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VOL. 45 | NO. 36 | SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Reader

San Diego, Bulgaria

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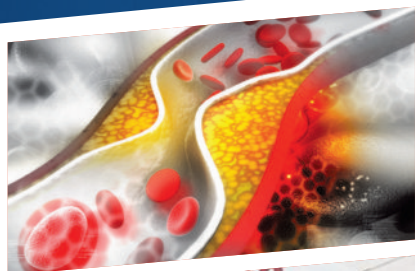
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“What a teachers union has done to Gompers”

Cover Stories

August 12

I would like to preface this by informing you that I am a student at Gompers Preparatory Academy, and would be able to prove this by showing my student ID if needed. Any way, I have experienced the effects of this union firsthand. This article is only feeding you one side of the story, the side the anti-union staff members want you to hear.

Personally, the union at Gompers has positively impacted students at school in various ways. The union for one calls for better pay for teachers, which get paid as less than the average wage for teachers in San Diego while demanding more work than most other schools in San Diego, but also calls out the administration at my school, which some years have gotten paid more than the average for administrators in San Diego.

Second off, they want to give students more liberties, for example: giving students a voice into decisions that personally affect them (pretty ironic this isn't already the standard for a school who's motto is “with students first”, isn't it?) and starting clubs, such as an LGBT club and a Black Student Union, something that students need, as they are often segregated by characteristics they do not control such as gender, and rarely get to talk to people that are like them or that share similar interests as them due to some of the administra-

tions policies which in my opinion are very corrupt. Not to mention, that while they claim to provide high quality education, most of their tests scores are below the average for the district, and they offer an extremely limited AP course selection, with none in Visual and Performing arts and Computer sciences, two expanding fields, which damages their chances at getting into a decent university, and therefore damages their future.

Times have changed, students have changed, they always go back to the narrative that Gompers used to be a gang-filled and hateful school. While that was true, the majority of my fellow classmates have no affiliations with gangs and abide by the rules, and would continue to be civil even if they were allowed to start fights. I would like to let everyone know that this article is not representative of some of the student's opinions. I just wanted to pitch in my opinion, and I hope some people found this insight useful.

—OpenMoon

OpenMoon: You are very intelligent and definitely a go-getter. I wonder why some of your teachers have not advised you to take actual college classes to get college credit. I know many students that have dual enrollment, taking high school courses, and community college at the same time. San Diego Community College District has that program available. Also, according to the College Board, you can take an AP test without taking an AP class. But if you decide to take an exam without taking a class, you might want to check out the College Board website for information about how the test is structured and what it tests.

There are many options for College AP course work, and I know many have studied on their own and taken AP tests and passed. Just because someone takes the AP class, doesn't mean they will pass the test. There is a lot of preparation outside of

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San Diego Reader

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September 3, 2020



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMANUELA STANOVIA

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

HOMESCHOOL

Knowledge ~~is~~ needs power A choice between keeping cool and staying in school?

On August 16, the power shut off in Clairemont. “Our kids were doing online music tutorials,” said Steven S., “then ‘poof,’ the electricity went dead. The internet (modem) shut off, and we lost our Zoom connection.” After they reestablished a wifi connection, Steve explained to the instructor why his kids had suddenly disappeared from class. “She was cool with it, and walked our kids through the section of the lesson they missed.” Steven and his wife work remotely from home. They said online school for their kids started on August 31. “How are kindergarteners supposed to remember their passwords, log in, activate their cameras and microphones, and stay put during homeschool, after a power outage resets the computers and/or modems?” he asked.

Later that day, SDG&E posted on Facebook: “State grid strained due to excessive heat and high energy demand, customer outages expected to continue. Learn more about how to plan, prepare and conserve energy during this critical time of record-breaking heat.” A Carlsbad resident commented, “I know there is a planned outage for maintenance in La Costa/Carlsbad

“You must reside in a high-fire threat area and have previously experienced a Public Safety Power Shutoff in 2019.”

tomorrow morning from 8:30-10. You may not be aware, but most of the schools around here are doing the online Zoom classes in the morning between 8:30 and 11. If you are going to do a schedule[d] outage for maintenance, please consider a different time so that kids aren’t affected for school.”

On August 16 and 17, temperatures in parts of our county surpassed 100 degrees. “August is the hottest month of the year,” said a reporter from NBC 7 San Diego that

Sunday, “but this is definitely a long duration heat event where temperatures are staying elevated during the day and overnight.”

That may have been part of Steven’s trouble. “SDG&E told us to minimize the use of our electricity,” he continued, “but we really need the AC.” He acknowledged that “when I use a power tool in the garage, and mom is heating something in the microwave, and someone else is blow drying their hair — all at the same time — the circuit breaker trips. I guess it’s a similar scenario when San Diego County [residents simultaneously] power up their air conditioners, fans, laptops, coffee machines, and LCD TVs. Something trips at the power station and we have a blackout.”

Lakeside resident Paulie, a veteran turned college student, said it was “100 degrees” on the 16th and 17th in his neck of the woods. “I’m trying to get me a generator for free,” he said. He was referring to SDG&E’s Generator Assistance Program, in which they pro-



A new addition to your back-to-school shopping list!

vide residents with up to \$450 in rebates for a generator purchased at Lowes or Home Depot. “You must have an active SDG&E account,” says the company’s website. “You must reside in a high-fire threat area and have previously experienced a Public Safety Power Shutoff in 2019. CARE customers who meet the criteria above are also eligible for an additional \$150 rebate.”

Paulie’s neighbor wondered: “since our

power was shut off in the recent rolling blackout, I wonder if that’ll work?” Paulie thought not: “The rebate is for those of us affected last year, when our electricity was shut down for public safety reasons.” If Paulie qualifies for the generator rebate, he said he’s looking to purchase a 6580/5500-watt dual fuel (gasoline/propane) portable generator at Home Depot. “After rebate, I should only pay \$50.”

MIKE MADRIAGA



Linden — shipping out, but still shaping up.

OCEANSIDE

Linden loses location Cleveland used to be cool

When surfer Brian Thompson heard the news that Linden Surfboards was getting squeezed out of the Cleveland Street headquarters it had used for 43 years, he was bummed. “It’s ruining years of culture,” said Thompson, 21, while working his night job at Best Pizza. “He’s been shaping there for years. Linden Surfboards is legendary. Three-story condos in that part of Oceanside just doesn’t sound right. More kooky people coming in.”

It could be Oceanside’s new unofficial general plan: More kooks, fewer icons.

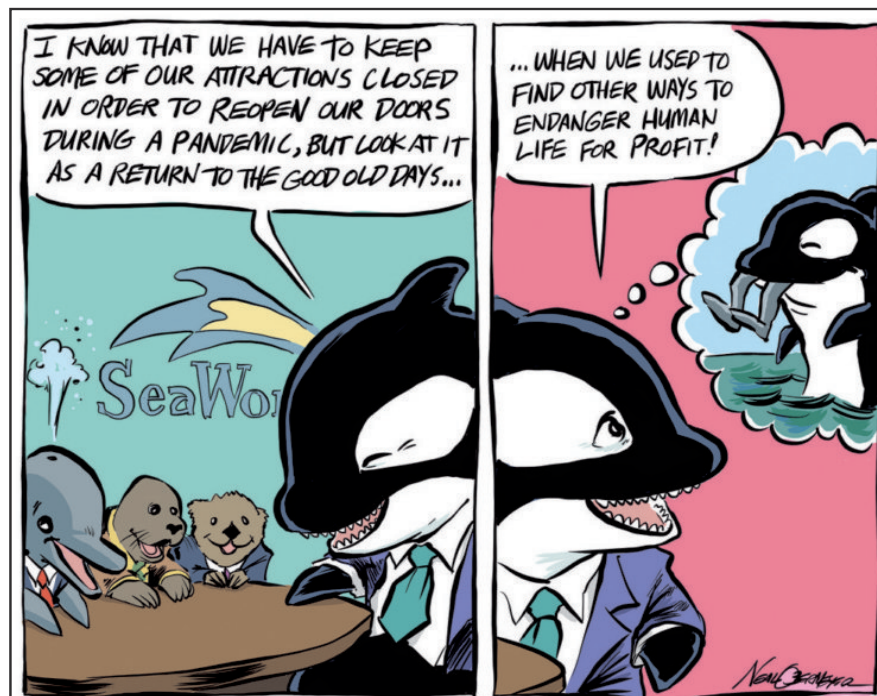
Most locals would probably tell you that Oceanside’s two most recognized surfers over the last 50 years are the late longboarder Donald Takayama and Gary Linden, who has been shaping boards at 1027 Cleveland Street since

January 1, 1978. Linden founded the Big Wave Tour in 2009. He was on the board of directors of the Association of Surfing Professionals for 16 years, and president for three. He’s judged contests around the world. At 70, he still surfs the big breaks at Dungeons, Todos Santos, Waimea, Mavericks, Nazare in Portugal, and Jaws in Maui. And for the last 25 years, he’s carved out a niche by making boards using the stocks of the Agave plant. Now, Linden has been told he has until March, and then he has to give up the shop where he has hand-shaped thousands of surfboards.

On August 24, the Oceanside Planning Commission unanimously approved another modern-looking condo complex for Oceanside’s once funky Cleveland Street west of Coast Highway. It’s long been a mix of classic bungalows and offbeat businesses, includ-

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Dear Hipster:

Would it be possible to ironically drive one of those mondo lifted brodozer trucks, or is that too on-the-nose for even the hipster-est hipster?

— CHARLIE

I once had a hipster friend who swore by the “boy racer” aesthetic of modified compact cars. His ideal vehicle would have been an old Honda CRX sporting heavily tinted windows and a wing on which you could serve Thanksgiving dinner. This was a guy with impeccable hipster bonafides, who boasted a long list of favorite industrial bands I can all but guarantee none of you have ever heard of, and who did most of his daily getting around by straight-up walking, because he liked taking his sweet time to go anywhere. In other words, this was definitely not a guy you would expect to be into the whole *Fast and the Furious* vibe, which is among the least hipster scenes you can imagine.

If that level of hipster incongruity exists, then I suppose a hipster driving a lifted truck is at least plausible. However, I don't know that any self-respecting hipster can justify fuel economy measured in “gallons per mile,” so maybe the lifted truck hipster is a horse of a different color, or, more accurately, a veritable unicorn.

Dear Hipster:

With some local businesses refusing to accept cash during the pandemic, probably based on the old “money is dirty” saw (which is only partially accurate because, although money



can harbor “germs,” it is a poor disease vector), do you think we will start hearing about some kind of hipster retro-cash movement?

— DeeDee

Why stop at a hipster insistence on contemporary paper money? Why not have a bunch of hipsters running around insisting on a return to ‘specie,’ i.e. gold- and silver-backed currency from before the Civil War? I can see it now, and it is indeed glorious. Can you imagine bartenders biting coins to determine whether you're going to

get served or thrown from the bar by a surly bouncer?

Unfortunately, there is already an active contingent of currency hipsters who would need to step aside from their place at the head of the queue in order to make room for a new, wider segment of retro currency hipsters. What? You've not heard of currency hipsters? I bet you have, and you didn't know it. Remember the last time you were at a bar with friends, trying to split up a check, and that one friend pulled out a pocketful of dollar coins? I wasn't

there, but I'm willing to bet that same friend delivered an unprompted lecture along the lines of: “You know, almost every country in the world other than the U.S. utilizes a dollar coin. In Canada, they call them Loonies. In

Europe, civilized people have been paying for their cafes au lait with dollar coins for years blah blah blah.”

Congratulations. You have met the currency hipster, who can't shut up about the superiority of the dollar coin. Granted, he is totally and completely correct. Dollar coins are superior. Have you ever slid a couple dollar coins across a counter to pay for a coffee? Dang, that is the height of satisfaction. It's like getting a high-five from Abraham Lincoln. Still, that doesn't make that one friend any less insufferable when you're trying to divvy up the cost of 17 Miller High Lifes and a single Appletini between five moderately drunk people.

— DJ Stevens



The Hip and the Hondaphilic?

LETTERS

continued from page 1

class, that is why the AP pass rate is low since just about everyone that is in an AP class takes the AP test.

I would recommend finding the AP course you would like and find a teacher willing to help you prepare for this, either getting you the ap book thru the school library and then begin to repair on your own. Most students do this, as it's challenging to offer so many AP courses at a school. Union or non-union, will not make a teacher a better teacher. If you are a great teacher, then you are a great teacher, money won't change it.

In 1991 there was a teacher at Gompers, that did not believe all students should be allowed to take advanced classes. The article “Outspoken Teacher Wins the Right to Return to Gompers” read this. It's very telling on how and what the union does, and that is at Gompers. Why shouldn't all students have an opportunity for a great education, however, that one teacher had a different view.

Hopefully, you will see and recognize the 15-year cycle of injustice. Gomp-

ers Preparatory Academy, under the amazing leadership of Director Riveroll, has changed South East San Diego, for the better. Can it become even better... Yes. Is the San Diego Education Association, Teachers Union, the one that will bring about the change you see? As I see it, SDEA Teachers Union has hurt, not only GPA at this time, putting teachers against teachers, students against students, and families against family....

They have hurt all schools in District E. So I am still trying to understand how the failure of the SDEA in MTM and Lincoln will then be a success in GPA. I don't know. What I have read is GPA is the highest performing school in District E, and has the highest teacher retention, until the SDEA was invited back on by one teacher. Why didn't that teacher help you get to San Diego City College and take courses there? I feel for all the teachers, staff, and students being used as Pawns for the SDEA union. Politics are at work behind every game! Ask Mr. Richard Barrera..... GameMaster from the SDUSD

—JGarcia_SD

“El Cajon zones for tiny houses”
Neighborhood News
August 18

No plumbing???? That is not housing. How does one wash dishes, cook, or even properly wash ones hands? There should be minimum sanitary requirements for cooking and bathing in each unit.

