about new legislation surrounding organics recycling and how it will affect you and your household. Register with your email address to receive the webinar link! Saturday, August 29, 10am; Register here: <https://bit.ly/3j7YZ5S>. (ONLINE)

Short Story Finishing School

In the Short Story Finishing School we will analyze your story ideas or completed stories and make sure they contain enough conflict, structure, climax, tension, dialogue, character development, and plot twists to keep your readers on the edge of their sofas until the very last sentence. You will be emailed the Zoom link 24 hours before the start of class. If you sign up less than 24 hours before the start of the class, please email Kristen at programs@sandiegowriters.org for your link. Monday, August 31, 10am; \$120-\$144. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3lbpWl>. (ONLINE)

Soap Salvage through Rebatching Class In Soapmak-

ing 125 class, learn to create beautiful, new bars of soap by rebatching old scraps and failed batches. Safely learn to neutralize lye-heavy soap or introduce additional lye to oily soap, in order to salvage failed batches and produce gorgeous soap. Each student receives a bar of hot process soap rebatched during the class. Attend in person or online. Prerequisite: Soapmaking 101 or 1 year of experience. 2 hours. Class fee: \$39. Materials fee: \$6. Sunday, August 30, 3pm; \$45. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

The Comic Toolbox Wonderclass Zoom class with two tight hours on the principles of comedy, with quick looks at comic tools and comic filters. When it's done, you'll have all the tools you need for a writing exercise. Reconvene in the Zoom Room to discuss and refine some of our work, plan our next steps, and do some fruitful Q & A with John Vorhaus. Saturday, August 29, 10am and 2pm; \$60-\$72. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3j7YS0B>. (ONLINE)

The Elements of Songwriting

Take a deeper dive into the fun-

damentals of songwriting, using guided prompts and fun collaborative exercises to explore new musical aspects of your creativity. We'll also explore turning your prose and poetry into seeds for songs, and introduce you to some free online tools that can guide the process. If you sign up less than 24 hours before the start of the class, please email Kristen at programs@sandiegowriters.org for your link. With Suzanne Yada. Wednesday, September 2, 7pm; \$180-\$216. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/2CSLjfd>. (ONLINE)

The Forum: Marketing & Branding for Creatives Join us for a dynamic conversation about how to develop strong marketing & branding skills in the arts/nonprofit world. If you are a creative industry professional in need of the necessary tools and tips to advance your arts business or nonprofit organization, then these workshops are for you. Tuesday, September 1, 12pm; free-\$5. <https://bit.ly/2Ys6fSt>. (ONLINE)

The Hearing & Cognition Connection Join us to learn the primary causes of hearing loss,

its relationship to dementia risk and other health conditions, and recent treatment innovations. Thursday, August 27, 12pm; free. alzsds.org/services/professional-education/. (ONLINE)

Webinar: Dementia 101 A comprehensive overview about memory loss, Mild Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias. Learn about risk factors, common symptoms, and resources for help. Pre-registration is required. Friday, August 28, 10am; free. alzsds.org/services/education/. (ONLINE)

DANCE

Red Room Dance Due to COVID and closures of the venues, we will be performing live on stage, no live audience. We will be streaming on Facebook and Zoom so you can watch and interact with us from the safety of your home. The performance will have Belly Dance, Pole Dance and Exotic Chair Dance. We will be accepting for tips and donations to support the performers. Saturday, August 29, 8:30pm; free-\$50. gogodancearts.square.site/. (ONLINE)

The Rosin Box Project August Series TRBP presents a weekend of all-new premiere works debuted in The Virtual Box, filmed and streamed live from the Tenth Avenue Arts Center. Each livestream will begin at 7:45PM PST with a brief introduction, and the performance will begin at 8PM PST. Following the Friday evening virtual performance, there will be a talk-back with artists about the season and performances, and opportunities to talk with the dancers and choreographers about their new works. Thursday-Sunday, August 27-30, 8pm; \$21. therosinboxproject.com/. (ONLINE)

FOR KIDS

Beep Beep! Music that Moves You: Ages 2 to 7 A first introduction to musical notation for children 1 1/2 and up: Jump, sing, play instruments, learn from puppets and stories about musical notation and social-emotional themes that enrich children. Use promo code MyFirst to get your first ActivityHero Live class free. Friday, August 28, 3pm; free. <https://bit.ly/3gtTpF>. (ONLINE)

Laurie Berkner: Music in the Classroom a one-hour, live-streamed seminar of top tips for using her songs in educational play or structured learning at home. Laurie will address both virtual teachers and in-person caregivers, devoting 40 to 50 minutes to her presentation, to be followed by an interactive Q & A session. Thursday, August 27, 6:30pm; facebook.com/LaurieBerknerBand/. (ONLINE)

Sharon, Randi & Bram: Skin-namarink Sharon & Bram brought happiness to four generations of children and their grown-ups. Sharon Hampson and her daughter Randi Hampson have coaxed Bram Morrison out of retirement for this up-close-and-personal sing-along gathering. At this first-ever event, viewers will be able to see, interact with, and sing along with each other and the performers. Thursday, August 27, 4pm; <https://bit.ly/32h0sQF>. (ONLINE)

Virtual Fun Animal Friday: Kestrel Fly high with Living Coast Discovery Center to learn about kestrels live on Facebook. You'll get to view a mighty kestrel up close and learn about their cousins in Italy. Be sure to get your questions ready for this interactive event, they might just answer them during the presentation. Friday, August 28, 10am; free. <https://bit.ly/2EpmTLc>. (ONLINE)

FUNDRAISERS

Wounded Warrior Project Carry Forward 5k Join Wounded Warrior Project on Saturday, August 29 as you run/walk your very own Carry Forward 5K in support of America's injured veterans. This new virtual experience allows you the flexibility to complete your 5K in your neighborhood or on your treadmill at home. Saturday, August 29, 7am; free-\$40. <https://bit.ly/2YsosiO>. (ONLINE)

LECTURES

History of the Modern Attack Submarine, 1941-1961 Join us for a Living Room Lecture by Captain Jim Bryant, U.S. Navy (Retired) on the evolution of the modern attack submarine from 1941 to 1961. This virtual event will be held via Zoom and is limited to 100 attendees. Cost: Pay what you wish Thursday, August 27, 5:30pm; sandiegoarchaeology.org/submarine/. (ONLINE)

MUSIC

Old Globe: Word Up More of a gathering than a show or a class, Word Up! is a digital opportunity for community members to connect with each other and participate in a new performing-art medium each week through a live-streamed collaboration. Every Friday night, Laura Zablitz will be joined by some of San Diego's incredible performing artists. Performing art forms will include spoken word, rap, puppetry, singing, and more, often with bilingual and multicultural elements. Friday, August 28, 6pm; Search "Old Globe word up" on youtube.com. (ONLINE)

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Beef three-way for Bedford

“There’re a lot of New England transplants here. They come to us for a little bit of home.”

It’s that meat slicer. Whirring away. If it hadn’t been for the thin waves of blushing beef it was peeling off, I would have manfully resisted the temptation. Instead, here I am, inside Thorn’s awesome Barrio Logan beer-brewing barn with a wicked little bar hiding in the corner, and one particular IPA calling out my name.

Sigh. “Hopster Pot, please,” I say. “The hazy one.”

“Are you ordering food?” says the guy behind the bar. Luis. He has long plaited braids. Oh yeah. Food. Covid law. “I could get you a \$5 ticket towards a MishMash item,” he says. I know MishMash is a burger/taco/sandwich joint not far off National



Did somebody mention meat in this bun?

Avenue here.

Then again, the meat slicer. The meat folding down in flaps does look pure pink and delicious.

“Big Jim’s New England Roast Beef, \$14,” says the sign.

Wow. Fourteen dollars for a sandwich? That’s the price of two Hopster Pots.

“It’s good, though,” says Luis. “Or you could spend \$5 on a MishMash certificate.”

What the heck. May as well try the New England roast beef. Specially as I’m getting the “New England style” IPA, the Hopster Pot. I pay up, get the receipt, head out past two sidewalk tables filled with guys slurping and joshing away on tall stools. NASSCO shipbuilders, look like.

I show my receipt to the two guys at the white pop-up tent. One’s supervising the slicing, the other’s wrapping up a sandwich.

Except it’s not a sandwich. “It’s called a ‘North Shore Beef Three-Way,’” says the burly slicer, Jim.

“You Big Jim?”

“Yup,” he says. Has to be from the Northeast. Big on action, small on talk.

“Three-way?” says the other guy, Kevin.

Sounds a little, you know, hey hey! A little pepper in the social life. “What does that involve?” I ask.

He looks at me like, *You’re not from New England, are you?*

“Three-way is beef with all the toppings: mayo, white American cheese, and sauce, James River BBQ sauce.”

“Oh, right,” I say.

“Sounds good.”

His name’s Kevin. He and Big Jim started this up after they were both furloughed as prep chefs because of covid. Have been buddies ever since they grew up in North Shore, Mass.

“There’re a lot of New England transplants here,” says Jim. “Refugees from lousy weather. They come to us for a little bit of home.”

He says he had four guys roll up recently. They bought 13 Three-Ways. Said these were their first for 3000 miles. That’s how far San Diego is from Boston.

“And another gent drove down from LA. Got out of his car in a Red Sox jersey and bought six. Said these were his first in three years. Jumped in his car and drove straight back to LA.”

“So you get regulars?”

“We get regulars,” says Big Jim.

