

Booze News: Oktober, no fest

Crunch time for Kelvin Barrios ■ Whitney Shay's car concert

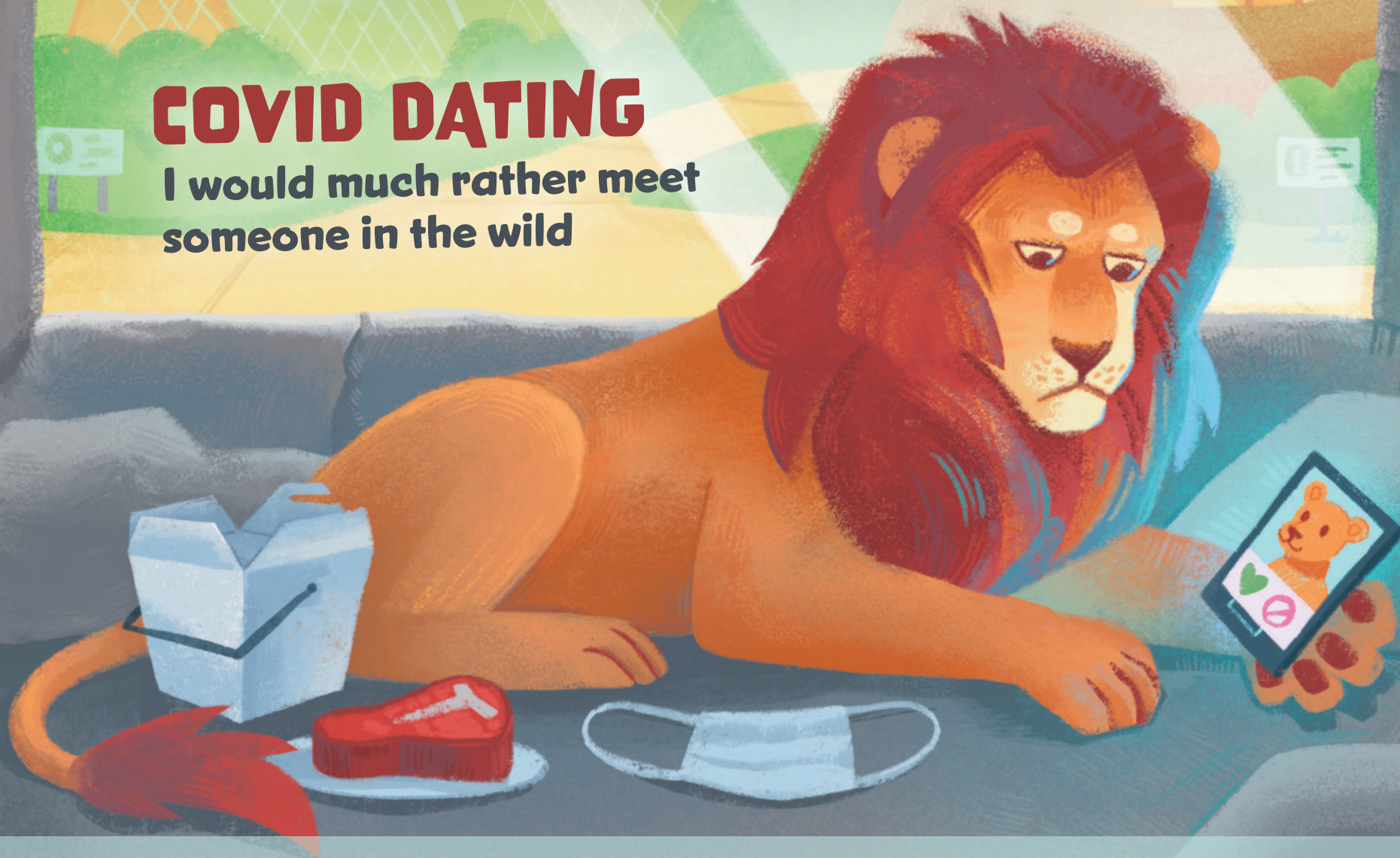
S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 40 | OCTOBER 1, 2020

Reader

COVID DATING

I would much rather meet
someone in the wild



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

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

"Audit hits lack of athletic admissions integrity at UC San Diego"

**News Ticker
September 22**

"...In contrast, UCLA, and UC San Diego have established policies for verifying athletic talent that delegate that responsibility to their athletic departments. As a result, the staff performing the reviews may be subject to internal pressure to inappropriately approve a prospective student athlete's qualifications....." Of course they leave it up to the UCSD athletic department, it's not supposed to be a sports college, but a research university that also teaches undergraduates. It shouldn't have happened, I'm not condoning it, but "research first, everything else a distant second" seems to me to be the mentality of the La Jolla university. Maybe this will be the red flag that forces a restructuring in how they deal with athletic admissions in the UC system.

—Strelnikov

This sort of laxity was what opened the door for Singer to milk all those rich people for huge sums to get their kids admitted to here, there and everywhere. (But especially USC, aka the University of Scandals and Corruption.) Without some really strong controls, this will continue in the UC. Napolitano should have never been appointed president of the UC. That position requires a person of great integrity and vision, and integrity was something she was seldom accused of having. Yes, her record was weak, and she stayed far too long. If you look at who she

followed as UC president, she doesn't look so bad. Her successor needs to fire at least two chancellors, maybe more. The Jacobs family isn't doing most of the current giving out of altruism. They want something back from their donations, and they get them. Money can't buy you love or happiness, but it will get your butt kissed endlessly, if you're into such things. So, mongahan, let's look forward to a new UC president making a real difference and insisting on the chancellors of each campus keeping them clean and uncorrupted.

—Visduh

"Chalk talk for Chief David Nisleit"

**Golden Dreams
September 16**

All police should be evenly divided between all sections of the City. No area should get more or less service than any other area. Limit the kinds of calls that police respond to. Shoplifting should be Civil. Let the store owners provide their own security. Quality of life issues should be addressed by other City departments. Let the police respond only to serious calls where there are injuries, death and or weapons involved. Leave the mentally ill to Father Joe's etc.

—AlexClarke

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October 1, 2020



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Local Oktoberfest beers — page 24



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The new Normal?

Burning Man gives way to Fuschia Fest as artists stay home

On September 19, video footage surfaced online of an impromptu art gallery in Normal Heights. The “mystery artist” had hand-painted murals on what appeared to be dead palm tree leaves and strung them along a fence at Circle Drive and 39th Street, a couple of blocks west of the Adams Avenue/I-15 exit. One piece depicted a side profile of a fish. Two others were renditions of faces with the leaf ends frayed to resemble hair. The others



“People keep bringing by more pink art, more lights, and sculptures.”

plays, which seemed to be trending upward, especially after John Halcyon metamorphosed his front yard into a bright pink retreat during “Burn Week” — August 30 to September 6. Normally, about this time of the year, the

reclining on pink couches, while others scarfed Halcyon’s vegan ice cream and listened to electronica. Halcyon reported that he received “no complaints to my face,

examples of their art. It has become the same beacon in Normal Heights that we have been at Burning Man.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

LITTLE ITALY

Marble-ous

Restoration, redecoration, and refrigeration at Our Lady of the Rosary

As little Italy adds condos and shops, its centerpiece, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, has undergone a restoration. Situated on the corner of State and Date streets, the church is notable for the way its walls and ceiling are crowded with dramatic devotional paintings by artist Fausto Tasca. Fittingly, they depict several of the mysteries of the rosary, but also the apostles, the Last Judgment, the presentation of the rosary, and significant moments from the life of Christ. Now, after nine months of restoration, the color and intensity of those paintings are brighter. “It’s like the shadow has been removed, and it’s come alive!” says Patricia Kaszas, restoration project liason.

“The neighborhood has been amazing, people keep bringing by more pink art, more lights, and sculptures.”

were multi-colored collages.

At sunset that Friday, a hint of the “Do You Wanna Funk?” disco tune could be heard at another “not so normal” art installation. “Our drive-by/walk-by disco event



CREDIT: TAMARA FANNING

The “mystery artist” hand-painted murals on what appeared to be dead palm tree leaves.

ran from 6-10 pm due to noise ordinances,” said DJ Barbarossa, who, with DJ Dirty Kurty, transformed his front yard on 32nd Street into a discotheque booth adorned with pink and purple lights. “I was surprised to see almost all the neighbors come out and dance in the streets,” he said to me, “I’d say there was like 50 or 60 people.”

Over the weekend, neighborhood residents posted about different impromptu dis-

49-year-old would be recuperating from the desert festivities that usually transpire about 700 miles to the north at Burning Man, “wherein almost everything that happens is created entirely by its citizens, who are active participants in the experience.” Halcyon wrote on NextDoor that he had been one of those active participants for the past 22 years, “but this year, we’re setting up our camp in the front yard, and if you find the flood of fuchsia at 39th and Monroe an eyesore, don’t fret — it will all be gone when the week ends. Fuschia has all of the love of red, with none of the aggression,” Halcyon explained. “It is the color of hugs.”

Over a hundred residents attended or passed by Burn Week south of Adams Avenue. Some sipped cucumber water while



“We found a red marble stone called ‘Rojo Alicante.’”

or online. The neighborhood has been amazing, in fact, people keep bringing by more pink art, more lights, and sculptures. People are bringing back goods and

The most noticeable change to the church’s interior is the installation of a marble aisles, which replaces the original wood floor, itself carpeted since the 1970s. Says Kaszas, “We found a red marble stone called ‘Rojo Alicante,’ and Father said, ‘It reminds me of the Blood of Christ.’ For the altar area, we picked a white marble, and Father said, ‘This looks like Heaven.’”

Father Tabigue says that it was his idea to restore the church for its 100th anniversary in 2025: “We kicked off fundraising in October of 2018 on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.”

Because of its \$2.5 million price tag, the restoration was a giant leap for a church originally built by Genovese and Sicilian fishermen. However, Tabigue says that three-quarters of the money had been

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“Fuschia has all the love of red with none of the aggression. It is the color of hugs.”

NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Let me in, Coach!

UCSD's guilt of admission A searing review by California State Auditor Elaine Howle has blasted admission practices at the University of California's top campuses, including UCSD, saying they "unfairly admitted 64 applicants based on their personal or family connections to donors and university staff. Campuses admitted 22 of these students through their student-athlete admissions processes, even though the students did not have the athletic qualifications to compete at the university," the September 22 report says of three of the four schools it reviewed, including UCSD, UC Santa Barbara, and UCLA.

"UC Berkeley admitted the remaining 42 students, most of whom were referred to the admissions office because of their families' histories as donors or because they were related or connected to university staff, even though their records did not demonstrate competitive qualifications for admission."

A cover letter by Howle adds, "By admitting 64 non-competitive applicants, the university undermined the fairness and integrity of its admissions process and deprived more qualified students of the opportunity for admission. Applicants' chances of admission were also unfairly affected by UC Berkeley's, UCLA's, and UC San Diego's failures to properly train and monitor the staff who review and rate applications. We found



A link from UCSD's website to the page of the athletic board is no longer working.

that staff were sometimes overly strict or overly lenient in their review of applications, thereby making the applicants' chances of admission unduly dependent on the individual staff who rated them rather than on the students' qualifications."

The audit uncovered multiple cases of abuse of the athletic recruitment process, including calling out an especially egregious violation at UCSD, involving improper influence wielded by a member of the school's athletic board. "The coach of one team (Coach 1) asked the coach of another team (Coach 2) to facilitate the admission of an applicant who was the friend of a UC San Diego athletic board member. In an email to the athletics director, Coach 2 stated that Coach 1 shared with him that



Unfortunately, not even a million-dollar donation can protect against moral bankruptcy.

the board member 'had helped out with scholarships, etc. in the past, and if we could help [the board member], it may help the department.' Although Coach 2 noted that the applicant was not a normal recruit and 'did not have the grades to get in on [their] own,' he

continued on page 4

Neal Obermeyer



UNDER THE RADAR

Good staff work San Diego City Attorney **Mara Elliott**, battling it out with **Cory Briggs** to hold onto her job, tapped chief of staff **Gerry Braun**, the former *Union-Tribune* reporter, for a \$1051 campaign contribution on September 18, disclosures show. Last year Braun got total pay and benefits of \$220,999 working for Elliott, according to the website *TransparentCalifornia.com*. Attorney **Darren Robbins** of Robbins, Geller, Rodman, and Dowd and ex-partner of once imprisoned La Jolla lawyer **Bill Lerach**, gave the same amount as Braun.



City Attorney Mara Elliott paid a former U-T reporter \$220,999 last year.

Crunch time arrived this week for Democratic city council candidate **Kelvin Barrios**, whose campaign was plagued by a personal history of penalties by the city's ethics commission and the state's Fair Political Practices Commission. In addition, there's an ongoing criminal investigation into the accuracy of his political bookkeeping, per the *Union-Tribune*. On September 19, the ex-staffer to Council President Georgette Gómez gave his council campaign fund \$21,000. But on September 28, he quit the race.

Barrios was not alone among local self-funders. **Nora Vargas**, running against state Senate Democrat **Ben Hueso** for county supervisor, gave her campaign \$20,000 on the same day.

Lorena's half-million Lorena

Gonzalez cut her political teeth as a protégé of ex-United Food and Commercial Workers Local 135 chief **Mickey Kasparian**, then went on to get elected to the state Assembly in 2013. Kasparian fell from power in a 2017 sexual harassment scandal. Gonzalez appeared to thrive, at least until she sponsored 2019's Assembly Bill 5, the so-called anti-gig law that has drawn the ire of freelance writers, along with ride-sharing companies Uber and Lyft, for limiting the role of independent contractors in the workplace. The companies came up with Proposition 22, a measure on the November ballot to return to the days of independent rideshare and delivery contractors. The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 135 Political Action Committee stepped in for Gonzalez with a hefty \$500,000 donation on September 22 to the No on 22 forces. The union's headquarters in Washington, D.C. gave \$1 million on September 24.

The ballot measure committee of state senate speaker pro-tem **Toni Atkins** came up with \$25,000 on September 15 to help bankroll the campaign for Measure A to raise property taxes in the city of San Diego for subsidized housing bonds. Atkins' spouse **Jennifer LeSar** runs a lucrative subsidized public housing consulting business, affording the couple a comfortable dual income stream. In past years, the Atkins ballot measure committee has been financed by a bevy of spe-

cial interest donors, including \$5000 from Sempra Energy and \$10,000 from Anheuser-Busch. The latest contribution to roll in: \$10,000 from the Sacramento-based California Apartment Association PAC on September 21.

Real estate progressive

Assembly Democrat **Todd Gloria**'s campaign for mayor picked up \$1000 on September 1 from **Chris Fraley**, chief investment officer of L.A.-based property investment outfit RealtyMogul. "As one of the first openly gay partners of an institutional real estate private

equity firm globally, I know what it is like to be an outsider in the predominantly straight Caucasian male commercial real estate industry," says Fraley on the company blog. "It is so refreshing to be part of an executive team that is both a market leader and dominated by women and other underrepresented groups."

John Victor, vice president of inclusion and diversity at Barry's in Los Angeles, also kicked in \$1000 the same day. Another notable name on Gloria's list of givers is **Terry Brown**, the longtime Republican kingpin of Mission Valley, who contributed \$1150 on September 18. In his heyday, Brown frequently provided free lodging to college-age GOP precinct workers at his Town & Country Hotel.

The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

, which leases its track and grandstand from the state, usually reserves its political beneficence for Sacramento lawmakers. Now, for the first time



Kelvin Barrios gave it a go, but no.

in many years, if ever, the group has made a \$2500 contribution to a race for San Diego mayor, albeit one on behalf of Assembly incumbent Gloria. He may be heading back to the state capital, depending on the outcome of next November's election. Meanwhile, the Infrastructure PAC of the Associated General Contractors came up with a hefty \$75,000 on September 21 for an independent expenditure committee calling

itself Success San Diego in Support of **Barbara Bry** for Mayor 2020. The organization has been fighting labor unions over whether non-unionized shops are entitled to bid for city contracts. A day later, the same contractors' group gave \$5000 to San Diegans for Midway Revitalization, Yes on E, promoting a ballot measure to eliminate coastal height limits in the Midway District and environs. A committee against the proposal, Save Coastal Access - No on B, got \$39,500 from **John McNab** on September 21.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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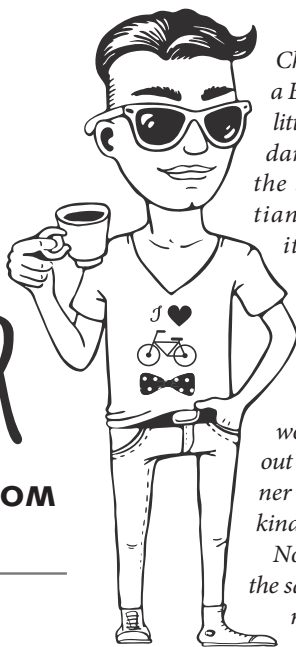
Dear Hipster:

Sorry in advance for the long-ish message here, but it actually takes some explaining to get my point across. Anyways, I was sitting around my house the other day, watching TV — wishing I'd bought Netflix stock back when they still mailed you DVDs, but that's neither here nor there — and sipping on a Rusty Nail, which is a thing I've been drinking lately because, well, it turns out Rusty Nails are freaking dope. As I was pondering the melting ice cube in my Rusty Nail, I thought about how, if you had asked me maybe ten or fifteen years ago for my thoughts on the Rusty Nail, I would have said something about how I think my grandpa's friends used

to drink them at the Elk's Lodge, and then I would have asked you for another frosty beer.

