

Ho Ho No! Christmas without *The Nutcracker*

Gary Wilson's *Tormented* ■ Best pizza in America

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 45 | NO. 51 | DECEMBER 17, 2020

Reader

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LETTERS

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

Zoo-ish proposal

I just read Thomas K. Arnold's article ("Boo for the Zoo," Cover Stories, December 3). Well, Mr. Arnold, boo for you. The zoo was designed and re-designed for the animals' self safety and happiness, not for yours.

You mentioned you missed 36 cages of monkeys. I doubt that the monkeys miss them. I think they much prefer their new habitat. You mentioned being able to throw things – just food? – at the gorilla and how much fun that was. Are you kidding? For whom? And I doubt that everything tossed in their enclosure was healthy for them.

I remember seeing the giraffes at the Cincinnati Zoo and at the San Diego Safari Park and it was fun. But I prefer the separation for the safety of the animals. A lot of separation is probably to avoid lawsuits. Remember the innocent mother whose son climbed over the barricade to the gorillas. The gorillas paid a very high price for her carelessness.

I'm excited about the new Children's Zoo. It was getting a bit outdated and will be a much improved experience. Yes, the zoo should be educational. Every time I go, which is often, I hear a parent say oh, ... No, that's a giraffe, or look a tiger. Nope, a lion. I'm not exaggerating; these are quotes. The complaints about not seeing the animals – you're not looking. Some are nocturnal, of course, but others have private spots, and all you have to do is spend a few moments looking. I make it a game with our grandchildren. When

they find the animal, they earn money to spend on our way out. The people expect them to just sit in plain sight waiting for a zoo guest. The zoo is about animals, Mr. Arnold; it isn't all about you. Treasure your memories, but maybe you'd find a roadside zoo in Texas more to your liking.

Jane Lewis
Laguna Niguel

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


"Has Del Mar's Dwight Worden flipped from green to gray?"

Neighborhood News December 7

Re-zoning valuable property overlooking the Pacific for low-income property is absurd. There shouldn't be a law forcing affluent suburbs to house low-income apartments. With the exception of better schools, I would think low-income people would feel more comfortable in low income neighborhoods near dollar stores, check cashing stores, etc. Everything is more expensive in an affluent neighborhood. With all due respect, Del Mar is for the rich folks

—Socks3742

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December 17, 2020



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

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The best lumpia in San Diego — page 26



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

No peace for Paz

Police patrols mean migrant misery

Honduran national Olman Paz migrated to Tijuana two years ago in hopes of reaching the “American Dream.” Since then, he says, he has been harassed, beaten, and threatened with deportation by the police, despite their having no jurisdiction to immigration. (It seems this type of practice became common under the administration of the former Mayor of Tijuana, Juan Manuel Gastelum.)

Paz says that since his arrival in Playas de Tijuana, he has been detained more than 20 times by the police. The last time it happened, he was sweeping the sidewalk in front of the seafood restaurant where he works. The police officer hit him — breaking his dental bridge, which held four teeth — and then detained him; it was the patrol’s final pick-up of the day. According to Border Angels founder Hugo Castro, the Tijuana police Department has a daily quota of detentions they must achieve in order to cover a sort of efficiency standard, which allows them to keep obtaining international and federal aid for security affairs. So perhaps it was not surprising when they invented a felony charge for Paz. “They took



Paz says he has been detained by police more than 20 times.

for long periods of time, or stealing money or cellphones from them. “They even called the Mexican immigration on me. They kept me locked up for five days in the migration building even though I have refugee status.” When Paz finally got his day in court, the judge noticed Paz’s injuries and just let him go. He is still in need of medical attention, as he’s just taking painkillers to treat himself. “I can’t eat now, and sometimes can’t sleep because of the pain,” he notes.



The bridge

IVAN MOLINA

“They kept me locked up for five days in the migration building even though I have refugee condition.”

me (to the police station) and said that I was stealing a car. That was a lie,” he says, adding that the low-intensity migrant persecution by Tijuana’s police officers includes “sowing” drugs on suspects to keep them locked up

Mr. Miguel, another Honduran migrant who just arrived at the Embajada Migrante, the shelter where Paz lives, says he was kidnapped by municipal police in Veracruz during his journey to Tijuana. “They asked us for 32,000 pesos or said they would kill us,” he says. “And officers from the General Prosecutor’s Office blackmailed us with a bribe to let us continue.”

Last month, pro-migrant activists celebrated the ruling of a federal judge declaring these kinds of “poli-migra” unconstitutional. At a press conference, Gina Garibo from the American Friends Service Community said that it does not matter



“I can’t eat now, and sometimes can’t sleep because of the pain,”

where a person is from, police have no right to detain and ask for migration papers from anyone. According to the National Migration Institute, there are approximately 10,000 foreign migrants settled in Tijuana waiting to get refugee status in the United States.

DEL MAR

Not the last Worden Housing grousing won’t KO councilman

During the run-up to last month’s election, two different slates of candidates were running to occupy three seats on the five-person Del Mar city council. And each slate was derided by the opposition as to how it would deal with the looming April deadline, when the city must prove to the state that it is providing new, cheap housing. Voters were warned of two possible outcomes, depending on which side got in; for many residents, both were unthinkable. If incumbent David Druker, investment advisor David Quirk, and registered nurse Tracy Martinez got elected, Del Martians were told it could trigger the state of California to re-zone valuable property overlooking the Pacific for low-income apartments. (The breathtaking expanse was proposed for the Marisol condo/hotel development, but was denied by the voters and now sits undeveloped.) Opponents of the trio of Phil Blair (founder of the Manpower employment agency), Bob Gans (attorney), and Glenn Warren (retired diplomat) claimed that their election would lead to ugly, high-density housing on the San Dieguito lagoon, causing environmental harm and severe summertime traffic congestion.

A city councilman since 2014, Dwight Worden sided with the Blair/Gans/Warren trio, which wound up to be a losing bet. The 40-year Del Mar resident is one of the city’s most recognized locals — he served as Del Mar’s city attorney from 1977-83 (immediately following Roger Hedgecock when Hedgecock was elected to the county board of supervisors) — and he’s long maintained his image as a champion of the environment, serving as a high-profile member of both the Sierra Club and the Surfrider Foundation. But one longtime local wonders if Worden’s support for the Marisol backers has cost him enviro credibility. Thirty-year resident Arnie Wiesel says that Worden and two outgoing councilmembers voted to ignore Del Mar’s general plan by illegally voting to change zoning laws and so allow high density housing in the North Commercial area along the San Dieguito river. “They did it with a 3 to 2 vote,” says Wiesel, “when any change to the [general plan] needs a super majority, or 4 to 1 vote.” In response, Wiesel spearheaded a referendum drive to overturn that vote. “With a referendum, you have 30 days get the signatures [after the law is passed],” he explains. “We wanted to wait until after the election so as not to confuse anyone. Bottom line was, we only had 12 days.” He and 20 of his Del Mar neighbors needed 345 signatures, or ten percent of the electorate. “It was not easy doing that during covid. But the response was overwhelming. We got over 600.”

Once the signatures are verified in January, the council can vote to reverse the October 19 vote, or put it on the ballot. Wiesel is confident the new council will dump the zoning change to build on the San Dieguito lagoon.



Tracy Martinez — part of the winning slate.

It wasn’t only covid that made signature gathering difficult. Wiesel claims Worden launched “a full-bore attack” against his referendum effort. “He told anyone who would listen that they don’t dare sign this. He painted a doom and gloom attack against us. He sent out an article with a demeaning attack on the future city council.” Worden’s position was that if the referendum succeeded, the state’s Housing and Community Development Agency could come in and rezone any Del Mar property for affordable housing — including the highly valuable Marisol bluff top. But Wiesel says the Worden-backed rezoning plan is wrong. “Not only would his development impact the lagoon and the wetlands, it would create a traffic gridlock in the

continued on page 6



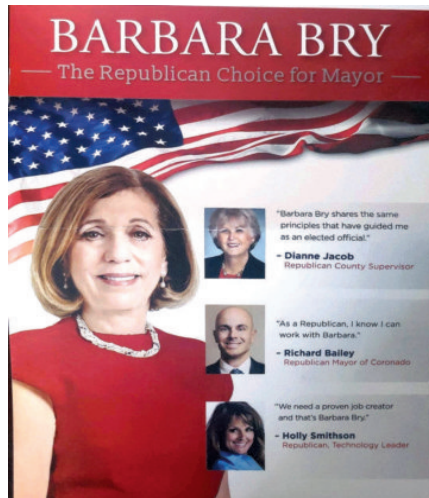
Sorry, Barbara, but someone had to be the Republican in this race.

UnNeighborly

Pro-Gloria group accused Bry of working with *gasp* Republicans

It's been no secret among inside political observers that the big gorilla of the San Diego's election season this year was a so-called independent expenditure committee calling itself Neighbors for Housing Solutions Supporting Todd Gloria for San Diego Mayor 2020. The committee raised a total of more than \$1.3 million through October 17 this year, according to financial disclosure forms submitted to the city clerk's office. Now the city's ethics commission has confirmed the outsized role of the group in the form of a list of big-money donors ranked in order of contribution.

Protect Neighborhood Services Now, sponsored by the SD Municipal Employees Association, is expected to press Gloria hard for raises and other financial perks for its members during the trying budgetary times to come. The city employee labor group gave



Another pro-Gloria mailer, this one featuring pro-Bry Republicans. In fact, Holly Smithson backed Biden over Trump this year.

\$250,000, followed by the LGBT Caucus Leadership Fund with \$155,000, the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Political Action Fund Small Contributor Committee, which came up with \$100,000, and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce PAC, contributing \$99,963. The Committee to Expand the Middle Class, Supported by Airbnb, Inc., gave \$80,000, per the ethics commission's list. At

the next level down \$50,000 each came from John G. Thompson, the Laborers' Int'l. Union of North America Local 89 PAC Fund, the Laborers Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition PAC Small Contributor Committee, the Southern California District Council of Laborers PAC Small Contributor Committee, and the San Diego Works! PAC. And \$20,000 each was raised from SeaBreeze Vacation Rentals, LLC, the Downtown San Diego Partnership PAC, and Share San Diego, a political committee run by the short-term rental lobby. Meanwhile, Anheuser-Busch Companies gave \$10,000, as did HNTB Corporation, Camp-land's Michael Gelfand, Service Employees International Union Local 221 Independent Expenditure PAC, Westfield Property Management, LLC, Evan Low for Assembly 2020, and ex-San Diego Unified Port commission member Robert Nelson.

In their take-no-prisoners campaign against Gloria's opponent, fellow Democrat Barbara Bry, Neighbors for Housing Solutions rained a volley of direct mail hits on the city councilwoman from La Jolla, including one that charged that Bry was "tied to Donald Trump." Said one of the committee's two-sided hit pieces, dispatched October 7 according to the website *PoliticalPropaganda.org*, "Barbara Bry will drain the swamp and run San Diego like a business." Another mailer pictured Bry with an offshore oil derrick and linked her to Big Oil through her stock ownership. Another, sent to Democrats and headlined "Barbara Bry, The Republican Choice for Mayor," carried endorsement-style praise for Bry from Republican county supervisor Dianne Jacob and GOP Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey. "As a Republican, I know I can work with Barbara," said Bailey's quotation. "Barbara Bry shares the same principles that have guided me as an elected official," Jacob was said to have proclaimed. A quote from Holly Smithson, identified in the piece as a "Republican, Technology Leader," said: "We need a proven job creator and that's Barbara Bry." A onetime U.S. Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman under 43rd President George W. Bush, Smithson backed Biden over Trump this year as part of a Biden-sponsored effort called 43 Alumni for America.

Matt Potter

UNDER THE RADAR

Sherman's "paid volunteer"

With last week's change of staff at San Diego's city hall has come a torrent of leaving-office filings, shedding light on the politics and finances of a bevy of departing aides. Cheryl Hoy, the confidential assistant to exiting Republican mayor Kevin Faulconer, reports on her December 8 disclosure owning an interest in Cypress Consulting, [doing business as] JH Campaigns, valued between \$10,000 and \$100,000, from which she received income in the same range. Hoy got \$128,216 in salary and benefits last year for her role with Faulconer, according to *TransparantCalifornia.com*.

The nature of Cypress Consulting's business is said to be "public affairs & campaign consulting." Three clients each provided an annual income of more than \$10,000. They were Manolatos, Nelson, and Murphy, a political public relations outfit, the failed Steve Vaus for County Supervisor campaign; and MNM advertising. John Hoy is president of JH Campaigns, with clients who have included Republican ex-councilwoman Lorie Zapf. "She's standing up to Donald Trump on offshore oil drilling," Hoy announced to the *Union-Tribune* in October 2018 regarding Zapf, shortly before she was beaten by Democrat Jen Campbell.

Elizabeth Spillane, who was paid \$157,319 last year as chief of staff for termed-out Republican-turned-independent councilman Mark Kersey, reported having a \$100,000 to \$1 million interest in Red Rock Group. The outfit deals in "political consulting and public affairs." The San Diego County Medical Society paid the company more than \$10,000 in the past year, per the disclosure. Spillane sits on the Republican Party County Central Committee.

Sheldon Zemen, a council representative for termed-out GOP councilman Scott Sherman, with a salary of \$87,880 in 2019, reported receiving between \$1000 and \$10,000 as a "paid volunteer" for the campaign of Joe Leventhal, a Republican who unsuccessfully sought to succeed Kersey on the council.

Patronage rules A former *La Jolla Light* reporter put on the public payroll by councilwoman Barbara Bry when she was running for mayor earlier this year has taken his leave of city hall. Corey Levitan got his job as a council representative for the La Jolla Democrat on April 13, according to an statement dated August 31. He left the position on December 10, per a December 8 leaving-office statement filed with the city clerk. According to that document, Levitan reported having an income between \$10,000 and \$100,000

from the *Light*, owned by the *Union-Tribune*. "I drafted speeches, all social media and proclamations and commendations for San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry," says Levitan's LinkedIn profile. "I created and wrote a weekly newsletter profiling local small businesses devastated by the pandemic. And I managed special projects for the District 1 Council office, including the preparation of case reports on problematic short-term vacation rental units. Our term ended on December 10, 2020."



Lorie Zapf stood up to Donald Trump but fell to Jen Campbell.

Bry lost the mayor's race to fellow Democrat Todd Gloria on November 3. In October 2020, Levitan bagged a second place win in the San Diego Press Club's annual journalism awards for coauthoring "La Jolla restaurants fight to survive amid coronavirus lockdown," which had appeared in the *Light* March 25.

Covid-proof eating

Two of San Diego's most prominent bayside hotels are using their Corona-19 hiatus to retool their dining and bar operations for a hoped-for turnaround in the post-pandemic era. According to a November 30 filing posted by the California Environmental Quality Act website, the Hilton San Diego Bayfront is working on the "renovation of existing restaurant space to convert it to an event function space."

Meanwhile, the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, per a November 3 post, is undertaking a "renovation of an existing lobby and conversion of lounge space to its previous historical guest room configuration." The presumably covid-resistant plan calls for "construction of a 108-seat dining lounge, buffet, grab and go, hydration station, business center, and a pantry within a newly laid out M-Club lounge." Also, "demolition of the existing six-bay concierge lounge on the 24th floor" will precede "construction of six standard guestrooms to their original configuration, increasing the number of guestrooms to their previous historical number of 1,366 rooms total."

The Hilton's work is "anticipated to occur in Winter 2020 and would take approximately five months to complete." The Marriott plans two phases. "Phase 1 would occur in Winter 2020, and Phase 2 would occur in Fall 2021; each phase would take approximately six months to complete."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)



Barbara Bry lost to San Diego's first LGBTQIA2+BIPOC mayor.

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Dear Hipster:

With the holidays upon us, I would like to know how a hipster would deck the halls. What type of gifts might be given? What food would be served? Do hipsters do holiday tours of local Candy Cane Lanes? What do hipsters send holiday cards in the US post or digital? Will hipsters do things a little differently in the COVID area? Will the hipster community decorate pineapples this year (like I read about last year)? Or is that too 2019? I decorated a pineapple last year. It was fun & economical. Do any hipsters celebrate European holidays like Boxing Day with Christmas Crackers, party favors, and maybe lighting a bread pudding?

—PATTY M.

Wow. If I may paraphrase the infomercial guy with the magic black goo that seals holes in buckets, “That’s a lotta [questions]!” If you want the really quick, answers-only version: Lots. Plenty. Nobody, and I mean nobody, doesn’t like a good Candy Cane Lane. Drink. Yes. Probably not, knowing them. No, because yes. Good for you. Absolutely.

I’ll casually refer you to my recent column on retro Christmas hipstering, which gets you almost all the way there for some of these questions. For example, you can infer what kind of food might be served at a hipster Christmas party by deciphering exactly how hardcore the hipster in question is. Overly dedicated hipsters might stage a too-literal interpretation of the “Boar’s Head Carol” and parade



around the kitchen with a severed pig’s head begged off a butcher somewhere. The kind of hipsters you actually want to hang out with are more likely to have scoured every market in the city for one of those Buddha’s hand citrons that looks like a lemon with fingers, paid whatever exorbitant rate the grocer charges for it, lovingly processed it into little hunks of candied peel, and then used that to make a convincingly authentic mince pie, which they’ll serve you with an accompaniment of hot buttered rum and

homemade eggnog.

I could go either way on the subject of holiday pineapple decorating, but I doubt you’ve truly committed to the Christmas pineapple till you’ve minced that bad boy up at breakfast time on December 25 and tossed it in the blender with a can of coconut cream and enough rum to pickle a Par-

rothead. This approach solves your coronavirus-related question because, if you’re sitting at home drinking *piña coladas* on Christmas morning, then you’re probably not out super-spreading coronavirus. Thus, this approach to alternative holiday decorating really punches above its weight.

As for that final bit about European holidays, I feel it is worth mentioning how, in the past decade, I have had

not one, not two, but three different friends who have staged Boxing Day celebrations (at least one of which revolved around a vague fox hunting theme) independently of each other. Make of that what you will, but it seems like strong anecdotal evidence of the hipster value of celebrating random Euro holidays. I doubt they would have lit bread puddings on fire, however, because the flambéd Christmas pudding is a fruitcake-adjacent confection that is totally and completely different than bread pudding. But don’t worry, you are definitely not alone in mixing up the two things. In my book, you get credit for invoking the flambé.

—DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

“In a switch, the Union-Tribune touts Tijuana medicine”

News under the Radar December 9

When I saw that ad by the U-T in the U-T I was literally shocked. And I don’t shock easily. What are they thinking at the Light News? I’ve complained about the TJ restaurant reviews in the *Reader* and U-T both, because they utterly fail to mention the risks of visiting TJ or Mexico in general. But promoting “bargain” medical care in a third-world country that has few if any standards of care is the height of irresponsibility. It wasn’t too long ago that we were seeing and hearing reports of “US citizens” living in Mexico who headed north of the border when they contracted covid-19. If the medical care there, and the hospitals, were any good, they would have stayed there. But they knew better. While this sort of thing has been going on for decades, I don’t recall any responsible parties in the US promoting it. And I do recall plenty of horror stories about botched medical procedures, over-prescribing of inappropriate medications, and general medical malpractice on US folks who went across the border to save money. So, since I know that I’ll catch it from the border crosser boosters for the comments above, have at it.

—Visduh

“Council sneaks in vote on 30th Street bike lanes at last minute”

Neighborhood News November 23

One trouble with way too many of the “car”’s here in San Diego is that the drivers of them are so over-occupied with un-related tasks – other than driving of it – as if they are living in it/their car. As if that be all they have. But the extreme majority have homes to live in. Narrowing further,

They want to live too much of they life at once, in that car, putting their behavior Against those they choose to be against. Hooray for the parking meters, in such case.

—ised

Another issue to repeat in which the useless SD County Bicycling Coalition does not choose to get involved in any way.

Rather than having the ‘bike lanes’, as bikes have the same right of way to use in the car lanes, why not use the needed portion of the funds to repair the current bike lanes? Hence the poor road work quality [potholes, cracks, etc] of San Diego County, As we know, most of such is in the bike lane area; but also towards the car lane from the bike lane. But in debate, in the car lanes – too. Anyone driving a car ever note that this is what make a bike choose to drive into the car lane for a short time? Rather than 100% drive in the bike lane, as ‘car drivers’ are addicted to thinking.