—Lee Lawless

“San Vincente Reservoir, Descanso, Cameron Corners, Boulder Creek, Julian, Lakeside”
From the Archives
August 29

As long as I have lived in San Diego County, Lakeside has lived a bigot lifestyle, in doing against locals from other areas (as I). As Lakeside will choose to remain that way. Because Lakeside has its own culture, separate from the rest of the county.

—ised

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

ing recording studios, tropical fish shops, an ice factory, and the bottler of Delaware Punch. But Linden's shop and the adjacent two properties will be razed to make way for a three-story, 16-unit condo project, to be built by Hall Land Company of Solana Beach, which has already built a number of condo projects on Cleveland Street and has more in the pipeline. "It looks like Cleveland Street is going to be all condos by the time we're finished," Oceanside planning commissioner Curtis Busk said at the Monday meeting that sealed the fate of the Linden Surfboard building.

Linden says he has over 200 boards — "a few from each era" — that he will have to sell or find storage for. But he is not folding up shop. "When this building was sold about a year ago, I was bummed out for a while. I wasn't planning on moving any time in the next 30 years. I want to live to be 100. But I'm 70. I still have energy. I think I can move and make everything work. I haven't sorted it all out yet. I have an office on Wisconsin Street which I will probably use as my showroom. I may move my shaping room to Valley Center. It's all good. Why should I be bummed? I've surfed all over the world. Like they say in Australia, change is as good as a holiday. I want to see what's behind the next door that opens up for me. I'm sure it's going to be good."

In the meantime, he has no plans to change his routine of surfing every morning.

Linden was raised in Clairemont and



Will this home survive the Oceanside condo invasion?

graduated from Madison High in 1968. After living in Brazil and Ecuador, he bought a house in Carlsbad, the year after he opened Linden Surfboards. During his 1980s salad days, he had four other full-time shapers



At 70, Linden still surfs the big breaks at Dungeons, Todos Santos, Waimea, Mavericks, Nazare in Portugal, and Jaws in Maui.

turning out boards. That's when he made overtures to buy the Cleveland Street building. "I wanted to buy out the landlord but he didn't want to sell." Linden says that opportunity did come in 1991 when his landlord died,



Linden will have to sell or find storage for over 200 boards.

"but by then I had this clothing company that was running up a lot of bills. I had a secretary that was embezzling money, and my Hawaiian shop went from selling 400 boards a year to a couple of T-shirts a month because the Japanese economy had tanked. It all hit me at once. When the opportunity came to buy the building, I didn't have the money."

Linden's business neighbor Mark Cappa, owner of Stay Covered, which makes and distributes surf leashes worldwide, is less sanguine. "They have decided to put these cookie cutter condos all up and down this street. I've been here since 1997. I'm a surfer, so it's been really good for me here. I can just walk to the beach."

Stay Covered, which also sells other surf accessories, will stay in Oceanside at a site Cappa has yet to find. "I'm real proud that I'm one of the only leash companies left that still manufactures in the U.S." In general,

the surfing industry continues to thrive in Oceanside, but most of it is east of I-5. Some 20 independent shapers still turn out custom boards throughout the San Luis Rey Valley. But Australian surfboard company JS Indus-

"I understand the need for new housing, I also wonder if there wasn't something we could do to save the character of downtown Oceanside. Couldn't we have a balance?"

tries is opening an Oceanside branch, and insiders say the surf-oriented *Stab Magazine* is planning to move to Oceanside.

Meanwhile, Tom Rosales, chairman of the Oceanside planning commission, says he is not completely happy with the fact that those classic Cleveland Street bungalows from the '20s, '30s and '40s are destined to get razed along with Linden's shop. "I understand the need for new housing," says Rosales. "But I also wonder if there wasn't something we could do to save the character of downtown Oceanside. But there is nothing on the books that would allow us to save them. Couldn't we have a balance?"

KEN LEIGHTON

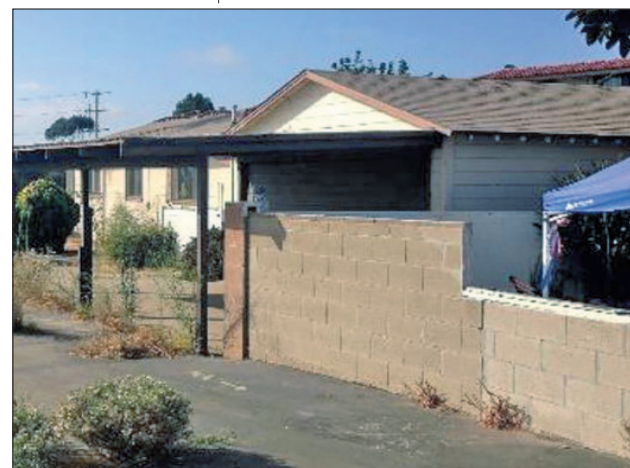
BAY PARK Sogo condo a no-go All the single-families put their hands up

Developers want to build small urban infill projects to patch housing gaps. But it may take longer than the "expedite" program for such housing suggests. On August 20, the

planning commission voted to send a project in the Bay Park area of Clairemont back to the drawing board for changes that would make it more acceptable to neighbors, who said the condos would ruin their street of single-family homes. The neighborhood has proven attractive for such projects, due to its many transitional zones, places where housing and commercial uses can mix. Plus, transit is a stone's throw from almost anywhere. But the way the established single-family home side of the community sees it, the squeeze is on.

The mixed-use site at 1398 Lieta Street off Morena Boulevard is zoned for medium density. It's flanked by single-family homes to the east and multifamily "stacked flats" to the south. In June, the Clairemont community planning group voted 10-1-0 to deny the project; reasons ranged from privacy and landscaping issues to its being "not in keeping with the level of development on its single-family street." The .6 acre lot would hold 10 three-story and two two-story market-rate condos. One unit is very low-income, in order

to take advantage of the density bonus, which allows four additional lots at the site. It's one of few projects in which the affordable unit is large: almost 2000 square feet. "A great, family-style unit," according to the presentation.



The Sogo house was not part of the site's historic designation, and will be torn down.

The project also conforms to the Affordable/In-Fill Housing and Sustainable Buildings Expedite Program criteria by providing ten percent onsite affordable units and a roof-mounted photovoltaic system. That program was launched in 2003 to speed up the production of infill housing through reduced costs and streamlined review. Eligible projects had to include at least four housing units.

But implementing it here hasn't been
continued on page 36

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“People instinctively want to be here and enjoy each other’s company.”

Circle of life, or death, or what?

“Right now, people who come here with no masks, with no distancing, are being irresponsible, and they could get sick — deathly sick — and die. We have to get tough, and I’m telling you, if that situation that happened last Wednesday night happens this Wednesday night, there’s going to be a clampdown. So I’m telling everybody not to congregate here. Behave or you’re going to be in big trouble.”

— City Councilwoman Jennifer Campbell, speaking at an August 11 gathering near Ocean Beach’s Veteran’s Plaza, the beachfront patch of grass that hosts the neighborhood’s weekly Wednesday drum circle.

“I’ve been seeing the same people every week for the past three months. Nobody’s getting sick.”

On August 12, they came anyway: to watch the fading orange of the sunset, to listen to the drums, to smoke weed, to dance, and to be there at the gathering. Not everybody — a number of drummers, perhaps spooked by Campbell’s warning and the vinyl orange fencing that cordoned off the plaza until the locals tore it down in the name of freedom, gathered at Paradise Point instead. But plenty. (A reporter asked a policeman at the scene to estimate how many. “Your guess is as good as mine,” he shrugged.) At least eight drummers, plus dancers, acrobats, onlookers, even a young man with a horn, bleating over the beats. A few wore masks. Most did not. Some kept their distance from others. Many did not. As the drums got going, I asked officer S. King, who was standing outside his vehicle

on Newport Avenue, if he had a directive. “We’ve been told we can take it on a case by case basis,” he replied.

Two young women danced together to the West African beat; one waved a roll of burning sage around the other, sending tendrils of savory smoke through the crowd. “It’s so uplifting,” she explained, noting that “it’s to keep the bad spirits away. If people have spirits in their house, they’ll put it in all four corners, and they’ll say spiritual things, like prayers and stuff, and then all the bad spirits will leave.” A young man approached, and she waved the sage over him in benediction. “Cleanse me!”

he cried, throwing his head back. “Cleanse me of all the bullshit! Much love!”

“It keeps away the corona,” suggested one girl upon hearing I was there to write about the gathering. “It fights corona.”

“It’s actually the cure!” said her friend.

“Do you believe that?” I asked.

She laughed and answered, “If it makes for a good story.”

I didn’t believe it. But the smoke did put me in mind of the confusion surrounding “the corona,” and not because the *U-T* reported that someone shouted “How long are you going to keep blowing smoke up our asses?” at a city adviser for COVID-19 response and recovery. Instead, I thought of “Smoking and the risk of COVID-19 in a large observational population study,” published by *medRxiv*,

“the preprint server for health services.” Its conclusion: “The risk of infection by COVID-19 appears to be reduced by half among current smokers.” And yet the WHO statement on Tobacco Use and COVID-19 reads, “A review of studies by public health experts convened by WHO on 29 April 2020 found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers.” Contradictory? Not quite: the WHO is noting that smokers who *do* get the disease are more likely to get severe

cases, not that smokers are more likely to get it at all. Bit confusing? You bet.

Dancer Anna had come dressed for the occasion in a gold bikini and a long dark skirt that showed her strong legs as she stomped and slithered around the circle. She’s lived here since November, and comes every week because “it’s a beautiful community act of art and love and dance.” What about corona? “I’m not worried about corona because I’m young and healthy. I heard this place was

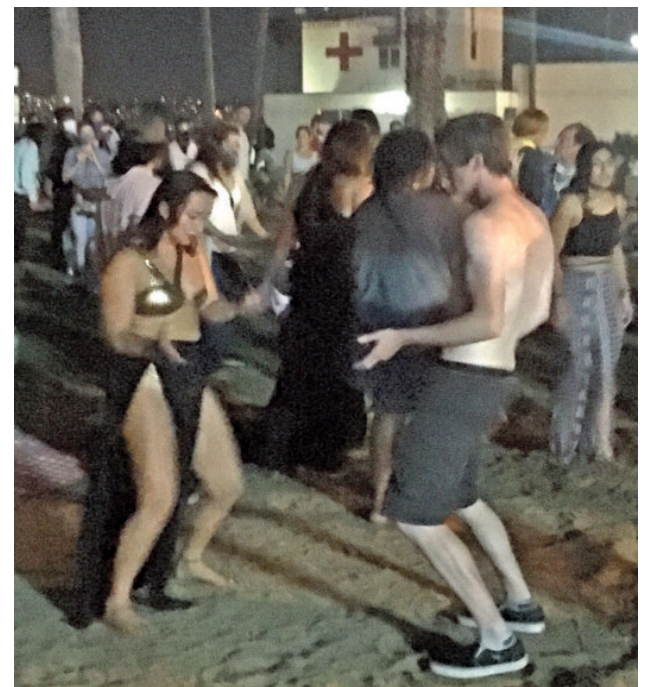
taped up, which is hilarious, because it’s a peaceful gathering. But it’s not lucrative; it’s not making the city money. I think the virus is real and it’s happening, but I wouldn’t be surprised if the news was inflating the numbers. The hospitals get more money the more corona cases they have, so it makes sense that they would report more. I’m not a huge conspiracy theorist, though. I think it can take you down a really dark path.”

Drummer Brian isn’t a huge conspiracy theorist, either, but he doesn’t “pay any attention to what

the media says about” coronavirus. That’s why he wasn’t given pause by Campbell’s warning before racing down here from Yorba Linda after work, just as he does every Wednesday — he hadn’t heard it. “I pay attention to the statistics. The CDC is decent, and the California state site has to deliver the stats, just like the federal .gov site. But you have to investigate the demographics yourself. No one under the age of 24 has died from it yet, so why are our schools closed? A very small minority is actually threatened — 76 percent of those who have died are 65 or older! Why not tell everybody exactly what’s going on? Obviously, there’s an agenda, using security as a means to control. It’s partisan politics; I’ve seen both parties do similar shit my whole life.”

As for the circle, “I’ve been seeing the same people every week for the past three months. Nobody’s getting sick. By now, there would have been a trace — ‘People from that one place are getting it!’ Nothing. They haven’t even surveyed this area. They’re just getting off on fear: ‘Oh, they’re together!’ I come here because this is a grand space for my spirit, my me-ness, to expand through the music. It’s communication where we go up into enthusiasm. People instinctively want to be here and enjoy each other’s company. It’s very tribal, very human, and very cool. If this ain’t the best therapy, I don’t know what is.”

At the edge of the crowd, three police officers gathered around a swimmer with a bleeding leg. Other officers took a report from an upset woman. At 10 pm, they broke up the circle. ■



Anna says she leaves happier than when she arrives, every time.

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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Hot and/or Bothered?

County's Cancel Culture Committee uncertain how to proceed in case of Jungle Fever plant store



One of these Jungle Fevers is not like the other. Upper left: Chaka-chas's 1972 hit single. Upper right: Jean-Paul Goode's 1982 photo book featuring a caged Grace Jones on the cover. Lower left: Ida Corr's 2013 track. Lower right: from the Instagram page of Stephanie Ward's new home-based plant store.

"This is a tough one," says Natasha Trigger-Warning, chairperson of San Diego County's newly formed Cancel Culture Committee. "Obviously, the term 'Jungle Fever' has racist overtones, since it refers to a white person's erotic desire for a Black person, simply because of their Blackness — which Blackness is indicated by the word 'jungle.' The connotation is clear: that Black people are savage primitives, living in the wild, outside the safe structures of white civilization. And so, for a bored, bland white person, the Black serves as an enticing object of sexual exotica. It's awful: exploitative, othering, objectifying, dehumanizing, and just plain rac-

ist. And yet. Spike Lee made a movie called *Jungle Fever*. Stevie Wonder recorded a single called 'Jungle Fever.' And now, Imperial Beach resident and woman of color Stephanie Ward has opened a plant store called Jungle Fever. Her use of the term could be taken as a sly, anti-racist inversion, shifting the so-called 'fever' away from what is connoted - Blacks - to what is denoted - the literal jungle and the plants that grow there. So while our first instinct was, rightfully, to cancel Ms. Ward, it appears that the situation may benefit from further consideration. Canceling is a complicated business. Thank goodness San Diego has the right people on the job."