Kevin hands me my — I try to say sandwich, but Jim interrupts me. “Nuh-uh,” he says. “It’s a Beef. A North Shore Beef Three-Way. The boys back home are pretty particular.”

I haul it off to the last table, where I left my New England-style Hopster Pot IPA. And, have to say, yes, total’s \$21, but what a combo. The Beef is a massive pile, warm, as tender as a kiss, so nice and savory. The cut is top round, or sometimes bottom round that da boyz slow-cook right here for four hours at 300 degrees, then, only after you order, slice it up. “We have to be careful,” says Jim. “It gets very floppy and soft when you break down all the connective tissue. But if we full-slice it, it ends up too thick. If we set it too thin, it disintegrates. It’s an art. If we get it wrong, our regulars from Back East will let us know. But if we get it right, there’s no pull when you eat it. It almost chews itself.”

Cheese add is good, and of course, the James River sauce is crucial for its “not too thick, not too sweet, not too hard, peppery tang,” as Jim puts it. Hmm. Jim, James, James River Sauce — any connection? Kevin says it has near-legendary status around Boston and North Shore, but Jim ain’t a scion of that family.

“We got 100 gallons shipped over,” he says.

“That’s partly what puts our costs up. People won’t accept a substitute.”

After the meat and the sauce, the most important umami element comes from the onion roll bun. Those savory chips of toasted root vegetable on top stop the meat from being bland.

And, have to say, the Hopster Pot IPA works well with the victuals. It is gentle, persuasive,



The guys: NASSCO shipbuilders including Juan, Martin, Fernando and Amin



Bar guy Luis is a fan of cloudy beer and blushing beef. And Pancho Villa.

fruity even. Luis says the Back East IPAs tend to be that way. Specially the hazies. Hazy’s a Vermont invention. That’s where boys and girls started putting in things like oats and wheat and never got around to filtering them out. All of this started five years ago. Plus, they used hops for their flavor more than their bitterness. They let you off easy.

Whatever, this Hopster Pot and the Three-Way are a match made in New England heaven. I can see why sandwich pilgrims — uh, North Shore Beef pil-



Big Jim and Kevin: Covid closure gave birth to the Roast Beef Three-way idea

grims — make their way here.

These guys also pop up their tent at Poor House Brewing Company in North Park on Sundays from 12:30. “But we’re usually out by two, three. We just cook one round.”

I guess there is something about the gentle flavors from Back East. You get so used to being whacked about the jowls by our local flavor gods. Maybe we’ve lost something.

Overall, I leave thinking I’ve discovered not so much a pop-up as a religion. And hey, I’m a believer. ■

The Place: Big Jim’s Roast Beef at Thorn Brewing, 1745 National Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-255-9679
Hours: Tuesdays, 4-7pm (also at Poor House Brewing, 4494 30th Street, North Park, Sundays from 12:30pm till run out)
Price: North Shore Beef 3-Way, \$14
Buses: 901, 929
Nearest Bus Stops: National and Beardsley (901); Sigsbee and Newton (929)

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Bomb biscuits

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

At last! A visit to Sunnyboy Biscuit Company

Sunnyboy Biscuit Co.; 3749 Park Blvd, Hillcrest. If there were an alternate timeline, in which a pandemic never showed up to close local restaurants, I'd have been happily feasting on biscuit breakfast sandwiches all through the spring and summer.

Alas, it took me months to overcome the distractions of our current surreality to finally make it over to Sunnyboy Biscuit Company. The small business got going in January, filling in the triangular fifth corner where Robinson and Park meet, in Hillcrest.

You could be forgiven for thinking there's not much to a biscuit. But if you really give it some thought, biscuits are more often bad than good. Most are too dense, or not dense enough, or rock hard, or fall apart when you butter them.

Sunnyboy's biscuit land in the proverbial sweet spot, good enough to order straight up at \$3.50 apiece, to be eaten with whipped butter and a berry compote (which is like jam, but fresher and fruitier).

However, Sunnyboy finds myriad ways to tempt us to his biscuit counter, and to the outdoor seating more recently installed outside the restaurant. Sandwiches of rosemary fried chicken — breaded light, flaky — are dressed with maple syrup (\$12), topped with horseradish slaw (\$14, with a side of deviled eggs), or paired with bacon and smothered in sausage gravy (\$16). Beef fans may go country-fried steak or smoked brisket, and hipsters may toast up their biscuit with smashed avocado.

Variations of these ingredients appear in weekend specials, including a country-fried steak "country benedict," or brisket hashed with onions and peppers.

Personally, I could not be more pleased with the sausage and egg breakfast sandwich, topped with melted cheddar and just a taste of that rich country

FEAST!



The latest restaurant at Hillcrest's triangle intersection

gravy. It scratches my every breakfast sandwich itch, and so good I can't even trip over its \$12 price tag (bacon and veggie patty options are available).

But to see how far a biscuit can go, head for the dessert-friendly biscuits brulee (\$13.50) — a pair of biscuits dipped in vanilla

bean custard, baked crispy, and smothered in strawberries and maple whipped cream. You need a sweet tooth to appreciate this one, and if it hadn't been for this dag blasted coronavirus, you'd probably already know that.

by Ian Anderson



"Biscuits brulee": biscuits turned into a sweet treat.



Sunny B biscuit sandwich, with sausage.



Fried chicken and biscuit sandwich, with deviled eggs.

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The blue-ribbon sweets of Albie Candy Co

Sweet news, everybody! San Diego may have missed out on a county fair this year, but thanks to a burgeoning farmers market business, we can still sample the wares of last year's best-in-class candy maker.

Native San Diegan, Albie Asmussen is the man behind Albie Candy Co.. Previously, this candy maker co-founded the now defunct Oddball Candy Company. Since taking top honors at both the county and state fairs last year, he's secured a cottage kitchen license and built an adorable, vintage looking trailer small enough to park in ten-by-ten farmers market stalls.

I spotted the trailer and its "We [heart] candy" signage at the Hillcrest Sunday market, though it's also a regular at La Mesa's Friday market and Vista's Saturday market, with occasional appearances in North Park and Santee.

Albie's cart displays large, rainbow swirl lollipops, assorted jarred candy such as jelly beans, gummies, and gumdrops. But the best reason to check it out is the homemade fudge. Small bars include chocolate peanut butter and mint chip. Vegan flavors include hazelnut and rocky road. Each bar goes for \$4, or you can get three for \$10.

I had to try the 2019 county fair winner, maple walnut, a maple syrup fudge laced with chopped walnuts and a "hint of smoky bacon." I was initially surprised by the lack of chocolate, but Albie says roughly half his fudge recipes are chocolate-free, including cookies n' cream and Irish cream.

The maple walnut more than satisfied me, but the kids preferred something simpler: a crumbly old fashioned fudge, based on the recipe of Albie's great-grandmother. We all agreed the milk chocolate toffee crunch was our favorite, due to its "buttery toffee" and "hint of almond." The dark chocolate toffee crunch is that much better, to the grown-ups anyway.

The state fair winner, a root beer float fudge, sounds intriguing enough, and though Albie hasn't seen it sell well in the past, he may re-introduce it before the summer's end, as a refreshing warm weather



Three fudge bars for ten dollars.

flavor. However, fans may need to check back when the weather cools to find some of his popular caramel fudges, being that he tells me caramel is tough to work with in the heat. When it returns, I'll be first in line to try his bourbon caramel dark chocolate fudge, made with locally produced San Diego Distillery bourbon and finished with Hawaiian sea salt.

In the meantime, the local spirit may be found in another type of candy: bourbon pecan brittle. Albie recently expanded to include traditional peanut brittle in addition to alternate variations.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Bow Ties & Sandals Virtual Gala

Options For All will be hosting a virtual gala entitled Bow Ties & Sandals via Zoom. Guests will enjoy their choice of three gourmet, four-course meals prepared by Top Chef All-Stars Finalist Brian Malarkey. They will also have the opportunity to savor small production wines, as well as a signature cocktail, all delivered directly to their front door (Eligible for San Diego County Residents Only). The program will include live music and entertainment, a live interview with Chef Malarkey, a virtual toast led by Herb & Wood's Sommelier and Mixologist Brandon Lervold, who will also discuss the wine pairings. Plus, surprise celebrity guest appearances and exciting live auc-

tion items. For more information and to purchase tickets, guests are encouraged to visit <https://optionsforall.org/2020gala>. For more information, please contact Brian Zotti at bzotti@optionsforall.org. Saturday, August 29, 6pm; \$75-\$2000. 21 and up. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Hatch Chile Season: Chile Roastings To Go

The distinct fragrance and taste of Hatch Chile Peppers is always a favorite of the Gelson's customer. This year, Gelson's will offer their custom-



This vintage-styled, hand-built trailer may be found selling candy at local farmers markets.

ers roasted Hatch Chile peppers to go. Chiles can be ordered online and are available for pick up. Gelson's has long been a local advocate for Hatch Chiles, a mildly hot and savory pepper that, when perfectly roasted, yields a uniquely delicious flavor, both spicy and sweet, offering a flavor pop that enhances a range of recipes. The Gelson's Kitchen also offers Hatch Chile Cornbread, Hatch Egg Salad, Hatch Chile/Grilled Corn/Hairloom Tomato Salad, Hatch Macaroni & Cheese, Mini Quiche

Hatch Chile, Hatch BBQ Chicken Wings, Hatch Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla and, new on the menu, Hatch Shrimp and Cheese Quesadilla. Hatch Chile Chicken Sausage, Hatch Chile Bratwursts and Hatch Chile Chicken Chorizo are among the many offerings from the meat department. Customers can order their chiles for any Saturday, up to the Thursday immediately prior (while supplies last). Saturday, August 29, 10am; \$40. Gelson's Market, 2707 Via De La Valle. (DEL MAR)



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the inside track



The Go-Gos rock that middle-aged punk look.