—ised

SDC Bicycling Coalition executive director Andy Hanshaw called in supporting comments. BikeSD too. They are very much involved. I agree it takes more than paint to make a street safe.

– Marty Graham

(To your comment about “make a street safe”): My blaming ‘SDC Bicycling Coalition’ never was about “paint.” As I quote what you say here, and not what I lack in saying of it. What I blame ‘SDC Bicycling Coalition’ for is the extremely degraded roadwork, that never gets maintained in the correct way. I knew as the decades were to build up, further, another such economy as present be to only make it worse.

Andy seems to drive a car better, rather than drive a bike.

—ised

Anyone familiar with this portion of 30th Street has

EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITORS

Matt Potter, Matthew Lickona

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Ian Anderson, Thomas K. Arnold,

Ed Bedford, Robert Bush,

Joe Deegan, Dave Good, Moss

Gropen, Dryw Keltz,

Thomas Larson, Ken Leighton,

Mike Madriaga, Bill Manson,

Derek Pike, Ian Pike,

Elizabeth Salaam, Jay Allen Sanford

CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER

Stephen Hatch

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Eduardo Bravo, Brett Flynn,

Holly Micelli, David Phillipich,

Randy Rice, Graeme Storey,

Todd Westfall

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Tiffany Ferren-Cirino

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Veronica Garcia-Gomez

AD/MARKETING COORDINATOR

Alyssa Prestidge

DIGITAL AGENCY MANAGER

Daniela Penkova

DIGITAL AGENCY COORDINATORS

Matthew Dodd,

Veronica Garcia-Gomez

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Amanda Stevens

ADVERTISING SUPPORT STAFF

Amanda Tascher

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

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Jessica Wentzel

ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER

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STAFF ACCOUNTANTS

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summer. Now, during the summer, it sometimes takes an hour to drive from one end of Del Mar to the other. This extra traffic would make it impossible to drive through. If there is a fire, people aren't getting out." Wiesel says the 500-plus low-income units mandated by the state could be created without paving over the banks of the San Dieguito, and that a serious effort to work with the fairgrounds management to site low-income housing on the fairgrounds has never been made.

Councilmember Terry Gaasterland often voted in the minority with Drucker, often losing key votes to Worden's majority. Now the UCSD professor is mayor. Gaasterland says Worden and outgoing mayor Ellie Haviland would meet often with the city of Del Mar planning department, vetting and refining projects before they came before the council. "That is not a normal way to do business," she says, adding that Worden often voted in support of Marisol before it was killed at the ballot box in 2018 with a 59 percent voter rejection. Now, Gaasterland says she is confident Del Mar's new council can find a way

"Not only would his development impact the lagoon and the wetlands, it would create a traffic gridlock..."

to meet the April deadline set by the state's housing agency. She says she wanted to meet with the agency before this, but was blocked by Worden and his majority, which voted to have only city staff meet with the agency.

Worden's response to Wiesel: "Amendments to the general plan require four affirmative votes. Changes to the zoning require a simple majority, which requires three. My position on Marisol was very public and very simple: it was appropriate for the community to vote on this. If the community didn't want it, I was totally happy with the existing low density zoning." And like Wiesel, he thinks the fairgrounds may prove crucial. "We are required by state law to provide affordable housing at a minimum of 20 units per acre.... Let's get the housing done on the fairgrounds." He says he sees a way to get the fairgrounds to agree to host 51 units, but in order to pull that off, the city needs to spend \$1 million dollars for lawyers and planning. "We don't have that money. We need state grants." And he says that one result of the referendum is that it may decertify Del Mar from getting that grant money. "I think the city's position is now substantially weaker."

Regarding Gaasterland's complaint that she was not allowed to speak with the housing agency, Worden says, "For our city to have success, the [agency] had discussions with our staff. That was our path to success, and



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Future site of low-income housing? The state isn't bluffing!

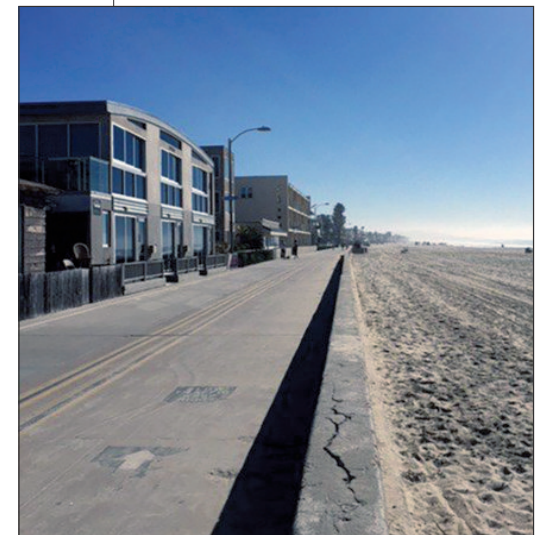
we wanted to continue on that path. If you interject elected officials and disrupt that path, that may not be productive... This was not for one councilmember to go off on her own." And while he grants that he did meet regularly with city planning staff, he insists that "we did not deal with big policy issues. It was more to provide a sounding board on mundane issues. To portray it that we were cutting deals in smoke-filled rooms is way off

It's finally the homestretch for the question of vacation rentals in San Diego. After years of a Wild West free-for-all that has pit neighbors against neighbors — and also the remote investors they say are turning homes into hotels — rules have taken shape. The San Diego Planning Commission is recommending the city adopt regulations that cut the number of whole-home vacation rentals in half, use a lottery to distribute licenses, and include enforcement measures. A decision on the proposal, submitted by councilmember Jen Campbell in October and sent back to her office for changes, will be made by the city council early next year. If approved, the ordinance would go into effect January 1, 2022. It defines a short-term rental occupancy as a stay of less than a month, and a host as a "natural person" rather than an LLC. The plan is described as balancing the rights of hosts and neighbors, but while the commission unanimously agreed on the rules, hosts and residents did not.

Mission Beach would get — or get stuck with — the biggest share. The small sandspit enclave would see 30 percent of its housing

units eligible to become short-term rentals, compared to the rest of the city's one percent cap. Venus Molina, Campbell's chief of staff and a main author of the plan, said 30 percent was enough to retain housing units and abide by the Coastal Act, which requires affordable lodging. "And at the same time we know there is a history of short-term rentals in the Mission Beach community." Regulations will allow the city to differentiate between part-time use, home sharing, and whole-home units, and licensing will help with tracking and enforcement. A 24/7 complaint portal on the city website will keep track of complaints, which can get a host's license revoked. Molina added that

the rules will curb abuse of the system, since only a host can apply for a license, and just one at a time. In addition, the whole-home rental cap limits the number of licenses, and they can't be transferred to other people or



"MB is being destroyed; the first step to recovery is to eliminate the carveout."

base." In any case, Worden says the council election results and the referendum rebuff will not signal his end in politics. "I am absolutely not throwing in the towel. I'm not going anywhere. I love my little city. I will adapt to the lay of the land. I am now in minority. I don't expect everyone will agree with me, but they will continue to hear from me."

KEN LEIGHTON

MISSION BEACH

Zona Rental

Will the city hand over a third of a neighborhood to semi-permanent vacation?



PHOTO CREDIT: MATTHEW SUAREZ

Mission Beach— a nice place to visit, but people used to live there.

properties. The difficulty of the lottery system, which applies to whole-home rentals, discourages bad actors, she said. If someone loses their license, someone else on the list will get it, creating a big incentive to play by the rules.

Scott Bishop, who manages over 20 short-term rentals and credits them with lifting his family out of middle-income status, said the rules "will crush San Diego citizens looking for equality in life. We can be responsible without taking away" our rights, he added. "No caps." Airbnb echoed the sentiment: Sarah Simon, advocacy manager, asked the commission to increase the citywide whole-home cap to 1.2 percent to gain "the full economic benefits." Meanwhile, in Mission Beach, the proposal opens the door to 1081 whole-home vacation rentals, which are allowed for more than 20 days per year with the owner absent. Gary Wonacott, a former

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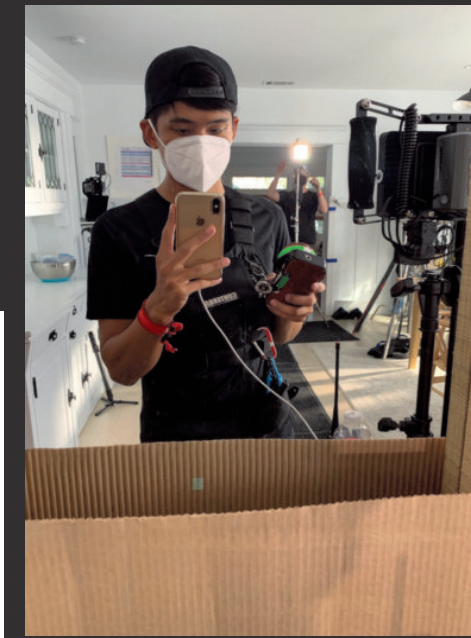


Street Style

BY MIRANDA POTMESIL

Lights, camera, fashion!

Sometimes one's job dictates one's style. In the case of a photographer on-set, fashion choices must be ergonomic, comfortable, and durable. When you're lifting heavy cameras and lights and running around to capture the perfect angle for 12 hours at a time, your clothing has to work with you, not against you. This is something Brandon Gong (@brandon.gong) knows well. He's a profes-



BRANDON SPORTS ALL BLACK, NON-REFLECTIVE CLOTHING WHILE ON SET

sional camera operator and photographer from the Bay Area.

While on set, Brandon prefers dri fit t-shirts — “because being on set, it's like a workout” — and cooperative shoes. His outfit pictured here is fit for the job: a black dri fit shirt (Nike, \$20); black,



durable and non-reflective jeans (Levi's, \$40); a snapback hat (Odesza, \$40 from their live concert, pre-pandemic); and a chest strap for lugging around gear (Conterra, \$75).

“When I'm working,” says Gong, “I try to exhibit my own style, but I also want the

clothing I buy to fit my lifestyle. At times, I do copy clothing that I see on set and pull inspiration from other crew members. Like when I see some nice boots, I like to ask where the person picked them up from.”

That's how he picked up his Conterra chest strap, which he refers to as his most useful piece to wear while on-set.

When Brandon's not shooting, he's typically out exploring the nooks of what California's diverse landscape has to offer and capturing stunning photos. Sometimes, his occupation and adventures go hand in hand, which makes the clothing he purchases essential for all aspects of his life. While on a shoot in the mountains of Arizona (see photo), Brandon sported another black Nike dri fit shirt, black Lululemon slacks (\$70), and flat black sneakers (Vans, \$40). He completed the

continued on page 9

Find more Street Style at sandiegoreader.com/style

545 RIMINI ROAD | DEL MAR, 92014

BEDS: 4 | BATHS: 5 | CURRENT OWNER: Gala Yayla | LIST PRICE: \$7,388,000

UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

The 3900-square-foot estate at 545 Rimini Road in Del Mar exudes “timeless elegance situated on an oversized lot highlighting private grounds, stunning terraces and ocean views,” according to listing materials retrieved from realtor.com.

“Rich in charm and elegance, this extraordinary Spanish Retreat remains a signature property in Del Mar's History.” The house was built in 1929, and the original exposed wood beam ceilings and floors have been



A little piece of Xanadu: the pool reportedly features tile taken from Hearst Castle.

restored to their original glory, while other elements of the home have been “fused with the modern Spanish architecture” of local expert

Joseph Sfeir.

A patterned-brick driveway and blue-and-white-herringbone-tiled walkway lead to an arched front door made of iron

and glass, while the entry hall opens to a living room with vaulted ceilings and a wood-burning fireplace, one of several on the property. The requi-

site chef's kitchen features a farmhouse-style sink, oversized center island, and professional six-burner range and hood.

With an owner's suite on the main level along with all living areas, the home can live like a single story. But there are also three additional “private villas with en-suite bathrooms and a bonus room ideal for a music, art, office, or fifth bedroom” featuring a full-wall mural of nude women swimming. One of these villas “is a detached casita which can be leased for additional income or offered to extended guests who would like ultimate privacy.”

Outside, “the grounds are beautifully maintained with private spaces to relax and meditate,” including more than 1200 square feet of cov-

ered outdoor living space featuring an outdoor fireplace, water features, and “breathtaking sunsets” over the ocean located less than a half-mile away. “The Himalayan trees with greet you with a pleasant aroma and add to the beauty of the lush landscaping throughout” the third-acre parcel.

The “sparkling pool” and spa reportedly feature tile taken from Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the lavish mansion constructed between 1919 and 1947 by tabloid tycoon William Randolph Hearst.

“This coastal compound is a sanctuary, a place to unwind and impress your guests,” the listing concludes. “This property is unmatched and ready for a true Real Estate Collector! What

continued on page 9

outfit with his favorite flannel (Muji, \$25). “I’ve had that flannel for about six years now. It’s lasted me through countless video shoots, oversea adventures, and hikes around the world.”

Although he doesn’t have an allegiance to any particular clothing store, Brandon likes to shop around REI to pick up new pieces while also exploring second-hand stores and thrift shops, plus Ross and TJ Maxx.

“I really like the fact that all of the clothing REI sells is made for durability, since it’s an outdoor gear store. The one-year warranty, even if it’s been used, is pretty great too.” ■



“In uncertain times, home has never been so important!”

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

are you waiting for? In uncertain times, home has never been so important!”

Public records indicate ownership of the Rimini villa lies with Gala Yayla, who is listed in a photoless LinkedIn profile as a CFO. Yayla purchased the home in 2000 for a reported \$1.72

million. The tax rolls also reflect a discrepancy in square footage, reporting an improved square footage of 3115 compared to the 3922 displayed in the listing.

After nearly two decades off-market, the property was offered for sale beginning in mid-September. While ranging as high as \$7,995,000 and as low as \$7,250,000, the current asking price sits just under \$7.4 million. ■

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Kate McGrath outside her 200-year-old apartment in Paris

A San Diegan in Paris

Kate McGrath can't wait to get back to Paris, virus or no virus.

"I live right around the corner from the Pompidou Center in a building that is partly 200 years old. I am at the American University of Paris, studying fashion business. I love my life there."

Her intrigue with Paris began with an exchange program in France when she was 16, in Laon. "It's a medieval capital in France. I lived in a tiny village outside of there with a French family for six months, and learned to

beer for 39 cents. I would cook a week's worth of food for us. My go-to was pasta pesto with goat cheese and smoked salmon. A three-slice pack of salmon would cost maybe \$3.50, a big bag of pasta would be \$1.50, a big tub of goat cheese, \$2.50, and with a jar of pesto, you'd have enough to feed four people, and you'd get in under \$10."

She says for the same price you can cook a chicken curry, or Korean fried rice for four. "And that would include the *go chu jang*," she says.

Even when she lived in the expensive dis-

"Living in France made me realize that, you know, there are much bigger things than San Diego."

speak French pretty fluently. I came back to San Diego and I had two years of high school left. But living in France made me realize that, you know, there are much bigger things than San Diego. So I applied to many, many schools, most of them in New York. I also applied to the American University of Paris, because I started realizing: why should I pay so much more money to go to school in the US, when I could pay less money and I can be in Paris? I was applying to NYU, and that was very expensive. So [Paris] was about a third of the cost, with scholarships and everything."

Her initial lesson was how to survive in Paris on a student budget.

"First of all I realized that my friends had no idea how to cook. And I was living in an apartment with three other girls. Thankfully, I grew up helping my mom with cooking a lot here in San Diego."

Secondly, different supermarkets have different strengths. "There are four main brands of stores in Paris. One you'd go to for their fresh produce. Another, say, Lidl, the German chain, has really cheap food. Like, tall cans of

trict around the Eiffel Tower, Kate and friends scouted out cheap restaurants. "A Lebanese place had this wrap, a foot-long, pretty much, for 5 Euros, say six bucks. A Greek restaurant called Apollon has a sandwich for \$6."

She says one of everybody's habits before lockdown was to take a bottle of wine down to the canal St. Martin for evening drinks with hundreds sitting on the banks, socializing, and watching the sun go down. "No hassle from authorities, and it's affordable! You can get a bottle of wine, say a Roche Maze, for about \$3."

But isn't she worried to go back, with this second covid wave hanging in there? "Not at all. I'm very excited. I am 22, and Paris is now home for me. I miss my friends from the Canary Islands, Egypt, Bulgaria, Texas. I even miss climbing seven floors with the grocery bags."

Zippo man

In a Dickensian back room behind the tobacconists Racine & Laramie, in Old Town Plaza, Geoffrey Mogilner rifles through the contents of his high security safe. "It's somewhere here.

I would never put it on display. Ah!"

He hauls out a folded envelope, secured by two paper clips. He slides the clips off, and brings out a little plastic bag. He tips it up. Something heavy drops into his hand.

"The last one that sold fetched \$32,000," he says.

He's holding an old Zippo lighter, the kind that was known as much for the *ping* it made when you flicked it open as for its claim to be windproof.

"These were the very first Zippo lighters, 1932, 33," he says. "I was so lucky. I bought it from the lady who actually made it in Zippo's factory in Bradford, Pennsylvania. See the hinge? Outside hinge."

Since 1932, Zippo has sold a bunch. In 2012, they made their 500 millionth lighter. Many are emblazoned with military insignia, like the one I just saw with "Franklin D. Roosevelt, CVA 42" embossed on it. Or another with "USS Langley," the very first US aircraft carrier.

"Zippo was a cultural icon right up to the deglamorization of tobacco products in the 1980s," says Geoffrey's colleague (dressed in Civil War garb) Jeff Lawing, who's helping me ID some of the aircraft carrier Zippos on display, "Ninety percent of the military folks smoked, especially Navy and Marine Corps. So it was pretty much a

staple thing for every single commanding officer to order a large amount of Zippos with the unit embossed on it. It was like the challenge coin, a custom which came from the US Army and the Air Force. It was handed out to dignitaries. Because they could be extremely useful. The custom is, when you're in a bar and you smack the

coin down, that means that if your neighbor doesn't have his, he has to buy the round. But smacking down a Zippo with your logo is just as good."

Besides, Jeff says, "You always had to have a light anyway so you could light the lady's cigarette. Just look at Hollywood movies of the '30s and '40s. That was the gentlemanly thing to do."

But for Geoffrey Mogilner, this is his most special Zippo — and he has a huge collection. It is one of the very first Zippos ever made.

"The lady who made it discovered me through an article I wrote about Navy Zippos," he says. He had published it in a glossy Japanese magazine, *Zippo Manual 2*, devoted entirely to Zippos. She read it in Pennsylvania and sent this letter to Geoff, and he ended up buying (for an undisclosed sum) the lighter which she personally made in 1932-3.

Out in the beautifully Old West Racine & Laramie store, he displays hundreds of Navy Zippos, each embossed with the name and numbers of a ship or submarine. But he won't put this out there.

"Too valuable," he says. "Somebody would steal it."

Like, a collector?

He just smiles. ■



Geoffrey Mogilner and colleague Joseph Gerstner



Geoffrey Mogilner's collection of Navy Zippos is huge. Only a small part is exhibited here at his Racine & Laramie tobacconist store in Old Town

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San Diegans who live in their vehicles say the city has implemented new measures in its fight against so-called “van life” and the habitation of vehicles.



PARKING TICKET PANDEMIC

“Amber” lost her job as a customer service representative due to covid. Jobless and faced with high living costs, she, her husband, and her seven-year-old daughter moved out of their City Heights apartment at the end of June.

In July, the family decided to buy an RV and live in it until they could get back on their feet, and until Amber could find another job.

Like so many other people who live in their cars or RVs, the family headed west to Mission Bay for a safe and temperate place to park during the day, a place where she

could homeschool her daughter.

But the savings from not paying rent were short-lived.

Within two weeks, Amber received her first parking ticket for parking in two stalls. The ticket was the first of many.

By the beginning of October, she had received a dozen tickets, some for violating posted signs, others for oversized vehicle parking, and others for parking too close to a boat ramp.

Since July, Amber, who doesn't want to use her full name for fear of retaliation, has seen more and more officers patrolling the

popular parking lots in Mission Bay. She has also witnessed city crews painting curbs that were once legal parking spaces red. “At Leisure Lagoon, they painted it red and blocked it off,” she says.

Amber and other vehicle dwellers say the city has ramped up parking enforcement, especially for those living in their cars, vans, and RVs despite Mayor Kevin Faulconer's March 16 mandate to suspend parking enforcement in order to help residents navigate the pandemic.