Berto Blockers Cultural Appropriation Commission proposes certification to prevent proliferation

"The recent death of Dolores Robledo, who founded San Diego's legendary Roberto's Taco Shop chain with her husband Roberto in the '60s, was a somber moment for San Diego's Mexican food community, and for the city that loves that food as well," says Gordito Ranchero, head of Governor Newsom's Cultural Appropriation Commission. "Somber because we lost a piece of living history, but also because it serves to remind us of the very real problem of Bertofication. It was one thing when various family members



Aldanberto's? Really?

began to break away from the Roberto's chain because of differences over how to run the business. But these days, it seems like anybody and everybody can slap a 'berto' on their name and open up a taco shop. Even if they're not descended from Dolores and Roberto. Worse, even if they're not descended from Mexicans. What we're proposing is a simple ancestry check. As long as they have at least one Hispanic grandparent, they can be considered of sufficient racial purity to adopt the Berto name. It's the least we can do to stop whites from stealing San Diego-style Mexican food the way they stole rock 'n roll. Chipotle was bad enough."

Big Hits, Small Bites

Denny's adds new Slam to breakfast menu in honor of Padres' historic performance

Denny's Chief Breakfast Officer Roger Bacon: "Congratulations to the San Diego Padres for becoming the first team in baseball history to hit five grand slams in six games. We only wish there were some fans there to see it! But even so, as the industry leader in slam-based foodstuffs, we'd be remiss not to find a way to honor their achievement. It's only a half-season, so we thought it fitting to make it half the food of our regular Grand Slam. But it's still every bit as delicious, just like the Padres' grand slams have been every bit as exciting! Of course, that first one from Fernando Tatis, Jr. broke an unwritten rule of baseball, since he swung away on 3-0 with his team comfortably in the lead. So we're adding an unwritten surcharge to the Padres Slam. Unwritten in the menu, anyway. Don't worry; it'll show up on your check!"



WHO PLAYS WHO

LEWD ACT EDITION



In *Brockmire*, **Hank Azaria** plays a baseball announcer who melts down and describes his wife's infidelity during the play-by-play.

Jeremy Pritchett narrated a security video of a man committing a lewd act near his wife in hopes of aiding in his capture.



Jake Busey lamented the timing of Olivia Munn's revelation that their *Predator* co-star was a registered sex offender.

This man may one day lament his starring role in the security footage, and may also become a registered sex offender.



During the Super Bowl halftime show, there was a strong public reaction after **Jennifer Lopez's** posterior was caught on camera.

Mrs. Pritchett's posterior, caught here in the security footage as she gardens, evoked a strong public reaction from the man who approached her.

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San Diego Reader September 3, 2020 **13**

It's perfectly legal for an adult to walk around here with an open alcohol container. Why shouldn't it be?
Left to right: Dakata, Dominic, Jarod, and Matt

San Diego, Bulgaria

I'VE BEEN LIVING AND WORKING in Eastern Europe for the past eight years. Sofia, Bulgaria to be exact. Behind the former Iron Curtain. It's far from the stark communist days but still a little rough around the edges. Though full of Balkan character and charming quirks, it's a place that sometimes feels as if it's caught in a time warp. Regardless, Bulgaria has become my second home, and I have no intention of leaving anytime soon.

When people find out that I live in Bulgaria but I'm originally from San Diego, their eyebrows usually shoot up and they immediately ask one

of these three questions: Why Bulgaria? Where's Bulgaria? What's it like there?

The 'why' will become more apparent by the end of this article.

The 'where' is relatively easy: north of Greece and west of the Black Sea.

What it's like is more complicated, so let's start by dropping right in:

Music is universal

The underground basement bar is much bigger than one would assume from the entrance. Loud Bulgarian rock music is being played live

in the main room, around the dark corner. But I'm hanging out in the crowded galley kitchen of the bar — or what used to be a kitchen. It's clearly out of use, and could double as a bomb shelter or a hideout in a post-apocalyptic movie. Dusty, rusty appliances are scattered around the warped counters and shelves. Cigarette and marijuana smoke clouds the air. No way in hell this would be allowed in San Diego. Liability and code violations galore. But I feel fine. I'm sitting next to my friend Matt, an expat from Ohio. He's a professional musician, and so is almost everyone else around us, backed into this long-abandoned

kitchen which now serves as the de facto 'backstage'. Bulgarian is the *lingua franca* so I don't know what the hell anyone is really talking about, which is kind of cool because then there's no eavesdropping, no judgement. Across from me, I recognize a drummer, Dakata, and say "Zdrasti" (hello). He's a friend of Matt's and is actually famous in Bulgaria. There are other well-known musicians in the room who, upon meeting me and hearing my *zdrasti* — you get used to so many consonants together — can clearly tell that I don't recognize their faces in the least. They seem refreshed by this, or at least indifferent.

One guy with an Angus Young hat and black Metallica T-shirt asks where I'm from. When I say San Diego, California, his eyes light up. California. The American Dream. "Wow. Very cool," he says. He's right, but he has no idea how much rent runs in San Diego, or that all the bars would be closed by now (2:30 am), even in non-pandemic times, or that the cigarette he's smoking would make him *persona non grata* in almost any public outdoor space, and a law-breaker indoors.

Angus's English is much better than my Bulgarian, per normal, so we forge ahead. Yeah,



Takoteka is the *only* Mexican place in Sofia — perhaps in Bulgaria — that can seriously claim to be making actual Mexican food. Even with this glorious distinction on its side, when I go there, I don't expect it to be very good.

some conversations might be limited and somewhat primitive with the language barrier, but I like the fact that it often eliminates bullshit and pretense.

When I first traveled decades ago, I was sometimes concerned about how I would be perceived as an American. Ignorant? Naive? Imperialist? Sometimes I worried about being judged, so I would speak sparingly and softly, careful to avoid the ugly American stereotype. Not anymore. Though I

haven't become completely obnoxious, I trust that most people I meet will judge me for who I am, as an individual, rather than as some representative of America. My stunted conversation with Angus turns to the opening band. "Did their last song sound like Rage Against the Machine, or was it just me?"

Whatever the indie music scene is in San Diego, I know it's far from this one, which is still taking cues from the 1990s.

Matt turns to me with

a non sequitur: "This is our lives, man. Pretty funny, huh?"

Yeah.

Not only because the music in the background is now a 1980s Bulgarian cover song that for some reason sounds familiar to me. Not only because, as I scan the packed, smoke-

filled room, I wonder if there are no rules here, or if it's just that people don't ever follow them.

Funny, because it all makes peculiar sense to me.

Before leaving this foreign yet familiar basement bar (think Casbah if it were underground),

I get a beer — *birra* in Bulgarian. The bartender asks if Staropramen is okay. *Da*, I say, as if I'm auditioning for the bad guy part in a Cold War-era James Bond movie. When she hands me the 22 ounce bottle, she says *dva* — two. She's referring to the cost, which has now become the expectation. Two Bulgarian leva is approximately \$1.13. I hand her three leva and she gives me an approving nod at the unexpected 57-cent tip.

The price of beer is a decent indicator of Sofia's general cost of living. And this now factors into my reverse culture shock whenever I return to San Diego. Are the prices in bars and restaurants completely outrageous, or have I just become a cheap bastard? It's nearing 3 am, so I begin my walk home along cobblestone streets, Staropramen in hand. It's perfectly legal for an adult to walk around here with an open alcohol container.

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Mexican restaurant on Tsar Shishman Street, a few things need to be made clear. This is the *only* Mexican place in Sofia — perhaps in Bulgaria — that can seriously claim to be making actual Mexican food. Even with this glorious distinction on its side, when I go there, I don't expect it to be very good. This is partially because I'm half Mexican, but mostly because I'm from San Diego, which has some of the best Mexican food in the world! When I go to Takoteka, I expect only a few hints of the Mexican food that I dearly miss and crave — like decent guacamole, serviceable chips, salsa, and some seasoned ground meat in an imported corn tortilla. And I know what not to order, like the enchiladas that look more like



Jarod has always brewed beer, and he's brought his hobby to Bulgaria. I'm sure if he wanted to, he could start his own brewery and ride the street cred of being from San Diego (a craft beer mecca) and simply having good brewing skills.

mini Old El Paso burritos drowning in marinara sauce. Here's some perspective: The first

time I went to Takoteka, they served us tortilla chips in a stemless wine glass accompanied by a

thimble full of salsa. I almost walked out, but have since learned what to order there and to lower my

general expectations. I know, I know, it's a stupid and masochistic experiment to try and find good Mexican food in Eastern Europe — and believe me, I have tried — but I can't help it.

It's not like I ignore Bulgarian food, which is great and rich in history. They've mastered the art of grilling vegetables, making phyllo dough-heavy *banitsa*, seasoning homegrown potatoes, and using pork in a variety of ways. In fact, the prevalence of pork has served as a symbolic middle finger to the nearly 500-year Ottoman Empire's occupation of Bulgaria. Yes, swine was eaten to spite the Muslim occupiers. Yet Bulgaria has obviously adopted Eastern and Mediterranean influences in their cuisine, notably len-

tils and *shopska* salad (similar to Greek salad, but don't tell a Bulgarian that). There's also the meat-and-potatoes, *borscht* influence of Russia — which essentially controlled Bulgaria as a puppet state during the Cold War, but also functioned as their liberators in 1878. The regional alcohol of choice is called *rakia*, a fruit-based brandy that many Bulgarians have been drinking for years in order to temporarily forget about the ills of Ottoman occupation, communist repression, and now, the lingering institutional corruption.

Yeah, you can't compare the tacos here (and most places) to San Diego's. But the last time I went to Takoteka, a larger question hit me. Why was I seeking out not only Mexican food

PHOTOGRAPH BY DOMINIC CARRILLO

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but anything familiar (i.e. dive bars with live music) here? Didn't I move to Eastern Europe for a taste of something new, a foreign adventure, a different life? I did, but after a few years, I realized that I'd been seeking Mexican food (and other interests) out of habit, even though I was obviously in the wrong place to do so. Turns out that the food we eat is a huge part of our identity. And like it or not, though we move to new places to find something different, we often end up seeking the familiar. At least I have.

Jarod from San Diego

We're in Jarod's garage. It's as narrow as a parking space at the mall, but has room for two kegerators and all the equipment he needs to brew beer. There are four taps mounted on the floor refrigerator and a chalkboard with the original names of his hoppy craft beers.

The why: teaching

Last year, Jarod uprooted his entire family — two kids, a wife, and a dog — to move to Sofia, Bulgaria to teach. Most assume that teaching abroad must center on

teaching English to foreigners — some kind of ESL program. The truth is that we teach at an international school, one of thousands in the world. They began by providing education for the children of embassy and multinational employees, then grew with globalization and the demand for Western education (read: status).

I teach Social Studies. Jarod teaches Math.

And when I sit in his beach chair after pouring myself a glass of his delicious lemongrass saison, I ask him a question that I already know the answer to.

"Would you ever teach in an American public school again?"

"Nope," he says with-out hesitation.

It's obvious. If you could trade a classroom of 35 students, standardized testing, and scarce resources for 15 students per class, no standardized tests, and all the educational resources you could ask for, wouldn't you? And what if your school paid for your travel expenses, a three-bedroom apartment in a European capital, and a salary that — adjusted for

cost-of-living and US income tax exclusion — was more than you were paid in the US?

They call these questions 'no brainers,' but we both admit that it was frightening to willingly jump into the unknown.

"We had no clue what life would be like here," Jarod says, "But it's turned out to be pretty awesome."

I have to agree.

We talk about the little things we appreciate about living in Sofia, like walking to grocery stores, cafes, bars, and restaurants, which brings us back to a common theme.

"It's so cheap to live here," he says.

"Did you ever think you'd be able to take your wife out to a nice restaurant and see a check for 20 bucks?" I ask.

Jarod just laughs.

Bulgarians might not like to hear this repeated, because it's all relative, and people doesn't want their homeland to become synonymous with the word "cheap," but it's true. In the 1990s, friends told me that I needed to go to Prague and buy a beer in a bar for 20 cents. By the time I made it there in 2001, it was 40 cents. Those

days are gone, but being behind the Iron Curtain for decades has set the region back economically. Though it won't last forever, the deals are still everywhere in Bulgaria.

Jarod and I chat about craft beer in San Diego — how the market blew up and became saturated — but how there's still nowhere else in the world with such a selection of excellent hoppy beers. In Bulgaria, there are a few craft brewers, but it's hit and miss. Some are good. Others.... Jarod's always brewed beer, and he's brought his hobby here. I'm sure if he wanted to, he could start his own brewery and ride the street cred of being from San Diego (a craft beer mecca) and simply having good brewing skills.

We throw around references to San Diego

landmarks that elicit smiles and don't require the tedium of explanation. But Jarod and I find it difficult to reminisce about San Diego and not hit on the topic of Mexican food — carne asada burritos, rolled tacos, *chilaquiles*. The craving and longing are real. It's the one thing that is incomparable and so horribly attempted in Europe. Unlike most residents, we've both been to multiple Mexican restaurants throughout Bulgaria on our travels, and we're disappointed every time. So why do we keep searching?

It hits me that here we are, two San Diegos, speaking English, drinking essentially San Diegan craft beer, and talking about our quest for So-Cal Mexican food in a Bulgarian garage.

I didn't envision

this life.

I didn't move to Eastern Europe to recreate San Diego in a 10x20 garage.