When the Go-Gos were punk “They broke the building elevator trying to get a cow down into the club,” recalls former Pussycat Theater projectionist Dan Whitehead of the Masque punk club in the basement of the Hollywood Pussycat Theater, where the Go-Go’s played their earliest gigs in the late ’70s. “It was an old-style elevator with the large up-down handle once cranked by operator, and the car had lots of brass.... [The owners] were very angry about that, and even more upset when they couldn’t get a permit to restore it and wound up with an ugly, sterile, broken elevator.”

Whitehead — whose office was atop the Balboa Theater downtown, and whose employers lived part-time at the nearby Hotel San Diego and ran Pussycats in El Cajon, National City, and downtown — recalls “A murder happened in the club and, after the police left, the chalk outline of the body was painted with Day-Glo paint. It was still there the last time I was in the building in 1989, after the club was gone.”

The Masque features prominently in a new Showtime documentary about the Go-Go’s. Leased in 1977 from the operators of the Pussycat — who had also converted the old Hollywood Burlesque theater off Horton Plaza

into the legit Off Broadway stage — the club was founded by Scotsman Brendan Mullen, who moved to California from London in 1973 to take a lease on the 10,000-square-foot, \$850-a-month basement nuke shelter. Frequently raided by police, the venue hosted early gigs by Black Flag, the Ramones, X, the Dead Kennedys, and other seminal punk acts. The Masque was shut down in 1978, though it surfaced again in 1979, at another locale, before vanishing for good. Mullen later opened clubs including the Other Masque and Club Lingerie.

Local *Black Market Magazine* publisher Carl Schneider, who filmed a documentary about San Diego illustrator “Mad” Marc Rude, recalls “When I was working on the documentary, I interviewed Brendan Mullen, he had a few Marc stories but they never made it in the documentary. But knowing his history, and since I had all the equipment setup, I asked him if he wouldn’t mind talking about his involvement with the L.A. punk scene and about the Masque. He was really cool and was more than happy to do it, I got two hours of him talking about the early punk scene, as well as how he started the Masque. After that interview, I had thoughts about doing a documentary about Brendan, but sadly he passed away not too long

afterwards.” Mullen died of a stroke in October 2009.

Joel Kmak remembers “[I] ran into Brendan many times through the years, nice guy. When I quit a band that within a month would become the Penetrators and joined the Hitmakers in December of 1977, my first gig with them was at the Masque with the Bags, Controllers, and the Germs. I have pictures. We went on at 3 am, because the Nuns were playing at the Whiskey, and Brendan wanted to wait for the crowd to come after that show was done.”

Until the Showtime documentary, many may have been unaware that the Go-Go’s started off as punk. “I was one of those 11-year-old kids who saw them on Saturday Night Live and bought the album immediately,” says Zachary Goode (Geezer, Secret Seven). “It’s interesting that everyone is still alive and looks pretty good: past and present band members, managers, everyone. Can’t say that about too many bands that started in the ’70s.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Hip-hop goes postal

On July 1, the United States Postal Service issued a new set of stamps composed of four hip-hop designs based on the four elements of the lifestyle: rapping, DJing, break dancing, and graffiti art.

“Since [hip-hop’s] inception more than four decades ago,” says the independent agency of the U.S. government, “the electrifying music, dance, and art movement has profoundly influenced American and global popular culture.”

How is the local hip-hop scene receiving them?

“This set could’ve been done a skosh better, like mix a different set of colors for each exact stamp,” said J-Ski, a Chula Vista hip-hop dancer and artist. “They should’ve consulted with a few more of us hip-hop fans or historians.”

Briskone, a local graffiti

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artist, reacted, “Graffiti is a letter-based art-form, specifically style based. The graffiti art stamp doesn’t represent any of that; I feel the other elements of hip-hop were done justice. Maybe using an image of an individual in the act of painting would’ve worked better.”

A week prior to interviewing with Brisk, he painted an abstract mural of his name on an El Cajon wall, with his buddies watching.

“I am glad that they used a female on the graffiti art stamp, because I feel that females don’t get enough recognition in the culture. [But] the female graffiti artist on the stamp is non-representative with high fashion ‘cutesie’ looking shoes, rather than ‘get ready to bolt’ sneakers.”

I reached out to a couple of women in our

songwriter, Ric Scales. “It also would’ve been nice to see DJ Kool Herc, who could be considered the father of hip-hop.”

On August 11, 1973, Clive Campbell also known as DJ

“Imma order those stamps asap,” said rapper NEMY, who with Ric Scales uploaded their new “Holy War” music video on August 13.

“Are you gonna send out mail with them, or are you gonna collect them?” I asked.

“Collect them, for sure.”

J-Ski collects stamps as well. “I own over 60,000 stamps; some are worth more than \$45 a piece, but the majority are worth \$.05 to \$.12 each.”

“Will the new hip-hop stamps increase in value?” I asked.

“Maybe,” he replied. J-Ski’s got a “connect” on the inside of his local post office. “He told me some post offices in San Diego got the hip-hop stamps, while others did not.

The stamps won’t be re-



Hip-hop stamps are going fast.



IB rapper Ric Scales (left), with collaborator Nemy, said, “The fact that they’re taking the time to pay homage to our culture is a beautiful thing. My only issue is it could’ve looked better.”

hip-hop scene for an interview but they didn’t reply.

Added J-Ski, “The colors are too colorful, and look more Bob Marley themed.”

“So why not have a known artist that has been there since its inception, such as Futura 2000 or T-Kid or Cope2, hold down the artistry,” suggested Imperial Beach rapper and

Kool Herc, threw a “Back To School Jam” party at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx. Many say that the party is where hip-hop began.

“The fact that they’re taking the time to pay homage to our culture is a beautiful thing,” Scales continued. “My only issue is it could’ve looked and been represented better.”

issued, and roughly 80 percent are sold, or gone. By the time your story will run, [I think] they’ll be completely out.”

— Mike Madriaga

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Bush, Mike Madriaga, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Jay Allen Sanford

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



FALLING DOVES

Chris Leyva's band Falling Doves has a new EP called *Isolation*, the first of a planned three-volume set. "I was approached during the pandemic by my labels, both in the US and UK, and management to do virtual concerts or do covers, and I agreed to do the covers," says Leyva of the EP. "Warm Audio's Royce Richmond sent me some recording gear, to help me deal with a really bad depression I was going through, along with a lot of people, so I agreed to go into my vault and just start pulling tracks and finishing them. Each one of these songs was special, because every time, I had a breakup, [and] the song marks the time."

Some recordings date back 15 years, but Leyva says they remained unreleased "because it was too painful. And it got better, so I abandoned them." Sporting sleeve art by Romanian illustrator Andrei Stan, *Isolation* features covers like Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" ("Basically, crying of the soul for loving the ghost of a memory"), Oasis' "Wonderwall" ("A plea of hope and love and salvation"), and "Ships Out to Sea" by The Be Good Tanyas, which concerns a man who commits suicide and goes to Hell. "It's a weird song where I just kept adding layers of sounds and sound effects, to cope with reality."



A STRAY CATALYST

"A Stray Catalyst is a *Gesamtkunstwerk* project that integrates poetry, music, choreography, videography, and mixed media arts," says Linda Vista-based Saki. The contemporary classical-new music multimedia endeavor began in 2019 as a collection of poetry set to music, recorded at the Mesa College recording studio as an internship assignment. A Stray Catalyst just released the title single and video for an upcoming album, *Solitaire for Two* (due October 20). "This song is about cognitive dissonance, and how that manifests itself in intra-and-interpersonal relationships. The rest of the concept album is similarly themed, in that it presents the musings of someone who

nonchalantly evaluates age-old psychological and societal conundrums from an all-too-intellectual standpoint, only to find themselves lost in a labyrinth of second guesses. The video is kind of a queer romance between two characters who presumably represent the heart and the mind. The lyrics go 'The head beats the heart every time they play a game of checkers,' and one of my friends, Scarlet Checkers, is a clown/tortionist, and I thought she'd be perfect for this video... the hardest part was finding a venue to record at during lockdown, and what ended up happening was I built the set in my living room from stuff I bought at Home Depot. It's crazy what can be done with a small budget."



PONY DEATH RIDE

"Moving out of San Diego has been a long-term plan and, after considering a few options over the years, including other parts of California, Burlington, Vermont emerged as the clear frontrunner," says Jaye MacAskill of married comedic rock duo Pony Death Ride. "Since leaving Brooklyn in 2003, I've been in San Diego for the past 17 years. I've always felt fortunate to have the opportunity to live in California...for someone who grew up in a small, isolated semi-rural community in Canada, since moving here, I have done so many things, seen so many places, and met so many great people, it just doesn't even seem possible." She says the move wasn't initiated during the pandemic.

"So, during the earlier, quieter, gentler, and more innocent pre-Coronavirus part of 2020, we made an offer on a small building just outside Burlington's downtown core, a block from Battery Park and the lakefront. By the time we closed, the Covid lockdown had begun. Originally called Gronan's Store, it's a circa 1880s-1890s corner market with second floor living quarters. After trying to wait out the worst of the Covid epidemic for the past few months in San Diego, we're looking forward to finally heading east and making this charming little building our home and future site of business."