She and others who live in their vehicles say the city has implemented new measures



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Crews have reportedly changed time limits on parking signs, removed parking places by painting them red, and issued an increasing number of citations since the outbreak of the pandemic.

in its fight against so-called “van life” and the habitation of vehicles in the city of San Diego.

In doing so, crews have reportedly changed time limits on parking signs, removed parking places by painting them red, and issued an increasing number of citations since the outbreak of the pandemic. The types of parking tickets include failing to cramp wheels, expired registration violations, red-zone infractions, and citations for violating parking signs.

Amber and others believe that the city has ramped up enforcement as another way to force those living on the streets and in their cars away from popular bay and beach parking lots. These people also say they are reluctant to go to the city’s safe parking lots because of a lack of health protocols to protect them against covid, leaving them with few options other than to continue their cat-and-mouse game with law enforcement.

“I feel uncomfortable

parking anywhere around here. I feel like I have been singled out,” says Amber. “I don’t know where else to go. I’ve just got to keep moving.”

She is not alone. David Wilson, who has lived in his vehicle since 1999, says he witnessed city crews change the no-parking times on signs near a popular parking area at Mission Bay’s Ski Beach.

“At the beginning of the pandemic, my truck was free and clear of tickets,” says Wilson. “But I got my first ticket after they changed the time on the signs. Everyone knew the restrictions, and the city changed them on a whim. I saw them changing the signs and immediately knew what they were up to.”

According to data obtained by the *Reader* through a public records request, parking citations have increased dramatically since covid’s arrival.

In the weeks after Faulconer issued his mandate, city police and parking officers issued only 1260 citations, public records show. By July, as businesses began reopening after the shutdown, that number in-

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creased ten-fold to 14,247 citations. And it continued to rise. By September, the city issued 22,068 parking tickets. Again: the increase occurred despite Mayor Kevin Faulconer's March 16 directive to reduce parking enforcement to holiday and Sunday regulations.

Doug Higgins has lived in his 35-foot Pace Arrow Coachman for the past six years, ever since he retired from his car salesman job to help care for his mom when she was diagnosed with dementia.

Higgins, a 71-year-old Vietnam Veteran, is knowledgeable — passionate even — on the subject of parking laws and the ways around them. And since the pandemic emerged, Higgins says the crackdown on parking enforcement is



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

David Wilson, who has lived in his vehicle since 1999, says he witnessed city crews change the no-parking times on signs near a popular parking area at Mission Bay's Ski Beach.

apparent. He believes the city has turned to issuing citations for violating

signs and red-zones as a way around the potential public relations night-

mare that enforcement of the vehicle habitation tickets might cause during a pandemic.

Higgins saw this first-hand. "I have received two during the pandemic," he says. "They have taken two parks and taken all motorhome parking out, removed all parallel parking. They painted them red. It eliminated motorhomes. That's all they are trying to do. They find ways to ticket you. I don't break the law. I am getting so sick of it. There is another park on Sea-World Drive where they painted the spots red."

Added Higgins, "Everybody was under the impression that they stopped enforcing this. That, obviously, is not the case."

People who live in their vehicles and RVs

say they have few places to turn and little support from the city.


In large part, their frustration has been mounting ever since the city passed the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance in June 2019. The ordinance made it unlawful for people to sleep in their cars near schools and in neighborhoods, while at the same time prohibiting others from sleeping in their vehicles between the hours of 9 pm and 6 am. As a temporary solution, the city implemented the Safe Parking Program, which consisted of three parking lots open for those in need of a place to sleep.

However, conditions at those safe parking lots and concerns over the spread of the coronavirus have driven people away. "In addition to fall-

ing short on basic human rights standards, there is no covid testing at these lots," says Ann Menasche, an attorney for the non-profit Disability Rights California. "Their idea of safety is to set aside one port-a-potty for people who feel sick, and that port-o-potty sits directly next to the others. There is no enforcement for masks. These people are not safe against covid, nor are they protected from much anything else. These lots already posed numerous safety issues for those staying there. In so many ways, the lots are not even on par with the most rudimentary refugee camps. It's awful, and the city does nothing about it."

Menasche represents dozens of homeless individuals now suing the city in a potential class action

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lawsuit over the vehicle habitation ordinance. She says if class certification is granted, there will be thousands of plaintiffs in the case.

With regard to the rise in parking citations since the mayor suspended enforcement, Menasche says numerous clients have told her that the city has turned to writing citations as an alternative to impounding RVs and arresting those living in cars. "These people are prohibited from being in public places in the daytime. The parks and the large parking lots at the beach and bay are so important to these people, because they offer a safe place to park with restrooms and running water, without the high temperatures seen inland. But these are the places where enforce-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Since the pandemic emerged, Doug Higgins says the crackdown on parking enforcement is apparent. Higgins believes the city has turned to issuing citations for violating signs and red zones as a way around the potential public relations nightmare that enforcement of the vehicle habitation tickets may cause during a pandemic.

ment has increased."

Menasche says she has heard from several people about the spike in citations, especially

those for violating parking signs. Menasche believes the increased parking enforcement is a way around full enforcement.

"Citing people for violation of signs is just another way to enforce the vehicle habitation ordinance. It is just another way to target the people who use the beach and bay area. And with more evictions on the way due to the pandemic, more people will be out on the streets. This is the time to act. If things remain as status quo, more people will be on the street, fighting for a sliver of parking lots where they can be safe, have access to running water, and restrooms."

Getting those living in vehicles out of neighborhoods and popular beach and bay parking lots has been one of Faulconer's main initiatives. "If you want to work toward finding a permanent home, we have programs that can help," Faulconer said in a June 19 statement during the implementation of the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance. "We will not allow

the proliferation of 'van life' culture that takes advantage of San Diego's generosity and destroys community character."

But with the arrival of the pandemic came new problems. More and more people have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic, and like Amber, have had to leave their homes and live on the streets. "We have been staying at Mission Bay for almost three months now," says Amber. "My daughter is in the first grade. I home-school her, and having to shuffle around and move from place to place has been difficult to say the least. I didn't think it would be a problem. There are people in the cars and in the streets. I thought this would be better and safer."

Yet, while moving out of the family's home may have been the smartest financial option for Amber and her family, the savings were soon

offset by the thousand dollars in fines from parking tickets that the family has paid.

"I got my first ticket within two weeks of moving out of our home, maybe less," says Amber. "It was for parking in two stalls even though it was meant for RV parking. Since then I got the oversized ticket three times, twice in October. I have probably gotten around 12. I have lost count."

It was not just the increase in tickets that Amber and others living in their vehicles noticed, it was the type of violations.

While the city has continued to issue oversized vehicle tickets to those living in their vehicles, the increase in those tickets is not as stark as other infractions. In April, as the pandemic tightened its

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grip on the region, parking officers issued 46 oversized vehicle citations in the city. In June that number decreased to 18 before jumping to 486 in September.

City data shows that parking officers concentrated on other infractions, most notably, “violation of signs” infractions. In April, the first full month of suspended enforcement, the city issued only 108 citations for sign violations. By September that number increased to 3608.

In April, officers issued 400 tickets for parking in red zones. In September, that number was just shy of 3000.

A spokesperson for

the city in response to the dramatic upswing in tickets says it is important to note the “lag for processing citations through the Treasurer’s office.”

As for the rise in tickets at the beach and the bay, the spokesperson attributes the spike to public parks and beaches opening after the health order was lifted.

“The major drop from March to April is explained by the suspension of enforcement and the fact that parking enforcement officers were deployed to other tasks at the start of the pandemic (mid-March). Many parking enforcement officers were stationed at beach parking

lots to enforce those closures following the state and county stay-at-home orders in mid-March. When beaches reopened in June, staff was able to return to regular duties issuing citations of the Sunday/holiday regulations that were in effect,” says the spokesperson.

Regarding claims that crews have recently painted curbs red in Mission Bay, the spokesperson confirmed that Park and Recreation crews removed nearly a dozen spots from the area, but denied it was a way to chase away RVs. “The location is a peninsula called Playa III, a small road and cul-de-

sac,” says the spokesperson. This area previously had approximately 10 parallel parking spaces. City staff were noticing an increase of large vehicles not being able to easily turn out of the parking lot to exit, due to the cars parked along the curb, creating a very tight space for those vehicles to turn.

“On busy days, City staff also noticed pedestrians walking into the street between the parked cars, and not seeing vehicles driving down the road to exit the parking lot.”

Added the spokesperson, “City staff determined it would be prudent to improve safety conditions by painting a red curb to no longer allow parking along the cul-de-sac and the small one-way road. This was due to safety concerns for pedestrians and park users and not to impede visitor access to Mission Bay.”

Meanwhile, Amber worries about finding a safe place to park her family for the night and remains frustrated at the level of enforcement as she tries to navigate her and her family’s new no-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

“I feel uncomfortable parking anywhere around here. I feel like I have been singled out,” says Amber. “I don’t know where else to go. I’ve just got to keep moving.”

madic lifestyle. She is surprised at the lack of help extended to those struggling financially during the pandemic.

“The city should offer more resources for us and so many others. Thousands of people have lost their jobs and their homes because of

this. There should be a place we can go. Instead, we are greeted with more and more officers whose sole goal is to write tickets. They pour all of this money into enforcement when it could go to finding solutions for people like us.”

— Dorian Hargrove

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Reader

Your Week

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Friday | 18

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crafts from San Diego artists.

There will be jewelry, handmade hats, painted rocks, watercolor pieces, ceramic

art, Christmas cards, and surprise art grab bags. All items are made by Studio ACE artists and community members. Artists: Robin Santori, Emily Hayden-Granger, Jean King, Kene Lohmann, Sofia Figueroa, and Allison C. Taylor.

WHEN: Friday, December 18, 2 pm to 6 pm and Saturday, December 19, 10 am to 2 pm

WHERE: Studio Ace, 3861 Mission Avenue #B3, Oceanside. studioace.org

ing event will see the band perform a fan-voted setlist, showcasing tracks that have never been performed live before. Event staged from the band's home-town landmark: the Sacramento Tower Bridge.

WHEN: Saturday, December 19, 4 pm
WHERE: watchdancegavindance.com

Sunday | 20

JIM BRICKMAN COMFORT & JOY AT HOME TOUR

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Saturday | 19

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DANCE GAVIN DANCE



SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 27: HOLIDAY NIGHTS ON THE BAY

“The Gift,” “Sending You a Little Christmas,” “Angel Eyes,” and “If You Believe.” Ticket buyers can also experience an interactive Zoom room, meet & greets, and a stocking of gifts delivered to your door. A portion of each ticket fee benefits San Diego’s shuttered Balboa Theatre.

WHEN: Sunday, December 20, 2 pm
WHERE: jimbrickman.com/tour

HOLIDAY NIGHTS ON THE BAY

On Sunday evenings throughout December, you can join Flagship Cruises for their festive Holiday Nights On The Bay. See a decorated yacht and enjoy holiday music, scenic views, and a special menu inspired by the season. The chef will be preparing a duet short rib and rosemary chicken entree, vegetarian butternut squash ravioli, winter greens salad, and pumpkin cheesecake topped with vanilla bean whipped cream.

WHEN: Sundays, Through December 27, 5 pm to 8 pm
WHERE: Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive, Downtown. flagshipsd.com/cruises/holiday-nights

Monday | 21

DRIVE BY THE LIGHTS AND HOLOGRAMS IN DEL MAR

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WHEN: Everyday, 4 pm to 9 pm. Through Saturday, December 26.
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds,

2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar.

holidaysinyourcar.com



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ART

Holiday Arts & Crafts Pop Up Shop

Bring your mask and enjoy arts and crafts from some amazing local artists! Shop jewelry, handmade hats, painted rocks, watercolor pieces, ceramic art, Christmas cards, surprise art grab bags and

more! All items are made by Studio ACE artists and community members and they are donating 25% of proceeds to Studio ACE which will go to help our student scholarships and art kits. Thu-Fri, Dec 17-18, 2pm; Sat, Dec 19, 10am; Studio Ace, 3861 Mission Avenue #B3. (OCEANSIDE)

The Art Dr. Seuss Collection

Holiday Exhibition Visitors will view holiday-themed and highly collectible works from Dr. Seuss's best-known children's books and explore The Art of Dr. Seuss Merry Grinchmas. The exhibition opens on November 27 with a special reception beginning at noon and extends through December 31. Wednesdays, 10am; through Thursday, December 31, free. Exclusive Collections Gallery Solana Beach, 212 South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Enchanted Village: A Drive-Thru Holiday Experience

his magical drive-thru event will welcome San Diegans to view beautiful holiday lights, sounds, and decorations. The Enchanted Village features hundreds of giant candy canes, a forest of Christmas trees, Candy Land, nightly appearances by Santa, and more. Fri-Wed, Dec 18-23, 5pm; Noah Homes, 12526 Campo Road. (SPRING VALLEY)

Rhyme & Verse

A poem for the beginning of winter
by Timothy Steele

Toward the Winter Solstice

Although the roof is just a story high,
It dizzies me a little to look down.
I lariat-twirl the rope of Christmas lights
And cast it to the weeping birch's crown;
A dowel into which I've screwed a hook
Enables me to reach, lift, drape, and twine
The cord among the boughs so that the bulbs
Will accent the tree's elegant design.

Friends, passing home from work or shopping, pause
And call up commendations or critiques.
I make adjustments. Though a potpourri
Of Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jews, and Sikhs,
We all are conscious of the time of year;
We all enjoy its colorful displays
And keep some festival that mitigates
The dwindling warmth and compass of the days.

Some say that L.A. doesn't suit the Yule,
But UPS vans now like magi make
Their present-laden rounds, while fallen leaves
Are gaily resurrected in their wake;
The desert lifts a full moon from the east
And issues a dry Santa Ana breeze,
And valets at chic restaurants will soon
Be tending flocks of cars and SUV's.

And as the neighborhoods sink into dusk
The fan palms scattered all across town stand
More calmly prominent, and this place seems
A vast oasis in the Holy Land.

This house might be a caravansary,
The tree a kind of cordial fountainhead
Of welcome, looped and decked with necklaces
And ceintures of green, yellow, blue, and red.

Some wonder if the star of Bethlehem
Occurred when Jupiter and Saturn crossed;
It's comforting to look up from this roof
And feel that, while all changes, nothing's lost,
To recollect that in antiquity
The winter solstice fell in Capricorn
And that, in the Orion Nebula,
From swirling gas, new stars are being born.



Timothy Steele (b. 1948) is an American poet and one of the leading proponents of the New Formalism, which seeks to return to the traditional structures and devices of poetry, including meter, rhyme, and traditional poetic forms such as the sonnet. He is well known for his critical work on English prosody, *All the Fun's in How You Say a Thing*, and his critique of modern

"free verse," *Missing Measures*. Steele was one of the founding members of the West Chester University Poetry Conference, which helped give birth to the modern revival of formal verse. While Steele has generally rejected the idea that his poetry is part of the New Formalist movement (which suggests an interest in style over substance), critics have noted that his work almost exclusively employs full rhymes (vs. half rhymes), and rarely uses metrical substitutions or enjambment — rendering his poems more formal than those of most New Formalists.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

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Years Ordained: 10

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and intentionally choosing
life in order to have abundant
living. We as a church believe
loving everyone to life with
everything we have involves
not just the spiritual nature
of a person, but also the
physical, mental, emotional
and communal parts of a
person.

SDR: Where is the strangest
place you found God?

PS: I went through a
period of about six years
during my time in seminary
when I wondered whether
I believed in God. I wouldn't
go so far as to say I didn't
believe – but I certainly
engaged in a

rational thought process
as to whether this belief in
God was all total crap. At
the end of that six years,
I remember sitting at a
desert at the Getty Center
in L.A. — there is a desert
portion to the Center,
and I was there to spend
a quiet day with a group.
We could choose anywhere
to go in the Center,
and I chose the desert
because that's how I felt
internally. I remember,
though, that I was bowled
away, sitting in that desert,
by the presence of God —
I hadn't felt the presence
of God in years. I sensed
the presence, not in the
desert, but far away on
a balcony I could see in

another part of the Getty
Center. I sensed God saying,
"I see you. You're OK. Stay
there as long as you want.
I'm still here." Even though
it took me another year to
come out of what I called
the dark night of the senses,
it was a very powerful
experience for me in my
faith journey.

SDR: Where do you go when
you die?

PS: Scriptures don't talk
much about that. There is
a lot of theology that has
come out about a lot of
things that scripture
doesn't talk about much.
I believe who we are in
this life and the relationship
we begin with God continues
in the next, which



Karla Shaw

includes being in the presence
of God in a powerful way.
But heaven is not a place;
it's a person and a presence,
and it doesn't start when
we die. It starts now. And
don't ask me about hell,
because I don't really know.
I think hell is just the
absence of God, and if it's
God's desire that

all people come to know
him, which scripture says
is clearly the case, then
does God not get what he
wants? Because this
arbitrary thing we call
death is the end of life
as we know it, biologically,
we assume that's the final
door. But who knows?
There might be another
door, and another door,
and another door, until
God gets what he wants.
I'm not a Hindu, but I
can understand the idea
of reincarnation. It's not
part of the Biblical text,
but it does fit with the
sovereignty of God. How
do we know? We don't.

— Joseph O'Brien

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at SDReader.com/worship/

Grinch's Grotto This year, celebrate
the holiday season like never
before with a visit to the Grinch's
Cave and meet The Grinch and
interact with him right in his cave,
as well as pose for a photo. Sundays,
11am; through Thursday, December
24, Westfield University Towne
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(LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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December 18, 11am; Sunday,
December 20, 2pm and 6pm; \$60.
<https://bit.ly/2WdHesB>. (ONLINE)

COMEDY

MSTie Free Online Roast of Rudolph

Celebrate Christmas with
misfit comedians as they make
jokes and play drinking games during
the movie that taught us people
will only like you if you're useful
to them. Add your own jokes in
the chat for the entire audience to
see. The show will be aired over
VIMEO and TWITCH simultaneously
though Twitch is recommended
since it has more chat options.
Wednesday, December 23, 5pm;
free. 21 and up. <https://www.frontrowfilmroast.com/>. (ONLINE)

DANCE

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19, 5pm and 8pm; \$99-\$279. Del
Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy
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FILM

Holiday Dinner & a Movie Series

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ber 16: Christmas Story, Decem-
ber 23: National Lampoon's Christ-
mas Vacation, December 30: It's a
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Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

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ages: 4 – 8. Learn more and
register: <https://bit.ly/3dJux0C>. Monday,
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Happy Fonso bongos away to a recorded song coming out of his car. “Working for tips,” his cardboard signs says. “Your help is needed and appreciated. Thanks!”

Except, since the lockdown, Old Town is pretty-much deserted. In the silence, you can hear his two-note bongos up and down San Diego Avenue. A couple of dollar bills lit in his tips bucket. “God Bless you!” it reads.

He puts on a hopeful face. “This is the first time I’ve tried playing here,”

Ooh. I get whiffs of *carne asada*. A couple of Mexican cafes are making tacos right out on the street. But no seats. You’ve gotta find your own space to eat them. People have to take them off to their cars, if they have them.

Definitely hungry, so I carry on down Twigg’s,



Hugh, Juan, remembering their recently-passed companion William

which leads to Congress Street. It’s even more deserted. All except for that Italian place that has been here forever. Pizza Bella. Hey hey! Open for take-out! I’m in like Flynn.

I see they have a whole empty patio in the middle of the building. The counter guy, Lou, gives me a menu and says I can go into the courtyard to sit, but just to check the options.

So I’m looking at the menu.

“Our Sigma Chi was voted ‘Best pizza in America’ on ABC’s *Mike and Matesy Show*. It was a kind of *Good Morning America*,” he says. Huh. Best in America! That’s impressive. I think seriously of going pizza, just to see what The Best tastes like.

They start at 13 bucks for the “personal” pizzas, and head up to near \$40 for the giant size. Salads are \$11-14, pastas such as spaghetti or lasagna run \$17 (but you get “freshly-baked” garlic bread and a side salad as part of the deal), and main entrees such as Shrimp Alfredo go up to \$21. But they do have meatball sandwiches for \$11. I go for an appetizer-size spicy BBQ wings (\$10.95 for eight).