Emigrating to another country for a new challenge and experience is not for everyone. And when I made the leap in 2012, I did it with a curiosity and respect for other cultures. I continue to do so, but I also recognize the importance of connecting with people who share my experience and background. In the search for the foreign, we often come back to the familiar, no matter how far away we get. Maybe that's part of the beauty and the balance: doing both. We can seek the new and unique adventures, yet always carry our past and naturally search for the comfort of what we know already.

— Dominic Carrillo

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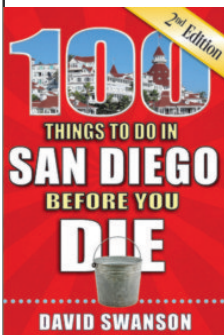
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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 3

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES: 100 THINGS TO DO IN SAN DIEGO



DAVID SWANSON AND HIS NEW BOOK

Travel writer-photographer David Swanson is a third-generation San Diegan. He has traveled through 100+ countries, and his stories and photos have been published in 50+ newspapers, magazines and websites. Hear him present hidden spots of interest in San Diego in his new guidebook, *100 Things to Do in San Diego Before You Die*.

WHEN: Thursday, September 3, 10 am

WHERE: ljcommunitycenter.org/dss

Friday | 4

LA RUMOROSA ROCK ART ALONG THE BORDER

Live on Facebook: The Borderlands



LA RUMOROSA ROCK ART ALONG THE BORDER

wilderness rock art contains three origins – trance imagery, archaeoastronomy (a number of verified solstice sites) and cosmology or ceremony in this survey of Kumeyaay and related artwork in Southern California. Don Liponi, Ph.D. has studied rock art for the past 50 years. He realized that there was a huge vacuum in Kumeyaay-Patayan archaeology and rock art right in his own neighborhood: Southern California, Southwestern Arizona, and northern Baja. He organized more than 50 professionals, Native Americans, and avocationists to recover the rock art of these “lost cultures.”

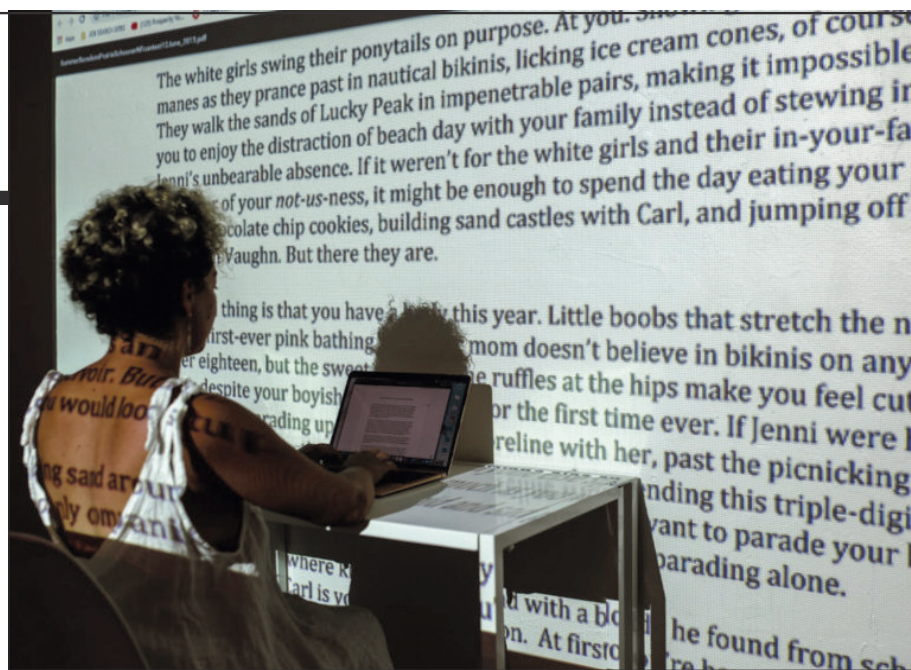
WHEN: Friday, September 4, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: facebook.com/sierraclubsd

WRITE OR DIE BY ELIZABETH SALAAM

Take in a performance and installation created by local artist and writer Elizabeth Salaam about the healing power of art and writing. For her first solo exhibition, Salaam will be writing live in an immersive textual installation.

WHEN: Friday, Saturday and Sunday; September 4, 5, 6; 12 pm to 5 pm.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: WRITE OR DIE BY ELIZABETH SALAAM

WHERE: You Belong Here, 3619 El Cajon Blvd, Normal Heights.
youbelongsd.com

Saturday | 5



DEVIN TOWNSEND

DEVIN TOWNSEND EMPATH LIVE BY REQUEST SET

“We have been working tirelessly to bring you a ‘virtual’ concert by request set, with musicians playing together, yet all in different parts of the world,” says Townsend. “However, I wanted to do something different, not the Brady Bunch-type split screen visuals filmed on smartphones... instead, we have opted to make a full production, filming ourselves separately, playing our instruments live, on greenscreens, with eight cameras each, all at the

same heights and distances for each of our remote shoots, and then combine these elements on a crazy virtual stage.”

WHEN: Saturday, September 5, 1 pm

WHERE: facebook.com/dvntownsend

Monday | 7

LABOR DAY WEEKEND DINING, SIGHTSEEING & WHALE WATCHING

Take to the Big Bay for the perfect summer sendoff this Labor Day weekend on a Hornblower cruise experience! Whether you’re looking to dine in one of the city’s most luxurious outdoor rooftop spaces or craving an exhilarating tour of blue whales and other marine life, stunning views of the San Diego coastline are guaranteed.

WHEN: Friday-Monday, September 4-7, 9 am-10 pm

WHERE: <https://www.hornblower.com/san-diego/holiday/>



HORNBLOWER CRUISES ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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

ART

Arts District Liberty Station Virtual First Friday A lineup of talented arts and culture groups share their craft at this unique and authentic event for San Diego residents and beyond. Join in on a selection of live activities like San Diego Dance Theater's performance, throwing vases/pottery wheel demo, woodworking craft demos or sing and dance along with Songbirds Music. Friday, September 4; **free**. libertystation.com/events/First-Friday-ARTS-DISTRICT. (ONLINE)

Elizabeth Salaam: Write or Die Write or Die is a performance and installation created by local artist and writer Elizabeth Salaam about the healing power of art and writing. Salaam shares childhood traumas, the lingering effects of sexual abuse, racism, and cultural isolation. The pages guide the viewer through the space. In-person visitors can purchase tickets for one-hour appointments. A maximum of six visitors will be allowed for each time slot, with social distancing protocols in effect. The gallery will be closed for sanitizing 30 minutes between appointments. Masks are required and gloves will be available. Virtual viewers will receive a Zoom link for the duration of the exhibition. Friday, September 4, 12pm; Saturday, September 5, 12pm; Sunday, September 6, 12pm; You Belong Here, 3619 El Cajon Boulevard. youbelongsd.com/upcoming-events. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Mingei Pop Up Workshop Join Mingei International Museum to celebrate Dia de la Raza by creating Mexican folk art-inspired Picado de Papel. Traditionally "Picado de Papel" (meaning "perforated paper" in Spanish) is used as decor for celebrations. Cut designs out of tissue paper and string them together to create a colorful display. Workshop is free with Museum admission. Friday, September 4, 11am; **free**-\$15. New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Miracle of Life at La Jolla Cove Book Fundraiser Save \$15 when purchasing The Miracle of Life at La Jolla Cove by David Sattler PhD, award winning photographer and environmentalist. Coffee table book features glorious photos, descriptions of wildlife, the ecosystem, and human impact right here at La Jolla Cove. Held outside of Mangelsens Images of Nature Gallery. Saturday, September 5, 11am; **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Get up and get down with First Light's coffee whiskey

Coffee and bourbon fans take note: a new flavored whiskey brand hit the shelves in San Diego in August. **First Light Coffee Whiskey** debuted in local shops with two bottled flavors of coffee whiskey: original and dark roast.

Cousins David Elizondo and Ryan Espinoza are the dudes behind First Light — a name inspired by daily surf reports, where the timing of first light time has more relevance to dawn patrollers than when the sun actually creeps over

the horizon.

San Diego native Elizondo has some background in making booze. He spent time as an intern at former San Marcos distillery, **Cal Spirits**. Though Cal Spirits now operates in Poway as a beverage co-packing facility, during its three years actively producing booze in San Marcos, it became the birthplace of a slew of San Diego spirit brands. **Pier View Gin** and **Misadventure Vodka** got their starts there, as did **Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey**, which is now sold nationwide and reports exponential growth since launching locally two years ago.

San Diego State alumnus Espinoza has a background in marketing and bartending, and says when the cousins joined forces in late 2018 to develop the First Light concept, his experience in making cocktails was a guiding factor. "One thing I noticed in the category was that it was lacking in consistent quality, and things were too sweet," Espinoza says. "They were flavored with things I don't like in my diet, like artificial sweeteners."

With this in mind, the cousins developed flavor profiles using organic agave syrup and

natural coffee extracts. It was also important to him and Elizondo that their flavored whiskey would mix well into classic cocktails, such as Old Fashioneds and Sazeracs. So they spent



Ryan Espinoza and David Elizondo are the family members behind First Light Coffee Whiskey

a year and a half sampling their way through dozens of combinations of whiskeys and natural flavors before settling on their flagship coffee whiskeys, which are made using a corn-based

distillate — sort of an un-aged bourbon.

"We found that the charred oak flavors you get with aged spirits were competing too much with the coffee," says Elizondo. The results of their experimentation received a (top) platinum rating at this year's SIP Awards, a consumer-judged tasting competition.

Though their ambitions include growing into a national brand, the cousins behind First Light are off to a modest start, producing their product on a contract basis with small batch whiskey and craft spirit producer, **San Diego Distillery**, out in Spring Valley. Bottles began appearing in 11 local liquor stores on August 10, and via delivery from *SipWhiskey.com*.

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

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream: Adam O. Davis Warwick's will host award-winning poet, photographer and teacher at The Bishop's School, Adam O. Davis, as he discusses his debut collection of poetry, *Index of Haunted Houses*, in conversation with poet, editor, prose writer and Professor of Literature at UC San Diego, Kazim Ali. This is a free virtual event Wednesday, September 9, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/davis-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Hank Phillippi Ryan Warwick's and Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke will host the Couch Surfing Book Tour with USA Today bestselling author and award-winning investigative reporter, Hank Phillippi Ryan, as she discusses her new book, *The First to Lie*. This is a free virtual event on Zoom. Tuesday, September 8, 4pm; www.warwicks.com/event/ryan-2020. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Sarah Z. Sleeper Warwick's will host award-winning journalist, poet, and debut novelist, Sarah

Z. Sleeper, as she discusses her new book, *Gaijin*, in conversation with award-winning novelist and creative writing teacher, Karen Osborn. This is a free virtual event on Facebook Live. Thursday, September 3, 4pm; warwicks.com/event/sleeper-2020. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Edit Picture with Pixlr Ages 8-12 Learn to edit picture with Pixlr, a free online photo editing tool. This is a beginner level class for students who want to learn to use Pixlr to edit a picture. Participants will learn to edit pictures in an interactive live class taught via Zoom. 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. Friday, September 4, 4pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/34ZheH9>. (ONLINE)

Ekphrastic Writing This class will allow you to explore a range of writing forms, practice interpreting art through your perspective, develop your writing voice, and broaden your understanding of

visual art. Together we will analyze ekphrastic writing, and then participants will be offered writing prompts to assist in responding in their way to famous art pieces. You will be emailed the Zoom link 24 hours before the start of class. Saturday, September 5, 2pm; \$30-\$36. 18 and up. www.sandiegowriters.org/september-ekphrastic-writing-rebecca-chamaa-joyce-hayden/. (ONLINE)

Intermediate Liquid Soapmaking Class Soapmaking 215 is an intermediate-level liquid soapmaking class designed to teach students to safely make liquid soap at home. This class covers the various difficulties faced by home soapmakers who strive to make a truly clear liquid soap. Classroom hours: 3 hours, includes one 15-minute break. Class fee: \$64. Materials fee: \$14. Sunday, September 6, 1pm; \$78. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Intro to Scratch Programming/Coding Ages 7-11 Introduction to Programming/Coding using the block based language of Scratch. Class provides parents and kids an introduction to Programming/Coding using Scratch, the importance of coding in today's world, going over basic programming concepts for parents and children, and try to provide some interactive examples. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class. Thursday,

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The Samosa King

“My mom taught me cooking, and then I started traveling. I have been all over.”

Dinna fasch yersel,” says Annie (translation: don’t get upset), “but this curry was created in the UK, not India. Scots and Sassanaks (tr: English people) eat more of this than they do fish and chips!”

The Scottish Lady’s talking about this very Indian-tasting chicken tikka masala. And man, national British dish or whatever, it is yummy, creamy, tomatoey, curry tasting, with large chunks of chicken for protein. So-o addictive.

We’re sharing a pot of it (\$12 with a separate pot of basmati rice), and some spicy, garlicky *naan* bread (\$4 — the real thing, from a real tandoori oven).

I got all this deliciousity from Masala Cottage — an Indian place on El Cajon Boulevard, 6700 block — and hauled it back to Annie’s place. Good timing! Annie and I fall on it like wolves. And the taste! Ranjit Singh, the chef-owner who cooked it, says the thing about chicken tikka masala is that yes, it is a bona fide curry with coconut, cashew,



to Lima to Baghdad to Bangkok. “It says they were made in the triangular shape to imitate the pyramids of Central Asia,” says Annie, “like in

Samarkand. And check out that name! ‘Samarkand?’ ‘Samosa?’ Coincidence? We’re about to eat history, laddy!”

When I first went in, I got talking to owner Singh. “They call me the King of Samosas,” he said, “because I make over

50 different flavors of them, like nowhere else in the world. And I create them in two sizes. The standard 4-6 ounce, and my very own idea: giant samosas! They’re meal-size, 10-11 ounces. It really does fill you up.”

I check the list. Whew. Lot to get through. Vegan combos like *rajma rongi* (red kidney beans and black-eyed peas), *aloo gobhi* (potato and cauliflower), and lots of other vegetarian and vegan samosas, plus chicken, lamb, beef.