CINDY LEE BERRYHILL

"I'm delighted to announce that a digital single — two new CLB songs, with an accompanying booklet — will be released on Omnivore Recordings in early September, 9/11 to be exact," says Cindy Lee Berryhill. "With myself on guitar and uke, Renata Bratt on cello, violin, and mandolin, David Schwartz on upright bass. Danny Frankel on drums and percussion, and Deane Cote on pedal steel and mandolin." Berryhill first came to prominence on the singer-songwriter scene in 1987 with her acclaimed first album and hit song "Damn, I Wish I Was a Man" ("I'd be sexy with a belly like Jack Nicholson"). Berryhill's tune "When Did Jesus Become

a Republican?" spent over a year as a featured track on Neil Young's *Living With War Today* website, where songwriters are encouraged to submit political music. Her husband, noted rock critic and *Crawdaddy* magazine founder Paul Williams, died in 2013, having suffered declining health ever since a 1995 North County bicycle accident. Songs written during that period appeared on her 2016 album *The Adventurist*, which she dedicated to Williams' memory. A re-issue program of her earlier albums was launched last year by Omnivore, including new liner notes and bonus tracks, beginning with her *Garage Orchestra LP*.



SATANIC PUPPETEER ORCHESTRA

SDSU English Department alumni Michael Buchmiller, aka Professor B. Miller, and his singing robot SPO-20, have a new single for "Sea Anemones (aka Shark Wigs)," with a video featuring a series of flashing color layers from imaginative concert posters. It's from a new 12-inch EP called *Lost at Sea*, which comes in a laser-etched vinyl edition limited to 42 copies with the cover artwork etched into the disc, featuring liner notes by John K. Peck (*McSwee-*

ney's). Around town, the duo is best known for performing original conceptual sci-fi- and horror movie-inspired works like "I Stole Your Daddy's Time Machine," "What Is the Most Expensive Way To Feed A Zebra," "Wolfman Rides a Unicycle," and "Haunted Rental Car." They also occasionally cover unexpected material by acts ranging from Andy Kaufman and Talking Heads to Kraftwerk, They Might Be Giants, Blues Brothers, The Cure, Devo, and Spinal Tap.

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

Off Broadway Live:

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 6pm — Encore Tribute: The Beach Boys.

Old Town Blues Club:

Saturday, 12pm — Rod Run Classic Car Show & Sock-Hop. Free.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 3pm — Melissa Etheridge Livestream. \$10.

Thursday, 7:30pm — Peter Sprague Weekly Livestream Concert. Free.

Friday, 12pm — Belly Up Livestream: The Score - Carry On. \$10.

Friday & Saturday, 4pm — Inside Lands Virtual Music Festival.

Friday, 6pm — Old Globe: Word Up.

Saturday, 4pm — Follow The Light Virtual Music Festival.

Saturday, 12pm — Grammy Museum Spotlight Saturdays.

Saturday, 2pm & 6pm, Sunday, 6pm — Idles Livestream Concert.

Saturday, 6pm — Muriel Anderson's All Star Guitar Night. Free.

Saturday, 2pm — ProgStock Virtual Series.

Saturday, 6pm — Tommy Emmanuel. \$15-\$20.

Saturday & Sunday, 9am — Whippoorwill Arts Festival.

Sunday, 6pm — Belly Up Livestream: Los Lobos.

Sunday, 5pm — Joshua Scott Jones Sunday Sunset Livestream. \$10.

Sunday, 3pm — Pete Yorn Livestream Concert. \$15-\$60.

Monday, 5pm — Topeka Presents John Hiatt.

Tuesday, 10am — Predator Dub Assassins Livestream. Free.

Wednesday, 6pm — Umphrey's McGee Livestream. Free.

Palomar Starlight Theater:

Friday, 8pm — Wayward Sons.

South Bay Drive-In:

Saturday, 8pm — Metallica In Concert.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Pandemic for strings

One of the issues orchestras are facing these days: the health risks associated with brass instruments. You may already know that trumpets, trombones, french horns, and their brass buddies feature "water keys" to drain the accumulated moisture from the instrument. Another term for water key is "spit valve." But the term "spit valve" might be less than accurate. In theory, the fluid being drained isn't spit, but the condensed moisture from the brass player's breath. Either way, when the player hits the water key/spit valve, the fluid drains onto the floor beneath the instrument. That fluid could be seething with COVID-19. Orchestras will need to figure this out.

Meanwhile, a way to achieve safe concerting might be to focus on string music. Think about it: all the string sections need to be spread out a little bit, as there is no one forcefully expelling

his or her potentially covid-laden breath through a violin. In fact, string players could wear masks.

Since string music is clearly safer than music with winds and brass, let's take a look at some music written only for strings. It's the responsible classical musical choice to make.

I'm being facetious, of course, but let's explore the idea anyway.

The gold standard for string music is either the *Serenade for Strings* by Tchaikovsky or the *Serenade for Strings* by Dvorak. A brief survey of pieces composed "for strings" reveals that these two are clear masterpieces. But the problem with this brief survey is this: string music doesn't always tell you that it is string music.

The most famous string music ever composed is Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. You wouldn't know it from the title — which translates to *A Little Night*

Music — but *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* is a serenade for strings. Sorry Tchaikovsky and Dvorak, now Mozart is in the game.

Maybe he already was. Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* is something of an homage to Mozart, according to the composer himself. In the same vein, Edvard Grieg's *Holberg Suite* is a 19th-century suite for strings based on the 18th century's style of dances. He wrote it to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Dano-Norwegian playwright Ludvig Holberg. The *Holberg Suite* is another piece that doesn't declare it is for strings only.

Early 20th-century British music produced a load of string music. There are two composers who dominate this genre. One of them, Edward Elgar, tells us that he is writing string music with his *Serenade for Strings* and *Allegro and Introduction for Strings*,



String music is safer than music with winds and brass.

both of which are among my favorite compositions of all time.

The other composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, does not tell us he is writing for just strings in his famous *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. Record producers used to sneak other pieces by Vaughan Williams, such as *The Lark Ascending* and *Fantasia on Greensleeves*, onto records of "English String Music."

The *Fantasia on Greensleeves* is scored for two flutes, while *The Lark Ascending* has two flutes, one oboe, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, and a triangle. Both these pieces are potential

covid threats and should not be confused with the safer string music in this article.

The last piece I want to mention is a *Serenade for Strings* by the Czech composer Josef Suk. The piece was premiered in 1895. Though a wonderful piece of music, it doesn't quite live up to the *Serenade for Strings* by his father-in-law and fellow Czech, Dvorak.

Lovers of American classical music will no doubt fault me for omitting Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* from this study. I have two reasons for doing so. One, I've never liked it much; two, isn't there's enough sadness in world right now?

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

La Jolla Music Society SummerFest 2020 We invite you to join us for La Jolla Music Society's SummerFest, August 21-29, 2020. A small but mighty all-star roster of old friends and new faces to bring to life the most beloved pieces from the chamber music canon. From iconic and uplifting works by Schubert and Mendelssohn, to Barnatan's signature arrangements of symphonic works for chamber ensemble. Thursday, August 27, 12pm; Friday, August 28, 12pm; Saturday, August 29, 4pm; ljms.org/summerfest/.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:
Wednesday, Sep. 30 — Hamilton Leithauser. \$25-\$44.

House of Blues:
Sunday, Sep. 6 — Juice.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Sunday, Sep. 6 — Clannad.

Music Box:
Thursday, Sep. 10 — Squirrel Nut Zippers. \$35-\$37.
Wednesday, Sep. 16 — Manic Focus and Mersiv.
Friday, Sep. 18 — She Past Away and Forever Grey.
Thursday, Sep. 24 — Digable Planets.
Friday, Oct. 2 — Sir Veterano, Murs, Fashawn. \$20-\$30.

North Park, University Avenue to El Cajon Boulevard. :
Sunday, Sep. 13 — Art of Elan: Musical Migrations North Park. Free.

Off Broadway Live:
Friday, Sep. 11 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Saturday, Sep. 12 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Friday, Sep. 18 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Saturday, Sep. 19 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Sunday, Sep. 20 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Friday, Sep. 25 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Saturday, Sep. 26 — Encore Tribute: Abba.
Thursday, Oct. 1 — Encore Tribute: America & Bread.
Friday, Oct. 2 — Encore Tribute: America & Bread.

Old Town State Historic Park:
Saturday, Sep. 12 — Fiesta Old Town. Free.
Sunday, Sep. 13 — Fiesta Old Town. Free.

Online Internet Events:
Thursday, Sep. 3 — Melissa Etheridge Livestream. \$10.
Thursday, Sep. 3 — Thursday Thing: Fruition Featuring Tyler Thompson. Free.
Friday, Sep. 4 — Patti Smith Livestream. Free.
Saturday, Sep. 5 — Devin Townsend Empath Live By Request Set.
Saturday, Sep. 5 — Evangeline Gentle Live From Hamilton, Ontario.
Saturday, Sep. 5 — Eli-Mac Livestream. Free.
Thursday, Sep. 10 — A Stray Catalyst Living Room Stream. Free.
Friday, Sep. 11 — Lacuna Coil

Pala Mesa Resort:
Thursday, Sep. 10 — MohaviSoul.