Now, I'm sitting here drinking what I once would have sworn was an uncool drink consumed exclusively by old farts whose bladders could no longer handle their Schlitz. I am pretty sure I have not yet become one of those old farts. Thus, I can only conclude Rusty Nails became cool again at some point, which is why I am drinking one right now. A brief and very informal survey of my friends indicates that they too have imbibed a Rusty Nail in recent years, which further confirms what I knew to be true: Rusty Nails are cool again. If my grandpa were still around, I'm sure he'd be proud.

Unlike my grandpa, who was kind of a big drinker, my grandma limited herself to her One Drink of the Year on or around



Christmas. It was always a Brandy Alexander. Sweet little old lady stereotypes be damned! I think she kept the same bottle of Christian Brothers (or maybe it was Korbel) lurking in the liquor cabinet throughout my entire childhood, and she would dust it off for an annual drink that would more or less put her out of commission in a manner that was, in retrospect, kind of adorable.

Now, I surveyed a few of the same friends who backed me up on the whole “Rusty Nail is a cool drink” thing, and they

pretty much all agree that none of them would go out ordering a Brandy Alexander anytime soon; which leads to conclude that, unlike the Rusty Nail, which is sort of the “ultimate grandpa drink,” the Brandy Alexander, which is basi-

cally the “ultimate grandma drink,” has not managed to stage a comeback, and probably never will.

Having queued all that up for you, I have to ask, why not? Is it some kind of casual hipster sexism, like old man drinks are hip and old lady drinks are lame? If so, that's obviously not fair. I mean, little old ladies are completely badass, look at the Golden Girls!

— “RUSTY”

With what little space is left to me, I'll say nobody has ever put more thought into this particular topic, and that's coming from a person who has authoritatively resolved the rivalry between cole slaw and potato salad.

Beware these kinds of musings, friend. Why indeed might one piece of nostalgic grandparental Americana accede to a position of renewed popularity while another seemingly indistinguishable bit of history escapes the attention of the cognoscenti who hunger to rediscover the treasures of the past? You could ask a thousand hipsters, and get ten thousand answers. That way madness lies.

— DJ Stevens

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

facilitated the admission of the applicant. Coach 2 said he did so because he wanted to help the board member and the applicant ‘looked like an ok recruit.’” (Auditors subsequently discovered that “the applicant never participated on the team.”) “Coach 2 further stated in the email to the athletics director that he was ‘not happy to be used in that manner,’ explaining that the ‘board member used me to get his family friend’s kid in UCSD,’ and noting that, ‘[the applicant] wasn’t going to get in otherwise.’ Finally, the coach wrote that he ‘would handle this differently if it wasn’t for [the applicant’s] relationship to [UC San Diego’s] board member.’”

A link from UCSD's website to the page of the athletic board is no longer working. “The purpose of the UC San Diego Athletic Board is to provide and assist in soliciting major capital gifts for athletics while evaluating the strategic planning of the Athletic Department in relevant areas,” according to another reference on the university's site. Members of the board include Gary Jacobs, son of La Jolla billionaire and UCSD benefactor Irwin Jacobs, says an online profile posted by the school. “Gary also champions UC San Diego student-athletes and serves on the Triton Athletics Board as a voice for alumni and the sports industry,” Jacobs is a minority owner with his brothers of the Sacramento Kings professional basketball team, owns the Lake Elsinore Storm minor league baseball team, and is the father of Democratic congressional candidate Sara Jacobs. In January of this year, Jacobs and his wife Jerri-Anne announced they were giving UCSD a million dollars for its baseball program.

Despite the adverse findings, the audit says UCSD staffers said they were not planning to change their policies to correct the problem. “Athletics staff at UC San

Diego stated that they do not plan to verify scholarship athletes’ talent because they believe that the additional level of effort would not significantly reduce the risk of inappropriate admissions activity. In contrast, the director of athletic compliance at UC Berkeley explained that not verifying the talent of all prospective student-athletes likely presents a risk, but that performing those verifications would strain the athletics department’s resources.”

Some campuses have done better than others, the document says. “UC Santa Barbara has updated its policies to require that a committee composed of faculty and admissions staff review talent documentation for all prospective student athletes, increasing the independence of the talent verification process. In contrast, UCLA, and UC San Diego have established policies for verifying athletic talent that delegate that responsibility to their athletic departments. As a result, the staff performing the reviews may be subject to internal pressure to inappropriately approve a prospective student athlete’s qualifications. Finally, none of the campuses have implemented complete reviews of applicants admitted through the athletics admissions process to determine whether donations — both preceding an admissions decision and also received in the year following the admission — inappropriately factored into their admission.”

The report gives UCSD a bit more credit than the other UC schools for the integrity of its non-athletic admissions, though with reservations. “The admissions data we reviewed shows that UC San Diego generally admitted applicants to its arts majors who had received its highest reader ratings while rejecting other applicants to those programs. However, UC San Diego’s admissions methodology lacks a clear set of criteria to guide its decisions

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

raised by the beginning of this year. “Then one of our biggest donors fulfilled her promise, and we got to our goal.” While the donor wishes to remain anonymous,



There's no gilt like Catholic gilt.

Tabigue hinted, “I can tell you that it is a Catholic and Jewish family.”

Two design dilemmas caused delays to the project: the weight of the floor and the addition of air conditioning. After the architectural engineering team calculated the weight of the marble, it became clear that the base-ment supports needed reinforcement for the additional weight. Adding marble has also complicated the small church's acoustics. Retired music director and organist Linda Colletti is working to get the organ's midi components replaced, and is re-voicing its various stops. “We have a tremendous reverb,” she says.

But Kaszas says that the addition of air conditioning was an even bigger challenge. “We had to add electricity from outside on Columbia. We lost a year.”

ROBERT KUMPEL

MIDDLETOWN

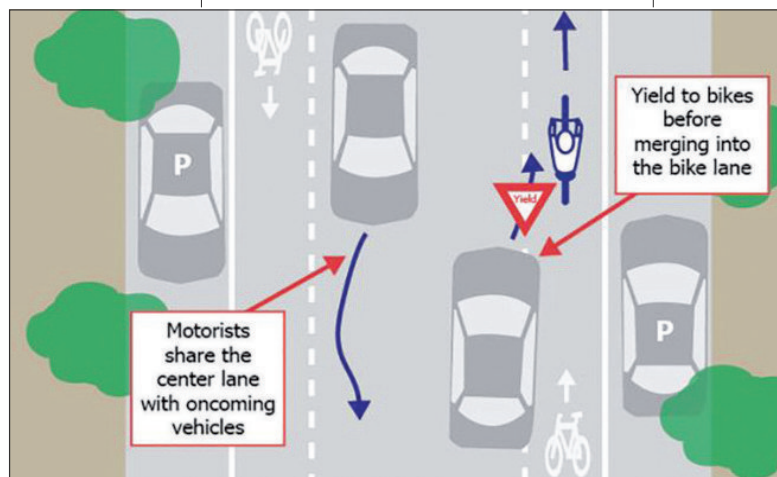
Transit truce tried Four wheels good, two wheels... also good?

A three-block stretch of Hancock Street, between Noell and Witherby, will get 23 new parking spots and a bike lane that makes use of a street configuration never

before tried in San Diego. The experimental design will use a roadway striping configuration that allows for two-way motor vehicle and non-motorized traffic to use a center lane, with “advisory” lanes on either side. Unlike dedicated bike lanes, they overlap with the vehicle travel area, and are being used to replace sharrows. It took three years to draft the re-design, brought about after the city's transportation department partnered with the Hancock Street Neighborhood Business Association. But it began as a collision between bike advocates and businesses.

The segment of Hancock Street that will be revamped is situated between I-5 and Pacific Highway and two rail lines, and is mostly industrial. The wide street is currently

dedicated to cars, and there's never enough parking, business owners say. “Basically, this area will be the next Little Italy,” says Scott Murfey, who belongs to the business association. But as more mixed use developments take shape, residents who prefer to bike, walk, or take transit face a different



Unlike dedicated bike lanes, they overlap with the vehicle travel area, and are being used to replace sharrows.

problem — being forced to jostle with cars. In a post on Bike San Diego titled Save the Hancock Street bike lane, cycling advocate Paul Jamasson referred to numerous local



The next Little Italy?

cases “where preserving or adding street parking has neutered badly-needed bike infrastructure. That almost happened. The Midway-Pacific Highway Community Plan Update in 2018 called for re-zoning the area from industrial to mixed-use village with

The new project is a compromise. “This is not the Hancock Shareway that was originally proposed,” says Dorian Siemens, operations manager of Vertical Hold, one of the Hancock Street businesses. But it should bring the businesses more than 20 new

“It really is a win-win-win for the city, residents, and businesses in this very busy stretch of Hancock Street.”

very high residential densities. It was meant to transform the auto-oriented network by emphasizing transit, bicycle, and pedestrian links. A bike lane was included as part of the proposed Hancock Transit Corridor, but as the planning unfolded, the businesses joined to rally for more parking — and an end to the proposed bike improvements. Specifically, the class II bike lanes in both directions along Hancock Street between Old Town Avenue and Noell Street. Bike advocates said the lanes wouldn't remove

parking spaces, and claimed the businesses just wanted additional on-street parking.

The planning commission voted against the bike lane. And while the city continued to support it, they were asked by the Smart Growth & Land Use Committee to research ways to accommodate both the bike lane and the extra parking. The businesses came up with an alternative proposal: the South Hancock Shareway, which would use reverse angle parking on both sides of the street, plus bicycle sharrows. It was an inexpensive solution, one they said

would reduce congestion while promoting bicycle safety. But Jamasson called the unprotected sharrows “a bike symbol symbolic of token safety gestures.”

parking spaces, while adding a pedestrian crosswalk and north and south lane space for cyclists. The western curblane of Hancock will be converted to 90 degree front-in parking stalls, and the eastern curblane will remain parallel parking, he says. Joshua Coyne, staff with city councilmember Jen Campbell, who helped facilitate the proposal, said the advisory bike lanes would be the first application of this type in San Diego. The solution is sometimes used when a street isn't wide enough to add bike lanes without taking out parking. “It really is a win-win-win for the city, residents, and businesses in this very busy stretch of Hancock Street.”

SHEILA PELL

SAN YSIDRO

Tough times in tourist town Mexican money much missed at border businesses

Last June, CEO of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce Jason Wells sent a letter to the acting secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, requesting the withdrawal of travel restrictions for the tourists that represent around 90 percent of clients for all San Ysidro businesses. According to the Chamber of Commerce, 96 percent of their members have losses attributed directly to border restrictions, and 13 percent of those businesses have permanently closed or have no plans for reopening. And despite this dependence on border-crossing profits, they haven't received

continued on page 9

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The gang's all here.



Have at it, kids. Get creative.

Bagging on tagging

The pale blue, two-story stucco and cinderblock building squats in a parking lot along Broadway in Lemon Grove between a Walgreen's and an Eyeglass World. It houses Rock Liquor (Beer Wine Grocery) and a Western Union. It is not the sort of place you would expect to find an homage to French art from the Impressionist and Belle Epoque eras. And that's what makes the

ing that goes into some of them (highway overpasses); the back-and-forth drama of crossing out the other guy and asserting yourself, only to have him do the same; the mark left upon the world. I tell them it strikes me as desperate: the behavior of people who feel so powerless that signing someone else's property, even the public's, is the only way to establish personal significance. They remain fascinated.

"Leaving California would be a failure for me. I got the degree so I could stay here."

murals so delightful: there you are, standing in an asphalt alley with traffic stacking up at the nearby intersection, contemplating larger-than-life copies of Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* and Toulouse-Lautrec's *Confetti*, *Divan Japonaise*, and *Reine de Joie*. In a museum, they would be original, but forced to compete with the aesthetic abundance. On an apartment wall, they would be pale imitations, mere bourgeois posterwork. Here, they are striking evocations of (and invitations to) just the sort of exuberance and pleasure (confetti! cafes! company!) you're seeking when you stroll into Rock Liquor for a bottle of absinthe, a round of brie, and a baguette. (Or Bud, cheese, and crackers.) Here, the art lives again.

And it's tagged. VLGLSX on the Renoir. Varrio Lemon Grove, maybe. LGLS on the *Confetti* — painted on after X'ing out the previous tag. There's plenty of empty space on the wall — a veritable clear blue sky of opportunity for marking your territory/sounding your barbaric yawp over the rooftops of the world. But people look at the murals, so that's the spot to hit. (The nastier interpretation is that there's more transgressive satisfaction in messing up someone else's work.)

My kids are fascinated by tags — the dar-

So I've proposed an alternative. The Rodeo Inn at the corner of Spring and Palm in La Mesa burned a few years back, but the sign remains, complete with movable type. HOME AWAY FROM HOME / NEW MANAGEMENT / COMP BREAKFAST / FREE WIFI HBO — two times, one on each side. Come rush hour, Spring is crammed with people trying to get onto the 94; lots of opportunity for attention. A chance to get your message out, because like art in an alley, the unusual placement just might be enough to break through the fog of the everyday. I even gave them a sample rewrite:

THE HEATHEN RAGE / O MEN O WOMEN BE FREE FROM SIN / COME AWAY FROM MAMMON / REPENT PRAY FAST

We'll see.

Golden State dreams

Winding my way up La Mesa's Mount Nebo on a Sunday morning, I wound up on the Summit Drive cul-de-sac. All but one of the houses sported a tasteful Biden/Harris 2020 sign in the front yard. (A kitschy "I'm ridin with Biden" banner showed up on the slopes below.) A dusty Dodge Charger loitered in the driveway of the single signless domicile.

I was tickled by the thought of a lone Republican holdout — not because I'm such a fan of Republicans, but because I like the idea of people who are politically distant still living in close proximity. I think this was, at one point, an American ideal (you, know, before Trump became a referendum on whether longtime friendships could continue). Even if you thought the other guy's candidate was going to take the country right into the toilet, inviting him to the cul-de-sac cookout wasn't fraternizing with the enemy. It was being neighborly: a celebration of common ground, a

shared belief in democracy and the old American motto of *E pluribus unum*. Later on, I spotted a TRUMP: NO MORE BULLSHIT flag on another La Mesa hilltop, and a Qanon t-shirt on a shopper at Walmart in Grossmont Center.

A couple of weeks ago, The Wife got invited to a grievance meeting. Several families we knew had decided to leave California, and wanted to present their reasons for doing so. Money was one; people didn't see a future for their kids here, and didn't want to watch them move away. Kids figured into most of the other reasons as well. They were red folks in a blue state, and found that, like the gummed-up Hummingfish in *The Lorax*, the environment had become unlivable. I am sad to see them go, both because I'll miss them and because of those photos of old SCOTUS pals Scalia and RBG that floated around on the internet after the latter's death. Iron sharpens iron, but the right sort of friction can soften a steely heart. Also because they have me wondering.

My oldest just graduated from Berkeley with a degree in mathematics. He thought the prestige of the school and the difficulty of the degree would interest employers. So far, he has found otherwise. I suggested a job in Kansas City, where he has family. "It would mean recalibrating my expectations to reality," he replied. "Leaving California would be a failure for me. I got the degree so I could stay here." I started arguing for Kansas City. I started to like what I was hearing. I mean, I don't surf, fire is looking to become an official season, and the internet has made everywhere local.

My original proposal for this column was Golden Dust instead of Golden Dreams. Sometimes, the dust people rushed here to find was gold. But mostly, it was dust, a desert that had to be watered before we could start pretending it was paradise. ■



C'mon, California: a steady steam of garbage lined the 94 on Monday morning.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

any response from the government.

Sunil Gakhreja is one of the small business owners who has been directly affected by the absence of Mexican tourism. His store is still open, even with sales down more than 50 percent. “We’ve been losing money for seven months, but if I stop and do nothing, I’ll lose everything. I still have to pay the mortgage, the rent of the place, the water bill, all the insurances; the bills don’t stop,” he said.

This crisis has hit this border town hard. Even the 2008 recession had less impact on business owners like Sunil. “I opened my store in the recession time, and trust me, it was not that bad. Right now, me and my wife are coming in to work. I had to get rid of my employees and work in the store because we don’t have enough customers,” he noted. “Right now, it’s time to stay strong and maybe buy at the local store, because everything is closing. But Walmart is not closed, Costco is not closed. For them, they are making more money than ever, you know, but the small stores... they are losing everything.”

With owners struggling to keep their businesses alive, employees have also suffered the consequences. Iris Avila, who used to



YOUTUBE

“Walmart is not closed. Costco is not closed. For them, they are making more money than ever, you know, but the small stores...they are losing everything.”

work right on the border at a fast-food shop at Plaza Las Americas, went from working more than 30 hours every two weeks in high season to only 5 hours in 14 days. “I was earning \$480 minimum, and then my last paycheck in February was \$60. I only went into work once in two weeks, they were practically not

giving me any work,” she said. Iris stressed that Mexican tourists are not the only ones affected by these seven months of restrictions; it has also hit American citizens. The situation forced her to go into debt just so she could pay rent and utilities. On top of that, she had to spend the savings she had to buy

a car, and, for the first time in her life, had to request unemployment insurance. The unemployment took four months to arrive. “Sometimes I cried out of despair, because I went into huge debt. Now that I don’t have money for rent, I’m being evicted,” Iris said.