Oh, and while I’m waiting, a glass of wine, \$10, which Lou lets me drink at one of the tables. A nice Pinot Grigio. Couple of gents come up with

a whole bottle of wine. They’re waiting for their take-out too. Wine’s a Salmon Creek Cab. “Costs \$21.95,” says one of them, Joseph. Wow, so let’s say they get two glasses each, that’s half what I’m paying. Sigh.

They’re regulars.

“There used to be three of us,” says his buddy Geoff. “We were The Three Musketeers. But our friend William passed away.”

“Makes it hard,” says Joe. “Especially in this covid atmosphere.”

Turns out Joe is a caregiver. He looks like a strong guy. Just as well. I’m sure he has a lot of lifting to do.

“How long have you guys been going?” I ask Lou.

“Fifty years, exactly, 1970,” Lou says. “We had a whole celebration planned.”

I take my wings up to the Old Town Plaza, even though, heck, all seating has been hauled away here too. So I kinda wander from one fence post to the next, pausing to haul out one chicken wing from the box at a time. Interesting sloppy BBQ taste, though. Then, aah: you can almost lay the box down on this big stone ball in the plaza. But I don’t, because it has a plaque set into it. “On this spot the United States flag was first raised in Southern California by Lt. Stephen C. Rowan commanding

sailors and marines July 29, 1846.”

I try to imagine that scene in the dusty summer plaza as I walk and chew these very tender, juicy wings. I think of the American sailors and marines, and of the Mexican citizens of the plaza who suddenly weren’t Mexican citizens any more.

The wings: super sloppy, sweet, spicy, savory, and at eight pieces, the perfect stomach-filler. I’m bloated, but super-satisfied.

And — hey hey! — I’m back next day. Because I keep remembering Lou mentioning that pizza. “Best in America.” Sigma Chi.

This time it’s Michael behind the counter. “Sigma Chi?” he says. “Sure. Our winner. Italian sausage, bacon, pepperoni, *primavera* veggies. What size?”

Of course I go for the “personal.” It costs \$14.95. Only other quite as good, Michael says, is the “Kitchen Pizza.” (It has “everything but the kitchen sink,” menu says.) Problem: no personal size.

So, second day in a row, I’m back to the grassy plaza, under that tall mast, working on a big slice of this scrumptious pizza. Chewing, walking, contemplating all the scenes this place must have witnessed: bullfights, fiestas, parades. Easy to evoke, now nobody’s here.



This is Sigma Chi, the pie that was voted best pizza in America after some USC frat students came and created it

Thing about the pizza is its airy, almost crunchy crust; and its tons of sausage, bacon, and pepperoni. And sautéed chunks of celery, cucumber, carrot.

“But why ‘Sigma Chi?’” I ask Michael. “It was a group of USC students from their Sigma Chi frat came in,” he tells me. “We just said ‘Put whatever you want on your pizza.’ And this is what they chose. People loved the combo.”

So do I. Parmesan sprinkles and peppers help too, even though balancing it all while walking along is not so easy. Oh man. When’s that vaccine coming!?

Best Pizza in America? Well, it is up there with the best I’ve had. Just the airy crust alone. Then the crackling combo of savory meats.

I mean yes, from the name up, the place is old-



Old School: Decor and food are traditional Italian

school Italian. Maybe not so cool, but one thing’s for sure: sluice it down with some house red, and this kind of food leaves you feeling warm all over.

Maybe I’ll go and see if Happy Fonso wants a slice. ■

The Place: Pizza Bella Italian Bistro, 2707 Congress Street, Old Town, 619-692-4333

Hours: 11am - 10:00pm daily (till 9pm Sundays)

Prices: Meatball sandwich (Italian beef, meat sauce), \$10.95; Philly cheesesteak sandwich, \$11.95; Spicy BBQ wings (8), \$10.95; regular Mediterranean salad, \$10.95; pizzas, from \$11.95 to \$36.95; Sigma-Chi, \$14.95, personal size; spaghetti, with garlic bread, salad, \$16.95; manicotti (same sides), \$16.95; chicken Marsala (\$18.95); breaded eggplant Parmesan (\$17.95), and shrimp diablo (\$20.95)

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Wait for the tortillas

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

Tortillas star at Taquería Zapata

Pancho Villa Farmer's Market; 3245 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights. I got lucky this time: there were only two people in line. It would still take five or six minutes to reach the front, but considering the near 30-minute wait I found on my last visit, this felt like nothing.

Not that the half hour wait for fresh tortillas isn't worth it. Tortilleria Adelita operates within Pancho Villa Farmers Market, the Mexican specialty grocer with locations in San Ysidro and City Heights. I've come to the latter to pick up such stuff as tomatillos, dried chili peppers, and comically large cans of hominy. But when I notice the tortilla line is short, I immediately claim my spot. A wise move. By the time I reach the front, it continues outside the supermarket entrance.

FEAST!

Why would people wait for tortillas? Because they're made right there in front of you, pressed and grilled on a large, round *comal* that sits beneath a ventilation hood roughly between the produce and dairy sections. They're so in demand the *tortilleros* barely keep up: the last of my small flour tortillas goes straight from the grill into my bag. The perfect combination of fluffy and elastic, these *harina* beauties are yummy enough to eat on their own. They'll still be warm when I get them home.

But first, I have another stop to make, just on the outside of the store. There, from a window counter facing the Pancho Villa parking lot, Taquería Zapata dishes up tacos made on Adelita's terrific corn tortillas.

For years, the counter has kept its street tacos under two bucks apiece — and still does, sorta. They go two for \$4 now, which means I'm going to eat four today. In a way, the twofer pricing will protect me from myself. I might have settled for three tacos, otherwise, and missed out on that filling fourth.

There aren't as many taco



Adobada tacos from Taquería Zapata, made on corn tortillas made by Tortilleria Adelita.



A carnitas taco (left) and a cabeza taco (right)



Taquería Zapata, serving street tacos on the outside of the Pancho Villa market.



Pancho Villa Market

options as I remember: at least, there are no longer *carne asada* or *birria* tacos on the menu. But it's not exactly a hardship to sample what remains. Best are the pork options: *achiote*-seasoned *adobada* with red salsa and a dollop of guacamole, and similarly dressed *carnitas*. The beef *cabeza* was tender enough, but not as flavorful as I'm used to.

But I'm only parsing at this point. All feature cilantro and diced onions, of course, but the reason they stand out is the pair of fresh corn tortillas

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So much pancit and chicken afritada for 10 bucks, the take-out container can barely close.

that fold around each one. The small tortillas are delightfully thick, and, made into tacos, slightly crispy at the edges, with just enough oil to make them interesting.

It was the sort of shopping trip that makes me glad to live in San Diego... and sorry for people in other parts of the country who don't have access to fresh-made tortillas.

by Ian Anderson

When you can't stop eating Fredcel Lumpia

Fredcel Lumpias & Catering; 3876 38th Street, City Heights. Nobody's out to bad-mouth underperforming restaurants during a pandemic, shutdown or otherwise, so I'm not here to name names. But I will say that we took the family out to try out a new-to-us Filipino restaurant last week,

and found only bitter disappointment. The food just didn't taste good, and not even the lumpia could salvage our meals.

Bottom line here, is that I owed the kids good lumpia. So with restaurant dining closed this week, I went looking for what's said to be the best in town.

That would be Fredcel Lumpia & Catering. Combining the names of married



Best in San Diego beef lumpia: minced beef, carrots, celery, and onions, hand-wrapped and deep fried.

owners Fred and Cecelia Rodriguez, the small, 14-year-old business sits on a side street in the Cherokee Park area of City Heights. And as my colleague Mike Madriaga reported a few years back, the shop's hand-rolled beef lumpia is so popular it sells upwards of 6000 a day.

It's cash-only, but one aspect that certainly bolsters Fredcel's business is the price. Currently, lumpia run about 50 cents apiece, meaning my order of 20 cost just 10 bucks. That 20 might have been plenty — if I were eating them all myself. But these crispy, savory rolls are so tasty, and so instantly addictive, I had barely taken the vented

foil cover off the box before I turned around and they were gone.

Fortunately, lumpia wasn't the only thing on the menu. In normal times, Fredcel operates as a traditional Filipino *turo-turo* — or “point point” — type eatery. Meaning customers get to look over a cafeteria-like line of hot dishes in large chafing pans, and point to which ones look best.

However, in covid times, Fredcel's glass counter is off limits to customers, so a hand-written menu sits at the front, revealing which dishes are offered this day. I wound up choosing between a classic *adobo* chicken and a pork *menudo*, before settling on the

afritada, featuring braised, bone-in chicken, swimming in a slightly tangy tomato sauce with potatoes.

Again, the cost was marvelously low. A combo with two sides (steamed rice and pancit) went for \$9.50. I might have added a second protein for a buck or so more, except the portion of rice, noodles, and chicken was already so heaping, my Styrofoam to-go container could barely contain it and refused to stay closed.

This simple and huge — if not very photogenic — meal was twice the amount of food and good flavor than the spread we had spent 40 bucks on the week prior. I can only imagine how many parties Fredcel Catering has made affordable and delicious over the years, with its variety of dishes.

But for anyone who loves food, it has to start with the lumpia. While plotting this story, I had planned to cut a lumpia in half, hoping to offer a good look at the mixture of minced beef, onions, carrots, and celery that make them so good (vegetarian lumpia are also available). But small hands grabbed away all the lumpia so quickly that, in retrospect, I was lucky to get a shot of their fried wrappers. Whether dipped in a very slightly spicy sweet-and-sour sauce, or straight out of the box, these were in fact the redemptive lumpia my family needed. A box of these makes the perfect pandemic comfort food. And, however many you think you can eat in one sitting — order twice as many.

by Ian Anderson



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ALLIED GARDENS

McGregor's Grill and Ale House: *Monday, Thursday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$1 off all pints, wells, house wines, \$5 off half gallon pitchers. *Tuesday, 4-6pm:* \$1 off all pints, wells, house wines, \$5 off half gallon pitchers. *Wednesday, 4-6pm:* \$1 off all pints, wells, house wines, \$5 off half gallon pitchers, \$5 whiskey cocktails and shots, half price bottles of wine.

BAY PARK

Off Shore Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks. *Saturday, 9pm-close:* All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

Chart House: *Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm:* \$4 import & specialty draft beers, well spirits, \$6 wine by the glass, \$7 cocktails.

CARLSBAD

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

CITY HEIGHTS

Alcove Wine & Beer: *Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm:* \$1 off beer, \$2 off wine & appetizers.

CORONADO

Brigantine Coronado: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$1 off all draft beer, well drinks, and featured wine by the glass, \$4 sparkling wine glass.

Nicky Rottens: *Monday, 3-6pm:* \$8 select mules all night. *Tuesday, 3-6pm:* \$4 any canned beer. *Wednesday, 3-6pm:* \$5 draft pints. *Thursday, 3-6pm:* 22 ounce draft for pint price. *Friday, 3-6pm:* \$6 mimosas and Bloody Marys. *Saturday, 3pm-6pm:* \$5 drafts, well cocktails, house wines. \$5 pretzels & beer cheese, side of fries, tots, \$6 buffalo wings, \$7 house nachos, \$8 chicken fritters & fries, \$10 chicken lettuce cup.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Asti Ristorante: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$5 beers, \$7 house wine and cocktails, bites from \$5.

Cheesecake Factory Downtown: *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.

Gaslamp Fish House: *Daily, 3:30-6:00pm:* \$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.

Knotty Barrel: *Monday, Friday, 4-7pm:* \$2 off craft beer, \$6 premium wells, house red and white wines. *Tuesday, 4-7pm:* \$2 off craft beer, \$6 premium wells, house red and white wines. Half off craft beer all day. *Wednesday, 4-7pm:* \$2 off craft beer, \$6 premium wells, house red and white wines, half off wine bottle all day. *Thursday, 4-7pm:* \$2 off craft beer, \$6 premium wells, house red and white wines, half off wine bottles all day.

Maryjane's: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 wells drinks, beer, \$6 wine.

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).

Werewolf American Pub: *Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 drafts, house wines, and wells.

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: *Wednesday-Sunday, 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.

EAST VILLAGE

Bootlegger: *Tuesday,* \$10 build-your-own-nachos and beer all day. *Saturday-Sunday, 9am-1pm:* \$25 per person 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

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.

Vintana Wine + Dine: *Daily, 3-5pm:* \$8 martinis and appetizers.

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.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa: *Friday, All day:* Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24. *Sunday, 11am-2pm:* \$4 Bloody Marys, \$5 Champagne.

LAKESIDE

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

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: *Daily, 4pm-7pm:* \$3 shot of select liquor with your first drink. *4-7pm:* \$1 off domestic beer, 50 cents off cocktails.

LITTLE ITALY

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

King and Queen Cantina:

Daily, Noon-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 select, \$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, Mission Blonde draft, Polish Pie shots, \$5 well drinks. *Friday, 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.

MISSION HILLS

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* All draught pints (excluding cask, \$6 Anytime, and Black Velvet) and bottled beer \$1 off. well liquor \$4.50, \$5 house wine, appetizers \$5.95-\$7.95.

MISSION VALLEY

Cheesecake Factory Mission Valley: *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.

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.

North Italia Fashion Valley: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 glasses red wine, white wine, sangria, beers, \$16 wine bottles and beer pitchers.

NORTH PARK

Redwing Bar & Grill: *Wednesday-Friday, 3pm-6pm:* \$4.50 24 oz. Tall Boys.

OCEANSIDE

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

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: *Tuesday,* Half off well drinks and selected appetizers all day.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town: *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.

PACIFIC BEACH

Ambrogio 15: *Monday-Friday, 3-5pm:* \$19 per person biodynamic (organic) wine flight with three selected biodynamic wines (two ounce pour) and focaccia bread, olives, artichokes.

Latitude 32: *Wednesday-Saturday, 4-6pm:* \$3-\$5.50 beer and wines.

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

Mavericks Beach Club: *Monday, 5-6pm:* \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. *3-10pm:* Half off one pound orders of all wings, no limit. *Tuesday, 5-6pm:* \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. *5-10pm:* \$10 all you can eat taco bar. *5pm-2am:* \$4 all Mexican beers, \$4 Margaritas, \$4 shots of El Jimador. *Wednesday, Friday, 5-6pm:* \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 mar-

garitas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. *Thursday, 5-6pm:* \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. *9pm-2am:* \$3 Natural Lite seltzers and Naturdays, \$4 shots of Jameson, Altos, Absolut, Malibu, Jagermeister.

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

POINT LOMA

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-Saturday, 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: *Friday, All day:* Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24.

SAN MARCOS

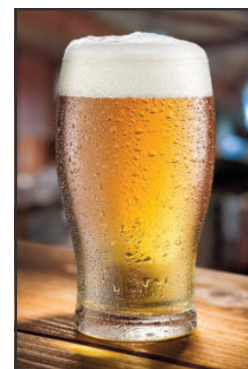
Churchill's Pub and Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells. *Sunday, All day:* \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells.

SOLANA BEACH

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

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Et Voilà French Bistro: *Tuesday-Sunday, 4:30-7pm:* \$7 cocktails, glass of house made sangria (\$14 pitcher), draft Iron Fist Counter Strike IPA, and draft 1664, \$5-\$9 wines by the glass. Discounted food menu.



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blurt the inside track

Ceiling caved in Gary Wilson's new album is *Tormented*. Which is not to say that Gary Wilson himself — notorious denizen of San Diego's weirder side — is necessarily tormented. Although he came reasonably close to going over the edge; closer than his other albums have taken him.

"The album was recorded

gone days he may not have actually lived, girlfriends who may or may not have been real, and his perpetual loneliness in the "Twilight Zone."

But he's not immune to some real-life revelry. "My favorite restaurant in San Diego is Filippi's, located in The Little Italy area near downtown. A little wine and a cheese pizza at Filippi's and



How does *Tormented* musician Gary Wilson find peace? "A little wine and a cheese pizza at Filippi's and I'm in paradise."

at my pad," explains the artist. "While recording the album, my ceiling collapsed. The bedroom ceiling in the room where all my instruments and recording gear are set up. Damaged a lot of my equipment. That's showbiz."

Wilson believes the album reflects how "We all have our ups and downs on our journey through life. One moment I'm happy. The next moment I'm sad."

In his long-running one-man-band fashion, Wilson layered his own keyboards, guitar, bass, drums, and drum machine on the album. "Also vocals, with the help of my band The Blind Dates. I try to make it sound like a band behind me. The above instruments plus upright bass and cello, are my favorite instruments, the cello being the most challenging.

Lyrical, *Tormented's* classic Wilson. He ruminates on long-

I am in paradise. Their pizza reminds me of the pizza from my hometown, Endicott, New York."

His lifelong cinemania also helps. "I started working as an usher at the UA Glasshouse 6 around 1981-1982," Wilson remembers. "I helped secure the seats to the floor before they opened. Stayed with UA Glasshouse for five years before moving on to The Academy Theatre on 37th and University Avenue. The Academy Theatre at one time was part of the Landmark Theatre chain. Monty Jones (the unofficial mayor of Kensington) managed The Academy Theatre. Before working there Monty booked my band Gary Wilson And The Blind Dates at San Diego State University. Thus, it was like working with your friend.

"Had good times at both theaters. One of my favorite films was the Jack Nicholson/Meryl Streep movie *Ironweed*.

Though the film takes place in depression time Albany, New York, it makes me think of being homeless in Binghamton, New York, about eight miles from my hometown of Endicott."

The virus abides for now, of course, but Wilson globetrots when he gets the chance. "I did two tours in Europe. The band and I were treated well and we had a good time. The thing about touring Europe is that you can feel the history and age of the various cities and countries. Hope to go back sometime in the future."

Asked about his seemingly inexhaustible supply of stage costumes — mixing hats, wigs, sunglasses, women's clothes, uniforms, institutional clothing, gauze, bolstered sometimes with flung flour and/or paint — he allows, "I do have an assortment of wigs and other wearable robes and sunglasses. I can always use more. Artist Kelly Paige Standard made me a beautiful robe which I wore on my last tour. Kelly also painted the cover for my latest album."

Next for this juggernaut of arcane? "Working on a new album and more shows."

— Andrew Hamlin

Needle to the groove

Since the shutdown of our venues county-wide in March, record sales are trending upwards for most of our local record vendors. One reason for the uptick in sales is that old heads are sharing the needle-to-the-groove experience with our quarantined post-millennials.

Local collectors I've spoken to report an almost magical allure to music on vinyl. The say playing the right 12-inch or 7-inch polyvinyl chloride spinning discs subliminally cues young San Diegans to put down their cell phones and convene by the music source and its accompanying loudspeakers. Especially if a current Billboard Hot 100 artist sampled the record playing. Take the early 70s hit "I Love You For All Seasons" by The Fuzz — the groms might wonder why 21 Savage and J. Cole aren't rapping in between the verses.

In my household, face-



Thanks to Doggface, Beat Box Records can now get \$15 for Fleetwood Mac's 1977 *Rumours* album. It used to be a dollar-bin item.

to-face communication experiences near the record player begin when I recount a memory jarred by the song playing. Then if I'm lucky, I'll transition into something of a pep talk before my kids pick up their phones again.

Another father, Nathan Apodaca, parlayed his love

for 70s jams into pep talks with a national audience. In late September, the Idaho Falls resident reportedly started his day with a broken down vehicle. Bummer, right? Not for Apodaca. He hopped onto a San Diego-manufactured Sector 9 longboard and skated to the potato processing factory where he worked. On the way there, the 37-year-old man created a selfie-skate video lip syncing to Stevie Nicks' lead vocals on the circa-1977 Fleetwood Mac song "Dreams." He uploaded the clip onto

his @420doggface208 account on TikTok on September 25. A day or so later, the video went viral. It currently has 11.7 million views and counting. The thing is, much of TikTok's audience is from the post-millennial sect. Reportedly 41 percent of its users are between the ages of 16 and 24, making their grandparents probable listeners of "Dreams" when the song topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1977. About 43 years later, and three days after

Apodaca's selfie-skate video was uploaded, "Dreams" racked up 2.9 million on-demand U.S. streams and 3000 in digital download sales — numbers up 88.7 percent and 374 percent, respectively," reported *Billboard*. Apodaca became a 2020 viral sensation, and in two months, reportedly made

Records in Logan Heights.

"And the *Rumours* record with 'Dreams' on it?" I asked.