Palomar Starlight Theater:
Sunday, Sep. 6 — Mariachi Divas.
Friday, Sep. 11 — Metalachi.
Saturday, Sep. 19 — War. \$52-\$78.
Friday, Sep. 25 — Don't Look Back.

Soda Bar:
Sunday, Sep. 13 — Christian Death.
Tuesday, Sep. 15 — Negativland.
Wednesday, Sep. 23 — The Meteors.
Friday, Sep. 25 — Braids.
Saturday, Sep. 26 — Anti-Nowhere League and the Varukers.
Sunday, Sep. 27 — Michigan Rattlers.

Viejas Arena:
Saturday, Sep. 26 — Los Angeles Azules.

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Greedy-go-round

What is it that will ultimately draw the following four characters together: the misfortunate maintenance man at a men's sauna, a crooked customs officer, the resilient boss of a glittery nightclub, and the battered B-girl she takes under her wing? Narcotics? Nope. The other drug: money — in this case, a sizable Louis Vuitton bag stuffed full of it that has passed through more hands than a cloth napkin.

We won't know which of the *Beasts Clawing*

at *Straws* stashed the bag in a locker until almost three-quarters of the way through the picture, and the identity of the ultimate beneficiary will remain a mystery until seconds before the curtain shot. That leaves the viewer ample time to try and crack this nifty Korean thriller.

It's while making his nightly rounds that bathhouse custodian Joong-man (Bae Seong-woo) happens across the locker with the loaded valise (stealthily deposited in a silken long take), and he quickly places it in storage, hoping no one will claim it. It must be tough having a boss who's a stickler for promptness, particularly if you're in the habit of being late. Joong-man blames his home life — his wife (Jin Gyeong) wages a daily battle with a demented mother-in-law (Youn Yuh-jung) — but the boss will have none of it: the next time he arrives so much as a minute late, Joong-man is on the unemployment line.

Port officer Tae-young (Jung Woo-sung) has a different set of worries, chief among them Mr. Park (Jung Man-sik), a lender-of-last-resort who refuses to take anything which causes him displeasure for an answer. (We arrive at Park's warehouse fishery just in time to witness the body of a previous defaulter being carted off.) Tae-young cries victim, blaming the nonpayment on the MIA girlfriend for whom he cosigned a loan. He's so relieved when Park grants a week's extension that he gives the foreboding goon a friendly nudge, which is rather like trying to thaw an iceberg with a Bic mini. First time director Kim Yong-hoon sets the neo-noir lighting knob in Tae-young's apartment to "expressionistic," thanks to the neon jungle street view that flickers outside his window.

The reason Mi-ran (Shin Hyun-bin) works the nightclub won't be spoiled here. Suffice it to say that the illegal immigrant she befriends on the job insists on playing Galahad, and

the diverting *Double Indemnity* excursion he leads us on is a case of right tire treads, wrong corpse. It's one of several times that Yong-hoon traffics in black comedy while taking us on this amusing greedy-go-round. We're also introduced to her boss, club owner Yeon-hee (Jeon Do-yeon), as an angry customer's slap to the face is met with a beer bottle to his head. She's number one on Mi-ran's speed dial, the one

she calls at the first sign of trouble, and the one who offers the felicitous advice that one murder is hard, but two are easy.

Occasional blasts of gratuitous violence belong in another movie, as do some of the films more reachable moments. A former classmate of Tae-young's turned cop, and the touchy-feely familiarity he brings to the role, borders on *Columbo*. And from what I read, Joong-man's mother had much more to do in the novel upon which this is based. There's a touching scene between mother and son towards the picture's close, but other than spewing bile, her sole function here appears to be causing her son to show up late for the job. And given the exposed nature of sitting naked in a pool spa, wouldn't Mi-ran notice the mural-sized shark tattooed on the boss lady's leg before Yeon-hee exited the water?

It will take a good hour for the bouncing time-frame to stabilize (and even longer for the director to remove his Tarantino training wheels). Still, it's a wild, multi-character ride that's rife with energy and style, complexly knotted with an ending as simple as it is satisfying. ★★ ★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

Random Acts of Violence — Why is there an offscreen narrator reading aloud the comic panel dialogue boxes that open the show? Perhaps because, after two decades spent lending valuable support to brash teen comedies, Comic-Con staple Jay Baruchel (*Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, *She's Out of My League*) — here acting for the first time as producer, writer, director, and star — knows his audience. For the farewell issue of *Slasher*, author Todd (Jesse Williams), his publisher/investor Ezra (Baruchel), and their respective womenfolk, Kathy and Aurora (Jordana Brewster and Niamh Wilson) decide to hit the promotional trail; call it a working vacation to promote



Beasts Clawing at Straws: Jeon Do-yeon stars alongside a pair of legs sticking up from tub.

a successful comic book based on its eponymous and still-active serial killer. Determined to add a little "medicine to the sugar" that Ezra considers essential to appeasing the fan base, Todd soon learns the hard way that it's always best to write the ending first. There was a flash — around the time a radio interviewer accused the author of hero-worshipping a psychopath and lionizing male violence — when the prospect arose of Todd as a modern day dime novelist, a Ned Buntline chronicling the 200-mile spoor of a serial killer and the trail of corpses left in his wake. The thought lasted long enough for the film to come to be precisely what it argued against. 2019 — S.M. ★

The Secret: Dare to Dream — I was working the night watch out of North Park's long-defunct Citizen's Video when *The Secret* first revealed itself to me. My curiosity was piqued, but it took months before I finally got it. Not "got it" in the sense of understanding. (What do you take me for?) Rather, "got it" in the sense of "the DVD couldn't stay on the shelf long enough for me to take it home." When I did finally sit down to watch it — well, at least the 40 minutes I was able to get through — it called to mind Disney's *The Flying Mouse* and its message of, "Do your best, be yourself, and life will smile upon you." The Silly Symphony preached a similar "laws of attraction" message, and it did so in one-tenth the time! This time 'round, with Hurricane Hazel about to make landfall in Louisiana, former scientistologist Katie Holmes trades in one cult for another to star as Miranda, a widowed mother of three trying to make ends meet selling fresh seafood.

Enter Bray (Josh Lucas), a stranger passing through town and carrying a manila envelope outfitted with a conspicuous red wax seal, as though pressed by the ring of Richard the Lionheart. A college professor who minored in carpentry shot down my first complaint by quoting Einstein's, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." But this modern-day Clarence has a sadistic

streak. Through a series of mishaps, the envelope gets misplaced. Bray knows the contents, and rather than tell Miranda the good news, he lets her suffer. A shamelessly feel-good romance competently strung together by Andy Tennant (*Ever After*). You'd do best to watch it as the top-half of a double-feature with the Doris Day rom-com *It Happened to Jane*. 2020. — S.M. ★

MOVIES@HOME

WHERE THE TRUTH LIES (2005)

A fictionalized account of a murder that may or may not involve showbiz royalty. Atom Egoyan excels at dysfunctional relationships best viewed from a distance; what better subjects than Dean Mar-



Where the Truth Lies: Colin Firth and Kevin Bacon play Martin & Lewis fast and loose.

tin and Jerry Lewis, comedy's most publicly divorced duo? It's America in the '50s, and Lanny Morris (Kevin Bacon) and Vince Collins (Colin Firth) are the country's comedic pulse. Lanny is the crazy schtick comic, while British Vince is his cool and collected straight man. The two

are at the top of their game: wealthy, powerful, and popular beyond comparison — until the day when a young hotel maid inexplicably turns up dead in the boys' suite. A scandalous sex scene earned the film its NC-17 rating; I can see Bob Hope using Bing's Dumbo ears to pin back his ankles, or Costello bent over a sink really screaming, "Hey Abbott!" — but Martin tailgating Lewis while the funnyman/humanitarian is in mid-hetero hump? (Anyone who reads Lewis's

autobiography is guaranteed to glean new insight from the passage where an older, more experienced Dean checks freshman Jerry for crabs.) Surprise and a little disappointment set in when the film strayed in the direction of a whodunit, as opposed to a continued meditation on celebrity demystification.

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PERSONALS

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RFK Your bat bag must be as colorful as a pride flag. Do not get too caught up with visions of the celestial kingdom, the salamander letter will tell the tale of the golden plates. Remember, seeing a garibaldi does not always guarantee a fish dinner. LV

BEAUTIFUL JAMEE You're truly amazing. Your eyes are amazingly memorizing. Your smile lights up the room. Your laugh is contagious. Your heart is pure as gold. You're smarter than you say. You're just one of a kind like no other. I truly do love you. ballinhobo@gmail.com

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LV: SHATTERED BUT NOT BROKEN Your prose is

impressive. However, please note my wood comes from Dick's Sporting Goods. All sizes and colors. Fishing is in order to ascend to the Celestial Kingdom we deserve together. Will you look through the golden rings in the hat? RFK

MASKS ARE CA MANDATED Friendly reminder that you are required to wear a mask in a public space. Yes, that means the grocery store, the park, the beach (except at your spot), and going for a run/stroll. Del Mar has part-time deputies issuing fines. Just wear a mask.

THANK YOU SD POSTAL WORKERS Fellow citizens, join me. I'm going to be writing a special letter to my postal carrier thanking them for their service during the pandemic. It can be a simple thank you or a long love letter. Older folks, let's make Cliff Clavin from Cheers proud.