IVÁN MOLINA

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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

White Elephant (No) Sale

Black Lives Matter proposes City designate 101 Ash Street a White Supremacist monument

Statement from San Diego's chapter of Black Lives Matter concerning 101 Ash Street: "White people are forever arguing that we should leave Confederate statues and other racist monuments



You know what else is tall, white, and pointy?

time, and effort to change the fundamentally racist mindset in America. Meanwhile, because the city is paying rent on something it can't use, the building an unjust burden

in place so that we can remember our history, even its less honorable aspects. Here, at last, is an instance where we can find common ground and wholeheartedly agree. This great big boondoggle of a building should absolutely stay on the city's books, even as it sits empty and useless. For starters, thanks to the poisonous asbestos installed in it by white-owned corporations that were more concerned with profits than worker health, the place is systemically toxic, just like the white supremacism that has its roots in our nation's money-minded slave history and continues to poison its citizens today. Those toxins would be expensive and difficult to extract and cleanse, just as it's going to take a lot of money,

on the taxpayer, just like all the white-run corporations that constantly evade paying their fair share in taxes, even as they receive sweetheart government subsidies and watch their profits soar. Further, it's butt-ugly, like the ugly rhetoric employed by those who struggle to deny this country's Future of Color even as they appropriate POC culture in a sad attempt to enrich their own. And finally, it's a monument to Republican incompetence. When Democrats spend big,

poor people live better. When Republicans spend big, one rich building owner gets richer. It's perfect. Hell, we'll even pay for the plaque."



Faulconer: "With this ad, Target will almost certainly heighten their brand awareness. Get it? Heighten?"

a king-sized billboard, an innovation that will help to define the downtown skyline for as long as the building stands. Which should be a really long time, barring some horrible disaster. But seriously, what are the odds? It's not like we've ever had... what's that? Oh, okay. Folks, I'm getting a message that my term, er, time is up. Looks like this will be a matter for my successor. In the meantime, keep on Target, San Diego!"

No Room at the (Holiday) Inn

La Mesa proposes alternate location for homeless after hotel conversion proposal fizzles



Asbestos making it hard to breathe? Step out and enjoy some fresh air on the rooftop deck encampment!

On September 22, the County withdrew its proposal to convert a shuttered La Mesa Holiday Inn into housing for the homeless. John White, who serves as Director of Pleasantness for the East County enclave, had complained that the project was being imposed on the city, "sort of like the way a homeless person might accost you as you leave a fast-food restaurant and ask you to buy him something to eat. I mean, right in the middle of a date. Just incredibly rude and uncomfortable. But it's not as if we don't care, and that's why we're proposing that the County turn its attention elsewhere — specifically, to 101 Ash Street,

right in the heart of downtown. If there's one thing that San Diego's ongoing homeless crisis has made clear, it's that homeless people can tolerate living in conditions that other people find intolerable. I mean, look at some of the encampments in the canyons. Rotting food, human waste, trash everywhere. It's awful. Some people regard this as a tragedy. I see it as a real advantage. Housing the homeless in a Holiday Inn in a small and tidy town like La Mesa was clearly a terrible idea, especially since San Diego has millions of square feet of HL (homeless livable) space just sitting vacant, right near where most of the homeless already live!"

Ad-verse Outcome?

Mayor Faulconer defends placing giant bulls-eye on building in flight path.

Yesterday, Mayor Faulconer spoke at the unveiling of a huge Target logo on the facade of Toxic Tower, aka 101 Ash Street. "Unfortunately," he said, "the City of San Diego can't use the inside what was going to be a government office building, thanks to all the chemicals and stuff we found there. But that doesn't mean it has to be a total loss. The tower is a highly visible landmark, and that visibility has value. We're proud to say that we've partnered with Target to begin the process of turning it into

WHO PLAYS WHO

ASH STREET TOWER EDITION



On *Veep*, **Julia Louis-Dryefus** played a politician who got tripped up by a tall, toxic nemesis played by Hugh Laurie.

San Diego Chief Operating Officer **Kris Michell** stepped down amid the 101 Ash Street tower debacle.



In *The Great Gatsby*, **Karen Black** played an unfortunate woman who was destroyed as a result of her involvement with a wealthy man.

The city's Real Estate Assets Director **Cybele Thompson** resigned amid the news that the tower's repairs and upgrades would cost \$115 million.



In *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, **Kevin James** played an inexperienced officer who struggled to get hostages out of a building.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Ronald Villa** resigned after city employees were moved into, and then out of, the 101 Ash Street property.

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COVID DATING

I would much rather meet someone in the wild



I go to my mobile app store, search for Hinge, and click install. When I open the dating app, it welcomes me and designates itself as “the app designed to be deleted.” I start by answering all the basic questions required to set up my profile — age, height, location. Then it gets into the deep stuff. Do you want children? What are your religious beliefs? What

are your political beliefs? After that, I look for six photos to upload that don’t show me making a weird face. It takes me a while. Once my profile is complete, my phone starts lining up single men for my perusal. Within 10 minutes, I receive five likes from interested singles. Aside from batting eyes at strangers six feet away in the grocery store, this is the

most action I’ve seen in months.

At month five of quarantine, my dating life has become stagnant. I had convinced myself *now is not the time to be meeting someone*. But as the months ticked by, I started to wonder if now could actually be the *best* time for dating. Perhaps there could be some perks to this situation. So I spoke to a few single ladies

who shared their social distance dating stories.

It was a cloudy Sunday afternoon when Teresa, a 31-year old who works in gaming marketing, met with the guy she matched with on Hinge. As a sports enthusiast, she was drawn to the picture of him holding a basketball. After messaging back and forth, they agreed to get together for a one-on-one game. She did her hair and makeup, dressing both sporty and cute. This would be her first date of the pandemic.

"I was excited. So often when you match, you talk for a bit but there's no action," she said, opening up about her romantic encounter. "He and I met at the start of March and talked about hanging out that weekend. But it happened to be the weekend when everything shut down, all the restaurants, every-

thing closed. So we met up at a park and played basketball. But it started raining," she says with a shrug.

With nowhere else to go for cover, they awkwardly sat in his white BMW and talked for a while longer before ending the date. "We hugged, but that was our only physical connection. If circumstances were different, I probably would have hoped to get a kiss at the end of a first date if it went well." He was exactly what she had expected based on his profile. "Really cute in person, easy to talk to, athletic... It was good, and that's why I was bummed it didn't get to play out."

Teresa and basketball boy talked a few times on the phone after that, "but it started to get clear that nothing would open. And I didn't know him that well, so I wasn't comfort-

able with him coming to my house. So that really fizzled out and nothing happened there. It was a let-down in the sense that I was excited to meet this guy. The pandemic certainly stalled all options."

"I'm sure if covid didn't happen, we would have gone to a bar. So it does force people to get a little more creative and do some more interesting things."

Despite corona complications, Teresa has made more of an effort to date than she has in the past. "I've had an appetite for dating more now, since I turned 30. At the start of the year, I actually made goals for myself for 2020, things like, 'I want to get a boyfriend.' And I think the problem was I wasn't actively pursuing it."

The lockdown served

as a blow to her newfound mindset in favor of meeting someone. "I prefer to meet people through friends. Online dating is not my main avenue, but it is the easiest thing right now. It's a good balance

of getting to know them without getting their life's story. You get pictures, you get little snippets of interest, and a good conversation starter. My main priority is religion — I'm Christian — so I filter it by faith.... The one non-

negotiable for me is faith. And I'd like to say height, but I'm getting a little bit more flexible," says the 5'10" dark-haired beauty. "I had a checklist of qualities I was looking for, and they tended to be physical."

She admits that hasn't been working for her, and credits a friend for helping change her perspective. "That was me in the start of quarantine. I've definitely been more focused on the internal stuff, which I think is working in my favor."

"One thing that makes it awkward with online dating is I don't see a desire to talk on the phone with someone. I think that's a more personal thing for when

you know someone better. But I think that phone calls reveal a lot more. Texting can hide a lot of the insecurities and awkwardness."

Two days before our conversation, Teresa went on a date with someone she met serendipitously through church. She lowers her voice and flashes a big grin "It's going really well, actually." Twisting her torso, she points to a vase full of flowers. "I've been volunteering every Saturday at my church, passing out food. Two weeks ago, he came and volunteered." They sparked up a conversation, which led to his inviting Teresa kayaking with a couple of friends. The following Saturday,

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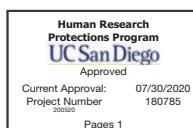


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"he came by and we had our first official date, where he cooked me dinner. It wouldn't have happened without the pandemic, because this food bank that my church created was a direct response to people needing food. So it was a direct correlation, in a good way."

Teresa didn't let social distancing stop her from pursuing a relationship with Mr. Kayak. "I think I felt more comfortable hanging out in person, because I knew him a little before, so he wasn't like a stranger. And I'm grateful I had a space for us to get to know each other one-on-one."

One small detail she laments is having to wear a mask on the first date. "It sucked, because I love wearing lipstick. And I can't wear lipstick when I wear a mask. I suck at makeup and my go-to is a good lipstick, that's my fave makeup product. But if you put lipstick and a mask on, it gets all over. So that's just one totally pathetic frustration. Unfortunately, I couldn't rock my full makeup look that I would want."

She dishes about

another unexpected nuance. "During the pandemic, I've had three former flames reach out to me." She sounds staggered by this, since they all came within a week or two. She suspects it was around the time that everyone started accepting their quarantine fate.

"I think my advice would be, just don't take it too seriously. It sucks, but do it. It's fun. Nobody's happy with the world we're living in, but make lemonade out of lemons."

"I had to laugh. Everyone's getting very thirsty, aren't they?"

Wagging a finger of warning, she says, "There's better things out there! Don't go back to the exes."

Some of us are joining the online dating scene for the first time, including 29-year-old Kaitlin, who works in finance. "I was in a relationship for a little under two years and we broke up, right before covid happened. So this is my first time I've ever actu-

ally done online dating. So that's been interesting," she says with a chuckle.

When scrolling through profiles, Kaitlin looks for "somebody that doesn't take themselves too seriously. I think you can tell when people have these curated profiles, especially with guys

when they have glamorous shots. Who *are* you?" She grimaces with disgust. "So someone who can have fun, make light of the fact that we're on dating apps, you know? Lighthearted, seems like they would be fun, easy to talk to. Most of the people seem like genuinely normal humans. I wouldn't say there's ever red flags where I'm like, 'Oh my God.' I try to give people the benefit of the doubt. I almost prefer people that aren't good at online dating and don't have this

glamorous, shiny profile. Nobody should be good at this."

Kaitlin relies solely on the internet to make romantic connections. "Right now, it's literally impossible to meet people outside of the apps. Even if you go to the brewery, you can't talk to people that you didn't go with. I would just feel so uncomfortable, because not only would it be weird to talk to someone, but you don't want them to feel uncomfortable about your health. It feels — maybe it's not — but it feels very impossible to meet somebody outside the apps right now."

At the beginning of covid, she was most active, since it was just after she ended her previous relationship. "I was freaking out, as everyone was. I was like, 'We're in lockdown, I'm going to be single forever!'" She feigns dramatics. "That's when I did FaceTime dates. Those are weird. It's just super uncomfortable — even just getting set up, like the internet's not working, things are freezing..."

But as the world began to re-open, she started to get a better handle on dating during a pandemic. "I went on a first date at a park, and it felt like everyone else there was on first dates from dating apps. It was just all these couples. That's all people are really doing is going to parks, which is not bad. Seems like the dating world has figured it out."

"I feel like all the dates I've been on, none of them have been terrible. We're all out here just trying to figure it out."

Kaitlin took me through one of her better outdoor meet-ups. "He asked what my park of choice was, and if I wanted

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UC San Diego Researchers are looking for people with schizophrenia to take part in a research study investigating a medication called Cariprazine.

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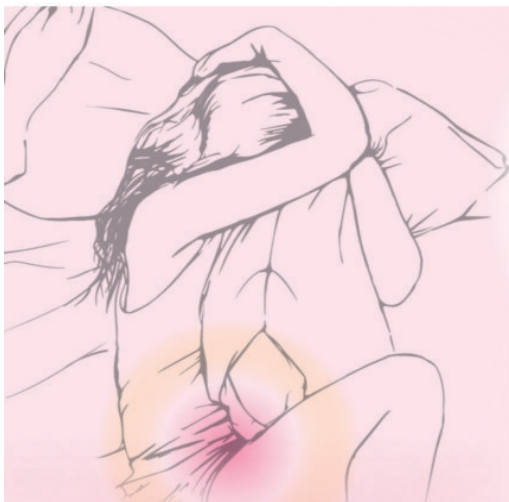


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to go on a date. We biked to meet at the park and brought a bottle of wine, and beer, and had music set up." Quarantine or not, this sounded like all the makings of a good time. "We had a couple drinks and then biked to an ice cream shop a couple miles away, got some ice cream (he paid), and then went to a different park and there was actually live music. So we hung out there, had some ice cream, it got dark and then we went home," she says, summing it up. "That was for sure the best first date I've been on. He was very outgoing, easy to talk to. We went on a second date... but then he went home to somewhere in the South. So that was the end of that. But it was fun. Positive experience."

"And that's what's cool — I'm sure if covid didn't happen, we would have gone to a bar. So it does force people to get a little more creative and do some more interesting things."

On another in-person date, she met up "at 6 am before work one day. And he brought coffee and cookies and we just walked around. But

that was nice too. Same thing — you would never do that" if not for the pandemic.

"The thing about park dates," she cautions, "is that there's no distractions. It's just you and this person. So it can be hard. You have to just be ready to talk about anything. It kind of feels like when you go into an interview, you know? You're like 'I've got to be on. I have to be ready to talk to this person and carry this conversation.' But it's also really nice, because you really get to know that person. It feels very old-school, like the 14th century. There's something cool about it, that we've gone back to this pure, old-school setting. It's just this very wholesome feeling."

I asked Kaitlin about the physical factor of dating in these times. "It's so funny, I feel like every date, nobody knows — do you hug? You're not going to shake hands." She pantomimes a rigid handshake. "Most people, once they've agreed to commit to a date, they're ok with being close. We're not sitting six feet apart, we're touching. We're not

wearing masks with each other, but we are when we go places."

She hesitates to answer whether or not she enjoys dating. "I don't mind being single in a non-covid environment. Online dating, I don't like." She steers toward the silver lining, "I'm grateful for it, to be

"My parents would say, 'Guys need to court you,' and I was like, 'What the hell is courting?' Then you figure out, 'Ok, *this* is what it is.'"

honest. If we didn't have online dating and we couldn't go to bars, we'd be screwed, how would we meet anyone? I would much rather meet someone in the wild. But if we don't have an option, I'm glad it is an option."

"I think my advice would be, just don't take it too seriously. It sucks, but do it. It's fun. Nobody's happy with the world we're living in, but make lemonade out of lemons."

For others, the pandemic has propelled the relationship forward. Ava, a 37-year-old who

works in pharmaceutical sales, has been with her beau Alex since the start of quarantine. She was instantly attracted by his online profile. "We had a lot in common based on the answers we both provided, so I was like, 'Well let me see what's up with this guy.' This was a little pre-covid. We started dat-

ing in March, we were talking in February. So we started dating and then things just shut down."

After several dates, they figured out a way to keep things going and got into a groove. "We had to do date night at my place. He planned Friday date night, and I planned Saturday date night. The very first one, he wanted to introduce me to his culture, which is Columbian. He brought all this food from his favorite restaurant — it was awesome. And then we played Jenga. And Saturday, I cooked Filipino food. I don't really cook for people, so I really was testing stuff out with him," she explains. "From then on, every Friday and Saturday was date night, and we had a theme."

She reflects on the course of their relationship. "If things happened a little differently I don't think I'd be dating Alex. I met him during a time when I was about to move... I was applying internally for higher positions and they had an opportunity in San Francisco. He and I had just started dating during that time. My first date was during the interview process. I was telling a friend, 'He's so cool; I don't know what I'm going to do if I get this position.' If I'd ended up getting it, I would have moved," she says, thinking back to what might have been. "But because of covid, they pulled the position and started doing massive layoffs."

Career woman Ava is always busy in meetings and taking calls. It left her with little time and energy to focus on meeting someone, but then the pandemic caused a shift in her lifestyle. "I was that busy. All I knew was what I did. It's not like I had any other inkling what existed outside of that norm. So when this happened, I had so much time. I was like, 'This is what I've been missing out on?!'"

It was because Ava's life slowed down that things between her and Alex moved faster. "It happened so fast, we just started spending the

whole weekend together some weeks. I think it just forced us to talk more. That's the biggest thing in any relationship is communication. And everyone says that, but I think that we got to know each other on another level."

Since their first date went so well, she felt more comfortable continuing to see him after the shutdowns. "Our first date was way long, a good long date. So I think we got to know each other a good amount during that time and then it got progressively deeper. We both opened up to one another very quickly."

With everything closed, Ava explains, "We have nothing to do but talk."

She says that normally, she might break in between at-home date nights by going out to the bars with friends, but since that's not an option, they've shared much more one-on-one time.