These things are so easy to chomp, to take with you. All the food is wrapped inside the pastry shell.

The samosas come with two pots of chutney, mild and spicy, and both, when I try them, are electric adds. Specially with the lamb and the *aloo* (potato), but also with the *saag paneer* (cheese and spinach).

Cost-wise, you’re looking at \$4-6 for a small one and \$8-10 for the large. Trust me, one large is enough. Specially if you add a *naan* or a pot of the

yellow rice.

Turns out Singh spent years in Edinburgh, where Annie’s from. Before that, he spent five years in the Indian Border Security Force. That was a rough life. “We have the longest border in the world. We’re the largest border-guarding force in the world. Pakistan, China, Kashmir, Bangladesh. Trouble spots like Amritsar. I went in on my 18th birthday. We now have Americans with us. We have helped them with training, like with military dogs.”

He was glad to be out of the violence after five years. “I decided I wanted out one time when we tossed grenade after grenade on the roof of this house. We thought there were terrorists inside. In the end, only a woman and



Samosas: envoys from a Central Asian past



Pyramid scheme: Ranjit Singh built his business on pyramid-shaped snacks

children came out. These things happen, but they don’t leave you. A less violent life is better. My mom taught me cooking, and then I started traveling. I have been all over.”

After several careers, he found his rhythm here in San Diego. This is where he’s been crowned “Samosa King” among his fellow Indian-American business people.

“I now have pop-ups in 12 farmers markets,” he says. “And that’s a reduction. Before Covid, I was in 22.”

So I get back to Annie, and lay out the little stack of samosas in a row. I can’t help thinking of those Central Asian pyramids — the ones nobody pays attention to — and how they inspired the shape and heck, *usefulness* of these edible miniatures. ‘Course, samosas are kind of new here, but, like *empanadas*, *pupusas*, burritos, you know these little pastry-wrapped triangles are on their way to, as Annie would say, “wurrld-wide dominance.”



Saag paneer: stuffed with spinach, cheese, onions

So we split the large *aloo gobhi* (potato and cauliflower) samosa, the lamb samosa, and the *saag paneer* samosa (spinach and cheese cooked in grapeseed oil), douse them with curry sauce and chutney, and set to. Super-delish, but with this big size, they’re just too much. And this little exercise has cost maybe \$40.

“Dinna fasch yersel,” says Annie, “but next time, don’t throw your money around. Order the small ones! Remember, a light purse is a heavy curse.” ■

Ancient pyramids from Samarkand.

plus doses of nutmeg, cumin, coriander, and spices like green and black cardamom, even if it also gets dollops of extra cream for the European palate.

“Masala means this mix of spices,” he says. “Tikka means cut up into chunks.”

Whatever, it tastes very Indian to me. And so rich! This basmati rice is really necessary to tamp it down. Then again, we each went to the expense of a cool, golden \$6 mango *lassi* (means “sticky”) drink, to sweeten things up with its deliciousity, and to help the food down.

But our original reason for seeking out the Masala Cottage was the samosas. Annie went online and found out that these triangular wraps are like food ambassadors from the ancient world. They’re fried or baked pastry stuffed with basically anything. You’ll find them from Cairo

The Place: Masala Cottage, 6729 El Cajon Boulevard (College area), 619-439-7264

Hours: 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-9pm, daily. Closed Sunday

Prices: Chicken tikka masala, with rice, \$12; lamb cholay (ground beef with black garbanzos beans), \$9; butter chicken and rice, \$9; small samosas including veggie, \$4; chicken samosa, \$6; large samosas include aloo ghobi (potato and cauliflower), with curry sauce and chutney, \$8; chicken curry and rice, \$12; lamb korma (yogurt, cream, nut sauce), rice, \$15; tandoori chicken (2 pieces) \$10; fish curry, \$17; chili chicken lunch special (2 curries, rice, naan and salad), \$8; mango lassi, \$6

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Pop-up Pandemic

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Try Pandemic Pizza – you can recycle the box

Rovino the Foodery; 969 Market Street, East Village. I'll take good news wherever I can get it these days, and if that includes from

FEAST!



Nduja love me, a daily special at Pandemic Pizza, featuring basil aioli, yukon gold potatoes, red pepper emulsion, and nduja.



A Pandemic Pizza specialty, the "postponed wedding," topped with calabrese salami, Calabrian chilis, pineapple, and ranch dressing.



Domino's Pizza, so be it. The pizza delivery chain, along with the company it buys pizza boxes from, recently put out a press release challenging the notion that pizza boxes can't be recycled.

If you didn't know that was the case, lucky you. As an environmentalist in a pizza lover's body, I've long suffered anxiety over the prevailing wisdom that the grease pizza leaves behind renders the typical cardboard pizza box unrecyclable.

Domino's and its boxmaker want us to know that recycling technology has improved to the point lightly soiled pizza boxes can be processed back to usable form these days, and in the case the bottom half of the box gets too greasy, you can just rip off the top and recycle that.

To be sure, I took a look at the guidance provided by San Diego's environmental services department, and sure enough, it reads: "Pizza boxes not heavily soiled with grease, cheese and food are recyclable. If the bottom is too soiled, the top might be OK to tear off and recycle." To celebrate, I did not order a Domino's Pizza. Instead, I started checking out a tasty new pizza dealer that recently popped up inside East Village gourmet market and deli, Rovino the Foodery.

Behind the shop's deli counter, best friends and furloughed chefs Brandon Sloan and Chris Gentile put their fine dining pedigrees to work creating what their google page calls "California Style Neapolitan Pizza": thin crust pies made with organic Bianco DiNapoli tomatoes and typically dressed with locally sourced toppings.

Lest you think all these pies are fancy, the plain cheese (\$13), margharita (\$13), and pepperoni pizzas (\$15) prove how well these guys understand pizza to be an art form where simplicity excels, where ingredients and preparation shine through.

That said, they come up with something like the excellent "postponed wedding" (\$16), which brings together calabrese salami, Calabrian chilis, pineapple, and ranch dressing. Though it's a small 12 inches, I generally find the pie's quality backs up its price tag. However, this was too good for me to share, and I wanted more.

I want more house sausage and roasted leeks; more caramelized onion with gruyere, sherry, thyme, and chives; more specials, such as the "nduja love me", topped with thinly sliced Yukon gold potatoes, red pepper emulsion, pesto aioli, and homemade nduja, a spiced Italian pork spread.

A simple, yet fancy delicious pepperoni pizza.



Pandemic Pizza has popped up within the Rovino the Foodery deli counter.

In respect to the price though, bear in mind these guys didn't just take advantage of a trending hashtag in naming their pop-up Pandemic Pizza. They also donate one dollar from every pizza sold to a local pandemic relief charity, usually the kind working to feed people who remain food-insecure during the pandemic recession.

It feels pretty good supporting such things while eating a few excellent pizzas. Plus, these slightly greasy pies are boxed atop butcher paper, so you can definitely recycle the boxes.

by Ian Anderson

Scoops return to Stella Jean's

Stella Jean's Ice Cream; 4404 Park Blvd, University Heights. We showed up to Stella Jean's with a couple of kids in tow, having promised ice cream cones. But this was a month ago, and University Heights' resident small batch ice cream shop wasn't serving them. Instead, it was selling take-home pints, and wrapping its made-in-house waffle cones to go.

As pandemic disappointments go, this one was minor. We picked out a couple of flavors and headed home with our empty cones. The ice cream held its terrifically smooth texture on the ride home. The construction of my own amateurish double

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The new look storefront at Stella Jean's, with a new pick up window.

scoops the only noticeable loss in quality.

Fast forward a few weeks and we're in the middle of a heat wave. Upon my return to the shop's Park Avenue storefront, it takes me a moment to notice that something has changed. Something so seamless I almost didn't realize it. Where there used to be an ice cream cone-shaped sign reading Stella Jean's, there's now a take-out window.

The new window was installed last week, and is a dedicated pick-up window for those take-home pints and cones, which may be ordered online for those minimizing contact during the pandemic.

It frees up the makeshift indoorway counter Stella Jean's

had been using for pint service, which is now dedicated to serving ready-to-eat ice cream cones.

With scoops back on the menu, a steady flow of ice cream faithful showed up to find such unique flavors as ube ice cream with pandesal toffee, and earl grey tea with tea cookie crumbles.

Of course, the kids stuck with their old reliables: double chocolate, milk & cookies (a.k.a. cookies and cream), and s'mores, made with roasted marshmallows. They raised their professionally assembled, two-scoop cones to the sky, celebrating a minor pandemic victory.

However, I had to wonder. With the temperature approaching 90, Stella Jean's silky textured

ice cream started to melt by time we reached the street corner. As dripping cones and sticky hands approached my just-back-from-the-car-wash sedan, I started to wonder whether take-home pints might have been the wiser play after all.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

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 customers roasted Hatch Chile peppers to go. Chiles can be ordered online and are available for pick



Two-scoop victory cones, ready to melt quickly in the August afternoon sun.

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/Heirloom 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. Customers can order their chiles for any Saturday, up to the Thursday immediately prior. Saturday, September 5, 10am; \$40. Gelson's Market, 2707 Via De La Valle. (DEL MAR)

Virtual Italian Wine Tasting

Virtual Italian Wine Tasting with Stefano Poggi Duca Carlo Guarini Wines: Enjoy a tour of Negroamaro, Puglia's most ancient grape, from the oldest wine-making family in Italy (1065!). Negroamaro is one of the oldest grapes in the world (8000 years) grown by one of the oldest wine making families in the world (~1,000 years). This grape speaks to the true resilience over time of how a drought tolerant grape can produce elegant wines even under harsh heats. Dark Fruits and coastal herbs. Some of the purest expressions of this fun wine. Presented by Stefano Poggi, who has 15 years of wine experience and is a Certified Specialist of Wine (Society of Wine Educators) and is an Italian Wine Specialist (North American Sommelier Association). Wines we will be tasting (open as many as you like): Burdi Negroa-

maro - an every day drinker with intensity Negroamaro "Nativo" - an authentic wine with THE "Native" grape and family of Puglia Pairing Suggestions: CHEESE: Seasoned Caciocavallo, Scamorza, Aged Goat, or Pepper jack cheese (or any cheese that has a spicy component) COLD CUT: Spicy Salami, Prosciutto PASTA: Sagne (or penne with lines) al pomodoro VEGGIES: roasted or grilled tomatoes, onions, bell peppers MEAT: slow cooked lamb and potatoes or grilled tuna. Price includes 2 full size bottles of wine plus tax. Wine available for pick up at Bird Rock Fine Wines after 12pm on September 2. free delivery available in La Jolla only. Request must be made by September 1. To register, visit online. Thursday, September 3, 5pm; \$35. 21 and up. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (ONLINE)



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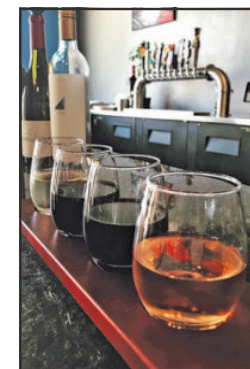
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blurt the inside track

Encinitas to the core, that's what Tate Sanderson is. He was raised in the North County beach community and has returned to live there. He pays homage to his hometown roots with "Back In Encinitas." The song features a cavalcade of local references that range from surf breaks, to Besta-Wan Pizza, to an old fast food hot spot.

"A&W Root Beer was there probably until I was about 18 or 19," Sanderson explained. "We would all go hang-out there after the beach and get root beer floats. It was right there at the corner of Encinitas Boulevard and the 101 where now it's Leucadia Pizzeria and a little shopping mall. You could pull up your car and they would roller-skate out and put the trays on your windows. It was really cool."

After high school, Sanderson played in a local surf-punk band called The Pumps before moving up to Hollywood for a couple of years. After this stint, he returned to Encinitas where he put together a band called Saints We Ain't — in Sanderson's own words "a surf punky, heavy-metal grunge thing." Soon enough, he was heading back up to Hollywood with the new band in tow.

"Hollywood was different back then," he explained. "I go up there now and it's nowhere near as crazy as it was when I lived there. Sometimes it would be so wild on the streets that you could barely drive your car out in front of The Roxy and Gazzarri's. The riot squad would come down and start clearing those roads because there were so many people everywhere. It was insane. It was the height of hair metal, and grunge was coming out as well."

Saints We Ain't toured extensively but, like most bands, eventually called it a day. Sanderson then DJ'd in Los Angeles and did some solo touring before he returned to Encinitas once more and settled into a job teaching music



Tate Sanderson rocks an acoustic flying V.

to special needs children. This lasted for about 15 years, then it was another big move, that time to Hawaii.

"I had a property to stay at, and I was just playing music everywhere, writing new songs and selling my book," he explained. The book was the autobiographic *Johnny Rock Tales from the Road: A Life of Rock n Roll*. He would soon adopt the Johnny Rock moniker when, you guessed it, he once again returned to Encinitas.

"My mom had a ballet school [Janice Lee's School of Ballet] here for 50 years," Sanderson explained. "She calls me up and says, 'I'm going to retire and I'm going to sell the building unless you want to do something with it.' The volcano was going off on the big island at the time, so it was getting hard to breathe over there. Timing's everything. I decided to just go and try it out."

These days, Sanderson utilizes the former ballet space to record music and create videos. He has experienced recent success with a song called "Hot Dog On A Stick." It was inspired by a Hot Dog On A Stick stand that popped up in the parking lot of the American Legion post that's across the street from his studio. It arrived in the midst of the covid lockdown, and Sanderson was itching to perform.