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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

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ROOMMATE NEEDED for newly designed Del Cerro condominium. Nice area, must see. Upstairs unit, got its own bathroom to the Master bedroom which is for rent. Available September 1st. \$1,100/month. For details, please call Warren Barnard at (619) 247-9799

SANTEE, \$675 2/2 home w/ homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. (619) 499-9663, phone calls preferred.

MIDTOWN \$500 separate living room/kitchen space. 200 square ft., furnished, cable, 420 friendly. No drugs, alcohol, tobacco, drama. First/last. Senior/disabled/retired/student. (619) 528-0907

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

RENTALS

LA MESA, \$1550. 2BD+1BA Large apartment in small 6-unit complex. New wood-like flooring. Fenced patio with washer/dryer hookups, 1 assigned parking spot. Near 94 freeway. Water and trash paid. No pets. 7410 Lime Street #D. Agent: (619) 298-7724.

NORTH PARK, \$1395. 1BD+1BA. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors, garage, laundry room. Near Morley Field. No pets. 3583 Pershing Avenue. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

NORTH PARK, \$1495. 1BD+1BA. Lovely 1 bedroom upstairs unit, vaulted ceilings, upgraded kitchen and bathroom. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, assigned off-street parking for one car. Water and trash paid. 3753 Cherokee Ave #8. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

NORTH PARK, \$1750. 2BD+1BA, deposit \$1750. New wood-like flooring. Laundry on site, parking space assigned, water and trash included. No pets. 4169 Alabama. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495. 1BD+1BA downstairs unit with patio. All appliances, plank flooring, parking, laundry room. No pets. 1735 Reed Avenue #7. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

TWO SENIORS LOOKING for place to rent under \$1,200 or \$1,300 max in East County or San Diego. Please call (619) 493-9860.

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OFFICE SPACE IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS \$995. 300sqft. 4452 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA, 92116. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

DOWNTOWN, \$250-495. Artist work spaces: Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call (619) 234-4165 or (619) 269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

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, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. (619) 239-3808.

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\$175,000 HOUSE BY THE BEACH in Playas de Tijuana. 3 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, laundry room, large study, master bedroom with balcony and walking closet, excellent location, garage for 2 compact cars, American-style construction. For appointments, 3 days in advance. (664) 277-7739 / gpoinmvive@gmail.com

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MUSIC

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OLDS AMBASSADOR TRUMPET \$165 Made in Fullerton, CA, with Blessing 7C mouth piece, good condition, comes with Pro Tech International soft case, \$165 — (760) 445-8350

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TROMBONE - TENORS large bore tenors basses, baritone, music books, mouthpieces - what do you need? Call and ask. (619) 264-3686

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BASS GUITAR 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, red burst body, figured maple neck, chrome hardware, sadowky preamp, MEC gold pickups, mint condition (619) 980-6008

BASS GUITAR 1990's Schaller Rockoon(Kawai). maple neck, rosewood finger board, perfect red body paint, red EMG pickups, active, 4string, Excellent condition, no marks or scratches with coffin bag. (619) 980-6008

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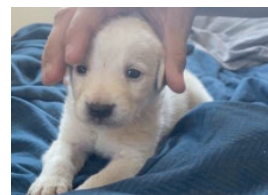
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PLEASE HELP US FIND GEORGE Lost on August 19, 2020 in Valley Center, CA 92082 near Pala Loma Drive and San Antonio. (760) 803-0900



GORGEOUS LABRADOR PUPS 2 males available. They are very loving, calm puppies. They are now ready for their forever homes. \$850 each, call (619) 882-8845.



HOLLAND LOP BUNNY This cutie is all white with beautiful blue eyes. She has been family raised, held everyday, well socialized, and great around kids and other animals. She is super sweet and not to mention cute. Asking \$150 to ensure a good home. (760) 623-6468



MINIATURE FRENCH POODLE PUPS Females are vaccinated and dewormed, I have vaccination records of them. They are smart, lovely, easy to train. This is my first litter. (760) 916-2487

LOOKING FOR GOOD HOME for 2 yr old male blk & white tuxedo cat, has been fixed, healthy had all shots. Would prefer female new owner. Free. Reason needs home because I am moving. Please text. (619) 631-9258

3 MO. FULL SIBERIAN HUSKY She is potty trained, knows to sit and shake, she's a very smart girl; asking \$1,000, but I am negotiable. (702) 827-6488

AMERICAN BULLY Open for stud. Please text for any questions. (760) 626-9943 or (760) 519-1478.



PYRENEES PUPPIES Pyrenees puppies available and now looking for their forever homes. They are 8 weeks old, have their first set of shots, and have been de-wormed. They are the best family dogs anybody can ever ask for. \$1500 each. (858) 537-4130

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BLUE BRITISH SHORTHAIR KITTENS Blue British shorthair kittens. Ttext: (501) 819-3807 / mayisalor@mail.com

BROTHER AND SISTER LABRADORS Full Labradors; they are very light golden/ yellow; they have their shots and deworming; they are 2 months old. Rehoming fee \$2000. (619) 800-7512.

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2016 QUINTANA ROO triathlon bike equipped with sram etap, 11 speed, excellent condition, super fast, has aero bars and zip bars. \$1,750. (805) 453-3822 serious inquiries only.

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2016 VESPA (946) RED 150 \$6,999. The Vespa 946 is the purest and most modern expression of a style that for millions of travelers and fans is a byword for freedom and movement. \$500 off military, 1st responders, medical workers. (760) 746-6001

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TIRES Two 235/60-16, Continental one brand new, one excellent condition. Both for \$25, (760) 214-3122

1973 MGB "Newish" dark green paint. Rag top, tonneau cover, car cover. Looks sharp; runs great. \$8,000. Ken Phelps (619) 300-3827.

38 BUICK STREET ROD 4 door chopped top sedan. Olds 350 V8. auto trans. disc brakes. Many extras. Contact Bob for more info. \$11K. (760) 643-7326 / skutter@pacbell.net

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2011 VOLKSWAGEN CC \$6,900 2011 VW CC, AC, runs and drives perfect, turbo, clean title, 121,900 miles, \$6900 this price includes registration on your name, tel. (619) 755-9511

HEAVY DUTY BARREL TRUCK Steel drum truck. Move, tilt and unload heavy steel drums with ease. Adjustable clip locks drum into place. Spring-loaded axle for extra leverage to move and balance heavy loads. Easy to move on 10" rubber wheels. \$175. Text only, please. (760) 728-0858

HEAVY DUTY HARDTOP CADDY We used this caddy for the wife's Tbird hardtop. The Tbird flew away so if you'd like a heavy duty caddy that can handle most any removable auto hardtop with ease, this is for you. Text only please... (760) 728-0858 / thomasgrahamjohnson@gmail.com

LUXURY LEXUS \$6,000 1998 Lexus LS400; clean title; only 114,000 miles; non smoker; fully loaded: navigation, heated seats, factory air suspension. 2 owners; smog done. A/C is ice cold; excellent example for 22-year-old Lexus. (858) 705-7301

\$12,500 MAZDA CX9 GT CX-9 7 passenger Grand Touring edition. Leather everything. New water pump. Exactly like brand new. Fully loaded. Low miles. 2 key fobs. 2 tone leather. Top of the line. Back-up camera. Bose sound system. Bluetooth plus much more. (619) 504-8374 / mytaximax@gmail.com

\$2,799 - 1993 HONDA ACCORD EX Best car made in Japan. Unstoppable 4cyl, hates gas. Almost everything is new. This Honda can easily go 400-500K miles. Parts are very plentiful. Use only cheap oil change, no expensive synthetic oils.

No premium fuel. So much fun to drive - like a GoCart. (619) 504-8374 / mytaximax@gmail.com

\$2899 HYUNDAI SONATA AUTO 4CYL This little 4 cyl hates gas & loves to zip around its like a Toyota Corolla it's so much fun to drive. Very comfortable, super plush interior fabric, it has a huge trunk & uses the cheapest oil no fancy synthetic \$125 oil changes. I can trade/barter. (619) 504-8374 / mytaximax@gmail.com

2004 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SUV perfect condition, like new, 138 K miles, white over gray. Everything works, all clean title and plates and insurance. \$6400 firm cash. Cream puff. Must leave message (760) 420-3641, San Marcos

1981 EL CAMINO \$7,000 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

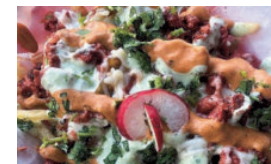
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HELP WITH FENCING, YARD MAINTENANCE Service, repair, and installation. CA drivers license required. Must have chain link fence installation experience. (619) 749-1494 / dan.ca@cox.net

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TECHNOLOGY HP Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Field Technical Support Representative in San Diego, CA (Ref. #3724613). Maintain high level customer

satisfaction by clarifying customer needs and ensuring that they are met. Handle customer-relation problems promptly and appropriately, escalate issues according to established procedures. Telecommuting permitted. 10-25% travel may be required to various unanticipated work locations throughout the U.S. Mail resume to HP Inc., c/o Yesenia Tejada, 3390 E Harmony Road, Fort Collins, CO 80528. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.