Both Ava and Alex had also been talking to other people at the time they met. With increasing covid concerns, they were quick to agree on being exclusive. "He was respectful, and we were on the same page. I told him, 'If we do this, it means we're only going to be dating each other.' I didn't want this weird limbo, especially during this time. It's already weird to have that conver-

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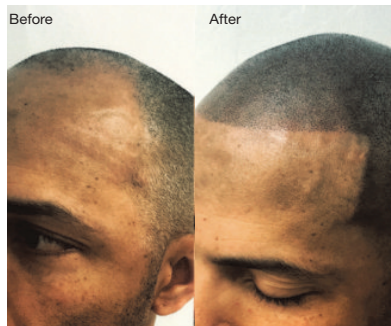
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Adriana Silveira

sation, but I think at this point in my life, I decided I can't be shy about this. I just need to put it out there, and if it doesn't work, it doesn't work. But it ended up working."

If covid hadn't happened, "I almost feel like

oped under more traditional circumstances. "My parents would talk about that — 'Guys need to court you,' and I was like, 'What the hell is courting?' Then you figure out, 'Ok, *this* is what it is.'"

The consistency of

"It's so funny, I feel like every date, nobody knows — do you hug?"

there would be more opportunities for both of us to be dating outside of 'us'. Even though we felt a strong chemistry and connection right off the bat, we would have been entertaining dating other people. It opens more opportunities. Because everybody always says, 'Don't put your eggs all in one basket.'"

Ava also feels like their relationship devel-

having someone in her life has been refreshing and comforting, Ava reveals. "It helps that it was during covid. I think about all the stuff that happened, with the job loss and everything else... How he's been there for me during the layoff, because that was a nightmare for me. We had a date that night, and I was devastated when I got the call."

Ava was used to processing her feelings alone and picking herself up. "So I texted him to cancel and he said no, he'd rather be there during this time than not at all."

He ended up bringing over a bottle of tequila and tacos to make her feel better. "It made me almost forget that that happened. He's just very caring."

Wanting to end on a mushy note, I ask about their first date that started it all. "I've gone on a lot of first dates. So I wanted to go in with absolutely no expectations. When I first saw him, I got really nervous, and I normally don't get nervous. He was really good looking. It was the weirdest feeling. It just hit me like a ton of bricks, I think I was stuttering for a little bit. That never happens to me."

— Amanda Tascher

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Calendar

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Thursday | 1

BID ON CONTEMPORARY ART

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego's biennial Art Auction is completely virtual this time. Live and silent auctions of approximately 100 works by early career and internationally recognized artists. Bid on painting, sculpture, and works on paper in support of MCASD exhibitions and programs. All works are considered by MCASD's director and curators, and are available for viewing in an online catalogue before the auction. Amateur and experienced collectors are welcome to participate. Artworks vary in estimated value, from \$500 up to \$80,000.

WHEN: Thursday, October 1 through Thursday, October 15.

WHERE: mcasd.org/artauction2020

Friday | 2

LA MESA OKTOBERFEST

Enjoy an afternoon of Munich-inspired festivities: Oompah bands, bier tastings, craft demos, and friendly competitions. You will get to participate from your phone, computer, tablet, or TV. The chicken



dance and German sing-a-longs will be streamed, with plenty of time for the polka. Grab your steins and get ready to *prost!* with the Prost Pack of German biers paired with Brewmaster tastings, a commemorative T-shirt, and a party-making Chicken Hat. German foodie favorite boxes of bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels, and toppings are available for pre-order.

WHEN: Friday through Sunday, October 2 through 4, 12 pm to 6 pm.

WHERE: lamesaoktoberfest.org

Saturday | 3

KEEP ROCKIN' FEST



MITCH PERRY GROUP AND SLEDD

Rocker Mitch Perry and San Diego band Sledd get back onto the stage to co-headline Rock and Roll San Diego's Keep Rockin' Fest 2020, livestreamed worldwide. San Diego radio legend

Coe Lewis will emcee. Performers: Mitch Perry Group & Sledd, Sphere of Influence (SOI), Bomb and Scary, Fall of Silence, and Revelation 69.

WHEN: Saturday, October 3, 7 pm

WHERE: rockandrollsandiego.com

HOWL-O-WEEEN HARVEST FAMILY FESTIVAL

A family event with hands-on animal encounters, trick or treat stations, crafts, a journey through a perilous path, and a mini pumpkin

patch so you can bring one home to carve. Costumes encouraged. Animals you may encounter: miniature horses or goats, snakes or lizards, and millipedes or Madagascar hissing cockroaches. You must pre-register.

WHEN: Saturdays, 9 am to 3 pm, Through October 31.

WHERE: Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road, Rancho Santa Fe. animalcenter.org



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: HOWL-O-WEEEN HARVEST FAMILY FESTIVAL

Monday | 5

ATHENAEUM JAZZ: NOWHERELAND

Weston Bowers co-founded Nowhereland with Adam Packard and Fullerton's Rylan Fernandes. At the time, Bowers was an electronic engineer, Packard was still going to school pursuing a career in teaching, and Fernandes had a guitar, record player, and laptop. The release of their debut album *Raw Honey* will be promoted with a livestream gig from the Athenaeum, with Mike Wofford, Rob Thorsen, and Jim Plank paying tribute to the band and to their album.

WHEN: Monday, October 5, 7:30 pm

WHERE: lathenaeum.org



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ART

Virtual 40th International Exhibition The exhibition represents the very best of watermedia art from around the world. Only 100 paintings were selected from almost 900 entries from 21 countries. Please visit the Website starting to view and purchase the paintings. Through Saturday, October 31, **free**. sdws.org. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Build Your Own Backyard Compost Bin Join Solana Center for this 1-hour webinar where you will learn how to build a simple, economical, and effective backyard compost bin. This webinar will be held using Zoom, so please note that you will need to have the Zoom application installed on your device to attend and participate. Saturday, October 3, 10am; **free**. bit.ly/335bTwr. (ONLINE)

LEGO Bridges & Intro to Civil Engineering Ages 8-10 Students will create a LEGO twin skyscraper and learn the Engineering Design Process to problem-solve their project. Students will learn the different types of bridges and the components needed to build a strong one. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class. Tuesday, October 6, 4pm; **free**. bit.ly/3S0Cuo6. (ONLINE)

Maintaining Your Brain Health Learn about the latest research on lifestyle changes and strategies to help maintain your brain health. This webinar will be held using Zoom. If you need help setting up Zoom or any other technology, our Volunteer Tech Team can talk you through it. Call 858.492.4400

to get started. Thursday, October 1, 10am; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3mR89qh>. (ONLINE)

Python Coding Class Ages 11-18 Detailed program covers the following topics to begin with: 1. What is Python? 2. Installing Python 3. Data types and creating variables, input and output, 4. Decision-making and repetition followed by a project using all the concepts. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class. Saturday, October 3, 3pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/309N6VV>. (ONLINE)

Water Substitution in Soap-making Students learn how to safely replace water with beer, yogurt, fresh milk, fresh juices, puréed fruits or vegetables, herbal infusions, and hydrosols. The class includes a live demonstration of soap cupcakes made with seasonal fruits instead of water and topped with piped soap frosting made with milk instead of water. Attend in person. Prerequisite: Soapmaking 101 or 1 year of experience. Classroom hours: 2 hours. Class fee: \$44. Materials fee: \$11. Sunday, October 4, 1pm; \$55. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Women's Financial Fitness: Home Maintenance "Home Maintenance: What you need to know about home design, repairs, and improvements" with guest speaker Lisa Packard, the owner of Concepts by Design. Thursday, October 1, 5pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/2G3Gz8A>. (ONLINE)

COMEDY

Drive-Up Clean Comedy: Dustin Nickerson Drive-In Theater Style Live Comedy Show: Enjoy the thrill of a live performance from the safety of your car. Just like nostalgic drive-in movie theater days, we are bringing back the fun of entertainment pumped through your stereo speakers. Each Drive-Up Comedy ticket guarantees you and your guests a parking spot and show experience at our exclusive venue. Saturday, October 3, 7:30pm; \$40. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems for October by James Schuyler

October

Books litter the bed,
leaves the lawn. It
lightly rains. Fall has
come: unpatterned, in
the shedding leaves.

The maples ripen. Apples
come home crisp in bags.
This pear tastes good.
It rains lightly on the
random leaf patterns.

The nimbus is spread
above our island. Rain
lightly patters on un-
shed leaves. The books
of fall litter the bed.

Faure's Second Piano Quartet

On a day like this the rain comes
down in fat and random drops among
the aianthus leaves—"the tree
of Heaven"—the leaves that on moon-
lit nights shimmer black and blade-
shaped at this third-floor window.
And there are bunches of small green

knobs, buds, crowded together. The
rapid music fills in the spaces of
the leaves. And the piano comes in,
like an extra heartbeat, dangerous
and lovely. Slower now, less like
the leaves, more like the rain which
almost isn't rain, more like thawed-
out hail. All this beauty in the
mess of this small apartment on
West 20th in Chelsea, New York.
Slowly the notes pour out, slowly,
more slowly still, fat rain falls.



James Schuyler (1923-1991) was an American poet and a central figure of the New York School of art and literature which, during the 1950s and 1960s, rose to prominence through a unique blend of the surreal, jazz, and the avant-garde. Like most poets of the New York School, Schuyler relied on immediate and vivid imagery — in contrast to the "Confessionalist" movement of the same time period, which delved into personal history and private reminiscence for inspiration. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1980 for *The Morning of the Poem*. Working in his early years as a secretary for the poet W.H. Auden, Schuyler eschewed the more formal elements of the elder writer. His poems are often focused on finding the extraordinary in ordinary things through a conversational style.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Affordable Housing & Community Development Conference

Bringing more than 600 industry professionals and community and business leaders together, the annual conference will cover topics ranging from financing strategies to supportive housing options. Mon-Wed, Oct 5-7, 8am; \$50-\$200. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3cIf7ZV>. (ONLINE)

FOR KIDS

Back to School Night Virtual Family Leaning Safari Cure those Back to School Blues by gathering the family for a fun night of learning and laughs. Discover all about the creatures of the night

in this interactive, entertaining & always educational virtual animal program. Your whole family can join for the less than a price of a single movie ticket. Saturday, October 3, 6pm; \$10-\$20. <https://bit.ly/3mTj5nc>. (ONLINE)

Drive-Thru Scream Zone Mask up and buckle up for "Road Kill," a wild ride of Halloween terror at the Drive-Thru Scream Zone. Experience history being made at the drive-thru Haunted Attraction at the Del Mar Scaregrounds. Stay in the "dis-comfort" of your own car and get a "revved up" Halloween experience. Special deal on opening night, only \$25 per carload. Fri-Sun, October 2-4, 7pm; \$55-\$70.

Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Howl-O-Ween Harvest Family Festival Gather up your little ghouls and goblins for some festive fun. This family event includes hands-on animal encounters, trick or treat stations, a cute craft, a journey through the perilous path, and a mini pumpkin patch for you to pick one out to bring home. Walk-up registration is not permitted this year. Saturday, October 3, 9am; \$48. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Kids for Kids Art Supply Drive The VAPA Foundation will be holding an Art Supplies Drive

Drive-Thru event to support the needs of students of the San Diego Unified School District's Visual and Performing Arts Department on Saturday. There will be an art wall that students can add their artwork, too. The community is invited to bring various art supplies to donate at the donation location to help support San Diego students while they learn and create from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All donated items must be in new and original packaging. Saturday, October 3, 10am; **free**. Madison High School, 4833 Doliva Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

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FALLBROOK SCARECROW DAYS
— OCT. 1 – 31, 2020 —

Scarecrows have again booked residency in Fallbrook

- A field of 'Silent People' swaying in the breeze
- Pumpkin Heads with Goulsh Grins Greet Visitors
- Businesses and Residents display scarecrows of all genres downtown and surrounding area

Enjoy all the amenities of small town Fallbrook - 'The Friendly Village'

SCARCECROW FALL FUN KIDS CORNER

Write a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Scarecrow and receive a letter in return
Scarecrow crunch and munch recipes.
Fall crafts that bring scarecrow grins!
Halloween and fall themed books to read.

All info, scarecrow viewing list and Kids Corner at:
www.fallbrookchamberofcommerce.org
111S.Main Street, Fallbrook CA 92028

SHEEP and GOATS

John Hay

There are two mountains hal-
lowed
By majesty sublime,
Which rear their crests uncon-
quered
Above the floods of Time.
Uncounted generations
Have gazed on them with awe --
The mountain of the Gospel,
The mountain of the Law.

From Sinai's cloud of darkness
The vivid lightnings play;
They serve the God of vengeance,
The Lord who shall repay.
Each fault must bring its penance,

Each sin the avenging blade,
For God upholds in justice
The laws that He hath made.

But Calvary stands to ransom
The earth from utter loss,
In shade than light more glorious,
The shadow of the Cross.
To heal a sick world's trouble,
To soothe its woe and pain,
On Calvary's sacred summit
The Paschal Lamb was slain.

The boundless might of Heaven
Its law in mercy furled,
As once the bow of promise
O'erarched a drowning world.

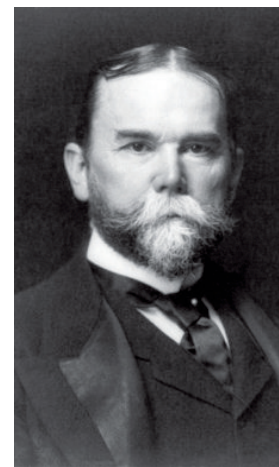
The Law said, As you keep me,
It shall be done to you;
But Calvary prays, Forgive them;
They know not what they do.

Almighty God! direct us
To keep Thy perfect Law!
O blessed Saviour, help us
Nearer to Thee to draw!
Let Sinai's thunders aid us
To guard our feet from sin;
And Calvary's light inspire us
The love of God to win.

— "Sinai and Calvary"

John Hay (1838-1905) was an
American statesman who played a

*prominent role in the political life of
the nation for most of the latter half of
the 19th century. Hay attended Brown
University in Providence, RI, and was
named Class Poet upon graduation
with a Master of Arts degree in 1857.
He started his career in public life as
Abraham Lincoln's private secretary
and eventually became U.S. Secretary
of State for Presidents William
McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. So
long did Hay serve in the upper ech-
elons of the government that he was
present at the burial of three assas-
sinated presidents – Lincoln (1864),
James Garfield (1881), and McKinley
(1901).*



Find more excerpts online at
SDReader.com/worship

LECTURES

Amazing World of Bats:

Nature's Tiny Fighter Jets Bats are fascinating with incredible skills of flight and nighttime navigations. They contribute to our environment by serving as catchers of insects, pollinating wild fruits, and helping reforest disturbed lands. Friday, October 2, 7pm; **free**. facebook.com/sierraclubsd/. (ONLINE)

Honest Reactions to Imaginary Situations An hour of dynamic and thought-provoking perfor-

mance, lecture and screening by NYC-based choreographer/director Raja Feather Kelly. Thursday, October 1, 12pm; **free**. https://bit.ly/2S0JjWK. (ONLINE)

Protecting Privacy While

Sharing Biomedical Data Even though "de-identified," patient data can still sometimes be revealed by attackers. The focus of this program will include technical and policy measures that might better protect the privacy of electronic health records when they are used for machine learning. Wednesday,

October 7, 5pm; **free**. https://bit.ly/336eOEX. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Late September brings Santa Ana winds, which may continue intermittently through the winter. Early Santa Anas are often responsible for coastal San Diego's hottest and driest days of the year. Records show that 62 percent of the days at Lindbergh Field with 90-degree readings or higher have occurred during the months of September

and October. The desert-like days are a consequence of dry air from a high-pressure area centered over Nevada or Utah moving across southern California's coastal mountains toward a low pressure area offshore in the Pacific Ocean. West of the mountains the air sinks as it rushes toward the coast, heating (by compression) about 5 1/2 degrees Fahrenheit for every 1000 feet of descent. During a fullblown Santa Ana, gale-force winds rake the foothills downwind of the mountain passes, and San Diego's coastal communities often experi-

ence temperatures that are among the nation's highest.

Escaping the Heat of this season's first couple of Santa Anas will not be easy — if you can't be inside air-conditioned buildings at any rate. Along the coastline, where temperatures may reach the 90s, taking a dip in the surf solves the problem. Inland, the furnace-like heat is moderated only by increases in altitude. Head for the high places of the county — the mile-plus heights of the Palomar and Laguna Mountains, for example. You could climb a couple of the

county's loftiest peaks: Cuyamaca Peak (6512') in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, or Boucher Hill (5438') in Palomar Mountain State Park. On peaks such as these during a Santa Ana wind episode, the thermometer registers about 25- 30 degrees lower than in the lowlands. Since the early phase of a Santa Ana sweeps away atmospheric water vapor and air pollution, hundred-mile vistas in every direction may be yours to enjoy.

Full Moon Thursday, October 1 (exact at 5:05 p.m. EDT). Once the Moon is up low in the east in twilight, look for yellow-orange Mars to come into view roughly a fist at arm's length to its lower left. They'll appear a lot closer together tomorrow.

Mars shines big, bright, and close. This week it rises in twilight. After dark it glares orange low in the east, as bright as Jupiter at magnitude -2.4 but yellow-orange to Jupiter's creamy white. Mars climbs higher through the evening and stands at its highest and telescopic best around 2 a.m. daylight-saving time, beaming down from Pisces high in the south. Mars passes closest to Earth on October 6. We're already getting the best view of Mars we'll have until July 2033.

NATURE

Birding With All Your Senses

Join Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson for an easy stroll on a path in Peñasquitos canyon near the historic ranch house with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars and cover-ups. Handouts and checklists lists will be provided. Due to the COVID-19 and City restrictions all participants must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Participating is limited to a total of 10, so an rsvp is necessary to hold a spot on the list. Cal 858-863-7393 to RSVP for this hike & to learn the exact meeting place. Saturday, October 3, 7:45am; **free**. Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12020 Black Mountain Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

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HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

CARLSBAD

Chandler's: *Wednesday-Thursday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off wines by the glass, draught beers, and signature cocktails. \$3 off appetizers.