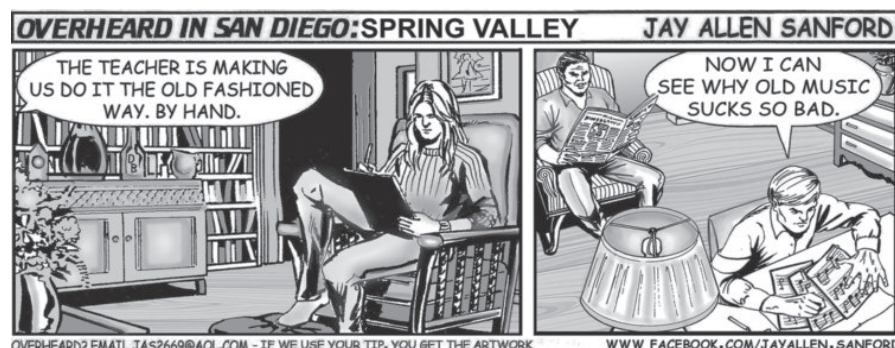
"I'm like, 'Okay, there's an audience out there' so I went out and played on my porch," he explained. "I tend to make up stuff while I'm going along just to have fun with it. So, I made up a song about Hot Dog On A Stick. Well, the commander for the American Legion just loved it. He was like 'That is best thing ever! You've gotta record it!' So, I recorded the song and made a video, and everyone seemed to love that one a lot."

Although Sanderson is eager to get out touring again, even pre-covid he had shifted his focus to releasing videos. He has over 50 videos on his JARPR Studios YouTube page, and the views have increased due to the pandemic.

"It's kind of been good for me personally," he said. "The positive note is that people are buying more music, listening to more music, and doing things online now because they're forced to. My book sales and music sales, even though they're not huge, have at least tripled — and they keep tripling month by month because of everything that's going on. On top of that, I have all this time to really focus on getting new stuff out there."

— Dryw Keltz

Papas & corona On August 15, some reggaeton music fans and partiers rejoiced, when the *ElImparcial.com* news outlet across the border posted a story reading in part: "In Rosarito, a massive event organized by the Papas & Beer beach club is already planned, which will



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be held on September 5 and will have at least a capacity of 1500 people."

Reggaeton record producer Z-Boi lives by the beachfront venue which is about 20 miles south of the border fence.

"We can't have the people come into our city and spread the coronavirus. We are doing so good right now."

According to a government report, the beachfront city that's between Tijuana and Ensenada, has significantly lower covid-19 numbers compared to its neighboring municipalities. Rosarito has had 16 deaths and 239 positive cases attributed to the coronavirus, as this story goes to print.

"Although the health traffic light is still red," continued the news report, "[government officials] assured us that

accurate and make this event safe," commented Renee on Facebook. "They've already suggested that these rapid tests are far from accurate; they take at least 15 minutes, and how in the world do you think you're going to administer them to 1500 people in a

And, to be honest, I'll happily pay the extra \$20 and wait in line for hours, so they can test me before entering the club."

"I think we should wait a bit more," Z-Boi opined, "I'd love to play our reggaeton music there next year, if we have a vaccine available by then."

Z-Boi is featured in "Bailalo" and "Lo Lacura," two reggaeton songs he helped produce for Baja Posse.

Reggaeton is the fusion of Spanish rap, hip-hop, Caribbean, and Latin music. It originated in Puerto Rico dance halls in the early 1990s, and spread throughout the island and into the U.S. mainland via bootleg cassettes, many of them featuring rapping by Daddy Yankee, "the king of reggaeton."

Some Baja musicians say Z-Boi's trilingual rap tracks from the 1980s, could be precursors to reggaeton. The style is based on the dembow rhythm usually composed of a snare drum, kick drum, palito, timbal, and an occasional high-hat cymbal. Z-Boi said he plays some of these instruments on his new tracks.

Per the *ElImparcial.com* follow up report, on August 21, "the Mayor of Rosarito, Araceli Brown Figueroa, said that the permits have not yet been

granted by the state government nor by the city council for the September 4 and 5 concert."

—Mike Madriaga

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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



The unlikely voice of caution — reggaeton performer and producer, Z-Boi.



Rosarito mayor Araceli Brown Figueroa talks to reporters outside of the Papas & Beer concert venue in Rosarito.

they already have the approval of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Sustainable Economy and Tourism. The officials explained that rapid tests of covid-19 will be carried out on the attendees."

"They actually believe they can get rapid testing on 1500 people that's going to be

timely fashion to allow entry and exclude negatives with an untrustworthy test sounds like a disaster in the making."

Manny M. from Chula Vista has attended reggaeton concerts in Rosarito and Tijuana in the past. "Papas & Beer usually holds 5000 people, so with 1500, we'll be spread apart.



SUGAR WORLD

Sugar World features Katryn Macko and Ryan Stanley, who met while both were studying at Florida State University and working at Tallahassee's Club Downunder. The duo relocated to San Diego after their group Naps (hailed by *StereoGum* as being among the "Best New Bands of 2015") broke up in 2016, with only two EPs to their credit. Their debut *Sugar World* single, "Sad In Heaven," was released last summer, followed by "We Fell In Love." Two new singles have debuted so far this summer, a cover of Yo La Tengo's "Shadows" and a cover of Chromatics' "Kill For Love." With

a full album due this winter, their newest single is an original track, "Time to Kill," which the band says "evokes the long mythologized era of indie pop's roots. 'Time to Kill' combines the earnest wit of the Field Mice with the vibrant, tongue-in-cheek energy of the Pastels, all while touching upon modern political themes as we prepare for a crucial election." Though the single was unavailable to preview at press time, a sample lyric was provided: "And we'll allow you to vote but we'll break all the machines, unless you take back all your jokes about guillotines."



SWING KIDS

Swing Kids were a 1990s hardcore/screamo band that drew inspiration from the jazz and swing era, featuring frontman Justin Pearson, who would release their recordings on his own Three One G record label. The same label carried his Swing Kids bandmate, the late Eric Allen, and his band Unbroken. After Allen's suicide, and after Swing Kids performed their final show, Pearson later played with the Locust, Holy Molar, Some Girls, Crimson Curse, and All Leather, with the last featuring replacement Swing Kid Nathan Joyner (Hot Nerds, All Leather, Some Girls). In 2009, a couple of Swing Kids reunion shows were staged

by Pearson, and in summer 2011 he and several other original members recruited Joyner and toured Europe as Blue Note, playing sets of Swing Kids music. A new Swing Kids Anthology LP is due October 23 from Three One G, featuring most of their available recordings. The album will be made available digitally, as well as in a limited edition of 500 "antifa colored" black-and-red splattered vinyl copies with a gatefold cover. All the tracks on Anthology have been remastered by Brent Asbury, with layout and design by Bran Moon.



ANYA MARINA

Anya Marina's grandmother was a jazz pianist, her grandfather was a sax player, and her dad played trumpet and piano. However, Marina at first aspired toward an acting career, appearing in Hollywood films such as *Hope* (1999) and *100 Girls* (2000). After taking a DJ job in San Diego, she began working on the songs for her 2005 debut full length, *Miss Halfway*, later landing the title track on the TV show *Grey's Anatomy* and winning Best Local Recording at the San Diego Music Awards. The SDMA nominations and wins kept stacking up as she began to rent her songs to more TV shows, including *Castle*, *13 Reasons Why*, and

Gossip Girl. Her hit single "Satellite Heart" was heard on the soundtrack to the motion picture *Twilight: New Moon*, and scenes from the film were used in one of her music videos. Touring has taken her on the road with Spoon, Joshua Radin, Chris Isaak, and Dandy Warhols, as well as with locals Jason Mraz, Greg Laswell, Steve Poltz, and Tristan Prettyman, and she was opening for comedian Nikki Glaser right up until the pandemic shut down most venues. Her album *Queen of the Night* drops September 25, preceded by a single, now streaming, for "Can't Nobody Love You."



CERULEAN VEINS

Cerulean Veins, a post-punk/coldwave music project founded in 2013 by Paper Plane Pilot songwriter Dustin Frelich, is musically akin to acts such as Joy Division, New Order, Ultravox, the Cure, and Interpol. After releasing a debut single "Black and White" in 2013, around a dozen more singles appeared before a full-length called *Self-Entitled* was finally issued in 2016, featuring a lineup with Frelich, his wife Amanda Ashley Toombs on keys, guitarist Paul Welch, and drummer Bob Patrowicz. Though mainly promoted as a digital release, a limited edition CD version

of *Self-Entitled* (100 copies) was packaged in a re-sealable sleeve with one-sided front and back card printing and a disc to match. Cerulean Veins had been somewhat off the radar since a full-length called *Ado* dropped in 2017, but a new album appeared in January of this year, *Blue*. This past May, Frelich spent the month performing unplugged versions of songs from *Blue* live on Twitch. Now, a new album called *Blue, Unplugged* is available, featuring a collection of offline performances from the final week, remixed and remastered from high quality source audio.



WE THE COMMAS

With members ranging in age from 17 to 23, the three Comma siblings who make up alt-surf R&B rockers We the Commas released their debut single "Sherry" in June, followed by a single and video for "Custom Made." They were hoping to continue hosting a series of weekly three-hour gigs at the Bunker House in Oceanside, but it appears that endeavor is closed off for now. However, the band is being championed by supporters such as The Head and The Heart, and they're working with A-list production talent like Rex Kudo (Post Malone, Young Thug, Lil Uzi Vert) and Charlie Handsome (Khalid, The Weeknd, Drake). A

debut EP is due soon, and their single "Pissed Off" drops September 17. The story behind "Pissed Off" originates from Lenny Comma's college years. "I had no idea what I wanted to do in life. I changed my major four times and I felt aimless. I finally had enough, and had to get my anger out because I was tired of feeling like a failure and I felt like no one understood me... We all go through periods of life where times get hard and those hardships don't make sense. But going through it makes you stronger, and you learn so much."

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, 3pm — Melissa Etheridge Livestream. \$10.
Thursday, 4pm — Thursday Thing: Fruition Featuring Tyler Thompson. **Free.**
Friday, 6pm — Patti Smith Livestream. **Free.**
Saturday, 1pm — Devin Townsend Empath Live By Request Set.
Saturday, 8pm — Eli-Mac Livestream. **Free.**
Saturday, 5pm — Evangeline Gentle Live From Hamilton, Ontario.
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 6pm — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Tuesday, 12:30pm — Ferran Palau Livestream. \$6-\$12.
Wednesday, 5:30pm — The Last Bandoleros Livestream. **Free.**

Starlight Theater:

Friday, 8pm — Cash, Killer & the King.
Saturday, 8pm — Rose Royce.
Sunday, 2pm — Mariachi Divas.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Friday, Oct. 9 — Seun Kuti and Egypt 80. \$25-\$44.
Saturday, Oct. 10 — Soul Asylum and Local H.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, Oct. 8 — Amorphis and Entombed AD.

Music Box:

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.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

What about wind?

Last week, I unfairly accused the brass and winds of forcing covid-laden breath and spit through their instruments. I also venerated the strings section for their more pandemic-friendly approach to music. None of that is accurate. I was just having some fun at the expense of the winds and brass.

To make up for my accusations, let's look at some music for winds and brass. This music isn't as well-known as the string music we looked at last week. One theory as to why has to do with the wind instruments themselves. In the 18th and 19th Centuries, brass and woodwind instruments were limited in their range of expression, especially when compared to modern versions of the same instruments. String instruments had a far greater expressive range.

The greatest piece of wind music is Mozart's *Serenade No. 10 Gran Partita*. You might be thinking that I'm

wrong with this because it features a string instrument, the double bass.

In practice, the piece is often performed with a double bass, but Mozart composed the *Gran Partita* to include a contrabassoon. Finding a contrabassoonist is far more difficult compared to finding a double bassist, hence the substitution.

Mozart also wrote his next two serenades for winds. He liked *No. 12* so much that he transcribed it for string quintet four years later. In addition to the serenades, Mozart wrote four *divertimentos* for winds.

As is the case in almost every genre, Mozart delivered more high quality wind music than any other composer. Beethoven, for instance, wrote an octet for winds. However, he wrote it while he was still a young man in Bonn, and it is nowhere close in quality to his septet written for clarinet, horn, bassoon, violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

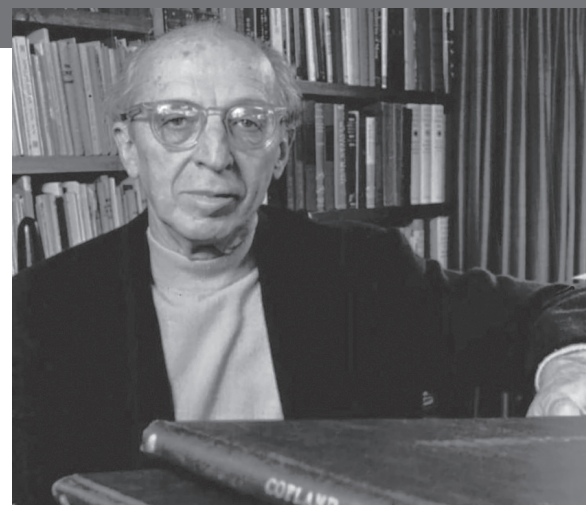
Franz Schubert was

inspired by Beethoven's *Septet* when he wrote his *Octet* for clarinet, a bassoon, a horn, two violins, a viola, a cello, and double bass. It's the same instrumentation as Beethoven's except Schubert adds a second violin.

Earlier in his career, Schubert wrote an octet for winds. It is not nearly as popular as the other *Octet*. We need only look to YouTube for verification. The top video of the *Octet for Winds* has 6556 views. The more famous *Octet* has 1.1 million views.

Most courts in Europe employed a wind octet with two oboes, two bassoons, two horns, and two clarinets. So why isn't there more music for winds? These wind ensembles usually played arrangements of popular music from operas and symphonies. The tradition of wind arrangements continues to this day.

There are a few pieces for winds from the 20th Century that get some attention.



Aaron Copland, wind wizard.

Stravinsky's *Symphony of Winds* is one, even though the audience laughed at the music during the London premiere. Stravinsky composed it to honor the death of Claude Debussy.

Francis Poulenc wrote some quality wind music. Many of those pieces such as his *Wind Sextet* also include piano. I adore his *Clarinet Sonata*, which also includes piano.