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BERTA'S RESTAURANT HIRING COOK Seeking line cook or prep cook with experience in Latin food for full time and part time positions. Call or email. Located in Old Town, San Diego. (619) 295-2343 / hola@bertasoldtown.com

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Reliable, able-bodied, for 24 hour shifts. \$120 cash paid at end of each shift. No drinking, smoking, visitors, pets, children. mysandiegocar@yahoo.com

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GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

will drive to doctors appointment, personal assistant, companion, prepare meals, light house keeping. Call Carol at (858) 525-1154

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Have friend that is Prius owner, he is looking for a free good used battery, please text only he is hearing impaired. (619) 460-6748

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I am an electronics hobbyist, and I am looking for 1960's vintage, tube-type stereo components to refurbish, such as Fisher, Scott, Marantz, Dynaco & more. Please, call Jack (619) 296-3100. (619) 296-3100 / jack22@cox.net



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Will trade for my \$800 violin. Please text (619) 393-2253

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of working car or truck for job, been homeless ten years tired want to work. Bill (619) 931-4674 God bless.

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BUS Clean out your yard and

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OLD STEREO EQUIPMENT

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

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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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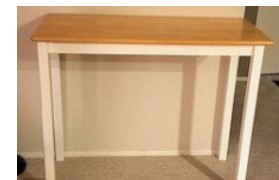
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Creepy

— Srinivas Gupta, a businessman in Koppal, India, and his wife, Madhavi, were building their dream home when she died in a tragic car crash in 2017. But in many ways, she is still with Gupta — especially now that he has installed a life-size wax statue of her in the home. Madhavi's likeness is in a seated position, clothed in a pink sari and gold jewelry. "The planning for the house was all done by her and we couldn't imagine entering this new house without her," Anusha Gupta, one of the couple's daughters, told CNN. At a housewarming party on Aug. 7, friends and relatives posed with Madhavi on a couch and posted photos to social media. The family says they will keep the statue in their courtyard: "She used to enjoy the outdoors," Anusha said.

More Money Than Sense

— A Chinese businessman living in the United States has commissioned the priciest face mask in the world from Israeli jeweler Yvel, the Associated Press reported on Aug. 9. Yvel owner Isaac Levy said the 18-karat gold mask will cost \$1.5 million and sparkle with 3,600 white and black diamonds. "Money maybe doesn't buy everything," Levy admitted, "but if it can buy a very expensive COVID-19 mask and the guy wants to wear it and walk around and get the attention, he should be happy with that. I am happy that this mask gave us enough work for our employees to be able to provide their jobs in very challenging times like these," he added. Levy said he would not wear it himself, though.

Awesome!

— It isn't often that you can thank your overweight belly for saving your life, but a 28-year-old man in Henan Province, China, is doing just that. The man, identified as Liu, fell through a wooden cover on a well in his hometown of Fuliudian Village on Aug. 7, Fox News reported. But rather than plunging to the bottom, he got stuck in the opening with his built-in life preserver. At least five firefighters were needed to hoist the man out of the well using a rope tied around his waist, but Liu escaped unharmed.

Government in Action

— Jade Dodd renewed her driver's license in Hickman County, Tennessee, on time, but when she received the new card in the mail, it was missing a key ingredient: her photo. Where Dodd's face should have been was an empty chair, WKRN reported. "The lady at the DMV did not really believe me when I was like, hey, I need my license fixed," Dodd said. But when she saw the ID on her computer, she said, "Oh, I need my manager for this." Wes Moster of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security explained that the chair photo was an old one on file for Dodd that was reused for the renewal by mistake, and she was issued a new license right away.

Aspirations

— Pal Onnen of Hastings, Minnesota, just wanted to put her nwt on the pam, United Press International reported. And indeed, on Aug. 12, she did just that. Onnen set the Guinness World Record for spelling words backward: 56 words in one etunim. Sgnit-sah is so proud of you!

Bright Idea

— Rev. Eileen Harrop of the Church of England is taking social distancing seriously as houses of worship reopen, Sky News reported. During holy communion, the church has decreed that communicants should be offered only bread, not wine from a "common cup." But Harrop is going a step further, using extra-long chopsticks to deliver bread. "I thought, 'Why can't I use a long pair of chopsticks, real bread rather than wafers, and drop it into the communicants' hands?'" she said. She's using the method at both churches where she serves. "This is ... perhaps a first in any parish church in the diocese," she continued.

Revenge

— An unnamed man in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia, posted notices offering a \$100 prize to the person able to best impersonate Chewbacca from *Star Wars*, but the contest turned out to be a hoax designed to harass the woman who dumped him. The posters listed the woman's phone number and invited contestants to call and deliver their best Chewbacca roar. The woman, identified only as Jessica, told 9News: "I'm getting phone calls at re-

ally strange hours of the night. ... I thought it was quite funny, actually, a good joke." However, she drew the line when the ex abandoned his car, without tires, in the driveway of her home, blocking her in. "The police ... are going to do something about it," she said.

A Family Affair

— Retired wheat farmer Peter Grundy, 84, of Denilliquin, New South Wales, Australia, has wanted to sell his apartment in Melbourne for the past eight years so he can move to a retirement home, but he's been foiled by his 49-year-old daughter, Katrina, who refuses to move out. Grundy has taken his daughter to court to evict her, *Nine* reported, but she won't budge, and Grundy is running out of options. "I'm sure it's taken the bit of youth I had left in me," said Grundy, describing his daughter as "very clever in legal terms." Katrina contends her parents gifted her the apartment, but a judge has dismissed that claim. Dad has spent about \$70,000 (Australian) in legal fees. "She has an enormous capability to come up with things we never hear of," he said.

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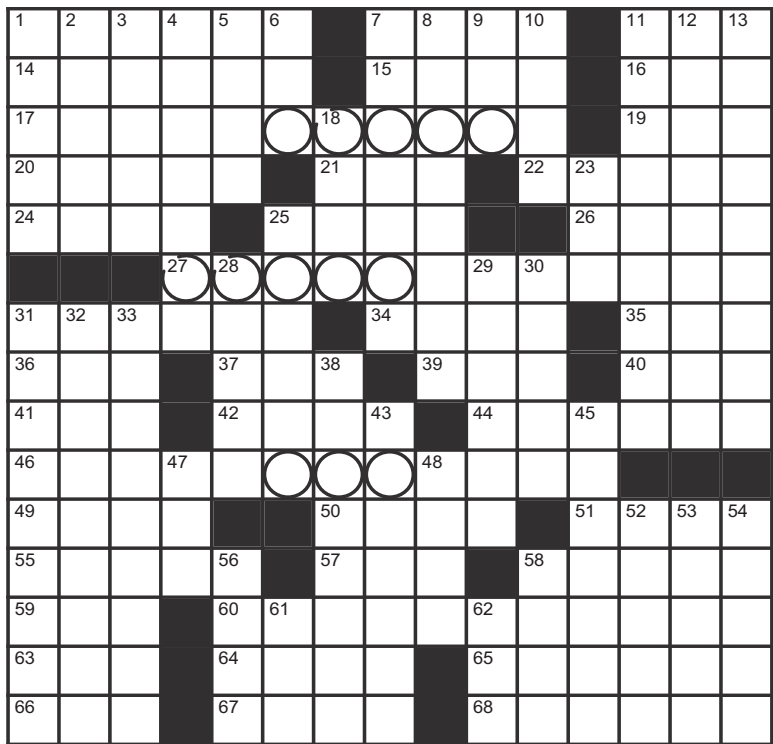
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Across

1. "For what reason, though?"
7. Chef's collection
11. Sighs of pleasure
14. El Al alternative
15. Individually
16. Foldable bed
17. Ignores
19. Signal to go onstage
20. Waits awhile
21. Part of UNLV
22. Nelson Mandela's mother tongue
24. Harry Styles' old group, to fans
25. Without
26. "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author
27. #1 hero on the American Film Institute's list of 100 Greatest Heroes and Villains
31. Good drink for a sore throat
34. Jannings who won the first Best Actor Oscar (1928)
35. _____ Te Ching
36. Brian in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
37. One more than bi-
39. _____ Lanka
40. Furniture wood
41. Gym surface
42. Overhaul
44. Sitting at a red light, say
46. "No more for me, thanks!"

Down

12. A country doctor might make one
13. Score a run à la Jackie Robinson in the 1955 World Series
18. Jai _____
23. Japanese affirmative
25. Didn't just peek
28. Prefix with -hedron
29. Satellite radio giant
30. Summer romance, perhaps
31. U.S. author credited with popularizing the word "cojones" as a synonym for bravery
32. "Generally speaking ..."
33. Like some Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest
38. Brainstorming diagrams
43. Tracked by air traffic control
45. "Message received"
47. Groundbreaking invention?
48. Leave out
52. Circumvent
53. "Time in a Bottle" singer Jim
54. Macho guys
56. Munich Mrs.
58. Roll call response
61. Med. care sites
62. "Good" cholesterol initials

Down

1. "The Hobbit" hobbit
2. "What's the _____ trying?"
3. Swap
4. Greeted from across the street, say
5. Skedaddles, to Shakespeare
6. '21 and '22, e.g.
7. Actor Jack of "City Slickers"
8. They have the shortest gestation (12-13 days) among all mammals
9. Weighty weight
10. Eyewear, informally
11. Kept the books?

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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 - 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@srdreader.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.