CITY HEIGHTS

Alcove Wine & Beer: *Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-6pm:* \$1 off beer, \$2 off wine & appetizers.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Barleymash: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* Half off all beer, wine, and spirits. Half off select appetizers.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar: *Monday-Friday, Beginning July 2020: 5-7pm:* Five cocktails, five wines, and five appetizers, \$6 each.

Gaslamp Fish House: *Daily, 3:30-6:30pm:* \$4 Fireball shot, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap, vodka soda, select wine by the glass, \$7 skinny margarita, select signature cocktails.

Gaslamp Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$2 off drafts, wine, specialty cocktails, \$5 wells.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Gaslamp: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4.50 any 14-oz. draft, well drinks, fireball shot; \$5.50 Jameson shot, house margaritas; \$6.50 wine by the glass, Jack Daniels, Grey Goose.

The Tippy Crow: *Monday-Thursday, 3-8pm:* Drink exchange (prices vary). *Friday-Saturday, Noon-8pm:* Drink exchange (prices vary).

Whiskey Girl: *Monday, 7-9pm:* \$3 off drafts, \$4 wells, \$4 Stella, \$5 select wine, \$6 Don Julio Tequila. *Tuesday, 7-9pm:* \$3 off drafts, \$4 wells, \$4 Dox XX, \$5 select wine, \$6 El Jimador Tequila. *Wednesday, 7-9pm:* \$3 off drafts, \$4 wells, \$4 Firestone Walker 805, \$5 select wine, \$6 Sailor Jerry. *Thursday, 7-9pm:* \$3 off drafts, \$3 Truly Hard Seltzer, \$4 wells, \$5 select wine, \$5 Patron Tequila.

The Whiskey House: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$4 French pale lager, \$5 Moscow mule, whiskey sour, Daiquiri, house wines (red, white, sparkling), \$9 Carsberg Danish pilsner (1 liter can). Add a shot of house whiskey to any beer for \$1.

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Oktober, no fest

Oktoberfest, the massive, more-than-two-week Munich beer drinking festival that's taken place all but a handful of years since 1810, is canceled for 2020.

The spirit of the event has survived the pandemic, however, and a number of local breweries are even hosting limited-capacity Oktoberfest events at their tasting rooms this week. And even more have been tapping their versions of classic fest beers. Check your local listings.

Fest beers tend to be amber to reddish brown in color, with low hop profiles and a toasted bread or biscuit malt flavor. The most common is the märzen lager. Märzen is German for March, which in 19th century Bavaria was the last month cool enough to brew with temperature-sensitive lager yeast. So a surplus of beer would

be brewed in March, with caramel malts ensuring palatability as it continued to ferment through the summer in cool Alpine caves.

I don't want to belabor the notion we've all likewise been kept on ice this March through September, but I would point out that, party or otherwise, we might all appreciate a celebratory beer to warm our spirits heading into this fall. And for those of us electing to spend this festive season drinking märzens at home, here are a few delicious examples being sold in cans by local breweries.

Societe Fest Bier. Putting a fest beer in cans for the first time this year is Kearny Mesa's Societe Brewing. Best known for its magnificent west coast IPAs early in its lifespan, Societe has seriously raised its lager game over the past couple of years, so the debut of this one in cans is reason to raise a glass. You can get a four-pack shipped or delivered online. Or, pick some up in person with a \$10 Societe stein and/or crowler fill.

Eppig Festbier Eppig Brewing quickly established itself, in part due to its dedicated lager program. With the opening of a larger brewery in Vista last year, it has started putting its seasonal Festbier on local shelves both in the spring and fall. The instant classic is easiest to find by having it shipped directly, but you can also opt for curbside pick up in Vista or Eppig's Shelter Island beer garden. As with Societe, picking up a four-pack or crowler in person affords the opportunity

to purchase a stein.

AleSmith Oktoberfest. Now celebrating its 25th year as a top San Diego beer brand, Ale-Smith Brewing has given its popular annual



PHOTOGRAPH BY MEGAN STONE

Societe's seasonal Fest Bier is being released in cans for the first time this year, with or without a take-home stein.

märzen a six-pack release in spiffy blue and white cans inspired by the Bavarian flag. Thanks to a rare covid silver lining, it's now easy to order this and other AleSmith brews online for curbside pickup, shipping, or delivery. Best bet to get an AleSmith stein, though, is to get in to AleSmith's socially spaced, outdoor Oktoberfest event, ongoing from September 24-27.

Athletic Brewing Oktoberfest. It might seem counterintuitive to most drinking at home to buy

nonalcoholic beer, but a booze-free fest beer is a legitimate option this year. That's thanks to Athletic Brewing, a Connecticut-founded beer company that bought a former Ballast Point brewing facility in Miramar this March. Athletic doesn't remove the alcohol from beer, the way near-beer makers of the past did. It uses proprietary methods to ferment the beer while yielding a mere 0.5-percent alcohol by volume.

Karl Strauss Oktoberfest San Diego's oldest brewery has been brewing its seasonal märzen for decades, and bottled six-packs may be picked up from its restaurant location in North County and the original Karl Strauss brewpub downtown. Online ordering makes

it easier, but keep your eye open for the "Steins to Go" option at the top of the menu: this gets you a one-liter stein of the Oktoberfest beer, and a 32-ounce crowler from which to fill it for \$20. That's pricier than a six-pack, but worth it to drink märzen in the volume and vessel appropriate to the season.

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

EAST VILLAGE

Bootlegger: *Tuesday, 11am-1:30pm:* \$2 tacos. *Sunday, 9am-1pm:* \$14.95 bottomless mimosas.

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: *Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday, 7-9pm:* \$6 signature cocktails. *Friday-Saturday, 5-9pm:* \$6 signature cocktails.

EASTLAKE

The Cheesecake Factory Eastlake: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$3.95 select beer bottles, \$4.95 select beer drafts, \$7.95 Mojito, Long Island ice tea, Margarita, JW's Pink Lemonade, Cosmopolitan, select well drinks and wines by the glass.

ENCINITAS

Encinitas Ale House: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off select beers and wine, half price appetizers. *Tuesday, 4-6pm:* Half off select burgers with beverage purchase. *Saturday-Sunday, 11am-3pm:* \$15 endless mimosa with brunch purchase.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday, 2-6pm:* \$3 well cocktails, house wine, domestic draft.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine Escondido: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$1 off drafts, well drinks, featured wine, \$5.75 house margarita.

KENSINGTON

Bleu Bohème: *Monday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday, 5-6pm:* \$5.95 beers, \$7.95 champagne cocktails, \$9.95-\$11.95 wines, \$10.95 martinis. *Friday, 5-6pm:* \$5.95 beers, \$7.95 champagne cocktails, \$9.95-\$11.95 wines, \$10.95 martinis.

LA MESA

Brigantine La Mesa: *Daily, 3:30-6:30pm:* \$1 off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$4 glass sparkling wine, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine.

LAKESIDE

Eastbound Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday, 2-5pm:* \$2 off all house cocktails, \$3 domestic bottles, \$4 micro drafts.

LITTLE ITALY

Carruth Cellars Wine Garden: *Monday-Friday, 2-6pm:* \$3 off glasses, \$5 off bottles of wine.

King and Queen Cantina: *Monday, 3pm-midnight:* \$1 off drafts, \$4 beer bottles, \$7 well drinks, wine, sangria, \$8 margaritas. *Appetizers \$5 to \$9. Tuesday-Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$1 off drafts, \$4 beer bottles, \$7 well drinks, wine, sangria, \$8 margaritas. *Appetizers \$5 to \$9.*

MISSION BEACH

Coaster Saloon: *Monday, 3pm-6pm:* \$3 Jager shot with any beer purchase, \$4 select Bud draft, \$5 well drinks. *Tuesday, 3pm-6pm:* \$3 Jager shot with any beer purchase, \$4 select Bud draft and El Jimador shots, \$5 well drinks, house margarita. *Wednesday, 3pm-6pm:* \$1 off all IPA, \$3 Jager shot with any beer purchase, \$4 select Bud draft and Fireball shots, \$5 well drinks. *Thursday, 3pm-6pm:* \$3 Jager shot with any beer purchase, \$4 select Bud draft, \$5 well drinks, Captain Morgan, Jack Daniels, Jager shots. *Saturday, All day:* \$15 Champagne bottles. *Sunday, All day:* \$3 Jager shot with any beer purchase, \$12 Champagne bottles.

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$5 drafts and bottled beers, wells, house wines, house margaritas, Guavaritas, Moscow mules. *half off all tequilas, 20% off all appetizers. Friday, 3-7pm:* \$5 drafts and bottled beers, wells, house wines, house margaritas, Guavaritas, Moscow mules. *half off all tequilas, 20% off all appetizers.*

MISSION VALLEY

Lazy Dog: *Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm and 9pm-close:* \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini. *Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini. *Sunday, 9pm-close:* \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini.

OCEAN BEACH

Sunshine Co.: *Monday-Friday, Sunday, 5-6pm:* Half-price pitchers. *Saturday, 5-6pm:* Half-price pitchers, \$10 Sam Adams pitchers.

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

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

OCEANSIDE

333 Pacific: *Daily, 5-7pm:* \$8 draft beers, \$8 vodka cocktails. 8 nibbles for \$8 each.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Oceanside: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4.50 any 14-oz. draft, well drinks, fireball shot, \$5.50 Jameson shot, house margaritas, \$6.50 wine by the glass, Jack Daniels, Grey Goose.

OLD TOWN

Casa Guadalajara: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$1 off draft beer and La Terre wines, \$3.95 house margaritas and well drinks.

Home & Away: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$1 off glass of wine, draft and bottled beer, well drinks, \$3 to \$6 off specialty cocktails. \$2.75 tacos. *Tuesday, 3-6pm:* Taco Tuesday specials, see server.

Old Town Mexican Café: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* Half off well drinks and selected appetizers.

PACIFIC BEACH

Latitude 32: *Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3-\$5.50 beer and wines.

The Local Pacific Beach: *Monday, 4-7pm:* Half off appetizers.

The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: *Tuesday-Sunday, 5-9pm:* Bottles cocktails to go.

POINT LOMA

Banzai Bar: *Monday, 2-5pm:* \$4 select drafts, wells, wine. *Tuesday-Friday, 2-5pm:* \$4 drafts, wells, wine. *Saturday-Sunday, Open-noon:* \$20 bottomless champagne with breakfast.

The Pearl: *Monday-Tuesday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty cocktails. *Wednesday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty drinks. *Thursday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty drinks.

The Wine Pub: *Daily, 4-6pm:* \$5 craft beers on draft, \$5 select red and white wines.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego: *Tuesday, All day:* \$5 house margarita. *Tacos \$3-\$3.50. Wednesday, All day:* Half off all whiskey, house red and white wines. 75 cent wing specials. *Thursday, All day:* Irish beers \$5. *Irish food boxy \$10. Friday-Saturday, All day:* Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. *After 4pm:* Prime rib \$24. *Sunday, 11am-2pm:* \$5 Bloody Marys, \$10 Champagne bottles.

SAN MARCOS

Churchill's Pub and Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells. *Sunday, All day:* \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Small Bar: *Daily, 5-8pm:* \$1 off local drafts, well cocktails.

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A swimmer's appetite

"Buy the ticket, take the ride."

Man, this is chilly," says my friend Alison. "You guys in Fall already?"

It's gotta be 75 degrees out. But she's from Arizona.

We're looking for a breakfast place, here in La Jolla. "Let's go somewhere with a view," Alison says. "This could be my last sighting of the sea for months."

I know what she must be feeling. She's about to head off back to her home state, where people start their day at 4 am to avoid the desert temperatures. And they definitely don't have anything like the cooling spume of these rollers colliding with the rocks at La Jolla Cove.

Also definitely no sea lions like the ones we have right now, surfing in on ocean waves. Or nannying their baby sea lions in rock pool nurseries, or sprawling over each other on the rocks, stretching, barking, yawning, sleeping, warming up in the morning sun.

I swear I have known about the wildlife at the Cove, but I've never actually seen it until today. And yes, you get plenty of strong fishy poop whiffs. But after five minutes, the visuals totally take over.

We're at the Cove because Alison wants to

blackboard: "Buy the ticket, take the ride. HST."

I have to ask someone.

"HST?"

"Hunter S. Thompson."

Thompson? One of the gods of gonzo journalism. *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.* So, staid La Jolla has a few rebels still?

Place is filling up. We get a table, but only in the back. Gabriel, the Brazilian server, hands us menus, water, and, oh

yes, coffee. Cost, ulp, \$4.50 each.

The basic breakfast is the All-American. Eggs any style, and you get griddled potatoes or stone-ground grits for \$14. Add bacon, sausage, or fruit for \$3.

Their two omelets, "Farmers Market" (with shrooms, goat cheese, spinach, and potatoes or grits) and the bacon and cheddar omelet, are \$16. For \$18, they have a Benedict with smoked pork loin, or, for \$24, a crab cake Benedict.

"That's the one," says Alison. "Crab cake. We've gotta have that. No crabs in Arizona, dude! Let's share."

Hmm. It has jumbo lump crab cakes, sliced avocado, poached eggs, muffin, hollandaise, with spuds or grits. Sounds sharable.

But I hold fire while I check the rest. I see a "chicken biscuit sandy" (cheddar scallion biscuit, fried egg, fried chicken, arugula, and sausage gravy). That sounds doable. And "only" \$17. *Chilaquiles* go for \$16, a "healthy" breakfast salad with two poached eggs is \$16, and they do blueberry pancakes for \$14.

"Ooh. Pancakes!" says Alison. "They're full of carbs, but want to split that?"

"Honestly?" Fact is, I've gone off pancakes. They're just a lot of mealy-mouthed gunk for me. "You go ahead," I say.

And by golly, she does. "Two max," she says to Gabriel. "Can you put chocolate chips in it?"

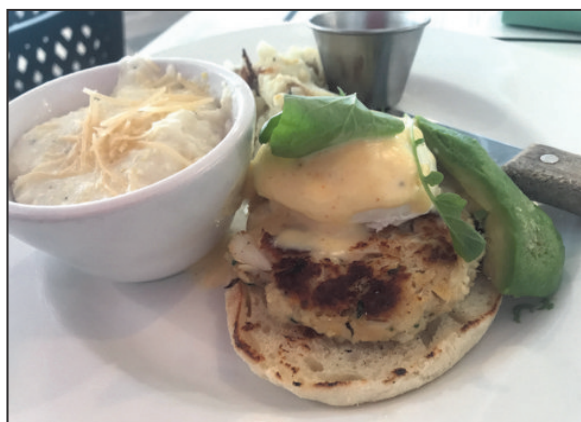
Gabriel says he can. And he lets us have that for \$8. Alison devours it in five minutes.

We do split the crab cake Benedict, and what the heck, we get a side of bacon too, for \$5.

So, we're saving by splitting, but it's still not cheap. And actually, the crab cakes don't have a whole lot of umami taste to write home about. But — and I always forget this — crab is pretty bland taste-wise. Cody's has done its best. Alison agrees.

"Now, if this were lobster, we'd be drunk on it."

'Course, we spend half the time just looking down on that view. Those spidery oceanfront palm trees shoot up into the sky almost to our level. "Bet they're 100 years old," says Alison. Across Prospect, the Pink Lady, who's just six



Grits. Kinda meh flavor, but they mix well with crab cake

come back and do a couple of Ironman — Iron-woman? — swims. She's that good. We were collecting scuttlebutt from all the hardbodies who'd just finished their morning distance swims. (Story I liked best: how young seals and sea lions pace swimmers from right below, upside down, staring up into their faces, just for fun).

Whatever, bottom line is we're *hungry* now. We jump on this escalator that takes you up from Prospect to a brekky place called Cody's, and wow. Up top, you can see for miles and miles. You look down through skinny palms to the deep blue ocean. This prospect over Prospect is one for the books.

And, oh yeah. I'm remembering. Cody's used to be down on Girard Avenue. Good move. Here's got way more space, more view, more cool factor.

Talking of cool, I see a little message on a



Patio room with a heckuva view



Gabriel: he let us split our plate, save money



Hunter S. Thompson is in the building!

years shy of 100 herself, La Valencia Hotel, glows in the rising sun.

I was amazed at Alison's speed, demolishing the two pancakes. She has a swimmer's appetite. Now we're in a contest for the crab cakes. Each of us gets a toasted English muffin, generously loaded with crab cake, a poached egg, hollandaise, and a big sliced chunk of avo. And Gabriel has brought griddled potatoes and grits to us both. Nice, even though the grits don't really

taste much of anything. But taken together, it's a goodly mess.

The yellow cuckoo clock on the wall calls out ten o'clock. "Better go," says Alison. "Five-hour trip. I want to get home before dark."

"Buy the ticket, take the ride," I say, just to be smart-ass. But I'll miss her.

She checks her phone again.

"Ah. It's only going to be 107 back there today. See? Fall's arrived." ■

The Place: Cody's La Jolla, 1025 Prospect Street, Suite 210, La Jolla, 858-459-0040

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Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm, daily (but check Covid hours)

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Finding a different world inside Samarkand Uzbek Café

Samarkand Uzbek Café; 4201 B, El Cajon Blvd, City Heights. You won't see it from the street. Samarkand Uzbek Café has an El Cajon Boulevard address, but when we pulled up for dinner, the building was dark. We took a look

FEAST!