"The most I'll sell *Rumours* for is \$15. I'm sure other spots charge more, because they'll probably get it."

On a quick search on eBay, I found a couple of vendors selling the *Rumours* record for over \$1500 apiece.

"It's not a rare record, they sold millions of them, and they used to be in one-dollar bins for a long time, but they have dried up."

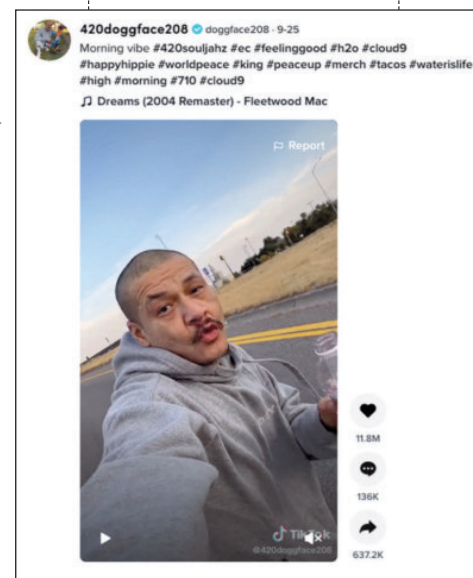
"And are parents buying records from you, or younger kids?" I asked.

"Nowadays, parents are buying their kids record players because they are cool gifts. And the kids are looking for records, like *Rumours*, so that they can share good memories with their parents back home.

It's come to a full circle."

Walmart.com has over 30 different record players available, many of which start at \$45 apiece. That's almost the same price they sold for when "Dreams" first dropped in 1977.

— Mike Madriaga



Nathan "Doggface" Apodaca on the video that made him famous (and \$340,000 wealthier).

\$340,000 in donated monies and swag from Sector 9, Sayer Nissan, Vivint, and Ocean Spray — and appeared on national news, and radio shows spreading good vibes.

Fast forward to Christmas season 2020, and I recently sold two *Best of Fleetwood Mac* cassettes with "Dreams" on the track lists, thanks to Apodaca.

"That's because they are re-releasing the Walkmans," Bernie Fishman said to me. Fishman owns Beat Box

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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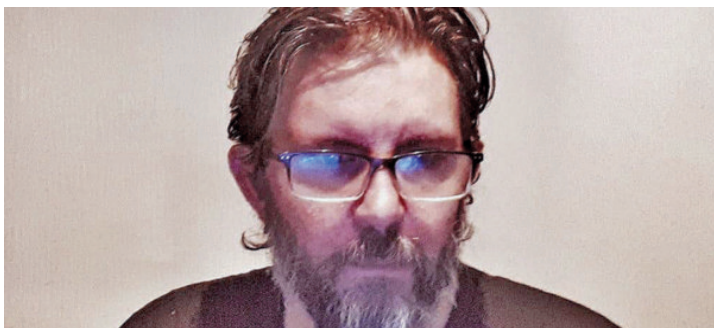
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SCOTT WEST

The titular frontman of the Scott West Band has recorded with guest contributors such as Cake bassist Gabe Nelson, Lee Rocker (Stray Cats), and Prairie Prince (The Tubes, Jefferson Starship). Since the early 2000s, he's been working with Tesla members, including bassist Brian Wheat, guitarist Frank Hannon, and drummer Troy Luckketta, recording his 2010 holiday album *California Christmas* at Tesla's Sacramento studio. West recently made his music video directorial debut with the shoot for his song "Fallback," featuring Frank Hannon, Steel Breeze singer-guitarist Dan Bauer, and Stone-ground guitarist Tim Barnes, who played with West's earlier Sacramento band. "Fallback" is about being at the cross-

roads of a relationship, when you have to decide whether you're going to pick it up and make the relationship work, or you're going to kick it down and move on to something that is hopefully better," says West. "We shot most of the video on San Diego beaches, including Mission Beach, La Jolla, Del Mar, and Encinitas. We did shoot a sunset shot at a famous surfer spot, Black Rock in west Maui." "Fallback" was the fourth single from West's 2006 album *Standing on the Moon*, soon to be re-released in a remastered version completed at Air Studios London. The video features Kristiana Koroleva, who was Miss Russia in the 2016 Miss Universe pageant.



THE RED STEP

Tobias Nathaniel of the Black Heart Procession formed The Red Step with musicians from the garage rock scene in his new home of Belgrade, Serbia's capital city: keyboardist Boris Eftovski, bassist Rudolf Cibulski, and drummer Vladimir Markoski (who played drums with Andre Williams), all hailing from the longstanding Serbian garage rock band Kazna za uši. Nathaniel seems to be eschewing keyboards to instead handle vocals and guitar, Londoner Sarah Jane Seatherton plays cello, and both Eftovski and Markoski have been members of the Black Heart Procession. The Red Step's eponymous debut was just released by Chicago's Pravda

Records via streaming platforms and on colored marbled vinyl with an accompanying download card. A single for "Reset" is available online, and a video recently debuted for "Black Summer," which was reportedly written four years ago as a prediction of what might happen in Donald Trump were elected president. Tobias Nathaniel has also recorded with indie rockers Blonde Redhead and Bauhaus bassist David J (who ended up living in San Diego), and he played piano on what became the "Evil Morty" theme on the TV show *Rick and Morty*. He was recently interviewed for the podcast *Conan Neutron's Protonic Reversal*.



NOAH C. LEKAS

Saturday Night Sage, a collection of poetry and narrative prose by Noah C. Lekas, was the first book released by local label Blind Owl Records, founded by singer-guitarist Daniel Cervantes (Whiskey Circle, Mrs. Henry, Creature & the Woods). Released last year, audio and visual pieces inspired by the book were produced by locals Joshua and Jeremiah Zimmerman (The Silent Comedy), Ben Ambrosini (Taken By Canadians), and members of Mrs. Henry. In February, Blind Owl will release a collaborative spoken word EP based on the book, *Sounds From the Shadow Factory*, with tracks by Ben Ambrosini, Chad Lee (The Silent Comedy), and Mrs. Henry. The first single "Saturday Night Sage" features Howlin

Rain accompanying Noah C. Lekas. "The Howlin Rain music here was dug out of a rehearsal recording from one of our past jams," says bandleader Ethan Miller. "It was the kind of thing we play to warm up when we first reconvene, usually someone is still changing guitar strings or setting up an amp and whoever is ready begins an improv and everyone joins in eventually. Dan Cervantes took what probably never would have been revisited, heard the spirit in it, and brilliantly edited and overdubbed a few subtle elements to really make it a thing and create a piece that could thread into Noah's fantastic neo-beat poetry. In the end, that off-the-cuff 'found' music source is a really cool vehicle for Noah's words."



CROCODILES

Indie/fuzz-rock duo Crocodiles features Brandon Welchez (the Prayers) and Charles Rowland (Some Girls), who've been playing together since they were teenagers in San Diego bands such as the Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower and the Prayers. Kate Clover directed the video for their new single "Christmas In Hell," which doesn't come from any existing release. "The world needed a Christmas song reflective of the total shittiness of 2020, so last week we decided to write one," says Welchez. "We recorded it immediately via

email and shot the video in our respective apartments under Kate's direction. Hopefully, it makes your holiday season slightly less shitty." The video features a socially distanced Santa and one coked up elf enacting a lonely holiday, as Wells Fargo prepares to repossess Saint Nick's workshop, forcing massive elf layoffs. The improbably chirpy pop rock sheen is counterbalanced with lyrics such as "Mommy's in the hospital, daddy's out of work, fascists on the TV screen, the world is run by jerks."



LOCAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Other new locally created Christmas-themed music includes a single called "Christmas With Friends" from Safety Orange, founded in the mid-90s by singer-bassist Sol Turpin (40 Oz to Freedom), a San Diego native, with singer-guitarist Greg Karlo (who once played with Turpin in a Cure tribute band). The video for Josie Day's new original Christmas song "I Can't Wait For Christmas" was filmed at last year's December Nights in Balboa Park. Jose Sinatra may not be able to host OB's longtime Christmas Eve Karaoke event, but the

comedic singer and his longtime musical partner Troy Dante are marking the holidays by releasing their version of "The Xmas Song," replacing the lyrics about chestnuts roasting on an open fire with their own bawdy phrases. You can find more locals on both volumes of the Snap! Records holiday compilation *Power Chords, Harmonies & Mistletoe*, including former Byrd Chris Hillman, Mojo Nixon's onetime musical partner Skid Roper, the Tourmaliners, Jim Ryan, Pony Death Ride, the Drabs, Rockola, the Shambles, and True Stories.

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Nick & G's:

Thursday, 6pm — Heather Nation.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, 7pm — Allie X: Cape God Digital Concert.

Thursday, 4pm — Lucinda Williams: Lu's Jukebox.

Thursday, 8pm — Melanie Martinez: Can't Wait Till I'm Out Of K-12. \$18-\$200.

Thursday, 4:30pm, Friday, 5pm, Saturday, 12pm & 5pm, Sunday, 5pm — Straight No Chaser: Social Christmasing. \$20.

Friday, 7pm — Belly Up Livestream: Abbey Road Christmas. \$12.

Friday, 8pm — Hollywood Undead House Party.

Friday, 3pm — Save The Senate Festival. \$15.

Friday, 4pm — Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Christmas Eve & Other Stories. \$30.

Friday, 5pm — We Banjo 3: Winter Wonderful. \$20.

Saturday, 5pm — Asleep At The Wheel Christmas Concert.

Saturday, 2pm — Bad Religion: Decades.

Saturday, 7pm — Belly Up Livestream: Metalachi Christmas. \$15.

Saturday, 2pm — Boy George & Culture Club: Rainbow in the Dark. \$21-\$228.

Saturday, 4pm — Dance Gavin Dance: Tree City Sessions Vol. 2.

Saturday, 1pm — Josh Groban Livestream.

Saturday, 5pm — Osees: Livestream At Big Sur.

Saturday, 12pm — Sharon & Randi: Skinnamarink Christmas.

Saturday, 5pm — The Orb: This Is Not Here Livestream.

Sunday, 2pm — Jim Brickman Comfort & Joy at Home Tour. \$40-\$125.

Sunday, 4pm — José Feliciano's Feliz Navidad 50th Anniversary Concert. \$13-\$500.

Sunday, 12pm — Rufus, Martha & Lucy Wainwright: A Not So Silent Night.

Sunday, 4:30pm — Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony. \$18-\$200.

Sunday, 2pm — Spreckels Organ Concert & Holiday Sing-Along. **Free.**

Sunday, 2pm — Spreckels Organ Webcasts. **Free.**

Monday, 5pm — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**

Monday, 8pm — Steven Van Zandt: Stand With Teachers. \$25-\$150.

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

Tuesday, 6pm — G-Eazy: When It's Dark Out Anniversary. \$15.

Wednesday, 5pm — Jennifer Nettles: Hallelujah Anyway. \$15.

Wednesday, 6pm — The Night We Stole Christmas. \$17.

Tony Pepperoni Pizzeria:

Friday, 7pm — Tim Yancey. **Free.**

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Ho Ho No! Christmas without *The Nutcracker*

There will be no *Nutcracker* this year, at least not a live version. The ballet has become such a part of the holiday season that it is difficult to believe that for most of its history, it has been ignored.

The ballet had its premiere in 1892 at The Saint Petersburg Imperial Mariinsky Theatre. It flopped, and would have passed into oblivion if Tchaikovsky hadn't extracted a 20-minute orchestral suite from the full score.

It wasn't until Christmas Eve, 1944 that *The Nutcracker* received its American premiere in San Francisco. That production was a huge success, and the San Francisco Ballet has presented *The Nutcracker* every year since then.

However, the 2020 version

is a virtual affair that runs from November 27 through December 31. The price of virtual admission is \$49.

In 1954, The New York Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* sealed its role as a holiday favorite. By the 1960s, the ballet was being performed every Christmas in cities all over the country.

San Diego's California Ballet Company traditionally puts on performances of *The Nutcracker* at the Civic Theatre. The company recently reorganized, with the school of ballet becoming a separate entity. The new Artistic and Executive Directors, Raul Salamanca and Magda O'Neil respectively, face the challenge of re-establishing the company without its biggest annual draw.

Salamanca is up for the challenge. "I've been preparing my whole life for an opportunity like this, and I truly believe that the city of San Diego and Southern California is ready to house a world-class ballet company. I will continue to carry the torch with respect to the company's tradition and history, with a willingness to innovate, collaborate, and produce exciting programs for our audiences."

Likewise, Magda O'Neil is excited to be directing the company through the pandemic. "I'm thrilled to have been invited to support California Ballet Company. Especially in a pandemic, there is room for the performing arts in our society,



Magda O'Neil and Raul Salamanca: bullish ballet boosters

and I'm determined to showcase our talented dancers for our community. What a joy for me to join an organization with such rich history, talent on and offstage, and an audience who has shown such generous support for the art form."

As the pandemic continues, arts organizations have been raising their voices in

order to be included in the next Federal aid package. The entire industry has been gutted, and as each month slips by, the chances for the arts to recover to their previous state become smaller.

One thing is certain, the arts will continue. What is uncertain is the way in which we will consume them.

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City Ballet of San Diego: The Nutcracker

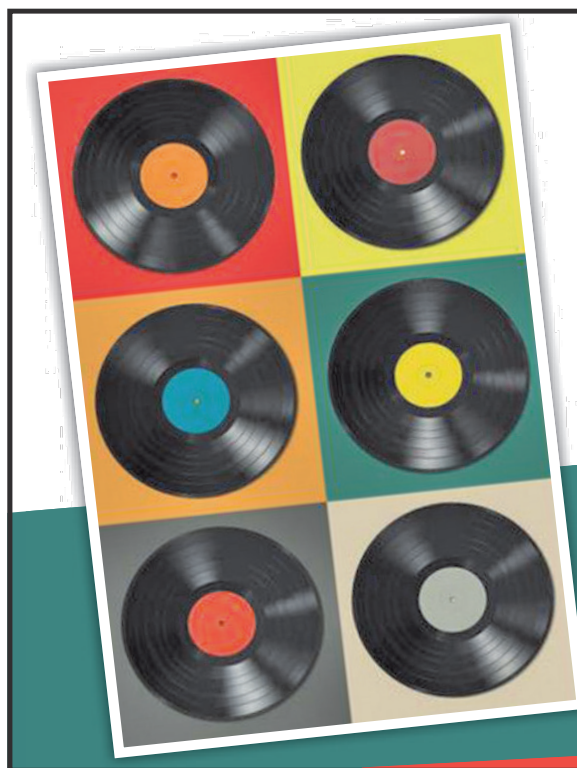
City Ballet of San Diego's award-winning production of the classic holiday ballet "The Nutcracker" will be performed as part of the Concerts in Your Car holiday programming. Voted "San Diego's Best Nutcracker" (San Diego Dance Alliance Tommy Award), and described by the San Diego Union-Tribune as "a plum of a Nutcracker," City Ballet's 26th annual Nutcracker returns this season to a new outdoor stage at the Del Mar Fairgrounds as part of the Concerts in Your Car series. Directors Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich, formerly of the Boston Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet, have created a lavish production with their company of professional dancers. Fashioned after the choreography of the great Russian master, Lev Ivanov, who created the very first Nutcracker more than 100 years ago, the production is dazzling, with virtuoso dancing and opulent costumes. Children's roles are performed by talented young dancers from the City Ballet School, the official school of City Ballet. The Nutcracker is the classic Victorian-era story of the adventures of Clara, the Nutcracker Prince, Herr Drosselmeyer and the Sugar Plum Fairy told through a

magical theatrical experience to Peter Tchaikovsky's famous score. Young and old alike will be captivated by Elizabeth Wistrich's choreography. Let your childhood dreams return and inspire you to imagine a by gone time. \$1 per ticket helps local San Diego charities, Emilio Nares Foundation and Shelter to Soldier. The show will include a visual light show, multi-media entertainment and a video screens. The combination of an extra high 360 degree stage and screens will ensure a good viewing experience for

everyone. Sound will come through your car stereo, like a traditional Drive-In Theater on your FM radio. Minimal sound will come from the stage. If your sounds system is not sufficient, we recommend bringing a FM radio. Space is very limited. All the event information can be found on our website at ConcertsInYourCar.com, please be sure to review FAQs before purchasing and arriving, but here is some info to get you started: Each ticket is valid for ONE car. The number of passengers must not exceed the number of

safety belts /seats in your vehicle. All tickets are first come, first parked, in the row you purchased and will not be assigned prior to arrival (first come, first parked basis). Parking attendants will direct each driver to a parking space in their designated row upon arrival. To ensure you don't miss a thing, we added large video screens on each side of the stage. CDC and State of California guidelines will be followed, and we are working closely with County of San Diego Health Department to ensure this event meets or exceeds all

recommended standards. Event staff will be wearing personal protective equipment as required by CDC guidelines. To be considerate of all attendees we do not allow smoking at this event. Thank you for your understanding. Portable restrooms will be available onsite. We ask that only two people per car at a time leave the vehicle to use. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines In the event it is necessary for a fan to leave their vehicle, safe social distancing will be strictly enforced. Failure to follow safe social distancing,



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or requests of staff members for participants to follow, will cause the participant to be subject to ejection. Tickets are ONLY available online and in advance. Your ticket is only valid for the DAY & TIME on the top of the ticket. Nontransferable to another show. No RVs, buses or Limos allowed. All lifted trucks and high profile vehicles MUST park in the ORANGE, RED or BLACK sections. Each ticket is valid for ONE car. The number of passengers must not exceed the number of safety belts /seats in your vehicle. Saturday, December 19, 5pm and 8pm; \$99-\$279. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard.

Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony In celebration of the holidays, the world's biggest-selling soprano and legendary GRAMMY Award-nominated artist Sarah Brightman headlines her first-ever Christmas livestream event, Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony, on Sunday December 20, 2020 from the historic Christ Church Spitalfields in London. Just as warming to the season as hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and cozy blankets by a crackling fire, the show sees Sarah breathe new life into a bevy of holiday classics and beautiful festive fan favorites for the season. Together with orchestra and chorister from Trinity College, she has invited special guests

Aled Jones and choir Gregorian to join her. Sarah will also reunite with Andrew Lloyd Webber for a very special performance of "Christmas Dream", a song written by Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This holiday classic features a beautiful new arrangement and will certainly be a memorable performance. Transforming the iconic setting, as only Sarah can, she welcomes viewers worldwide into her intimate winter wonderland. Curl up with your family and a hot toddy or two, and enjoy what promises to be an unforgettable Christmas spectacle at home with Sarah Brightman. Sunday, December 20, 4:30pm; \$18-\$200. Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Sunday, Jan. 10 — Tommy Castro & the Painkillers.
Saturday, Jan. 16 — Mustache Harbor.
Friday, Jan. 22 — The Paladins and the Tail Gators.
Saturday, Jan. 23 — Queen Nation.

Nick & G's:

Thursday, Dec. 24 — Heather Nation.
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North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:

Thursday, Jan. 7 — Deadmau5 Chula Vista Drive-In Series.
Friday, Jan. 8 — Deadmau5 Chula Vista Drive-In Series.

Old Town Blues Club:

Saturday, Dec. 26 — Billy Watson Post Christmas Extravaganza.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Dec. 24 — Festmas: Christmas Eve Holiday Special. **Free.**
Saturday, Dec. 26 — Bad Religion: Decades.
Sunday, Dec. 27 — Spreckels Organ Webcasts. **Free.**
Sunday, Dec. 27 — Spreckels Organ Concert & Holiday Sing-Along. **Free.**
Monday, Dec. 28 — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**
Thursday, Dec. 31 — Lucinda Williams: Lu's Jukebox.
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The Prom: Bashing bumpkins

Thespian rhymes with *lesbian*. Ain't that a hoot? Seldom has confronting homophobia head on appeared more proudly patronizing or signaled less pleasure than here. It would be one thing were *The Prom* a satire warning fatuous celebrities to stick to their craft and avoid poking their noses in politics. (Were that the case, Meryl Streep would probably have taken a pass.) What we have here is a glittering example of cecity being the mother of invention.