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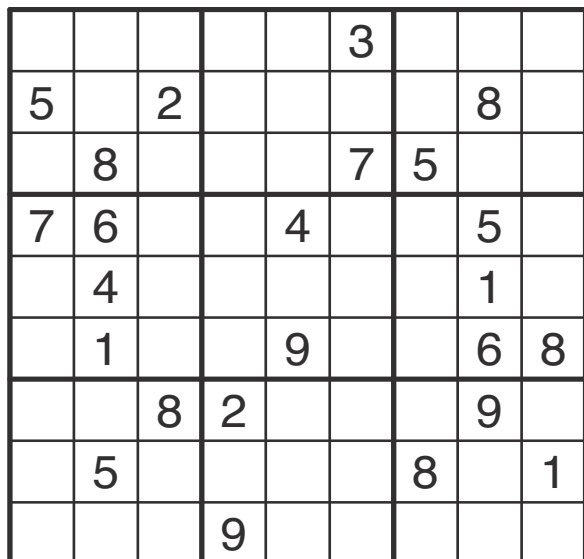
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Dennis Butterworth, San Diego, 11.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



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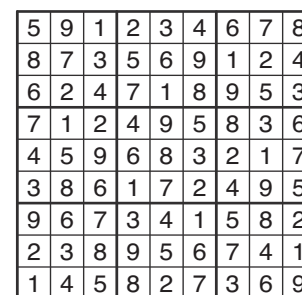
☛ **Thomas LaFleur, San Diego, 13.**

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



Chickens

continued from page 15

dozen eggs a week while playing water polo. So we went on Facebook Marketplace and found one of our neighbors was getting rid of their chickens, because they were her son's pets, and he was a teenager and had lost interest. So we bought their coop and two chickens." Both were Buff Orpingtons.

Four years later, the Mitchells have four chickens, all of them raised since early chickhood after the two older hens were eaten by coyotes. Two are Buff Orpingtons, and two are Silkies, a "designer" breed with silky plumage, black skin and bones, blue earlobes, and five instead of the usual four toes on each foot.

The Mitchells' four-year chicken journey has been a bonding experience, Carrie says. "When we got them, we just looked at them as providers of eggs," she says. "We didn't realize they were going to become pets, but then



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Joe Donnelly and his wife Pam have been raising chickens in the backyard of their San Marcos home for more than a decade. The Donnelly chickens eat organic chicken feed and table scraps. "We feed them leftover lettuce and vegetables and tomatoes that are going bad."

we named them and, well, they became our pets. I remember being very happy when Lucy appeared to know her name. I'd go out there and yell, 'Lucy,' and she'd come running right up. Then one day she was sitting in her nesting box, laying an egg, and when I shouted 'Lucy' the other chicken came running to me. I thought, 'Son of a bitch! Lucy doesn't know her

name. They just think 'Lucy' means 'food.'"

To fight the smell, Mitchell makes sure the coop is thoroughly cleaned once a week. As for rodents, she says, "We have dogs, so they chase them away."

Shortly after buying their adult hens, the Mitchells added two baby chicks, both Silkies, to their flock: Nugget and Regina. Before long, Carrie

Mitchell says, there was a problem.

"We went to this farm in Lakeside and let each of the kids, Jimmy and Julia, pick a baby chick," she recalls. "As they got older, one

morning around five, we heard what sounded like a boy's voice screaming in the backyard. We went looking, and there was Nugget, learning to crow."

Cognizant of the ban on roosters, Mitchell says, "we decided to rehome him. Julia was afraid if we give him away, someone would slaughter him and eat him, so after about a month we finally found him a home on a chicken farm in Bonsall. These two very nice people showed up in a Porsche. We still keep in touch. They send me pictures and updates and he's very happy. He's got his hens."

Mitchell isn't alone. From the San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page, July 20: "Sally ended up being a Sam. We have a beautiful Brahma rooster (4

months old) that we can't keep in the city. Does anyone want him for breeding? (No killing!) If anyone wants to trade for a Brahma hen, we'd love to do that. We live in San Diego, 92119." The next day: "Thanks everyone, we found a wonderful home for him!"

Most people, the Donnellys and the Mitchells included, raise chickens for their eggs. "A healthy adult hen generally lays up to 300 eggs a year," the city of San Diego says on its "Keeping Chickens" fact sheet, which can be downloaded from its website. "Five hens would supply approximately 30 eggs a week, which would meet the needs of a typical family of four. Backyard eggs contain 25 percent more vitamin E, 33 percent more vitamin A, and

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75 percent more beta carotene. Home raising reduces the need for transporting eggs from farm/factory to store to home, resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions and packaging materials.”

Joe Donnelly says the eggs are “way better. What you’ll notice is the shell is thicker, and the yoke is much richer and deeper in color. When you compare them to store-bought eggs, it’s like the difference between a light beer and a really good IPA.”

Carrie Mitchell agrees. “They’re smaller than store-bought eggs, but they’re delicious,” she says. “The kids love them, and with no rooster, you don’t have to worry about any fertile eggs. It’s amazing how many people don’t know that hens don’t need a rooster around to

lay eggs. They just don’t understand it.”

Normal eggs

At our house, the concept of eating freshly laid eggs is taking a while to catch on.

On our first full day as chicken farmers, I let the four hens out of their coop around 7 am. Two hours later, Hunter goes out to check on them and excitedly runs back in the house with an egg in his hand. “We’ve got our first egg!” he exclaims. He proceeds to pull out a pan and cracks the egg, along with a second, store-bought one. The yolk from our chicken’s egg is a much deeper yellow. Hunter flips the eggs, cooks them to over medium, and then slides them onto his plate. He hesitates. “It’s a little weird, knowing where it came from,” he says. Two more eggs come



Richard Maudsley launched the San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page three or four months after his family got their first two chickens because “there was very little information geared toward people like us. There was only a Facebook page for livestock owners, people who raise chickens for consumption. And we’re not about that.”

our way soon after, all three grayish in color and slightly smaller than store-bought eggs. They are put into an empty Vons egg carton.

My son Conner comes home from work around 9 and wants an egg for his Ramen. “Do we have any normal eggs?” he asks me.

Not for eating

There are two schools of chicken farmers in San Diego County. There are those — like the Donnellys, the Mitchells, and now me — who keep a handful of hens in their backyards to produce eggs. Then there are the chicken farmers in more rural areas who raise larger flocks of fowl to eat.

The groups don’t mix, says Richard Maudsley, the founder of the San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page. “I launched the page three or four months after my wife and I got our first two chickens because there was very little information geared toward people like us,” says Maudsley, who lives in Santee. “There was only a Facebook page for livestock owners, people who raise chickens

for consumption. And we’re not about that. In fact, either I or our two other administrators have to approve every post, because we’ve had people who do raise chickens as livestock try to post on our page, and that’s not what we’re about. We’re not going to eat our chickens.”

The San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page is filled with questions and answers, advice and suggestions. One person says her hen gobbled up one of her earrings and wants to know if it’s harmful; several others chime in that the same thing has happened to them but the chickens are fine. “Well it looks like you’re gonna have to be walking around with a scooper for a while,” reads one response. Chicken owners have

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asked questions on how to keep their free-range backyard flocks safe from hawks or owls (aviary netting), how to ventilate a shed-turned-coop (cut a hole in the wall and install a vent cover from Home Depot), and how to care for older hens past the laying stage (be careful not to overfeed to prevent fat buildup).

Maudsley began raising chickens four years ago. "The only things my wife eats that comes from animals are eggs and cheese, and we had a neighbor who was moving and had to get rid of her two chickens," he says. "She gave us an extra coop, and we took those two chickens in and really enjoyed the fresh eggs."

Maudsley has had a number of his chickens die over the years. "We've lost a chicken to

a dog, one to a raccoon attack, one to ovarian cancer, and one to a bacterial infection," he says. To dispose of the dead chicken body, he says, "you can go to any landfill, although in our case, since two of them died under suspicious circumstances, we sent them to the University of California, Davis for a necropsy. The [Newcastle] quarantine just ended, but researchers still want to keep track of chickens that die. So for \$20, you can send them in and they'll examine them. That's how we found out about the chickens who died because of ovarian cancer and a bacterial infection."

Today, Maudsley says, his backyard flock consists of three hens, and even though he runs the Facebook page for backyard chicken own-

ers, he concedes he has no idea what breed his hens are. "I know it's kind of sad to say for someone who runs a site about backyard chicken farming, but all of our hens were obtained when they were already adults," he says.

A hen named Jet

After one week, the Arnold chickens have laid a total of nine eggs. I also ordered a new coop from Amazon for \$159 that took me three hours to assemble (and gave me a blood blister in the palm of my left hand from a screwdriver), only to find it was too small. I'm sending it back, and am scouring the San Diego Backyard Chickens Facebook page for a used coop.

We have established a routine: I get the chickens up in the morning, letting them

out of their coop and bringing them a plate of cut-up apples or vegetables. My wife puts them to bed and sits with them awhile when the sun goes down. A flight attendant, she's named the smallest and most personable one "Jet."

We're still trying to figure out who's going to clean the chicken yard. Stay tuned.

— Thomas K. Arnold



helped me figure out who I am. Thinking something is beautiful, or weird, or cool is reason enough to put it on your body if you want. It's a powerful thing to be in control of your body in that way." ■



Maximized living space on a "large, yet unusually shaped lot."

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

top level adds a family room and three more bedroom suites.

The Alameda property last sold in 2011 for a reported \$1.785 million. At that time, it was home to a ranch-style home built in 1953 with less than half the living area of the current residence, which lists its

year built as 2013. The current owner is a holding company, El Paraiso LLC, which lists the property as its mailing address but states that the home is not occupied by its owners.

The home's current listing, which dates to mid-July, appears to be the first time it's been offered for sale in its current configuration. The listing price of \$8,749,000 remains unchanged to date. ■

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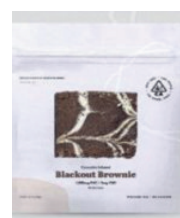




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