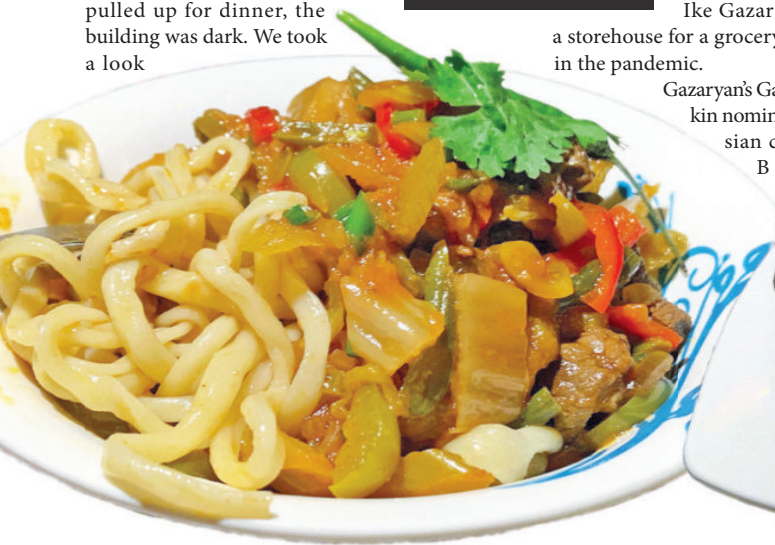
in the parking lot around back, and still didn't spot it. At first. Eventually, in a far corner of the lot, I noticed the white tent.

Not until I passed inside did I realize we were dining in one of San Diego's most colorful and culturally authentic restaurants.

The place didn't exist before a couple of months ago. This space was a section of parking lot of the Grandstand events venue, which owner and restaurateur Ike Gazaryan had converted to a storehouse for a grocery delivery service early in the pandemic.

Gazaryan's Gaslamp restaurant Pushkin nominally serves Russian cuisine.

But



Hand-pulled lagman noodles.



The traditional Uzbek bread, *lepyoshka*.



Inside the tent, a glimpse of the traditional, old Uzbek lifestyle.

the Armenian (by way of Soviet republic) entrepreneur spent 12 years living in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and had hoped one day to open a restaurant celebrating its rich culinary heritage. Those plans were accelerated when the city started allowing restaurants to serve food in parking lots.

Historically a major hub on the Silk Road, Samarkand dates back thousands of years, making it one of the oldest and most influential cities in Central Asia. Americans hardly know a thing about the place, so Gazaryan determined to bring its sense of color and flavor. He imported tapestries and pillows to bring saturated hues of red, orange, and gold.

Though decorative, most seating is split between more familiar tables and booths furnished with colorful patterns and throw pillows. However, one wraparound booth is set

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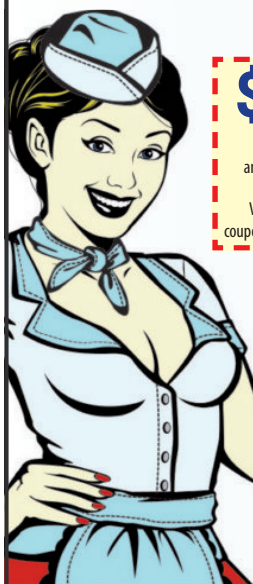
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Samarkand-style floor dining, in booth number one.

up in traditional fashion, with a raised base allowing guests to sit on floor pillows while they eat. Even the tent is true enough to the yurt-style living of old Uzbekistan.

The food itself matches this authenticity. To accomplish this, Gazaryan partnered with Russian chef Larry Tsoi, who until recently operated three Uzbek restaurants in Moscow. Working in the makeshift parking lot kitchen, Tsoi cooks with mesquite charcoal, resulting in tender kabobs and my succulent order of lamb ribs (\$22), served with a borscht-like tomato sauce flavored with dill.

While these dishes combine familiar elements from Russia and the Middle East, Uzbekistan is just as close to Western China. And so the centuries-long exchange of influences brings dumplings and hand pulled noodles to Samarkand's menu. The *manti* (dumplings, \$20) feature more lamb, ground, while the *lagman* noodles (\$16) are prepared with cubed beef. One of the thick, toothsome noodles in my dish measured about three feet long! Appropriate, considering I could have eaten this dish all day long.

From noodles to soup to *lep-yoshka* — the lavash-like bread of Uzbekistan — Samarkand's food is made from scratch daily, and turns out excellent, especially considering the makeshift circumstances. Given this is a restaurant that could vanish once the current rules of the pandemic expire, now is the time to seek out and embrace the parking lot oasis Samarkand provides. And maybe to come back often. Gazaryan says they're adding to the menu more dishes rare to the West Coast all the time.

by Ian Anderson

A table at Elijah's, "because we can"

Elijah's Restaurant & Delicatessen; 7061 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa. I hadn't eaten inside a restaurant since June, more than two months. And to be honest, I wasn't exactly itching to. But, the county decided dining rooms could re-open at 25 percent capacity, and I needed a place to sit and work while my car was getting serviced. I settled on Elijah's, the Kearny Mesa restaurant, deli, and bakery.

Elijah's has a decent amount

of patio space, but I didn't want to cope with glare on my laptop screen. Besides, it's got a pretty vast dining room, with high enough ceilings that I could tell myself any airborne virus would probably dissipate before reaching my table. And it was uncrowded at breakfast time. I talked myself into it.

Or maybe another customer put it better. Asked whether he and his wife would like to dine indoors or out, they opted for in. "Because we can," he said with a chuckle.

I wasn't after much: a breakfast sandwich to go with my morning coffee. The breakfast bagel sandwich, made on a house-made bagel, looked just right for \$10.95. Better yet, it turned out to be a daily special from 8am til 9:30 each weekday morning, when it goes for \$4.95. Just like that, I saved six bucks! Perhaps I would try a few cookies from the bakery after all.

From my seat facing the door, I watched as other customers began to trickle into



The spacious, and spaced out, dining room of Elijah's.

the restaurant over the course of the next hour. Some stepped gingerly, as if they were walking onto muddy grass. The county tells us 58 community outbreaks of covid-19 this summer were traced to indoor dining establishments. So even



A bagel sandwich, eaten indoors.

though the state and county say we can, for now, it's not surprising diners should feel tentative about returning to indoor dining, when it's been forbidden five of the past six months.

My sandwich was a simple affair: a larger than average sesame bagel, with cheddar melted over a fluffy omelet and breakfast sausage links. I

probably should have ordered corned beef hash or something — some type of breakfast plate that I haven't been able to get while doing take out. But the 'rona has gotten me into a breakfast sandwich habit I can't seem to break. Psychologically, I must want something I can run away with, if the flight instinct takes hold.

Part of the emotional toll of eating out during a pandemic I suppose. Hence the cookies. Three kinds of *rugelach*, and a couple chocolate-dipped macaroons. All fluffy, crumbly, and sweet. Something to nibble on while biding the time at my table, a luxury I have not indulged in for too long.

Will I again soon? I go back and forth. The weather's nice enough to stay outdoors, and take-out orders are far too easy. I imagine restaurants desperate for that 25 percent dine-in service appreciate the quasi-normalcy, and I imagine some 25 percent of San Diegans are likewise eager to come back inside. If only because we can.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Taste of Little Italy: Take-Out Edition This year, instead of one-night, this experience will be extended over a weeklong period from October 4th – 8th. Each night, six restaurants will be highlighted to create an elevated multi-course tasting menu. In order to ensure proper social distancing, there will be a maximum of 300 tickets sold with ticketholders being given a time window to check in. Tickets are available for purchase online. littleitalysd.com/events/taste-of-little-italy. Sun-Wed, October 4-8, 4pm; \$50-\$80. 21 and up. Piazza della Famiglia, 523 West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

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blurt the inside track

Drive-in blues Singer Whitney Shay headlined a recent live show (complete with a real audience) on August 15 in the overflow parking lot of the Del Mar

“Fortunately, you could hear the audience applause, even though we couldn’t see them. That alone was a huge upgrade from the current trend of doing virtual concerts. Obviously,

and a ton of expensive gear was missing. “They stole somewhere between \$2000 and \$3000 dollars worth of equipment,” Shay lamented. “That was unnerving, and I felt really vulnerable for quite a while after that. I lost speakers, a special red Telefunken microphone, a mixer, and a bunch of audio cables. It was devastating.”

This horror story ultimately had a happy ending for the singer.

“Thank god, I was insured. I had a Music Pro policy and they covered the whole amount. There was light at the end of that tunnel. I actually was able to upgrade. I had needed to do that for a long time, but couldn’t afford it. The only thing they didn’t cover was my merch case and tip jar, but our maintenance guy

found them about a week later about a mile up the road.”

— Robert Bush

Darker than twee

Katryn Macko met Ryan Stanley while they were both living in Tallahassee and attending Florida State University. Macko worked at a venue called Club Down Under, which was run by a student organization. She describes it as being akin to a larger version of UCSD’s Che Café. While working there she ended up hiring Stanley, at that point an aspiring bedroom musician, as an intern. The two moonlighting songwriters soon joined forces in a project called Naps.

“I was secretly a big fan girl when I heard the music he was recording in his bedroom, and I felt very lucky to scoop him up as a co-songwriter,” Macko explained. “The other two band members, Laura Hicks and Jeremy Probst, they also worked at that music venue. That made it really easy to just go from band practice to work.”

The Naps sound was directly influenced by twee bands such as Tiger Trap and Black Tambourine. These bands were a bit soft compared to many of the other acts floating around



Tallahassee at the time, so they became, in Stanley’s words, “a punky twee band.”

He continued, “When we were playing house parties, we also wanted to kick ass. We weren’t a hardcore band, so we just played twee songs really loud and with a lot of distortion.”

Naps ended up releasing two EPs, got some positive national buzz, and worked hard to build their online presence. “For whatever reason, we just existed on the internet and tried to create an internet following,” Stanley said. As a result, they picked up pockets of fans in

ing collaborators.

The duo considered dumped their old moniker for their new project. “When we reunited, we were thinking of continuing Naps, but we really did want to start over and use what we learned for a new project with a slightly different sound,” Macko explained. The new, Sugar World vibe, as evidenced by a handful of stand-alone singles, is a bit more synth-driven and darker than the twee Naps output. Stanley added that the duo is making a concerted effort to get weirder with the music than they did in Naps.

“I would also say it’s

wise within the last couple of years as opposed to when I was in college.”

Like countless other US bands and artists, Sugar World has spent much of the COVID-era writing new songs and tinkering with recordings in their home studio. They are shooting to release a full-length LP — a milestone that they both regret missing with Naps. The album will likely come out next year. If so, it may be part of a tidal wave of 2021 releases created in the midst of the pandemic.

“I’m kind of expecting there to be a change in the popular



Whitney Shay: “You could hear the audiences applaud.”

fairgrounds. It was one example of where live music might be heading in these pandemic times. Social-distancing was achieved through attendees staying in their own vehicles.

The project was the brainchild of Josh Jose Williford, who owns the Acoustic Spot Talent agency. Ryan Hiller opened the show, which charged an entry fee of \$80 per car, with a limit of six patrons per vehicle.

How did the show go?

“They got about 65 or 70 cars,” Shay answered, “which I think was a pretty decent turnout, considering we only had it confirmed for a short period of time before the concert, and they had to acquire permits and bring in a stage and lighting. I think it was a great success, and the people who were there really loved it.”

What was it like performing live again in front of an audience?

“Oh my god, it felt so good just to be able to perform with a full band again (Laura Chavez and Joe Amato on guitars, Jodie Hill on bass, Tony Econom on drums) even though it was a little weird not being able to see who was out there.”

How did the audience interaction thing go?

as artists, we love to have the feedback. That’s a big part of why we do it.”

Everyone in the band seemed to be safely distanced from each other, but I was curious about what kind of precautions they took in the rehearsals leading up to the show.

“We did do a few rehearsals beforehand in an open-air garage, and everyone social distanced and wore masks. We were trying to be as safe as possible. No one wants to get sick.”

Before the pandemic hit, Shay was completing her second European tour (and her first since she signed with the German label Ruf Records.) I was curious how that went.

“It was amazing. We played 26 shows in 30 days. This was the most extensive touring I’ve done so far. It was awesome to see the love for American music in Europe. And the venues we got to perform in were incredible.”

She arrived home on the first of March, and played her last gig at Humphreys on the 14th of that month. Since then, gigs of any kind have been few and far between. One of her last performances was right before the 4th of July. She awoke the next day to discover her car was broken into



Sugar World’s Katryn Macko “was secretly a big fan girl when I heard the music [bandmate Ryan Stanley] was recording in his bedroom, and I felt very lucky to scoop him up.”

different scenes throughout the US, and some in Europe.

But, in 2016, before they had completed a full-length album, Naps was history. Stanley relocated to Southern California in 2017 and Macko arrived a year later. They initially lived in Temecula but soon after relocated to San Marcos. They continued their southern migration when they landed at their current digs in Normal Heights. They are once again songwrit-

dreamier,” Macko chimed in. “I think it’s a little more polished, and the songs we’ve put out so far aren’t really the weirder songs. They’re a little bit more mellow, but the subject matter, especially with our new song ‘Time to Kill,’ is a little more mature. Just getting older and having a different view of the world you start writing about things other than break-ups. At least for me, my songwriting has been very different subject-matter-

styles,” Stanley said. “A lot of artists are writing for the stage, and I am interested to see if a lot of those artists will end up adapting to a more moody or subdued sound because of the current world situation — or creating albums intended to be listened to more at home.”

— Dryw Keltz

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



RIVER SULTAN

Born Fadi Masad, River Sultan - who grew up in Jordan, San Diego, and Egypt - says he tells personal stories about the human experience, where east meets west, using synthesizers, drum machines, guitars, bass, and piano. He chose to change his name to remind himself that he is in control and the ruler of his own destiny. "The name 'River' always captivated me. It is my favorite western name. Very mystical, constantly flowing. I chose 'Sultan' to always remind myself of the power that I hold. A reminder that I can overcome any situation, no matter how difficult.

I don't see myself regal or better than anyone else, but I am the sultan of my own inner kingdom that I've created." Sultan says he used to hold everything in, to the point that he couldn't cry for several years. Now, for every trauma he goes through and overcomes, a new song is born. He released his first single "Purple Shelter" during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. A new single called "Falling Out Of Time" is due October 9. According to Sultan, "I cried through every step of the process making this song. With every note and sound I added, I was in complete tears."



HEY, CHELS

Hey, Chels was founded by Jacque Mendez (New Way On) on vocals and electric piano, Stephanie Presz (the Newports) on drums, Kevin White (Squarecrow, Londons Falling) on guitar, and Ricky Schmidt (Western Settings, Caskitt) on bass. Their debut self-titled 2018 EP was produced by Patrick Ryan Heaney (Cage the Elephant, Cold War Kids, the War On Drugs), and their full-length *Everything Goes*, recorded by Pat Hills at Earthtone Studios in Sacramento, premiered online for free this past May. So far during the pandemic, they've been unable to promote it much, other than producing a video for the album track "You've Got You

Now." Brainworm Records is releasing a charity 4-way split vinyl 7-inch, *Shine A Light Volume 1*, featuring Hey, Chels along with Typesetter (Chicago, IL), Sunshine State (Gainesville, FL), and Lousy Advice (Sacramento, CA). All proceeds will be donated to the Color of Change online racial justice organization, dedicated to designing "campaigns powerful enough to end practices that unfairly hold black people back, and champion solutions that move us all forward." Limited to 300 copies on vinyl, purchase includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE HENSON, COURTESY SUSAN NARUCKI



SUSAN NARUCKI

Opera and chamber music singer Susan Narucki has given over one hundred world premieres, and collaborated with composers including Andriessen, Kurtág, Carter, Dusapin, and Crumb. She has appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Netherlands Opera, San Francisco Symphony, MET Chamber Ensemble, on the Great Performers Series at Lincoln Center, and has performed at Carnegie Hall with conductors such as Boulez, Levine, Salonen, Tilson Thomas, de Leeuw, and Knussen. As a recording artist, her album *The Light that Is Felt: Songs of Charles Ives* (New World), recorded with pianist Donald

Berman, was selected as Editor's Choice by *BBC Music Magazine*. She earned a Latin Grammy nomination in 2017 for her bi-national chamber opera about the human trafficking of women across the U.S.-Mexico border, *Cuatro Corridos*, released as an album the previous year. Narucki's performance in the 2018 stage production of *Inheritance*, playing Sarah Winchester of the Winchester repeating rifle family, can be heard on a newly released soundtrack album put out by Albany Records. She sings from compositions by Lei Liang, with whom she worked on *Cuatro Corridos*.



PRAYERS

Electronic cholo goth rockers Prayers, now pared down to a duo featuring Leafar Seyer and Dave Parley, have developed a visual iconography that can be described as Mad Max villains emerging from a violent sandstorm in order to invoke the devil. They have released a new single and video called "CHOLOANI." Filmed in high desert of central Tseewahktehlahn, the oral history in video form features Teypohs'weepeehl (Iron Jacket), a member of the Chichimeca tribe who shares the history of modern day cholo subculture from its cholani origin. Says Seyer, "The *yauh'kweehkahtseehntleeh* or sacred opposition song that

Teypohs'weepeehl sings is over 30,000 years old and has not been heard for 300 years by anyone outside of the few remaining, language speaking, traditional Cheecheemehkah who have still kept this tradition and custom." The Cheecheemekah Kwacheekay warrior society went underground after the scalplock bans of the 16th century, and then became the choloani of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, later evolving into the cholo of the 20th century. Another new song and video for "La Vida Es Un Sueno" drops September 30.