If piano is included, then the repertoire for wind

music is much broader. I've opted to focus primarily on music written for only winds. The most famous piece of wind music, not written by John Philip Sousa, is Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*. The piece was commissioned, along with several fanfares by other composers, during World War II. Copland's is the only one to stay in the concert repertoire.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Sep. 10 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Thursday, Sep. 10 — A Stray Catalyst Living Room Stream. **Free.**
Thursday, Sep. 10 — Remember When Rock Was Young: Elton John Tribute. **Free.**
Friday, Sep. 11 — Lacuna Coil Live From the Apocalypse.
Friday, Sep. 11 — Remember When Rock Was Young: Elton John Tribute. **Free.**
Friday, Sep. 11 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Saturday, Sep. 12 — ProgStock Virtual Festival.
Saturday, Sep. 12 — San Diego Blues Festival.
Saturday, Sep. 12 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Sunday, Sep. 13 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**

Monday, Sep. 14 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Tuesday, Sep. 15 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Wednesday, Sep. 16 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Thursday, Sep. 17 — Le Couleur Album Release Concert.
Thursday, Sep. 17 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Friday, Sep. 18 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Friday, Sep. 18 — Morsefest 2020: Lockdown.
Friday, Sep. 18 — 10 Years: Violent Allies Livestream. \$6-\$55.
Saturday, Sep. 19 — Morsefest 2020: Lockdown.
Saturday, Sep. 19 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Sunday, Sep. 20 — Dex Romweber Livestream From the Cave.

Sunday, Sep. 20 — Say Hi Livestream. **Free.**
Tuesday, Sep. 22 — Music Box: Daughtry's Live From Home Tour.
Saturday, Sep. 26 — Osees Levitation Sessions.
Saturday, Oct. 3 — Josh Groban Livestream.
Friday, Oct. 9 — Ad Infinitum Virtual Concert Stream.

Soda Bar:

Saturday, Oct. 3 — Torres and Ariana & the Rose.
Wednesday, Oct. 7 — Lilly Hiatt and Logan Ledger.
Thursday, Oct. 8 — Corb Lund.

Starlight Theater:

Friday, Sep. 11 — Metalachi. \$10.
Saturday, Sep. 12 — The Swon Brothers.
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Saturday, Sep. 19 — War. \$52-\$78.
Friday, Sep. 25 — Don't Look Back.
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Tony Pepperoni Pizzeria:

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Viejas Arena:

Saturday, Sep. 26 — Los Angeles Azules.

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The Roaring '70s

There was a point in America's history when you couldn't enter a supermarket or flip the radio dial without hearing *I Am Woman*'s titular tune. I clicked on the screening link expecting to find another biodoc — I try not to know anything about a movie before pressing play — but to my delight, what I watched was neither a rock concert pawning itself off as a biopic (*Bohemian Rhapsody*), nor a calculable musical

fantasy gassed up on simulation (*Rocket-man*). And without the accustomed showbiz pomposity to drive it, the film roars loudest in the quiet moments rendered (surrendered?) by its captivating star, Tilda Cobham-Hervey.

A canny dash of production design is there to greet Helen Reddy (Cobham-Hervey) and her three-year-old daughter Traci upon their arrival in New York. The subway ad for Heinz pourable ketchup, featuring a tamed homemaker with a bottle in hand, proudly proclaiming, "Even I Can Open It!" was a real eye-opener. Talent contest-winner Reddy has arrived in town looking to claim a first-prize recording contract, but the best Mercury Records has to offer barely qualifies as an audition.

It's at a rent party thrown in Helen's honor — thrown by cherished friend, fellow Aussie, and trailblazing feminist music critic Lilian Roxon (Danielle Macdonald) — that she meets her future husband and manager, Jeff Wald (Evan Peters). A loving mother not given to the dreams of the everyday housewife, Reddy was initially rejected on the grounds of wholesomeness. It was Roxon who acted as Reddy's bridge to what was then known as the Women's Lib movement.

How do we know when Jerry and Helen spend their first night together? The next morning, Jeff shows up at Helen's hotel with a toy for Traci in one hand and a pair of her mommy's panties in the other. (In an American romcom, Jeff would have blurted out, "You left these in my apartment" while waving the unmentionables as if they were Old Glory.) In the hours I spent reading up on Wald's career, it became apparent that there were enough scintillating showbiz entanglements therein to warrant a biopic all his own. Wald was fired from the William Morris Agency for using their mailroom as a pot shop. He went on to manage such diverse stars as Tiny Tim and Sylvester Stallone. (Alas, no mention is made of Reddy's act-

ing career, but if you haven't seen her performance as Sister Ruth in *Airport '75*, the onus is on you.) Reddy later credited her success to Wald's guidance: "He runs it all. Naturally, when the moment of performance comes, I have to deliver — but everything else is him. It's not my career; it's our career." In the film's best scene, Reddy locks the office door on Wald, refusing to let him out until an audition with Capitol Records is secured.

For her first narrative feature, director Unjoo Moon mounts a top drawer musical biography along the lines of *The Buddy Holly Story* or *Behind the Candelabra*. The performances are faultless, with Cobham-Hervey capturing Reddy's quiet resilience in a manner that transcends mere mimicry to reveal a character for whom audiences can't help but cheer. Moon handles Wald's excesses — most notably a \$100,000 a year cocaine habit — with taste. And damn if it isn't vitalizing to watch lighting and stock footage mesh seamlessly.

Reddy's last public appearance was at the post-Trump inauguration march for women's rights on March 21, 2017, where she sang, you guessed it, "I Am Woman." Later that year, Reddy was diagnosed with dementia and placed in the care of the Motion Picture and Television Fund's Samuel Goldwyn Center. In the almost 50 years since the release of "the unofficial anthem of the women's liberation movement," the Equal Rights Amendment has yet to be passed. ★★★★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

You Cannot Kill David Arquette — There was a time in the mid-'90s when people would have killed to be David Arquette. With the rapidity of a Gatling gun, he cranked out what appeared to be a trio of career-dermining performances: the jaundiced rebel in Robert Rodriguez's *Roadracers* (the director's rapid-fire teensploitation contribution to Showtime's fine *Rebel Highway* series), the momma's boy aiming to gun down a legend in Walter Hill's *Wild Bill*, and the potential suicide victim who can't quite bid the world farewell in Finn Taylor's *Dream With the Fishes*. Add to that a trio of *Screams*, and the future looked promising for the actor as he entered the new millennium. Given my affinity for both actor and genre, it's freaky how the wrestling comedy



I Am Woman: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, strong and invincible as Helen Reddy.

Ready to Rumble came and went without my noticing. But someone must have seen it, for if ever a film knee-capped a career trajectory, it was that one. The film's producer, Christina McLarty Arquette, later remarked, "Crossing over into that world caused a lot of directors not to take him seriously." Do you think? Arquette was soon a WCW cast member, with a script calling for him to win the World Heavyweight Championship. It's okay for celebrities, even future presidents, to enter the squared circle. Just don't dare let a Hollywood outsider lick the competition, let alone take home a belt. Through it all, Arquette maintains a good-natured composure; he genuinely takes the audience catcalls to heart. After a decade of rejection by wrestling fans and Hollywood producers alike, directors David Darg and Price James follow the 46-year-old Arquette's enrollment in Luchador U to prepare him for the most intense competition of his life. Not only does he follow the storyline to the letter, he also, thanks to his training, gives the performance of his career. 2020 — S.M. ★★★

The Rental — Brothers Charlie (Dan Stevens) and Josh (Jeremy Allen White) and their respective wife Michelle (Alison Brie) and girlfriend Mina (Sheila Vand) celebrate a recent successful business deal with a romantic getaway for four at a luxurious oceanside Airbnb. First-time director Dave Franco and co-screenwriter Joe Swanberg (*Drinking Buddies*, *Happy Christmas*) are at their best when introducing racism to the holiday in the form of Taylor (Toby Huss), a seemingly xenophobic lessor who may or

may not have passed on Mina's application — her name has a Muslim ring to it — to get to the one submitted by white privilege poster boy Charlie. At any given point, we're not sure if it's Mina or Taylor who's looking to pick a fight. Regrettably, instead of sticking to the thrills, we end with the third act arrival of a masked slasher whose

identity is never revealed. (Fanboys take note: it's the filmmaker's facile way of commenting on the randomness of violence.) Slow to start and even longer to draw to a predictable close, there's a solid 40 minute chunk at the center that makes its points with subtlety and style. — S.M. ★★



JERRY'S (1974)

A Proustian rush of pastrami

and the *tic-clac* harmony of meat slicers would overwhelm my senses. The ten-minute walk from school — in conjunction with a reasonably priced (\$4.30!) corned beef sandwich — ensured

at least one visit a week to Jerry's Deli. I can still feel Jerry Meyer grabbing my arm as he yelled in my face, "WHADDYA HAVE? COME ON! TODAY NOT TOMORROW!" Dining at Jerry's was an experience much like being seated ringside at a Don Rickles concert; people were

there for the abuse. What was Jerry's secret? On the job at their own places of work, his clientele were little more than automatons. "When they come in here," Jerry reasoned, "by grabbing them, and touching them, and screaming at them, they become human beings."

The footage here clearly wasn't



Jerry's: A warm welcome courtesy of Chicago-based filmmaker Tom Palazzola.

ute to decide. An outstretched arm and a booming, "GET TO THE BACK OF THE LINE!" would be their fate. Director Tom Palazzola recalled Jerry's concern over whether the finished documentary would cast him in a harsh light. Not until his wife gave her approval did Jerry sign off.

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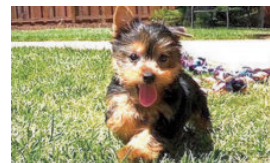
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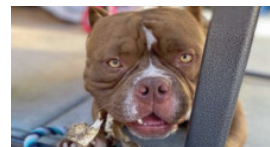
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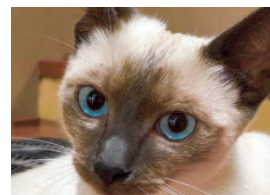
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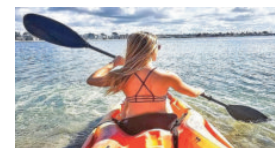
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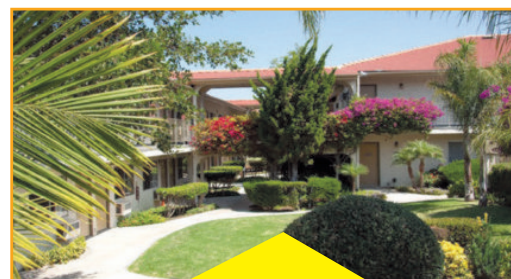
LEARN TO ROLLERSKATE We are a North County San Diego roller derby team who is looking

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Thursday, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM,
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TREADMILLS & ELLIPTICALS
Closing sale on treadmills and ellipticals. Treadmills are starting at \$750. (858) 519-9144



VIA DELLA SPADA MARTIAL ARTS If you are at all interested in European martial arts of any type then look no further, we will be learning the Italian Longsword of Fiore and Vadi of the 15th Century. <https://www.meetup.com/Via-Della-Spada-Historical-Martial-Arts-CA-Chapter/>

SPORTS CARDS AND MEMORABILIA Have large collection I need to get rid of. If interested email shisea30@gmail.com.

BICYCLES

CRUISER Men's cruiser style bike. \$50. (619) 436-4567

MONGOOSE BICYCLE for sale. 27.5 inch wheels, 7 gears. Very good condition, very rarely used. (619) 230-5496, price \$80



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38 BUICK STREET ROD 4 door chopped top sedan. Olds 350/350 drivetrain. Disc brakes. Many extras. Contact Bob (760) 943-7326 for more info. \$11K skutter@pacbell.net

38 BUICK STREET ROD 38 Buick 4 door chopped top. Olds 350/350 drivetrain. disc brakes. Many extras. Contact Bob

(760) 943-7326 for more info. \$11K. skutter@pacbell.net

TAILGATE Ford 1989, model 250, burgandy, perfect shape, make offer. (858) 270-1149

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



JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 1993
Jeep 1993 everything works and passes smog. \$2,000, have title. \$1700 takes it now without tags, \$2000 with tags. (619) 322-3673 / jsimica@yahoo.com



ROAD RANGER 19-FT TRAILER 1990 Road Ranger trailer completely restored, \$7900. Mostly new like sofa carpet microwave. Ready to go anywhere now, must see. (619) 322-3673 / jsimica@yahoo.com

FIBERGLASS CAMPER SHELL White. For small short bed truck. \$100. Text me. (619) 438-4567

2004 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SUV perfect condition, like new, 138 K miles, white over gray. Everything works, all clean title and plates and insurance. \$5,900 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.



2007 VOLVO XC90 , \$5700 obo. Only 122K miles. Tags are current. Passes smog. (760) 782-7637

1973 MGB "Newish" dark green paint. Rag top, tonneau cover, car cover. Looks sharp; Has rust, new \$500 tires, gold, \$1,000 OBO. (619) 408-9517

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

HELP WANTED

FENCE MANUFACTURER
Fencing yard maintenance, service, and field repair and installation. Must have valid CA drivers license. (619) 749-1494 / dan.ca@cox.net

CARPET CLEANER - WILL TRAIN Carpet cleaner for East County company of 25 years. Will train vehicle required. Cash pay to start (619) 322-3673, Jeff. (619) 322-3673 / jsimica@yahoo.com

HELP US SPREAD KINDNESS
I'm working on a non profit to help the less fortunate. until the

paper work is done i'll be doing this out of pocket. I'm accepting donations and volunteers email: kanishasark@yahoo.com. Phone: (619) 394-1049. Clothing, food,, hygiene products needed (619) 394-1049 / kanishasark@yahoo.com

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

HIRING COOKS AND WAITRESSES Cooks and waitresses are needed for the Chula Vista area (619) 802-5299

WANTED CAREGIVER ASAP IHSS or not. Need woman for 100 hours a month. Senior disabled, must have a car and phone skills. Santee area, call Rachel (619) 279-7448.