With their latest production, a musical based on the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, opening and closing on the same night, an overly-theatrical ensemble of career narcissists led by Dee Dee Allen (Meryl Streep) — a rapidly aging leading lady still looking to command power — must face the reality of failure. (One assumes the name Dee Dee Allen was a holdover from the play that served as source material, for where else would a film

as haphazardly strung together as this get off naming its lead after cutter-extraordinaire DeDe Allen [*The Hustler*, *Bonnie and Clyde*?] She's joined by Barry Glickman (James Corden), her equally entitled and suffocatingly self-absorbed co-star; chorus girl Angie (Nicole Kidman); and nobody Trent (Andrew Rannells), an actor/bartender between gigs and desperate to flaunt his degree from Juilliard. It's a running gag that doesn't bear repeating.

Instead of taking a nod from the critics who panned the play-with-a-movie for its heavy-handedness, director Ryan Murphy & Co. proceed to hurl bricks at their audience in the form of foregone messaging. Looking to stay relevant, the effete opportunists turn to activism as a way out. The troupe must have hit the "I Feel Lucky" function on Google's homepage and hit paydirt on the very first result. Up comes news of a town in Indiana that's cancelling its prom over



The Prom: Meryl Streep and James Corden talk-sing to the rafters.

the legal rights scuffle that might ensue if a same-sex couple were allowed to attend. For the sake of argument, we'll overlook this chunk of random plotting, but not the YouTube video that's attached. It features the school's principal (Keegan-Michael Key) evoking the name of Eleanor Roosevelt. Plotting doesn't get more plodding.

Judging by the script, the only two residents of Indiana who aren't flaming homophobes are Emma Nolan (Jo

Ellen Pellman) and her closeted partner Alyssa Greene (Ariana DeBose). (You'd stay in the closet too if your mother [Kerry Washington] was the vocal anti-gay chair of the PTA.) As written, there is nothing remotely endearing about these so-called Broadway liberals, who in truth are nothing more than a band of intellectual bigots waiting for a bunch of backwoods bumpkins to come along and show the elite the errors of their ways.

What can be said of his performance other than Corden blew? It's the same old cantankerous queen that Paul Lynde and Rip Taylor made a career out of exploiting. I'd sooner believe Dumbo flew than any of their fits of cartoonishly sincere insincerity. Kudos to Corden for having appeared in two of the worst musicals I have ever had the displeasure to endure. The reason *Cats* outshines *The Prom* has nothing to do with quality and everything to

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do with a shorter running time.

Director Murphy's (*Running With Scissors*, *Eat Pray Love*) camera covers the musical numbers with more thrusts and pull-backs than you'd find in a porno. His idea of opening up a play is restaging one of the film's numerous instantly forgettable musical numbers at a monster truck rally or an Applebee's, where the sight of *La Streep* dining is bound to draw titters. If Murphy had spent as much time structuring those numbers as he did cutting around his cast's inability to dance, this leaden Broadway bump-up might have earned a spot next to the entertaining likes of *Hairspray* and *Rock Of Ages*. My initial instinct was to call this the worst musical to disgrace screens since *Mamma Mia!* 2, but Lily James' performance had more going for it than any in this. ●

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

Another Round — The graduating class celebrated by making such drunken fools of themselves, the high school board contemplated enacting a zero-alcohol policy. Unfortunately, the ban wouldn't pertain to four faculty members with a theory they're looking to put to the test: if people are indeed born with a blood alcohol content that's 0.05% too low, wouldn't a couple of belts a day improve anyone's job performance?. Their test subject is Martin (Mads Mikkelsen), the group's designated driver and the only one at the birthday party where the plan is concocted who eschews cocktails. That is, until his three colleagues pressure him into hoisting a few. For years, Martin has been teaching in a joyless fog, imparting almost as much misinformation as fact. The warm buzz and sudden burst of enthusiasm associated with booze convince him that the more he drinks, the better his performance — and off we go. These four are all well-respected educators; surely one of them realizes the dire consequences that would result from such an experiment? In case their alcoholic states aren't obvious, director Thomas Vinterberg (*The Celebration*, *The Hunt*) decides to underscore their unsobriety by going hand-held. In the end, someone will die, just not the one character that might move this in the opposite direction of "Just Say No!" And if ever a film didn't warrant a happy ending, it's this. If Vinterberg's point is that alcoholism is an equal opportunity disease that doesn't recognize class or socioeconomic lines, did we really need another feature-length PSA to wake us up? Good performances, but when all is said and done, who cares?



Not yet in the holiday spirit? Here's a trio of yuletide-themed cartoons from the 1930s certain to provide a much-needed Christmas goose.

— Scott Marks

SANTA'S WORKSHOP (1932)

In my teens, my friend Timothy Murphy asked me, "You know what my Uncle Roy says Jews do on Christmas Day?" There's nothing like hate for the holidays. *No, my ruddy-faced, only goyish kid on an all-Jewish block*, I thought. *What does your sozzled Uncle Roy say the Jews do on Christmas Day?* Timmy smiled, threw out his chest, and snarled, "They stay home and count their money." *No, Timmy. We put dead trees in our living rooms, life-sized Sears Santas with 100-watt bulbs in their bellies on our front stoops, guzzle boiler-makers to commemorate the birth of our Lord and Savior, and pay retail for gifts. On top of that, Timmy, if I had your Uncle Roy's money I'd have thrown mine away.*

Fortunately, this adorable brush with ignorance was not my first foreglimpse into holiday traditions. Like many, I was introduced to Santa Claus partly through Haddon Sundblom's nostalgic holiday illustrations for Coca-Cola and partly through a pair of merry Walt Disney cartoons. (When asked to validate the existence of Santa, my dad laughed it off with, "We're Jews.") *Santa's Workshop* opens on Christmas Eve, with Santa's elves still hauling last-minute sacks of mail to the titular toy mill. Santa (voiced by a basso, overly-joyous Walter Geiger) is a circle-upon-circle enchantment, a jelly-bellied gent whose cheeks are so round that it takes a second to realize that the two rings bordering his nose are facial features, not reading glasses. Allow your eyes to roam freely

about the frame, taking in a myriad of pixies — each with unique character traits and functions — working their various assembly lines. (A Noah's Ark float with at least a dozen movable characters on deck and/or poking their heads out of portholes warrants a few rewinds.)

But while I am loath to besmirch the festivity of the season, I would fall short in my duties as a critic if I failed to draw attention to the anal fetishism of Walter Elias Disney. The pre-code land of un-PC wonders starts innocently enough, with an elf lifting a reindeer's tail to give its backside a wipe. Next up: a pile of reindeer poop being mucked out of Vixen's stall, followed by a hobby-horse being drilled a new rectus in which to glue a tail. Then things get racially murky to boot: while passing through quality control, Santa stamps his "OK" on the behind of the "Ma-ma"-squeaking little white dolly, but won't handle the black ragdoll, which falls to one knee and, in her best Jolson, rasps "Mammy!" before bouncing tush-fist onto the rubber stamp.

The scene in question has been excised from the print currently playing on Disney+, but there's plenty of racial stereotyping to go around. Parades were a custom in *Silly Symphonies* - in this case, the toys form a line and march into Santa's bag. The short would lose a minute of its running time and its continuity would take a hit were they to censor the band of marching minstrels, the duo of Asian stereotypes, and the hora-dancing gent with his flowing beard, hook nose, and Hasidic hat positioned squarely behind the wind-up pig. But there's no knocking success. The cartoon was such a hit that it was followed up the next year with *The Night Before Christmas*.

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR (1936)

The light of Christmas morn breaks. With a twist of Max and Dave Fleischer's patented stereoscopic tabletop animation device, we're whisked



Santa's Workshop: Disney does Christmas

through the doors of a ramshackle orphanage, wherein stands an anorexic fir that can barely sustain an ornament. A Dickensian dormitory houses a dozen or so foundlings, who awaken to find broken toys suspended in threadbare stockings (and not a governess in sight). Thank heavens for Professor Grampy, the inveterate inventor who just happens to be dashing through the snow when the cries of the necessitous tykes reach his outboard-motor-driven sleigh.

Of the 10 Fleischer cartoons to feature Grampy, this Color Classic was the only one in which he didn't appear opposite Betty Boop. The character arrived late on the scene, after the censors forced the studio to put Betty's sinful ways behind her. We're never sure of whose grandfather he is, but his superannuated presence was needed to help trammel Betty's libidinous allure. A lightbulb where a pestel should be flashes atop the mortar board perched on his egregiously chipper noggin. Leave it to Grampy to turn the dining room table into his personal Toys R Us, a makeshift workshop where he can assemble presents made from stuff lying around the asylum. (The ingeniously hilarious inventions are spurred by a mechanical turkey that's geared to delight.) The maniacal laugh can be a bit much, but Grampy's otherwise brazen ingenuity and mixmaster legwork make him a delight to watch. Ditto the film's closing minutes, in which the waifs put Grampy's handiwork to the test. The short is in the public domain, which means

there are a number of prints to watch on YouTube.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT (1933)

Trust me on this: you have never seen anything quite like James Tyler's *Christmas Night* (originally titled *Pals*). The short stars O. Soglow's comic strip sensation the Little King. When first we meet, the child-like ruler sits alone in his ice skater-drawn carriage, gazing forlornly out the window at his subjects as they prepare for the holiday. A stop in town finds His Loneliness sparking an instant camaraderie with a pair of tramps eyeballing a holiday-dressed department store window. (Minstrel dolls were quite the rage in the '30s. They appear in all three of these cartoons.) An audience with an ominous-sounding department store Santa — he has the only speaking part in the show — finds the mini-majesty contemplating the meaning of good will toward men. Either that, or the married monarch is in the market for a little hobosexuality.

The noble *naif* decides to sneak the pair of even more passive vagrants past the aggressively snoring Queen. In no time, the trio strips down to frolic Sandusky-style in the royal outhouse tub. There are plenty of painstakingly precise bits of animation on display. Study the supple, lifelike movement of Santa's hand as he plants the Christmas tree seeds. Note the tender manner in which the crowned head — scrambling to find a stocking to carefully hang by the chimney — gingerly relieves his wife's leg of its nylon casing. This is followed by the plaster-crumbling nails that loosen from the hearth under the weight of the queen's hosiery. Sit back and enjoy this soap-swallowing, bra-baring mélange of pre-code perversity, gussied up with just the right amount of charm and innocence to make it all seem perfectly acceptable for deviant kids of all ages. Another public domain casualty — look for it on YouTube.

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member of the Mission Beach Town Council, told the *OB Rag* that no Southern California beach area has been more saturated with vacation rentals. “MB is being destroyed; the first step to recovery is to eliminate the carveout.” Andrea Schlageter, chair of the Ocean Beach planning board, agreed with home-share or whole-home short-term stays. But she said that whole-home short-term rentals for more than 20 days per year and the Mission Beach carveout “are a giveaway” to investors. Vacation rentals can still work in mixed-use zones, she said. “It might help revamp our Main Street.”

The commission recommended several revisions for the council to consider, suggesting that the whole-house limit be distributed by district or another boundary equally; that there be a requirement that the license holder validate their permanent address to match the rental property; and that restrictions be added for issues like noise mitigation. Planning Commissioner Vicki Granowitz asked about the possibility of putting limits on occupancy to deal with “the party problem.” That, however, is governed by state law, Molina said.

SHEILA PELL

IMPERIAL BEACH

Smuggling goods for good Fire-ravaged neighborhood feels cross-border warmth

On December 3, over 50 homes burned down in the Cumbres del Rubí neighborhood of Tijuana; news outlets said the strong Santa Ana winds were at least partly to blame. One M. García reportedly died attempting to rescue her cats. “She was a really nice lady,” former resident Ana Wooten said to me on Decem-



PHOTO CREDIT: ANA WOOTEN

“In less than ten minutes, her house was basically gone.”

ber 6. “She lived by herself; she was able to get out at first.” But neighbor Mario Javier Renteria told *ElImparcial.com* that the woman “returned inside, because she had her kittens locked up, which were about ten in total, and

escaped with her husband and children just as their house caught on fire. “And in less than ten minutes, the house was basically gone. She was a teacher in a private daycare center.”

Wooten, a teacher’s assistant on maternity

“There was a pastor that lost her home, and thankfully she was building a church and was able to move inside her church to live.”

she wasn’t able to escape.” Continues Wooten, “And the roof fell on her, and someone tried to get her out, and he got really bad burns, but he survived. She used to sell candies right outside the elementary school in the neighborhood.” Wooten tells the story of another woman who

leave, lives in Imperial Beach now, but says she “grew up around that Tijuana neighborhood, and I know other people that lost their homes there. My friend’s father and mother-in-law lost their home, also his brother-in-law and his sister.”

The day after the fire, Wooten reached out to her IB neighbors on Facebook and asked for used clothing donations for the families who had lost their homes. Her post garnered more than a hundred replies and 24 donations; one local wrote, “I saw the smoke yesterday. I have clothes for baby boy size three months to 18 months, a few kids’ shoes, and a few women’s clothes too. All have been washed and clean.” Wooten says that every donor “brought at least six bags, and some brought boxes of food, including cereal, canned food, milk, baby cereal, and Gerber baby food.”

She couldn’t fit all the donations in her car, so she borrowed her mom’s van and covered the contributions with blankets. “Luckily, I haven’t been stopped, and haven’t paid a tax fee.” (About four years ago, I reported about a truckload of used clothing and food en route to a Rosarito orphanage that was stopped by customs; the official reportedly said at the time that the do-gooders could not bring in a large load of used clothing articles, even to donate.)

Wooten reports that “a single mother with a nine-month-old lost her home and everything she owned; her baby didn’t have any food, blankets, or clothes to wear. She cried when I took out diapers, blankets, baby clothes, 40 cans of Gerber, and eight baby rice portions of cereal. She asked me to thank the lady that donated all those things personally, and she was super thankful. There was a pastor that lost her home, and thankfully she was building a church and was able to move inside her church to live. I took a lot of donations to her so she could pass around things for the people she was letting stay with her.”

MIKE MADRIAGA



PHOTO CREDIT: ANA WOOTEN

Over 50 homes burned in the Cumbres de Rubí neighborhood of Tijuana.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANA WOOTEN

“Every person brought at least six bags” of donated items for fire victims.

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LJ PLAYHOUSE USHER TEAM Hope you enjoy the holiday season & have a healthy new year. Hope to see you next season. Brian B & Mernie.

LOOKING FOR MY HUSBAND Michael Flitterman, please call me. (619) 530-3169, this is your wife, Helena. I want a divorce.

MOM WE ALL LOVE YOU so much, stay strong and soon we will all be together.

RUBY GIN Thanks for the films. Brian & Bruce.

TEACHER the lost teaching of Jesus is available for groups and individuals. Please give me a call at (619) 601-1827.

THANK YOU EVERYONE! Prayers work. Our Mom is 83 and in a nursing home, caught Covid, but seems to be pulling through. Your continued prayers for Judy would be appreciated.

THANK YOU ST JUDE for all prayers answered. HMR.

COVID 19 Moderna vaccine is 95% safe, yet we wait for FDA to have their say at the cost of many lives when all details can be downloaded from Moderna since November.

EVIL SUDOKU Why do you continue to show up in every Reader edition week after week? You know I love it. Make my wish come true. Jaime

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ELISSA LANDSMAN Hope you have a good Hanukkah. Have a healthy year to come. Brian & Bruce.

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MERNIE A OF MORENO & Pat G of El Cajon. Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Brian B.

TO MY WIFE Please know I'm here for you and with all these prayers, Mom will pull through. I LOVE YOU To INFINITY & WAY BEYOND!

USELESS GOVERNMENT They have always been slow to act quickly, i.e. handling the virus outbreak and now letting us have the virus 95% safe vaccine—holding it back so more of them can have an opinion and excuse, while more die and suffer each day the British took action.

ROCKSTAR I ran into Mick at the pub. He said that Rocky is his girl. He is coming by just to say hi... Don't be shy...Hope you rock his world. Call me. Gman

ROCKY Is Scoe Dawg behaving? I'm coming by to eat some pie. Too high to hide my disguise. Dawg's bday is almost here. 2 beer Scoe and the rest you know. Gman

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TO THE FDA. let us have the vaccine now. There is no good reason to holding it back; how many more do you want to die? We Don't any more TALK just act

WE THE PEOPLE We the people - hereby proclaim, Donald J. Trump, you're fired. James M 32588

AUDAMUS JURA nostra defender.

LIARS CAN FIGURE and figure's can Lie. Third eye opened.

ONE SHOULD READILY and gladly give and graciously accept, nothing more nor less than anyone should normally expect, merely common courtesy and only due respect. D.E.J.

SOCIALISM COMING Under the beds of the Democrat party is the left-wing socialist gang waiting to move in. That day is coming very soon; they have a agenda and your freedom is no longer in service. Get ready to say good bye.

STUPIDITY I am patient with stupidity But not with those who are many at this time, who are proud of it.

DEAREST BENJAMIN Happy Birthday my best buddy. I love you so bad. That will never change. Your butler Daniel.

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THE 94% VACCINE WE have a pandemic now, we also have a vaccine that is 94% safe (we paid for); now the powers who control

this will not let us have it. They keep making excuses while they try to make up their minds. Lots more will die every day. Someone do something.

YOUR EYES Your eyes can betray what your tongue is saying.

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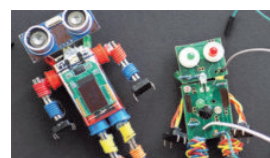
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BEGINNER 2-STEP DANCER Country Dance Online is offering beginner two-step dance steps as it helps beginners to start-up with their dancing carrier in an interesting way. Our dance professionals* will teach you special moves and tips for dancing. So visit our website. (502) 377-4859

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES, Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Classes are outside and at a safe social distance. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, (619) 692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

PLAY PIANO the way you want to! Pop, classical, jazz, blues, improvise. FREE lesson/interview. Over 40 years' experience teaching and performing. E-mail: Lee@LeeGalloway.com or call: (619) 281-8118. See www.LeeGalloway.com.

ROOMMATES

CHULA VISTA, \$650 One room for rent in condo, shared living room and kitchen. Male preferred. No pets. Deposit \$300. Available now, any questions call (619) 869-5814.

56 RESPECTFUL, CLEAN, QUIET do not smoke drink or use drugs, looking to pay monthly \$400-\$500 monthly. Email rcorcilus64@gmail.com, cell (619) 882-1677.



40-YEAR-OLD GUY SEEKS ROOM For rent north of 8. Room in a house wanted. I could pay it two months advance and deposit. \$600 or less. (714) 457-7658

SANTEE ROOM FOR RENT \$900 NEW Master bedroom also available \$1,300 per month female preferred (619) 850-3264 text or leave a message new home (619) 850-3264.

SHARE HOUSE bedroom for rent near downtown, walking distance to shopping, dining, bus stops. \$600 per month. Call now (619) 394-3868.

ROOM FOR RENT Kearney Mesa, furnished, clean room. \$650, \$250 deposit. Available now. (858) 302-6252.

OTAY RANCH, \$1,100 Room for rent, furnished, AC, tv, internet, amenities, utilities included, non smoker, no drugs, no pets. \$1,100/month, \$300 deposit. Carlos (858) 999-7980.

BAY PARK, \$745 Very large ad on back room, all furnished with tv, refrigerator, microwave, all utilities and WIFI included, for quiet single person only. Located on cul de sac close to bus station. Security deposit \$745. (858) 272-1594

SENIOR LADY SEEKING furnished room and bath. I am quiet, considerate, keep to myself and enjoy books and movies. (619) 980-8498.

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

MIDTOWN \$550 separate living room/kitchen space. 200 square ft., clean, cable, 420 friendly. No drugs, alcohol, tobacco, drama. First/last. Senior/disabled/retired/student. (619) 528-0907

ROOM WANTED 62 yr. old young single no family, Virgo, healthy, never married, non-smoker, non-drinker, clean SoCal native low income male, high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in house Solana Beach, Cardiff, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Clemente. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

RENTALS

BAY PARK, \$1895. 2BD+1BA large upstairs apartment near bay. New plank flooring. Stove, refrigerator, laundry room. Water and trash paid. No pets. (Assistance animals not considered pets.) 4344 Ingulf Street #4. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1600. 2BD+2BA apartments. New vinyl flooring. Garage parking with additional rent. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. Move-in special: 1/2 off 1st month with 1-year lease. 4828 Art Street. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointstrealstate.com

MISSION HILLS, \$1325-1550. STUDIO+1BA and 1BD+1BA. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 W. Washington. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1375. Cozy studio near Adams, upstairs corner unit, newly remodeled, new kitchen cabinets, new appliances, new bath with new tub, tile and lighting, wood-like flooring, on-site laundry, water, trash and gas included. Great location with easy freeway access. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1495. Spacious 1 bedroom upstairs. Fireplace, A/C and balcony. Off-street assigned parking, laundry on site. Easy freeway access. Beautiful inside and out. Great location! No pets. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

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

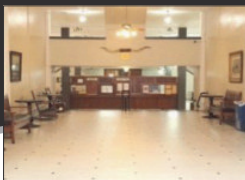
NORTH PARK, \$1895. 2BD+2BA upstairs apartment. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, plank flooring, washer/dryer, A/C, parking space, balcony, fireplace. No pets. (Service animals are not considered pets.) 3751 31st Street #4. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495. 1BD+1BA upstairs unit with balcony. All new appliances, new plank flooring, parking, laundry room. No pets. (Service animals are not considered pets.) 1735 Reed Avenue #15. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

NORTH PARK/NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1650 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Two parking spaces, unit upstairs, new windows, available now one, block from public transportation. The address is

RENTALS

DOWNTOWN \$550-880



GREAT LOCATION!