SKYLER LUTES

Based in Ocean Beach, multi-instrumentalist Skyler Lutes has played with various local outfits, including island rockers the Makua Rothman Band, punk noisemakers Defamation League, Riverside-based Everything Said, and Voice contestant Aquile. He released an acoustic EP in 2013, *One Thousand Hours*, while building up his home studio and recording there with locals like Through the Roots and Chris Leyva's Falling Doves. 2016 saw the release of his reggae-influenced *After the Rain* album, followed by a European tour with Falling Doves. Earlier this year, Lutes signed to

local Pacific Records and released a new single, "Suspect." A full-length is due on October 30, *Blue*, a track-by-track recast of the iconic Weezer album. Pacific has several other releases planned for the remainder of 2020, including a new Falling Doves single that drops this week called "Be My Lover" and an album from the original Starfires, *Fly Me Away*, coming October 16. L.A.-based rapper Kubota just dropped a single for "You Are," with a new still-untitled track due via Pacific on November 6.

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Sunday, 4pm & 8pm — Concerts In Your Car: DJ Snoopadelic aka DJ Snoop Dog.

Off Broadway Live:

Thursday & Friday, 6pm — Encore Tribute: America & Bread.

Online Internet Events:

Friday, 2pm — Corey Taylor: Forum Or Against 'Em.

Friday, 6:30pm — Tim Norton Livestream From SLO Brew.

Free.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Belly Up Livestream: Woodstock 51.

Saturday, 1pm — Josh Groban Livestream.

Saturday, 7pm — Rock & Roll San Diego Keep Rockin' Fest.

Free.

Sunday, 4:30pm — Duets: Allison Adams Tucker & Abe Lagrimas Jr. Free.

Monday, 7:30pm — Athenaeum Jazz: Nowhereland.

Tuesday, 3pm — Creekside Music Hall Show with Scott Guberman. Free.

Tuesday, 8pm — Nectar Virtual Concert Series: BearAxe. Free.

Wednesday, 6pm — Suzanne Vega Live From the Blue Note Jazz Club.

Soda Bar:

Wednesday, 8pm — Lilly Hiatt and Logan Ledger.

Starlight Theater:

Friday, 8pm — Summer of '69 Concert. \$10.

Saturday, 8pm — Stevie "E" & The LCB Band. \$10.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Haydn Voyages: Inhale,

Exhale The fall return of Haydn Voyages series is an adventurous mix of old and new. Haydn will be joined on this concert by two of today's most compelling composers: Hannah Lash (her 2009 work Frayed) and a world

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Voice of unreason

The postmodern politics of power are now trying to dump their sloppy thought processes onto Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, an article at vox.com claims.

"Beethoven's Fifth Symphony starts with an anguished opening theme — *dun dun dun DUNNNN* — and ends with a glorious, major-key melody. Since its 1808 premiere, audiences have interpreted that progression from struggle to victory as a metaphor for Beethoven's personal resilience in the face of his oncoming deafness.

"Or rather, that's long been the popular read among those in power, especially the wealthy white men who embraced Beethoven and turned his symphony into a symbol of their superiority and importance. For some in other groups — women, LGBTQ+ people, people of color — Beethoven's symphony may be predominantly a reminder of classical music's history of exclusion and elitism."

Let's apply some common sense to the atrocious content of this article. To start, the opening theme of Beethoven's *Fifth* is not anguished. Once could argue that the opening of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* is anguished, but the *Fifth Symphony*? No.

The opening is stern, ominous, dreadful, or threatening, but not anguished. The fact that the authors used the term "anguished" immediately tells me they have not thoroughly listened to Beethoven's music.

At its premiere in 1808, the concert was considered, "unsatisfactory in every respect" by the influential publication *Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung*. The idea of this symphony being about "Beethoven's personal resilience in the face of his oncoming deafness" became popular only after Beethoven's death and the discovery of what is called the *Heiligenstadt Testament*.

The *Heiligenstadt Testament* was what amounts to a suicide note Beethoven wrote to his brothers in 1802. His *Third Symphony*, written in 1803-1804, was the result of Beethoven coming to terms with his deafness.

The *Fifth Symphony* is clearly about revolution, social revolution, as it references popular French Revolution songs in the finale movement. The *Fifth* wasn't received well in Vienna, but when it was premiered in Paris, the audience



The short-short-short-long rhythmic pattern corresponded in Morse code to the letter 'V' for Victory.

immediately recognized the tone of this revolutionary symphony.

Now let's address, "... the wealthy white men who embraced Beethoven and turned his symphony into a symbol of their superiority and importance." In my opinion, this is an egregious begging of the question. How about a few names, besides Hitler, of white men who used this music as a symbol of their superiority? Maybe the authors are referencing the Allied command of WWII, as they used the opening of Beethoven's *Fifth* as a Morse code-like symbol of "V" for "Victory" and thereby created a symbol of their superior military forces? If you are going to make a statement that white men have turned Beethoven's *Fifth* into a symbol of power, you must provide evidence of how that happened.

Claiming that classical music is exclusive and elitist tells me the authors are not frequent guests of classical music concerts. Later in the article, they complain about the rules of going to a symphonic concert. Has anyone noticed that there is an announcement at the beginning of movies that tells the audience not to ruin the movie by talking? That's ok, but expecting a classical music audience member to not ruin the concert by talking is elitist?

Very rarely does anyone clap or cheer in the middle of the movie. Every now and then it will happen at a premiere but, for the most part, no one claps or cheers at movies.

Are the movies now elitist and exclusive? Of course not. Everyone at the movie pretty much understands that clapping, cheering, and talking is rude at the movies. The same thing is true of classical music. It isn't about elitism, it's about respecting the context in which you find yourself.



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premiere by Joshua Roman, commissioned for the Hausmann Quartet. Beethoven turns 250 this year, but his music sounds as fresh, experimental and powerful as ever; his *Serioso* quartet anchors this program's exploration of contrast, breath, tension and release. The season opens with an evocative California adventure featuring a mix of music, pairing two Haydn masterpieces with works suggestive of our own time and place. Terry Riley's *Good Medicine Dance* is the final segment of his epic *Salome Dances for Peace*, which updates the legend of *Salome* to today (or at least to 1987). Caroline Shaw's *Valencia* is an ode to the common supermarket orange, but also in the composer's words "a kind of celebra-

tion of awareness of the natural, unadorned food that is still available to us." Refreshments will be available at the upper deck bar starting at 3 pm, as well as after each concert for a chance to mingle with performers and audience members. Sunday, October 4, 4pm; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive.

San Diego Master Choral:

Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Lift Ev'ry Voice wasn't written just to empower and/or encourage a group of people who are constantly oppressed and dehumanized. It is also a bold statement of present-day victory. Sunday, October 4, 2pm; <https://sdmasterchorale.ticketspice.com/sdmasterchoralefallvirtuallseries>.

Foxy grandpa

The copyright that trails Robert De Niro's first theatrical release since *The Irishman* reads 2017. But it wasn't until earlier this year that the picture swept cinemas in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States before holding its DVD premiere last month in Germany. The actor hasn't appeared in anything even remotely suitable for the entire family film since *Stardust*, a film so putrescent that it occasioned a rare early exit. Thankfully, *The War With Grandpa* did not merit a similar fate.

MOVIES

Age has not withered the actor's fiduciary duty. In his latest run for the paycheck, De Niro stars as Ed, a retired architect whose impudence — a dispute over an automated checkout system leads to his kickboxing a grocer — almost ends in a robbery arrest. Remember when De Niro and Uma Thurman were lovers in *Mad Dog and Glory*? A mere 27 years later finds their 27-year age difference put to more practical use in a father-daughter relationship. It's at Sally's (Thurman) insistence that the reluctant Ed moves in with her family.

The story is based on Robert Kimmel Smith's bestselling children's novel; the family it presents is strictly standard issue. There's husband Arthur (Rob Riggle), genial until pushed, which is generally around the point when Ed starts calling him "Artie." Each grandchild gets carved off a unique character trait and an individual slice of subplot. Little Jennifer (Poppy Gagnon), the apple of Ed's eye, is a Christmas addict; she has a reindeer on her back. The B-story involving sister Mia (Laura Marano) finds the teenager in a constant state of denial after getting caught in mid-makeout with her boyfriend. But it's young Peter (Oakes Fegley) whose anger kicks off the so-called conflict. In an effort to make room for pop-pop, this boy's life is upended: a grudge match begins between the little focker and dirty grandpa after Ed inadvertently causes his grandson's resettlement from bedroom to attic.

Admittedly, the upstairs loft could have used a visit from the Orkin Man. (Is the appearance of a bat in the rafters a tribute to America's foremost grandpa, Al "Munster" Lewis?) But putting myself in Peter's place, the privacy and added space the attic affords make it a much more desirable location. Still, there's a plot in need of motivation. No matter: in the lad's eyes, grandpa took something from him, and he wants it back. What begins with a mini-beat box attached to a remote control car and foam sealant made up to look like shaving cream soon escalates into drone attacks and what

could be the most memorable round of dodgeball ever staged before a green screen. Poor Thurman spends most of her time caught in the crossfire; fortunately, De Niro has brought a few other friends in to play along: Cheech Marin, Jane Seymour, and Christopher Walken, all of whom appear to be having the time of their life as they square off with Peter and his pals for a game of whammies. And you're going to have to trust me on this: it's worth the price of admission just to hear Walken say, "Of course I do."

Look for a brief cameo from *Goodfellas*' Jimmy Conway: while drawing up the rules of war, Ed cautions Peter to always keep his mouth shut and never rat on his gramps. On another note, an exchange of condiment squirts to the crotch and a running gag involving Arthur spying Ed's junk may find parents covering youngsters' eyes and film critics looking at their watches. On the other hand, there is an anti-war message to compensate for all the aggressive behavior, even though the one who stands to profit the most from this film is De Niro's stunt double. ★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

The Swerve — High school teacher Holly (Azura Skye) appears to command the respect of her students, her husband Rob (Bryce Pinkham) is set for a promotion at work, and their two sons seem to be relatively well-adjusted. That makes it even harder to shake the close-up on her bloody hands tightened around a steering wheel that greets us. One look in Holly's worn-down eyes, and it's a good bet her pursuit of the American dream is killing her. Also that the nuclear family she works so hard to hold together is about to go atomic. Darkness falls quickly as both husband and wife trade infidelities: Rob with an employee, Holly with a (gulp!) student. The titular road maneuver is executed by Holly on the ride home from a particularly humiliating confrontation with her mother and sister. A pair of young thugs pull alongside, tossing beer cans and invectives her way. In an instant, the headlights fade to black, leaving the car and its contents silenced in a ditch. A relentlessly unshakable (albeit unpleasant) ride, particularly when filmmaker Dean Kapsalis slaloms around audience expectation, something he skillfully accomplishes for the first two-thirds of the picture. And even when a predictive power swerves the conclusion in the direction of foreseeability, Skye's redoubt-



The War with Grandpa: And the Mamaluke of the Year award goes to... Robert De Niro!

able presence is there to guide us. If there's been a better performance this year by anyone, male or female, please point me in its direction. 2019 — S.M. ★★★

This is Paris — Hers might not have been the first celebrity sex tape leaked to an eager public, but credit media personality Paris Hilton for holding the title "Architect of the Selfie." A 24/7 walking fashion show — she's to blame for the Kardashians' "reality world" despoiling — Hilton's road to success is paved with runways and catwalks, a practice on display every time she exits the house. (If you thought Jerry Lewis' refusal to re-wear socks and underpants made him a clothing wastrel, brace yourself: our celebrity hotel heiress has never been photographed in the same outfit twice.) Hilton's goal is to keep working until her bank account tops \$1 billion. Her current job as globe-trotting DJ to the masses proves she's no dummy — she's the #1 female DJ in the world. If someone is goofy enough to pay the famous-for-being-famous eternal debutante \$1 million to mix live, she's smart enough to know the road to Fort Knox is paved with belly-laughs. She insists that the character we see on TV is just that: a character; yet all the whining, drama, and boundless "pay attention to me" appeals suggest the contrary. Not until the conversation shifts to reckless years of teenage insurrection (and the grievous comeuppance it wrought) do glimmers of compassion begin flashing through the cracks of her public persona. (Having lived a life before a camera, frequently the one in her phone, it's no surprise that Hilton follows a similar digital path when it comes to therapy.) Remember when bad behavior resulted in mom and dad threatening to ship you off to military school? What slipshod process of elimination did Kathy and Richard Hilton consult when making good on their promise to send their daughter to the Provo Canyon

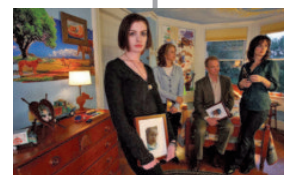
School, an "Emotional Growth School" aimed at helping rich families looking to discourage rebellion among their offspring? The film ends with a reunion of sorts between Hilton and several of her abused classmates. Filming began in October 2019, and the cynic in me couldn't help but chuckle when Hilton opened the pic with, "When I first started

this film, I honestly don't even recognize that person anymore." One year, and the person you once were is suddenly out of focus? Ha! The joke's on me. This tour of Paris was a necessary journey after all. Alexandra Dean (*Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*) goes 2 for 2 with another captivating celebrity biodoc. Watch it free on YouTube. 2020. — S.M. ★★★



RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (2008)

This week's selections represent the best 2008 had to offer, starting with an invitation to the wedding of the decade. For more on *Rachel Getting Married* and high praise for *Il Divo* and *Tony Manero*, visit us online. Many were quick to complain about Jonathan Demme casting a feature film as if it were a United Nations of Benetton commercial, but *Rachel Getting Married* shows more emotion and compassion — combined with a genuine understanding and appreciation of the fabric of humanity — than the director's previous five features combined. In one of the decade's most durable performances, Anne



Rachel Getting Married: maybe so, but sister Kym (Anne Hathaway) is the center of attention.

Hathaway plays a career substance abuser (and worse) given a three-day pass from rehab in order to attend her sister's wedding. Taking the title at face value, audiences went in expecting a JLo or Julia kind of reception. What they got was a largely improvised weekend with an acutely dysfunctional family

that proved more honest and emotionally complex than anything the studios would dare greenlight. Because he's never one to judge or wag fingers, Demme's

heartfelt cinema comes close to carrying on the tradition of Jean Renoir and Leo McCarey. And as much as one might decry shaky-cam and improvised dialogue as a lazy-person's approach to storytelling, Demme shut down my complaints with his incorporation of both. After squirming through the opening scene, the hand-held approach became virtually unnoticeable, except for those extraordinary moments when the technique took a turn for the poetic.

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PERSONALS

ELISSA L. Hope you have a good and healthy year to come. Brian B.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION—JESUS "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ (Jesus) died for us" & "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

GOOD LUCK IN 2020 to president Trump.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Jamie Lee and Traci Sloan from your friends Cindy and John, we love you.

MERNIE Start the car. Hope all is well. Brian B.

RFK BUNG OR CORN... It's all holio. The games were almost as grueling as the pushup penance. Sunday was another testament to passing along aged wisdom

to the youngsters, only lacking a 'pretty hair' comment from Brian. Looking forward to November, Hibachi?



FELIZ CUMPLEANOS, HERMOSA Te deseo lo mejor hoy, manana, y siempre. No encuentro las palabras perfectas para decirte lo much que me importas y lo mucho que te quiero. Solo se que fuiste amor a primera vista, eres, y lo sera siempre. Muahh! Samy and Doobie also love you.

FALLING SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY "For all have sinned (missed the mark) and fall short of the glory of God" and "...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." CMR

STILL WANT TO HEAR FROM Ema Carney aka Emaja, times like these, nice to hear from old friends. Contact Desi (619) 981-4873.

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SERENDIPITY in this monochromatic world, you, are the kaleidoscope with which I see...

W. TOOTHMAN How you live your life is on you. If you have to hide it, that's on you, as well! MJ

TO SCOTT Who are you? Thank you for the flowers when my cat past away. Karen (858) 486-0933, leave a message.

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FRIENDS OF JAMES HARPER (JIM) Please call Jim's family: Ann, Jennifer, Jamie. (619) 917-6975

NOTICES

GINSBURG— WHO SHE WAS Not what the media said. She held on to her bench for one reason only— did not want Trump to name her replacement. She hoped to stay on this earth until after the election. She made known her dislike of him so it was political, not acting in justice.

AMERICA DISTRUCTION America will destroy itself from within; look at the burning and looting and break down of law and order in city's and towns Seattle, Chicago, Oregon, to name a few, and no one will stop it, all afraid.