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

REGISTERED CAREGIVERS
Immediate work. Hourly/live-in available. Must have reliable transportation. Assertive Care at Home, 8893 La Mesa Blvd., Ste B, La Mesa. (619) 466-6890.

HANDY PERSON WANTED
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DISHWASHER Hotpoint model HDA2100R20CC serial number FV823879B. Need handle closer, make offer (858) 270-4149.

FITBIT VERSA peach band, rose gold aluminum case, large and small band, phone free music, 24/7 heart rate tracking, on screen coaching, apps and notifications, water resistant to 50 mm. Price \$199.95 selling for \$175 number is (619) 586-4306.

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NIKON D3300 Nice lens, case, everything, asking \$900 (619) 530-9099.

PLANT SPECIMENS Beaucarnea recurvata and other landscape specimens including African Ocotillo aka Alluadia procera; Euphorbia Ammak Variegated and Euphorbia cotinifolia. Lalo of Vista. (760) 945-7892

PRINTER (NEW) Brand new HP DeskJet printer 5570. Serial number SDGOB-1581. Please call; I do not text. Edna, (858) 842-4249 / ednadrews@yahoo.com

SIDE TABLE Great condition. 18 in x 42 in x 35 in. Please email me @ 14sdmd@gmail.com

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS (619) 905-1797

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DUAL NATIONALITY SERVICES If you were born in the United States and your parents are Mexican, you have the right to Mexican nationality. We can process the bi-national process for you, with only three requirements, we give you your Acta Mexicana (Mexican Certificate) and CURP, at the end of the process. WhatsApp: (664) 773-9264

AUTO PAINT Happy customers at Izzy Auto Body 29010 Lilac Rd. Valley Center 92082. Check out the before and after pictures. (760) 855-0482

CUSTOM BALLOON BOUQUET MAKER Balloon bouquets of different sizes for your loved ones. Special orders will need 3 weeks in advance.

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OIL CHANGE 4-cyl., most cars. Up to 5 qts. 10w 30	\$15	USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION + From Labor Most 4 cyl. cars	\$599*
Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat		SMOG CHECK Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a star station. From 2000 & up	

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REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER from each. Most cars.	\$195	30K SERVICE 4-cyl., most cars.	\$75
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Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through September 30, 2020

SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41.75

+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older

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\$21.75*
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OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER
from **\$24.95**
Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

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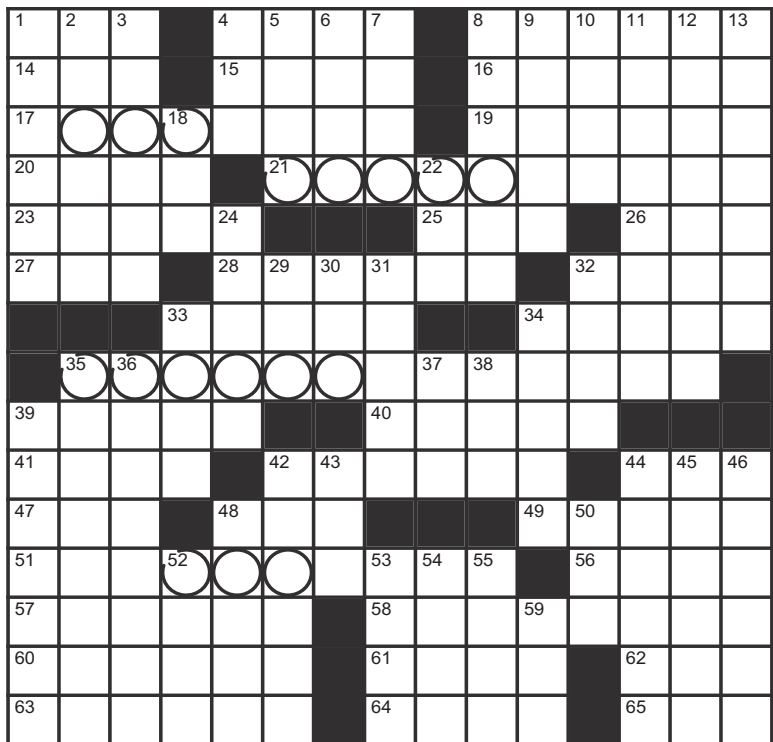
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CROSSWORD



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Across

1. Elf's evil counterpart
4. Like some radios
8. Purposely loses
14. Bygone car company that bore its founder's initials
15. Go bad, as milk
16. [Look what I got away with!]
17. First world capital, alphabetically
19. Hit Fox drama starting in 2015
20. Home to Bourbon St.
21. Transportation company hired by a tour group, perhaps
23. Stop producing water, as a well
25. 007 creator Fleming
26. ____ shed (man cave alternative)
27. "What's your ____?" (question to a guest en route)
28. Sack lunch staple, for short
32. Quick farewells
33. "The Faerie Queene" woman whose name means "peace"
34. Rude sorts
35. Angel, e.g.
39. Things tossed in a compost pile
40. Talk show host Smiley
41. Prefix with -plasm
42. State wildflower of Georgia

44. Stock market fig.
47. "That feels so-o-o good!"
48. Gobbled up
49. Florida senator Marco
51. Something taken before getting in the pool?
56. Swiss artist Paul
57. "Fighting" Big Ten team
58. Some trips to resupply festivities ... or this puzzle's theme
60. Makes very happy
61. Smallest Great Lake by volume
62. ____-Caps (candy)
63. Aside, e.g.
64. Elton John, Paul McCartney and Mix-a-Lot
65. Flying Solo

Down

1. Word often said to lack a rhyme
2. PC start-over
3. Part of an "if only ..." lament
4. Volcanic ____
5. Utah town near Arches and Canyonlands National Parks
6. Clothing company that debuted in 1992
7. Some hospital pics
8. 1984 Leon Uris novel
9. Macho guy
10. Not an orig.

11. "Speak of the devil!"
12. Announcement at the end of a long car trip
13. Sybill Trelawney, in the Harry Potter books
18. ____ es Salaam
22. Spanish hero El ____
24. Belgian city in WWI fighting
29. ____ Paese cheese
30. "It's ____-brainer!"
31. 1990s commerce pact
32. Droids
33. "____ Anything" ("Oliver!" song)
34. Kind of patch
35. Melania's predecessor
36. Like an escapee
37. Actor Kilmer
38. "That's all ____ got"
39. More prepared
42. Under threat
43. 10-pointer in Scrabble
44. Red with embarrassment
45. City home to the Sigmund Freud Museum
46. Continues
48. Doubleday of baseball lore
50. Chernobyl's locale: Abbr.
52. Bread dipped in hummus
53. \$5 bills, slangily
54. Actress Garr
55. Next in line
59. Hi-____ graphics

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle submissions.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

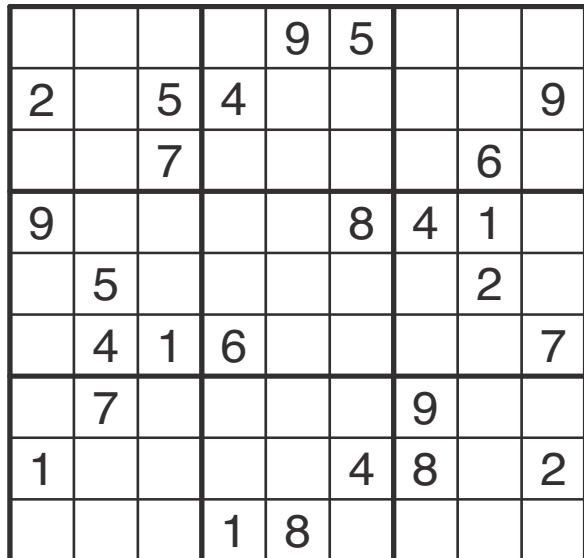
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Rex Shepherd, San Diego, 5.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
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 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 1.**

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

The Continuing Crisis

— Government restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 have had no effect on a growing trend on the island of Okinawa, Japan, called "rojo-ne" (literally, sleeping on the road), which local authorities blame on the island's balmy weather and people's habit of overindulging in *awamori*, a traditional rice-based liquor. Okinawa police have fielded more than 2,700 reports of *rojo-ne* in just the first six months of 2020, *The Guardian* reported, putting the island on pace to match last year's 7,000 reported incidents, which resulted in 16 accidents and three deaths. Tadataka Miyazawa, the police chief, said he "didn't even know the term 'rojo-ne' before coming to Okinawa."

Putting on the Brakes

— Organizers of Philadelphia's 12th Annual Naked Bike Ride have canceled the event, scheduled for Aug. 29, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Associated Press reported. Ride organizer Maria Serrahima said she hopes people will be able to return next year and that riders are "taking advantage of the emptier streets and riding -- masks up." The Philly Naked Bike Ride attracts thousands of riders and covers a 10-mile course taking in the city's landmarks such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Awesome!

— People living around Olten, Switzerland, got a surprise on Aug. 14 when it began snowing cocoa powder. Strong winds that morning distributed the cocoa dust from

a malfunctioning ventilation system at the Lindt & Spruengli chocolate factory nearby, delivering enough to cover at least one car, the Associated Press reported. The company offered cleaning services, but no one took them up on the offer. The ventilation system has been repaired.

Irony

— A mystery unfolded in the Mystery section of the Walla Walla (Washington) Public Library in late July when workers performing renovations during the COVID-19 shutdown demolished a section of shelves and discovered a disintegrated paper bag with five full cans of Hamm's beer and an opened bag of Godzilla Heads gum. Library staff determined the hidden snacks dated back to the 1980s, CNN reported. Library director Erin Wells posited that "somebody had stashed it there and maybe thought they could get it later ... but there was no way to get it out."

Happy Ending

— Residents of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, have been cheered recently by the unexpected presence of a corn stalk growing up through a crack in the pavement at a busy intersection. Dubbed the 57th Street Corn, the stalk had its own Twitter account and was hailed as a symbol of resiliency and hope in hard times; Mayor Paul TenHaken called it "amaizing." But on Aug. 19, *The Argus Leader* reported, neighbors found the plant had been ripped from the ground overnight, prompting sorrow on social me-

dia and a flower memorial. "I didn't want to see her story end like that," said resident Chad Theisen. Together with his children, Theisen rescued the corn stalk, renamed it Cornelia and is nursing it back to health in a 5-gallon bucket. He hopes to find a permanent home for Cornelia, now a local celebrity, with the city's help.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

— The Krone Circus in Munich, Germany, has come up with a stinky idea for making extra money during COVID-19 restrictions: selling jars of excrement from its 26 lions and tigers (price: \$6 each). While some buyers opt in to support the circus or to offer the jars as a prank, Reuters reported, others are using them to repel pests: "I am told it keeps cats away from the garden, and ... it keeps the animals away from the car, where they eat all the electric cables," lion tamer Martin Lacey said. Some of the funds go to a charity that improves living conditions for captive animals..

Fine Points of the Law

— Utica (New York) City Court Judge Ralph Eannace was outraged, but did not set bail for defendant Anthony Walker on Aug. 13, which surprised even Walker, who had been arrested for the second time in two days for leading police on a high-speed chase. "Because, I guess, of the new bail reform law," Walker said, Judge Eannace said he had no choice but to let Walker go. On Aug. 9, Walker had hit another car while driving a Maserati that had been reported stolen. "I plan to do the right thing this time, man."

I'm tired of this," he told WKTV, apologizing if anyone was hurt. Utica police noted that Walker made the same pledge after his first arrest. "Yeah," said Walker, "I did take them on a high-speed chase ... nobody's perfect."

Joyride

— Sheriff's deputies in La Push, Washington, said they received a report of a suspicious person trying to rent an airplane without a pilot's license or insurance at the Jefferson County International Airport on Aug. 18. The man, later identified as Richard Jordal, 59, then tried his luck at Tailspin Tommy's, another plane rental business at the airport, KIRO reported, and was again refused, but surveillance video showed Jordal returning later to steal the keys to a Cessna airplane, which he fueled up before taking off and flying erratically, according to authorities. Business owner Nataliya Yeshyryna and her husband watched the plane on radar: "Altitude would change dramatically from 5,000 feet to 2,000. Up and down and then doing loops and doing twirls." Authorities said a possible plane crash was reported around 10:30 p.m., but no wreckage could be found in the heavily forested area that evening. A U.S. Navy helicopter crew returned the next morning and found the plane, with Jordal unconscious inside. He was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

quick or easy. Encinitas-based applicant Almeria Investment LP submitted the proposal in 2017 and got stuck when the historical resources board determined the site has historic significance for its use in the 1930s-1950s as a first-generation Japanese farm. At the start of World War II, Azio and Komume Sogo were



Apartments near the Lieta Street property.

sent to an internment camp in Colorado; they later returned to the Lieta Street property,

where they farmed row crops such as lettuce. In 1953, they were among the first Japanese natives to become naturalized citizens of the U.S. in San Diego and thus could obtain ownership of the land. Because of the historic designation, the project stopped cold as revisions were weighed. Finally, the applicants agreed to include a storyboard and four-foot by 15-foot interpretive sign at the entry fronting Morena Boulevard. That led to another snag: making the signs publicly accessible would require a public access easement throughout the property. "There were many, many months of delay to get us here



today, but it was a valuable process," the applicant said.

This time, staff recommended approval, saying the proposal was consistent with the general plan and community plan, met the allowed density, provided enough parking, and met the landscaping requirements of the

land development code. "In addition, it would further the city's affordable housing goal." Commissioners, however, weren't satisfied with the landscaping, and felt the project wasn't in tune with the single-family homes around it. They requested it be continued until September 24 so

changes could be made. (This time, there was some dissent: Commissioner Kelly Moden called it "a great example of a small lot project" and pointed out that it already sits next to a large multistory development. "Neighbors should be happy it's condos, not renters," she said.)

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***Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.



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