Renovated, furnished rooms for rent. Elevator. Close to Seaport Village, Gaslamp Quarter, restaurants, shops, laundry. Cable and utilities included.

720 4th Ave. • 619-233-7594

DOWNTOWN \$573-825



Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator.

Southern Hotel

1159 6th Avenue at B. • 619-239-3808

4352 Cherokee Avenue and my telephone is (619) 887-8786

STUDIO, UTC, UTILITIES, 1-1-21 \$1375 - Nice 450 sq ft studio in the Golden Triangle Area, all utilities included, Available 1-1-21. Must have employment and credit score 700 or above. Single occupancy only. \$25 extra/ mo if working from home. No over-nighters, no semi-livings. (858) 405-5917 / gimmymust@yahoo.com

DUPLEX 2BR -AC- WASHER/ DRYER This 2br 1ba duplex was originally built as a single family home with an attached 1 br unit for the owners mother and is located in a nice single family area in La Mesa. Your only neighbor is a 1 br unit, so you have privacy. \$1795/mo. 1 yr lease. cadway@cox.net

NORTH PARK/NORMAL HEIGHTS \$ 1,650, 2Br 1Ba, 2 assigned parking, upstairs, new windows, fourplex, available now, by public transportation. 4352 Cherokee Ave (619) 887-8786.

LA MESA, \$1749-2149. 3BD+2BA (\$2149) and 2BD+1BA (\$1749) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable. Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavandería. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1749-2149. 3BD+2BA (\$2149) and 2BD+1BA (\$1749) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable. Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavandería. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

WANTED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE RENTAL Studio, ADU, room addition. Excellent reputation and rental history. Single occupant. Any situation appreciated. Ron (619) 435-5501

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

DOWNTOWN, \$573-825. Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. (619) 239-3808.

NEED AN APARTMENT SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every month. Studio+TBA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. Includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858) 799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

REAL ESTATE

SMALL HOUSE PACIFIC BEACH \$799 Small house on small lot, 1.5 blocks to beach in Pacific Beach \$799k (619) 384-7330 / helensdrealtor@gmail.com

GROW HEMP LEGALLY - LAND See it live here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt0xYDYOyXA Incredible opportunity to grow help legally in the unincorporated area of Vidal, just two miles north of Riverside County line, zoned SD-RES/RC. CalDre 01910032 christenartino@gmail.com

2/2.5 TOWNHOUSE PT LOMAVILLAGE Heart of Point Loma. Near Shelter island Large, beautiful 2 bedroom 2

1/2 bath townhome with extra large bedrooms. Bright and light. Huge skylight in master bedroom. Fireplace in living room. Only 4 units and \$200 hoa fees. Call agent (619) 384-7330 / helensdrealtor@gmail.com



\$350,000 3 BD/2 BATH IN SUEÑOS Home is in the Sueños Del Mar subdivision located almost across from Baja Malibu in Tijuana. The land is 300 meters and the construction is a little more than 300 meters. 3 bedrooms + 2 full bathrooms. \$350,000. WhatsApp (664) 355-9556.

BAJA SEA OF CORTEZ beach house, 2 story on bluff overlooking Ocean. KM 35 south of San Felipe. Furnished, private party. \$85,000. Details (760) 598-2305



GORGEOUS 2/2 NEAR USD - \$399K Fantastic Location! Minutes from USD, Mission Valley shopping, beaches and easy freeway access. Granite counters in kitchen and bathrooms, SS appl, fireplace, Laundry in unit. Peaceful views with lots of natural light. Phone agent (619) 384-7330 / helensdrealtor@gmail.com

LAS VEGAS RAIDER FANS \$313,500. 3 bedroom/2 bath home with a pool, over 1400 sq ft of living space. Features stone floors, stainless steel appliances, and an original fireplace complete with the open concept kitchen and family room. (702) 403-8535

LA MESA, TIJUANA I'm selling a property in the La Mesa area of Tijuana. The address is Calle Santa Rosa #13771 Fracc. The top floor has 2 bedrooms, a full bathroom, and a terrace. The lower: 2 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, kitchen, dining, and laundry room WhatsApp (664) 270-0135

MUSIC

CELLO 4 foot tall with bow and zippered bag, in excellent condition. \$100. (760) 598-2305

GUITARS electric and acoustic, custom one of a kind. Call for info (619) 448-1826.

MUSICIANS-LOCK DOWN avoiding Covid? Perfect time to have fun playing your favorite tunes. Selling fakebooks in different keys. Half price, (619) 264-3686.



LOOKING FOR DMX LIGHTING HELP Heavy rock band is looking for someone who understands DMX Lighting to help us set up our professional light system. paulberg@sbcglobal.net

RARE 1988 EPIPHONE LES PAUL3 The Les Paul 3 is a hybrid Les Paul/Strat combination with 3 pickups & kill switches. Comes in a case. (619) 995-7058 / z57@gmx.com

BASS GUITAR \$1100 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, ash body, maple neck & fretboard, audere

preamp, glassy highs, gig bag, mint condition (619) 980-6008.

BASS GUITAR \$2000 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, red burst body, figured maple neck, chrome hardware, sadowky preamp, MEC gold pickups, mint condition (619) 980-6008



ONLINE GUITAR LESSONS Doing guitar jams and events for free and dedicated courses online and with face to face jams nationwide. See www.theguitar-social.com bookings@theguitar-social.com



UKULELE ON ZOOM Meet up with other ukulelists on Zoom for the holiday season. Join our Instagram group: https://www.instagram.com/ukuleleOnZoom/

BASS GUITAR \$900 1990's Schaller Rockoon (Kawai), maple neck, rosewood finger board, perfect red body paint, red EMG pickups, active, 4string, Excellent condition, no marks or scratches with coffin bag. (619) 980-6008

MUSIC REHEARSAL STUDIO Upscale facility, Kearny Mesa. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24- hour access. Monthly rooms available. Adder Studios, (858) 522-9505. www.adderstudios.com.

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

UNIVERSAL SOUND Monthly creative band musicians lock-out rehearsal private practice AC studios now available. (619) 401-2973

PETS

POODLE/TERRIER PUPPIES born 10/19/2020, white/beige, 4 males & 2 females \$200. Contact Gloria (619) 470-0733.

PAMPER POOCH FOR HOLIDAYS Pampered Pooch offers full grooming services at great prices for the holidays! Make your holidays merry and bright with our festive holiday grooming package which includes full grooming and a Christmas photo of your pooch. (408) 813-0440



PUG GIRL Very loyal girl. She's not fixed and she's 9 months. Have her shot record from Petco. (619) 305-7273



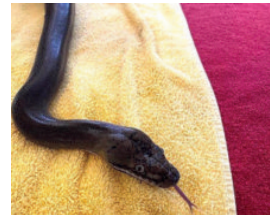
BEAUTIFUL PERSIAN KITTENS Beautiful pure bred male Persian kittens available. They will be ready around January 7. Completely socialized and pre spoiled. Parents on site.

(858) 229-5421 / rubygirl_84@yahoo.com



CATAHOULA Lavender Bleu is an extremely energetic and high drive Catahoula. Lavender is \$800. She will be 12 weeks old on 12/13. She has been de-wormed and vaccinated in a responsible manner. (760) 504-2530

GERMAN SHEPHERDS German Shepard puppies available. Females only. (619) 363-4579



GOLDEN CHILD RETIC Beautiful super golden child retic. Female and a great eater. Friendly once out of the cage. Text for more info (760) 504-6292. \$600 or best offer.

GAITED HORSE I want to buy sound, gaited trail horse. Text (619) 438-4567

MISSING COCKATIEL Missing Cockatiel, North County San Diego but could be just about anywhere. Grey and white with yellow comb and orange cheeks. Reward \$1,000. (760) 626-5784 / mbouckeno@yahoo.com

FREE TO GOOD HOME Two Yorkie puppies, re-homing, AKS reg, contact me via email for more details. jamesmark3091@gmail.com



LADY AMHERST PHEASANT Young male Lady Amherst pheasant. \$140 each. (760) 807-4727

CHARRO SADDLE Authentic. Mexican. Big seat, very safe and

solid saddle, complete. \$200 firm, text. (619) 438-4567

SPORTS

WETSUIT FOR SALE Billabong 32 oscillator, full suit, XL, too big. Will sell \$200 no more no less. Call Michael (442) 273-7295.

WOODY RESIN SURF SHOP Woody Resin/John Gundersen. Atlantic Surfing Magazine Founder. East Coast Surfing Hall Of Fame 2014. 603 Garrison St. Unit A, Oceanside, CA 92054. Real surfers selling surfboards and surf products. (760) 696-3393 / woody.resin.surf.shop@gmail.com



SPORTS FACE MASKS Padres, Dodgers, Lakers, Raiders, Giants, Steelers, Rams, KC, 49ERS, Chargers, fabric face masks. Adjustable ear loops, comfortable, washable, reusable, 3 layers 100% cotton (619) 793-9103

BUBBLE BALLS, TIC-TAC-TOE Come experience fitness re-imagined! This is not a boot camp. I create ways to push you mentally and physically without you even knowing it. www.instagram.com/aSYNERGYaffair/

CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE Join one of our adult co-ed or men's slow pitch softball leagues located all over San Diego. Be part of the action on and off the field with perks from our sponsors. http://sandigosocialleagues.com/softball-leagues/ (619) 517-5791 / jon@sandigosocialleagues.com

INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL This group is dedicated to making friends and sharing our love of volleyball. Welcoming all players who are at least at an intermediate level. https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Volleyball-For-Charity/MichaelSmith99@gmail.com

NETTLES SGA JERSEY Selling a brown 1984 (replica) San Diego Padres jersey for \$25. Call: (619) 381-8776.

SAN DIEGO GOLF MEETUP This group is for beginning to intermediate golfers who have the time and flexibility to play late morning and afternoon weekday golf throughout San Diego. www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Weekday-Golf-Meetup-Group/ (858) 487-0120

THINKING ADULT KICKBALL? Our kickball group is for you. We are a seasoned group with over 200 Meetups under our belt. Want to play? Message us at www.instagram.com/socalkickball/

TONY GWYNN JERSEY Selling a pinstripe 1987 San Diego Padres jersey for \$75 (619) 381-8776

BICYCLES

PHATMOTO BIKE 79 cc, 4 stroke. New with 3 yr protected plan, \$650 firm. (619) 972-8591 call or text

TREK ROAD BIKE Carbon fiber. 52cm frame. New tire. Gel seat. Wedge sack. Tire pump. Forrest green. Runs good but needs parts. Asking \$120. (858) 847-0484 / Limo4u87@yahoo.com

TWO VINTAGE 1960S ITALIAN BIKES Girardengo and Olmo, all campy, stored 40 yrs, make offer, text to (760) 522-4669.



ELECTRIC BIKE \$1200 Emojo Wildcat Pro comes with a 750 watt motor with 48 volts. The top speed is 25 mph and the range is 20-40 miles. It comes with a charger and keys. (760) 805-1635



MONGOOSE 29" MOUNTAIN BIKE Mongoose mountain bike with 29-inch rims, 21-speed, and disk brakes — \$220. (858) 335-0329

HELP WANTED

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deserves a
family
like yours

BECOME A MENTOR

California
MENTOR
Family Home Agency

California MENTOR is seeking loving individuals just like you to support an adult with special needs.

Receive ongoing support and \$1200 to \$2600 a month (to cover the cost of care) for your spare bedroom.

Call Heather
Today!
858-694-0120
MentorsWanted.com



SCHWINN BREEZE CRUISER
Schwinn Breeze Cruiser, \$250.
(760) 583-4073.

SE D BLOCKS BIG RIPPER SE
D Blocks Big Ripper bike - \$1,250
(619) 823-3436

SIXTHREEZERO BEACH CRUISER
Selling a SixThreeZero 26" beach cruiser for \$250. Single-speed, rear brakes, whitewall tires, leather seat, and handlebar grips. Nice and clean w/no rust. Excellent condition retail price \$375 asking \$250 OBO. (619) 313-7680

VINTAGE BMX PARTS Schwinn Stings Ray parts. Redline hot wheels etc. Call for information, prices (619) 586-2814.

CRUISER Men's style mid size cruiser bike. W/gears. Aluminum frame \$50. (619) 438-4567.

MOTORCYCLES

2004 HONDA CBR 600RR - \$3,000 Selling a 2004 Honda CBR 600RR for \$3,000. No body damage other than a tear on the seat. There are some minor scratches/scrapes around the body but no dents. (619) 301-1597.

2007 SUZUKI GSXR 600 \$5,000 2007 Suzuki GSXR 600 for \$5,000. It runs great, with no leaks, 18,755 miles and a clean title. (760) 405-3269.

BONANZA SCOUT MINI BIKE
Selling a Bonanza Scout mini bike for \$2,500. (408) 839-9028

CUSTOM MOTORCYCLE 2008 custom build with lots of billet, 2-up seating with a pad. Recently had the carb cleaned and rebuilt, new front tire, fluids changed. Ultimate 110" motor! Fast, loud, and fun. Text (732) 948-6372 for questions

WANTED: DEAD KAWASAKI
Wanted: dead or alive Kawasaki bikes. Buying Z1 900, Z2 750 RS, Triples H1/H2, and more. (818) 618-2141

MOTORCYCLE WANTED 3 wheel trike, Harley Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, Volkswagen, special. Must be excellent

condition, licensed, registered, everything must work. Call (760) 420-3641.

AUTOMOTIVE

1994 BUICK LESABRE 1994 Buick LeSabre for sale. Over 200,000 miles but runs good. Roomy, comfy and good MPG. Best of all- no bucket seats or center console! Just needs new headliner. A few minor dents. Wire wheel hubcaps available. Clean title \$3,000.00 cash. Carlsbad. safranalain1@gmail.com

2002 FORD RANGER EDGE 3.0 v6, 119,500 miles, runs good, \$1,300 OBO. (619) 583-1465

AUTOMOTIVE TIRES FOR SALE 3 used tires, 50% tread, 235/75R15. Price is \$55 total, (619) 576-8196.

2003 FOCUS HATCHBACK Auto, cold AC, 2021 registered, title. Only 132K miles. Little 4 cylinder gas sipper. Clean and dependable. Call or text (619) 318-9651, owner.

I BUY JUNKED CARS Do you have a junked car? Call or message us today at (619) 372-5827 we have fast service. Free quote, free towing. What are you waiting for? Get cash now for your junked car.

CONVERTIBLE CAMARO Selling a 2018 Chevrolet Camaro that drives like a dream. It has a power convertible top, back up camera, touch screen, Bluetooth, keyless entry, and push-start ignition. (816) 646-8271

SOCCER DADS Haul your soccer team in style. We're selling a 2012 Nissan Quest S Minivan 4D for \$6,650. The trunk has lots of additional space for sports equipment. (619) 816-5732

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS! Buy your loved one the best Christmas gift ever — a nice shiny slightly used vehicle. Call (858) 302-9278 for pricing and make/model availability.

2000 FORD F350 XLT crew cab, 8' bed, DRW, 7.3L diesel with 4-speed automatic. Original owner, 141,000 miles. Above average to excellent cosmetic condition, new tires and water pump. Asking \$9,000 or OBO. Call (858) 272-5656 or email hlhaupt1033@att.com. (858) 272-5656 / hlhaupt1033@att.net

1975 SUPER BEETLE CONVERTIBLE original owner, garaged entire life. All mechanics professionally maintained. Everything original. All paperwork and receipts. No rust. Beautiful. Poway, California. Linda (858) 748-6235

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

HELP WANTED

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER. Design & develop internal medical devices for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Send resume to: Attn: Sophia Wong, Synaptic Medical Commerce Corporation, 1817 Aston Ave. #101, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

DELIVERY DRIVER JOBS Earn up to \$22 / Hour. Must use your own Mini-Van or Cargo Van. Pass Drug, Background Check. PT / FT avail. (858) 444-2350.

ENGINEERING Broadcom Corporation in San Diego, CA has openings for: R&D Engineer IC Design 3 (Ref:5245207) to work closely with systems, devices, modeling and EM team to develop optimized solutions. Reference job code & mail resume to: CA, Inc., Attn: J.O., 1320 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER 3 Lytx, Inc., a driver risk management company, seeks the following in San Diego, CA: Software Engineer 3: Use data and video to derive intelligent insights using Machine Vision and AI. Reqs BS + 4 yrs. To apply and see full requirements, go to https://lytx.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Lytx, and search by Requisition #R-1003 to submit cover letter and resume.

SR. 3D ARTIST in Carlsbad. 5 yrs exp (concept art, graphic design, 3D modeling/related) req'd. Send resume to: Attn: Recruiting, Jam City, 3562 Eastham Dr. Culver City CA 90232. EOE

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Senior Software Development Engineer (5143): Build a highly scalable and robust cloud automation suite that automates various customer life cycle events like provisioning, cloning, and load balancing thousands of ServiceNow customer instances across thousands of server farms globally distributed across the world. Software Engineer (5141): Perform forensic evaluation of

Security Authorization Failures. Develop Java based solutions for RBAC and ABAC problems including development of access rules, writing scripts, running farm audits and coordinating testing with peers and other teams. Mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 4810 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, CA 92121. Resume must include job title, job ref. #, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Senior Software Quality Engineer (5183): Key member of the Cloud Platform Development team driving the quality of our products and services to the next level. Senior Software Engineer (5143): Developing software solutions to complex problems. Identifying and implementing automated test cases for developed solutions. Software Engineer (5142): Design and implement scalable and maintainable features to support integration use cases on the platform. Mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 4810 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, CA 92121. Resume must include job title, job ref. #, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

MEXICAN CHEF not a cook. Part time. Opening 10 restaurants 2021. Send resume with salary history, email lorrchusa@aol.com

READY TO QUIT SMOKING? Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder or Schizophrenia? The Pacific Treatment and Research Center is looking for people who are ready to put out that cigarette! Eligible participants will: be 18-70 years old, have a strong desire to quit smoking, and be in good overall health. Call (858) 246-4673. www.pac-tarc.org

SERVICE ATTENDANT Seeking ON-CALL & FULL-TIME position to fill propane cylinders at 2 locations, 5596 Kearny Mesa Rd. & 3650 Kettner Blvd. Will Train. Available to work Tues-Sat 8:30am-5pm. Apply within or call Steve, (949) 326-3400.

SOCIAL JUSTICE + RADIO Are you interested in social justice? Are you interested in radio? Non profit, all volunteer KNSJ 89.1 FM is seeking volunteers for on air talent and support. We have news, views and music. See KNSJ.org for info. Contact Tim. Taylor@KNSJ.org Tim.Taylor@KNSJ.org

UBER SAN DIEGO VIVES EN TJ solicitamos choferes con veh'culo, transportar personas del aeropuerto de San Diego a Zona Rio Tijuana; pago por viaje; oficina TJ (664) 231-0209, oficina SD (619) 405-4034 texto/ WhatsApp (619) 205-9991.