JT PRODUCTIONS YOUTUBE "10 pm", "chasing the dope dragon", "mambo de momento", "not here for you", "here comes the sun", "perro gigante". (619) 528-0907

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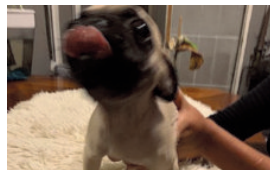
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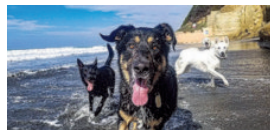
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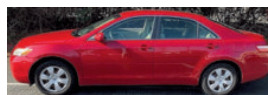


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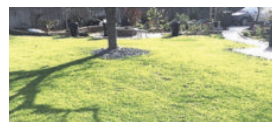
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36 San Diego Reader October 1, 2020

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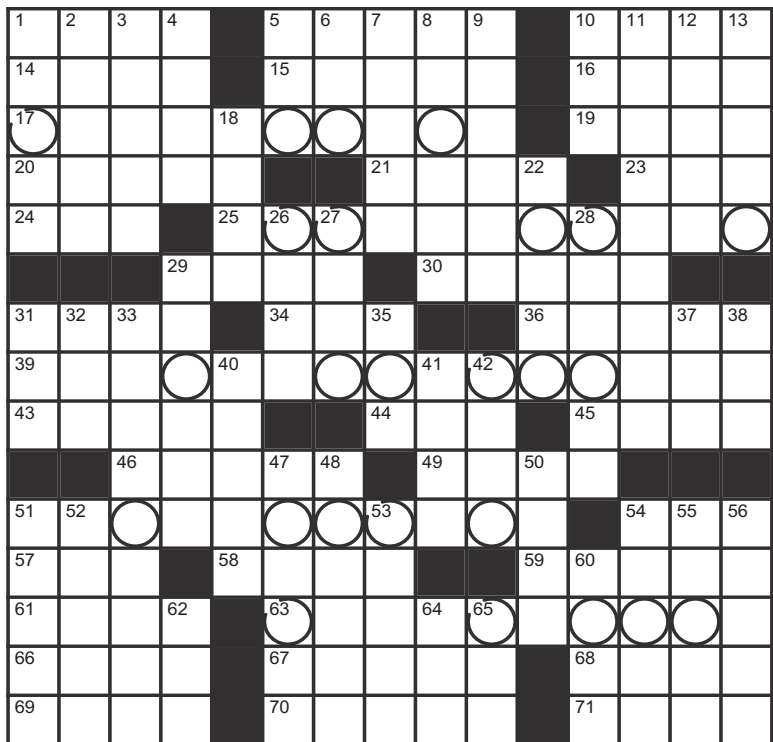
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Across

1. Yellow or chocolate dogs
5. Easy _____
10. Pokémon that evolves to Kadabra
14. Overabundance
15. One of the Obamas
16. Only graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize (awarded 1992)
17. Headline: "Florida Man" is '80s singer!!
19. Swedish pop quartet that won the 1974 Eurovision contest
20. Off-limits
21. Berlin's _____ Nationalgalerie
23. Yang's partner
24. Alphabet run
25. Headline: "Florida Man" is beloved film character!!
29. Prefix with novela
30. Jason of "How I Met Your Mother"
31. "When _____ eat?"
34. Funny Gasteyer
36. Actress Linney of Netflix's "Ozark"
39. Headline: "Florida Man" is folk legend!!
43. TALK LIKE THIS!
44. _____ gow poker
45. Law firm figs.
46. Mountain ridge
49. Large selfie snapper
51. Headline: "Florida Man" is

tennis star!!

54. Prez who said "Repetition does not transform a lie into the truth"
57. "Wha?"
58. Variety
59. "Buh-bye!"
61. Mineralogists study them
63. Headline: "Florida Man" is two-time Booker Prize nominee!!
66. "Me neither"
67. Not estos or esos
68. Group led by Master Splinter, initially
69. French/Belgian river
70. Zachary, for daiquiri, e.g.
71. Sonic the Hedgehog creator

Down

1. Rainbow flag letters
2. "Are you calling me _____?"
3. Light sources
4. D-Day invasion city
5. Latin "I love"
6. Cul-de-_____
7. Bad thing to spring
8. Polish rolls
9. "No way!"
10. Org. for docs
11. Dreamy eyes, informally
12. Florida senator Marco
13. Yoga pose
18. Days of _____

22. Philadelphia NFLer
26. Skin care brand that sounds like a cheer
27. WWE legend John
28. Didn't buy, say
29. New professor's goal
31. Dance club VIPs
32. "That's going to leave a mark!"
33. "Just one cotton-pickin' minute!"
35. Tinder or Venmo
37. Like core courses: Abbr.
38. Podcast interruptions
40. Modern mil. treaty violation
41. Two queens, e.g.
42. "New Rules" singer Dua
47. Julie with two Tonys for "The Lion King"
48. One good at reading emotions
50. Org.
51. Kind of person Holden Caulfield detests
52. Continental cash
53. Katy who voiced Smurfette in "The Smurfs"
54. _____ fatale
55. Like a phone down to 1%
56. Jamaican who follows Jah
60. Digs in
62. Title for Daniel Day-Lewis
64. Seaver or Selleck
65. Advert's ending?

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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- 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.

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 12.

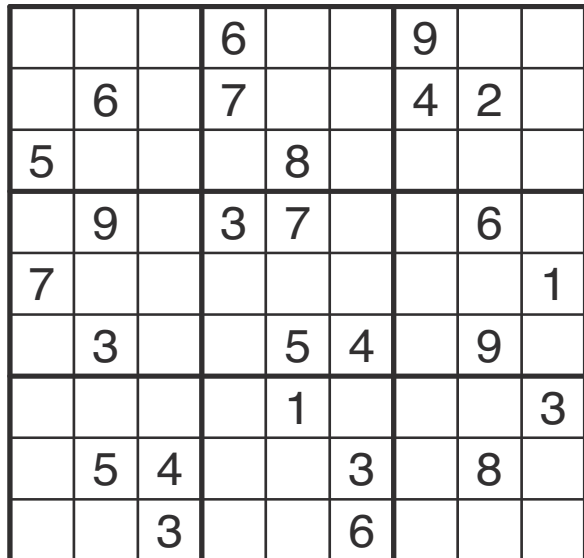
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

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Machiko Yagami, San Diego, 1.

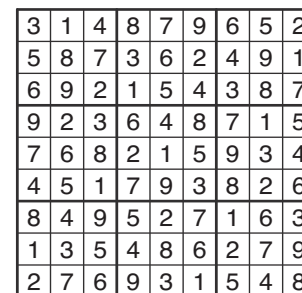
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone # _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



NEWS TICKER

continued from page 4

when it must choose from among similarly rated applicants, limiting transparency in its admissions decisions.”

State auditor Howle lays much of the blame for the system-wide problems on university leadership. “The Office of the President has allowed the weaknesses in these practices to persist because it has not conducted adequate oversight of campuses’ admissions processes. Although it conducted an internal review of admissions processes after the recent nationwide college admissions scandal, the Office of the President relied heavily on campuses to review themselves and did not attempt to identify inappropriate admissions activity. Stronger standards and oversight are necessary to improve the university’s ability to guarantee a fair and merit-based admissions process and to detect and prevent inappropriate admissions decisions.”

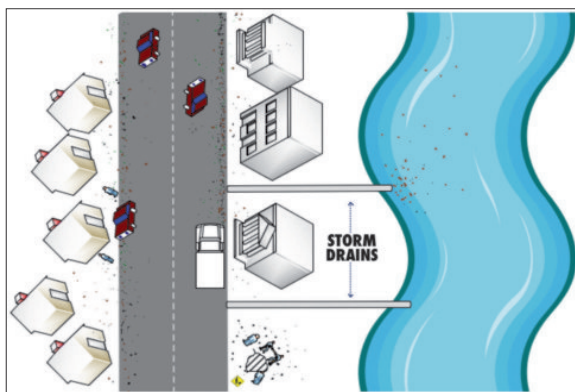
Matt Potter

Streets trashed by garbage

Audit issues

sweeping condemnation

An avalanche of trash and pollutants is threatening San Diego streets and watersheds during the waning days of Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s tenure, and the reasons for the mess including chronic street sweeping negligence, per a report by interim city auditor Kyle Elser. “Route priorities and sweeping frequencies have not been updated in approximately five years,” says a performance audit of the city’s Transportation and Stormwater Department’s Street Sweeping Section, released September 22. “Many routes’ debris levels do not correlate with their respective priority levels. In fact, the priority level is often opposite what it should be,” the document says. “We found that sweeping in Los Peñasquitos and Tijuana River watershed areas is not prioritized. Comparing debris with route priorities



Example of how a sweeper removes debris before the debris travels through the storm drain to waterways. Source: OCA generated based on Tecolote Watershed Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan

in these two watershed areas, many routes with high debris are designated as low priority. Specifically, of the 86 routes with high debris in our sample, 11 of 17 of Los Peñasquitos routes are designated as low priority. Two of three of Tijuana River’s high debris routes are also designated as low priority. Because most of these routes are designated as low priority, they also have lower planned sweeping frequencies.”

Much of the problem was laid by auditors to a host of

outdated management metrics and practices, including manual data-keeping, that the city has been slow to change, the report says. “We found that some routes with relatively high amounts of debris are swept less frequently than optimal, while at the same time, other routes with relatively low amounts of debris are swept at a higher than optimal frequency. This likely reduces the total amount of sweeping street debris collected,” according to the audit. “Although routes changes have been

made over time, likely as a result of staff observations and community input, they have not been adjusted using data that will allow for a global analysis. The limited ability to make timely adjustments affects Street Sweeping’s potential to reduce the maximum amount pollutants possible from entering San Diego’s waterways, thus increasing potential harm to wildlife, native vegetation, as well as recreation areas,” auditors warned.

Per the document, “Street Sweeping’s current key performance indicator—annual miles swept—does not reflect the effectiveness at achieving its purpose, removing debris and sediment from City streets. Our observations show that routes vary in miles swept and that the number of miles swept does not necessarily correlate with the amount of debris collected. Additionally, Street Sweeping has kept the same target number of annual miles swept, even though this goal has not

been met in the past four fiscal years.” The audit recommends increasing the number of street sweeping routes which have signs advising motorists that their cars will be ticketed if parked on city streets during specified towing hours, a practice previously resisted by management. “Street Sweeping states that adding posted routes requires budget approval to cover initial first-year costs that involves staff working with other departments, filling new parking enforcement staff positions, getting new equipment, posting of the new signs (materials and labor), and initial public outreach and flyer.”

A September 11 memo to Elser from Transportation & Stormwater director Kris McFadden did not dispute the audit’s findings, but suggested changes to past practices may be costly. “Future budget requests will be made accordingly and will compete with future General Fund priorities.”

Matt Potter



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Wait, What?

— Cynthia Lynn Teeple, 47, of Jacksboro, Tennessee, was charged with public intoxication after Campbell County Sheriff's deputies found her topless in a LaFollette backyard with two miniature horses on Aug. 30, according to authorities. WLAF reported the homeowner told deputies Teeple had been eating grass and dirt from the horse enclosure, and also chewed on one of the horses' manes. Teeple then volunteered that "the horse's hair is made of Laffy Taffy and Air-head candy," according to the arrest report, and admitted she had taken methamphetamine the day before.

Ewwwww

— An unnamed 17-year-old girl in Bokaro, India underwent surgery on Aug. 31 to remove a 15-pound hairball from her stomach following years of obsessive hair-chewing, *Metro News* reported. A team of doctors led by Dr. G.N. Sahu initially thought the mass was a tumor, but discovered the hairball during the six-hour surgery. The girl was reported to be in stable condition following the procedure.

Awesome!

— World War II veteran Suttie Economy, 94, of Roanoke, Virginia, developed a taste for Juicy Fruit gum during the war and is well-known around town for passing out sticks of his favorite flavor to everyone he meets. Now, CNN reports, Economy has been granted his dying wish: to be buried in a casket painted to look like a package of

Juicy Fruit. After initially having his request for permission turned down, Economy's friend Sammy Oakey, owner of Oakey's Funeral Service, received a call from a Mars Wrigley company vice president approving the use of its logo. The company even delivered 250 packs of gum to Economy's family. Meanwhile, Economy is living at the Virginia Veterans Care Clinic, where his health is improving.

Irony

— Bounty Cheramy, 22, smelling of alcohol and swaying back and forth, was arrested and charged with drunk driving on Aug. 30 after his Mazda allegedly struck an electronic traffic sign flashing the message, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," according to a police affidavit. Officers in Port Charlotte, Florida, said Cheramy told them he had been on his phone and "suddenly struck something" but was unsure what it was. His car sustained heavy front-end damage, and the nearby sign was wrecked, *The Smoking Gun* reported. The affidavit also noted Cheramy recorded a blood alcohol content twice the legal limit in two breath tests.

Bright Ideas

— In Botswana, cattle are left to graze and roam during the day, but that makes them vulnerable to attacks by lions, leopards and other carnivores, so two conservation biologists from the University of New South Wales in Australia have come up with an idea to allow both cattle and cats to co-exist, NPR reported. Because big cats hunt

using the element of surprise, the biologists came up with a way to make the predators believe they'd been seen by their prey and then abandon the hunt. "We tested this by painting one-third of a cattle herd with artificial eye spots (on their backsides)," explained Cameron Radford, and over four years, "none of the cows that we painted with artificial eye spots were killed by ambush predators." Village chiefs and native farmers "look forward to us coming back and painting more eyes on bums," Radford said.

Least Competent Criminals

— John Travis Ross, 33, and Joshua Ray Corban, 18, were charged with conspiracy and attempting to smuggle contraband into the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Mississippi, after a drone they used as a delivery device became tangled in a net above the prison fence, according to a Department of Corrections statement. The Associated Press reported the drone was caught on Aug. 26 and carried 2 ounces of marijuana, a cellphone, cigarette lighters, phone chargers and headphones, corrections commissioner Burl Cain said. Investigators were able to trace the drone's flight and discovered security video showing the men launching it. Cain said officials plan to reprogram the drone and use it at the state's maximum-security prison in Parchman.

Suspicious Confirmed— Brittany Keech of Belding, Michigan, got an unexpected bit of news with her mail on Sept.

8. "Sitting right on top of the mail," she told WXMI, was a postcard dated 100 years ago – Oct. 29, 1920. "Yeah, that's a little too slow," Keech said. The Halloween greeting from young Flossie Burgess was addressed to her cousins: "I just finished my history lesson and am going to bed pretty soon." A USPS spokesperson said, "In most cases ... old letters and postcards – sometimes purchased at flea markets, antique shops and even online – are re-entered into our system ... (and) as long as there is a deliverable address and postage, the card or letter gets delivered."

Mother Tongue

— The Scots Wikipedia is the world's largest open-access compendium of the Scots language, which has been enjoying something of a comeback recently, according to *The Guardian*, but controversy has arisen since it was revealed that a teenager from North Carolina, who does not speak Scots, is responsible for creating or editing nearly half the entries. Responding to the criticism, the unidentified 19-year-old expressed remorse "after years of my thinking I was doing good. I was only a 12-year-old kid when I started."

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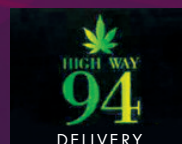
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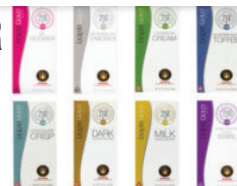
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Select Vapes

OG Kush
\$100 oz
or
56G \$180

Brass Monkey
Crumble Shatter
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4G \$70

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FREE
Flower +
Goodie Bag

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FREE
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\$5/GRAM

Private Reserve
\$8/GRAM

Exclusive
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Exotic Shelf
4G **\$50**
10G **\$100**

Exotic Smalls
210 oz **\$210**
110 1/2-oz **\$110**
7G **\$55**

OZ Specials
\$40/\$60/\$80

Simple Pleasures
\$30
(1000mg Gummies)

AK 47 & Bubba Kush
2 oz **\$150**
(Many more strains available! Call for details!)

Presidential Shelf
\$280 OZ

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(reg. \$160!)

Exotic Shake
\$50 oz
3 ozs **\$100**

Gold Shatter
\$15

Rove Carts
\$20

\$20
& H.H. Vapes

Shatter
\$10/GRAM

White Fire Budder
\$35

5 Raw Garden Carts
\$100

STIIZY
\$30 Pods

Medibles
\$15 (300mg)

\$40
(1G Vapes)

7 for \$100
(100mg Edible)

Volcanic Crumble
6G **\$100**

Moonrocks
\$20/GRAM

7 for \$100

KINGPEN
DAB WOODS EXOTIC ROVE

Mystery Baking Black Label Bar
\$35
(1000mg Edible)



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\$25 (300mg)
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\$25/G
• 4G \$80

\$30/G
• 4G \$100

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SAUCE:
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SHATTER:**
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2G/\$45
3G/\$60
5G/\$90

**BABYLONS GARDEN
CRUMBLE & HASH**
5G/\$99

**DANK WOODS
BLUNTS \$25 EA!**

**HURRICANE
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14G/\$140
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7G/\$50
14G/\$90
28G/\$180
20Z/\$325

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STIIIZY \$20

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DEMON \$35 /OZ**

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**MOONROCK CARTS
2 FOR \$45**

\$30 1/8THS
(3.5 grams of flower)

**BRASS
MONKEY
SHATTER 5G \$75**

CARTS 3 FOR \$50
Mix & Match several options

**CRUMBLE
3G \$40**

**PRIVATE RESERVE
\$100 /OZ**

**TOP
SHELF \$35 /OZ**

KIEF 2G \$10

**GUMMIES
5 FOR \$35 (500mg)**

**GOLD
SHATTER \$15**

**EXCLUSIVE
INDOOR
SHAKE \$50 /OZ**

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SHAKE \$25 /OZ**

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