TELEVISION HOST San Diego lifestyle TV show auditioning men

women age 35 to 60. Email short video answering why you love San Diego. jim@sdiabrats.org by Sat dec 5. (760) 452-8181 / Jim@sdiabrats.org

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) Bella Vista Health Center is hiring for full and part time positions. New higher pay scale. Experienced CNA's and new grads welcome. Bella Vista is a Covid-free facility. Go to https://bit.ly/2KoMgZP to apply or more info. Also can apply in person at Bella Vista Health center, 7922 Palm Street Lemon Grove 91945. Bellavistahealth.com

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) Bella Vista Health Center is hiring for full-time positions. New higher pay scale. Experienced LVNS and new grads welcome. Bella Vista is a Covid-free facility. Go to https://bit.ly/2KoMgZP to apply or more info. Also can apply in person at Bella Vista Health center, 7922 Palm Street Lemon Grove 91945. Bellavistahealth.com

REGISTERED NURSE (RN) Bella Vista Health Center is hiring for full-time positions. New higher pay scale. Experienced RN's and new grads welcome. Bella Vista is a Covid-free facility. Go to https://bit.ly/2KoMgZP to apply or more info. Also can apply in person at Bella Vista Health center, 7922 Palm Street Lemon Grove 91945. Bellavistahealth.com

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

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

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

HAVE A SPARE BEDROOM? Earn a competitive stipend caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home. www.MentorsWanted.com. (858) 694-0120.

JOBS WANTED

LOOKING FOR a care giver or house cleaning job in Clairemont or Point Loma area (858) 505-0685.

GARDENING BY DAVID Hi, I am offering garden work, raking, mowing, trimming, etc. I'm easy, just make me an offer. I accept cash or any major credit card. Please call (619) 592-0882. Thank you, David (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

P/T F/T PREP-COOK/ DISHWASHER Hi, I have 15 years kitchen experience being a prep-cook/dishwasher. Never sick. never late. Get along well with others. Please call (619) 592-0882. Thank you (619) 592-0882 / GzHF92565@gmail.com

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will shop for groceries, prepare meals, light housekeeping, drive to doctors, personal assistant, companion. Call Carol @ (858) 525-1154.

FULL-TIME JOB High school/ college graduate Southern Californian with reliable transportation. Seeking steady full-time employment in Mira Mesa, La Jolla, North County. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

WANTED / TRADE

CASH FOR DIABETIC STRIPS We buy diabetic strips. Local cash pick-up. Sealed, unexpired boxed only. Call or text (619) 535-1848. We buy One-touch Ultra, Freestyle Lite, Accu Check, Aviva Plus, Contour.

TIRES WANTED Size 215, 70r, 14, or 225, 70r, 14. A set of two or four, new or used, cheap. Call (619) 846-4247 leave message, will return call.

WANTED TO BUY 7 band short wave radio with maximum fm range. (619) 496-6693

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREOS I am an Electronics Hobbyist, and I am looking for 1960's vintage, Tube Type Stereo Components to refurbish, such as Fisher, Scott, Dynaco, Marantz & more. Maybe it is stashed away in the Attic or Garage. I pay cash, so please call Jack 619-296-3100 (619) 296-3100 / jack22@cox.net

CASH FOR OLD VIDEO GAMES Instant Christmas cash is ready in exchange for your old, out of date video games buried in the garage. (760) 877-9900

CASH FOR DIABETIC STRIPS We buy diabetic strips. Local cash pick-up. Sealed, unexpired boxed only. Call or text (619) 535-1848. We buy One-touch Ultra, Freestyle Lite, Accu Check, Aviva Plus, Contour.



ISO 29ER MOUNTAIN BIKE In search of a good quality 29er mountain bike as a Christmas gift for my 6'4" husband. Willing to spend up to \$1000 for one in like-new condition. Please text details and photos to (619) 318-0234.

I BUY BAGS OF 80S-90S TOYS Send me a list or text photos of what you have for sale. I buy old

AUTOMOTIVE

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49
Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks.

\$2175*
+ \$8.25 cert

Smog Test Or STAR Certified All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 31, 2021.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$4175
+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER from \$24.95 Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.	FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (both locations) FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (Cliff Brown location)	ENGINE STEAM CLEAN \$69.95 Most vehicles. With add. Limited time offer.	30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from \$179.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles. Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension
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NEW CV AXLE from **\$159.95** Parts & Labor

TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$50 off quoted price Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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Only at San Diego Smog We Repair & Certify Gross Polluters
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Window Tint \$98
Tint removal from \$29. Any shade, up to 5 rear windows.

COMPUTER CUT

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION \$50 Off Complete Brake Job.	FREE SHOCKS & STRUTS BUY 2, GET 2 FREE Most Cars	ELECTRICAL REPAIR Power windows, door locks, automotive control modules: BCM, ECM, PCM, TCM.	10% OFF GIFT CARDS!
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Qwik Auto Center
2707 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach 92109
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm *Must present ad prior to purchase. Installation required
Pictures are for illustration only. Some cars require extra parts and labor at additional cost. Must present coupon at participating locations. Most cars. Prices subject to change without notice.

858-256-7977
QuickAutoCenter.com

toys for cash! Buying old action figures, Hot Wheels, robots, dolls, etc. (619) 755-1390

FISHING TACKLE wanted to buy. Top dollar paid for old, new, used fishing tackle. (619) 916-8307

I BUY OLD DRUM SETS and cymbals. (619) 280-2075

TWO PERSON GARDEN SWING Wanted free. Would need delivered if needs paint that is fine as long frame is not broke please text (619) 631-9258.

SEEKING BUYER FOR STOVE Wanted, need to find buyer for florence gas stove, sold in early 50's. Not wanting to sell now, but want contacts. Text (619) 631-9258

TRADE TWO ANTIQUE ELECTROLUX vacs Coors lite or regular millers beer lighted sign vacs need work but are complete. Text only please (619) 631-9258.

I BUY GUITARS AND AMPLIFIERS (619) 806-6703

I BUY USED GOLF CLUBS (619) 806-6703

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

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

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

CASH FOR WALT DISNEY AUTOGRAPHS, items, paper, original animation art, old Disneyland items, any type comics all before 1970. No Prints or videos. (619) 890-1390.

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

STEREO GEAR/LP RECORDS Cash paid! Vintage/newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables, McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Prerecorded reel tapes, jazz/rock records. John, (619) 889-5237.

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

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

FOR SALE

AIR COMPRESSOR Two stage, 60 gallon rolling air compressor. Excellent condition, extra 50 foot hose, multiple attachments. Cost over \$1,000, sell for \$300. Call (619) 415-5080.

BED HEADBOARD AND FOOTBOARD bed headboard, footboard, slats and rails \$100, not sure of the bed size. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

BOOGIE BOARDS 2 boogie boards \$20 each. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

CASSETTE TAPES recordable cassette tapes ten cents each. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

DRACAENA DRACO for sale along with Alluadia, Beaucarnea, Cardon, Dicksonia, Euphorbia cotinifolia, Mexican ficus post and mother in law's Chair. (760) 945-7892, ask for Jimmy.

PAIR OF REAL WALNUT WOOD with decorative glass each measure Height 6'2" Width 22 Depth 19" \$180 call or text (619) 200-1254.

PET CARRIER SHERPA \$20 (619) 284-7484.

SETTEE BENCH Ratan natural beige wicker settee bench. Measurements 42 inches wide by 18 inches deep by 20 inches high. Like new, \$75. Call (619) 339-6484

WHITE WICKER AND WOOD over the toilet space saver with three shelves and cabinets, good condition. \$65 call (619) 339-6488.



AUDI Q7 WHEELS PIRELLI TIRES Set of 4 - 20 inch Audi OEM factory wheels with Pirelli Scorpion tires. Good overall condition. Suitable for all 2007-2015 Audi Q7. Will also work for 2004-2017 VW Touareg and 2004-2015 Porsche Cayenne. \$2,000 for everything. hstron@hotmail.com



WOLFORM DRESS MODEL SIZE 8 Wolf Form model 1989, size 8 dress form mannequin, lightly used, iron base, wheels, swivel, pedal height adjustment, \$450 cash, local pickup, Carlsbad. safranain1@gmail.com

KNEE HIGH brown suede boots 8 1/2 \$30 (858) 505-0685.



SEGWAY SCOOTER Paid \$350 six months ago. Sell for \$300.

SPORTS FANS CHRISTMAS GIFTS Adjustable ear loops, comfortable, washable, reusable. 3 layers 100% cotton. Padres, Dodgers, Lakers, Raiders, Giants, Steelers, Rams, KC, 49ERS, Chargers, fabric face masks. (619) 793-9103

TIRES FOR X-MAS SLEIGH Pay only \$39 down on all-new tires and wheels. We carry all brands and sizes, new and used tires. (619) 798-9645

DOG BEDS HARNESES CUTE Has zippers washable (619) 850-3264 stuffed with polyfill and cedar chips to repel fleas and mosquitoes (619) 850-3264.

DRONES ALL TYPES \$35 NEW Drones all types (619) 850-3264 for \$11 up to \$60 (619) 850-3264.

FLOORS EPOXY WOOD ALL TYPE If you walk on it we clean it or install it (619) 850-3264.

GROW LIGHT BRAND NEW 2 (619) 850-3264 to grow lights for the price of one low electricity bill brand new \$300 (619) 850-3264.

SPEAKERS BLUETOOTH LOUD Loud Bluetooth speaker (619) 850-3264 \$30 (619) 850-3264.

STUN GUN FLASHLIGHT COMBO Stun guns bodyguard get protected (619) 850-3264.

540 BOOK COLLECTION 238 hardcover, 37 softcover & about 264 hardcover & softcover cookbooks. Selling all the books for \$390., no haggle price, Escondido, (760) 746-7209

CARDON CACTUS for sale along with Alluadia, Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dasyliiron, Euphorbia Ammak Variegated. Great Christmas gifts! Lalo Of Vista Energizes! Call (760) 945-7892 for appointment.

CASSETTE TAPES recordable cassette tapes ten cents each. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

COMMUNITY GARDEN in south San Diego selling fruit saplings, edible cactus/succulents, clippings, seeds, and worm casting for planting! Text or email: (857) 236-7794 / junebloom42@gmail.com.

DRONES: CAMERA & QUADCOPTERS Drones for all skill levels... camera drones & quadcopters: brand new from manufacturer...categories: consumer, professional, enterprise, agricultural. Buy direct online & save: http://personalsubs.weebly.com (Yes we also deal in submarines too.) stewartalan250@gmail.com

NEW TRACFONES SAMSUNG S150G Seven new phones in sealed original packaging, selling all seven phones for only \$95. total price, I'm not selling them separately, Escondido, (760) 746-7209

RECLINER two years old, heater, lift, leather, dark brown, perfect condition. Paid \$1,200 two years ago, \$300 OBO. (760) 745-6656

RIGID HAND PIPE THREADER 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch and 1 inch with handle and metal case. \$50 or best. (619) 987-5682

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks good condition suitcase fancy candle holder folding laundry basket. all these items you must buy for 40.00 obo any very much interested candidate ask for james @ (619) 450-7914 thank you. (619) 450-7914 / j.fiffield31@gmail.com

MOREL MUSHROOMS I have been in love with Morels and decided to grow them. Yesterday was my first harvest and will like to sell to anyone interested. Text/Call (214) 659-1176 / janekaint@gmail.com

CABLES, SPEAKERS, STANDS + ETC Any questions, call me - Ken (619) 933-5246. We have many things we want to move. - filing cabinets. - storage cabinet. - refurbished printers. - ipad cases. - woofers (Edison Professionals). - dual system player (Edison Professionals). - mic. - batterie

T-SHIRTS for sale, good condition, size men's or boys, five dollars each, call Ernie (760) 532-3601 or text.

WHITE BABY BATHTUB \$5 (858) 505-0685.

65 INCH SMART TV 3 year warranty, \$400 or best offer, serious inquiries only call (619) 755-2459.

ARTISAN HANDMADE EARRINGS We're selling artisan embroidered earrings for 70 pesos. We are by the Church of Guadalupe and the Mikasa restaurant in Tijuana. WhatsApp (664) 626-1974 for info; we're here from 9-7 from Monday to Saturday.

BIKE RACK for 2 bicycles Allen XR200 \$70. Hooks to trailer hitch for car/truck. Irwin: (619) 321-7734

BLUE DINIMIGI BOOTS \$20 Selling a brand new pair of girl's Dinimigi boots in size 6 US/36 Europe for \$20. Email juliebrowall73@gmail.com for more info. juliebrowall73@gmail.com

MARISCOS AND A FREE SODA If you give us a comment

on Yelp, and when you show it in your order, we will give you a soda. We sell tostadas, seafood tacos, ceviche, 7 mares soups. (619) 787-4276

MAYAN MOTIF STOOL We're selling a vintage low stool made of leather. It has a Central American Mayan motif. Email juliebrowall73@gmail.com for more info. juliebrowall73@gmail.com

MISC FOR SALE Halloween music cd \$5. Skillet, two pans with tops \$30. (858) 505-0685

NEC TV MOVIE HDMI PROJECTOR \$225. You can hook up the projector to xbox, ps5, laptops, cable box, and/or chromecast. Call or text me to pick up today. (757) 605-8308 / jwing003@odu.edu

ROLL OF NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF Call Justin to order. 12x50 foot roll (600 sq ft). \$894 before tax. The turf can be delivered in 2 days. (757) 605-8308 / jwing003@odu.edu

WARM UP WITH BIRRIA Menu: birria soup \$2; tacos de birria \$2; torta de birria \$5; quessabirria \$2.50. Located at 4154 Gamma St. San Diego, 92113. (619) 577-9220. 10am-8pm.

BRAND NEW SLAM-IT RIM Slam-It rim, spring-back action, double compression springs, net included. Call or text Andy @ (619) 597-3653 / andrewsecrest@gmail.com

METAL HEADBOARD AND FRAME Very good condition. Cal King, nickel finish, \$50. Call (619) 203-2147 / shrlly.dots@yahoo.com

PRINCESS HOUSE CRYSTAL GLASSES Princess House crystal glasses. Set of four in box. Call or text Andy @ (619) 597-3653 / andrewsecrest@gmail.com

THE BOYDS COLLECTION The Boyds Collection Limited Edition 1999. 1. Gary, Tina, Matt and Bailey From Our Home to Yours. 2. Ms. Liberty. 3. Victoria Regina BuzzBruin So Many Flowers So Little Time. 4. Catherine and Caitlin Berriweather Fine Cup Of Tea. All Original Boxes (619) 597-3653 / andrewsecrest@gmail.com

TV SMARTBOX every channel on the planet guaranteed

OIL CHANGE \$14.95
Additional \$5 cartridge fee.
Plus tax, haz.waste & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl.

SMOG CHECK \$11.75
Sedan only, NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only. SUV and Trucks extra. + \$8.25 cert + \$15 DMV transfer fee

BRAKES \$49
Front or rear
*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

30K 60K 90K \$65
Scheduled Services
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

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

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

STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS \$95
Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 and up.

We'll beat any written estimate!
Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork.
B.T. Auto Wrench
Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C
1-858-565-4634

satisfaction or your money back (619) 850-3264 all new and old movies TV shows all sports local channels everything included no cable bill every channel on the planet \$300 plug in and play you must have internet (619) 850-3264.

CURTIS MATHIS walnut cabinet has am/fm radio and turntable, tv was removed nice shape. \$40 please text (619) 631-9258.

MEN'S SKI CLOTHING turtlenecks, \$2 large. Descents one piece ski suit XL, \$150. Descents one piece ski suit, large, \$100. Hats and socks, \$2-\$5. (619) 218-4031

ANTIQUA SAFE 3 ft tall, 2 ft wide, 2 ft deep, four wheel rolling, 150 pounds. Survived 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. Has burn marks, perfect condition. (760) 420-3641. \$1,000 cash firm.

ASSORTMENT OF WOMEN'S SWEATERS for the winter. Brand new. Sizes small to medium, solid as well as stripes, some with pockets and can be worn as jacket. Please call (858) 693-3409 for more details.

COFFEE PERCOLATOR stainless steel 12 cup electric coffee percolator. Brand new, great for parties and meetings. Must sell, \$22. Call evenings (858) 693-3409

CHRISTMAS TREE STAND metal, for fresh trees, holds water. Large to extra large. Used only once, like new. \$7. (858) 484-4483

GATE Chain link and pipe. 2 sections. Each 5'9" wide. 6'4" long \$100 text. (619) 438-4567

ARRIAT WESTERN BOOTS 3 pairs, 2 pairs new, size 6- 6 1/2. \$50 all, text (619) 438-4567.

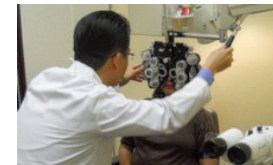
PORTABLE ROOF RACK new in box, never used. Carries all

kinds of things, will work on all cars, \$34.95. carryme123.com

SERVICES

BUY MCAFEE ANTIVIRUS - SOFTBES To give your devices overall security from harmful online viruses, buy or renew the McAfee AntiVirus from SoftBest2Buy.com immediately. VISIT = https://softbest2buy.com/product/mcafee-antivirus-for-1-device-for-window-1year-1-user-2/ (180) 055-5123 / andylouis055@gmail.com

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MIRA MESA EYECARE For over 20 years, Mira Mesa Eyecare has served Mira Mesa and its surrounding area with quality vision care for the whole family. *We are open during Covid-19 and practices all safety precautions. https://www.miramesaeyecare.com (858) 535-8282 / contact@miramesaeyecare.com

INTER-FAITH WEDDING OFFICIAN Inter-faith minister avail to officiate weddings in San Diego via zoom. \$450. Pay

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BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK

Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up.

\$11.75

+ \$8.25 Cert.

BRAKES

Front or rear. Most cars.

FREE Shuttle Service

+ Labor

OIL CHANGE & FILTER

Up to 5 qts., new filter, 10 point checkout.

\$13.95

+ \$1.00 Waste Fee.

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Starting price, Labor + Parts.

\$75

COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS

Most vehicles & light trucks. Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery...

\$30

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Includes Parts & Labor

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from \$29

+ Labor

PREMIUM SHOCKS

Monroe or KYB+ Labor

\$70

STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR

from \$95

+ Labor

PREMIUM STRUTS

Monroe or KYB + Labor

from \$130

per pair

*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto

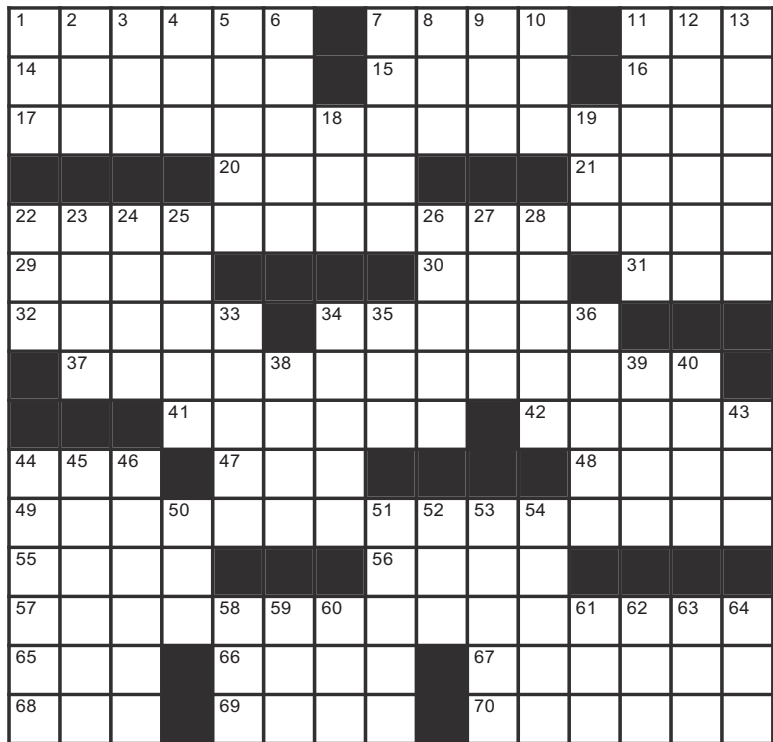
6670 Miramar Rd. # C, San Diego, CA 92121-2559



858-452-9999



CROSSWORD



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Across

1. Metaphoric acknowledgment
7. Jobs creation
11. Astronaut Jemison
14. In
15. Dress in Delhi
16. "La Cage ____ Folles"
17. Directive to an instrument in need of cleaning?
20. Math measurement
21. Physics 101 subject
22. Wistful feeling about possessing an instrument?
29. Clickable list
30. It breaks in the morning
31. Gangster's gun
32. Struck down, biblically
34. Some are humble
37. This puzzle's theme
41. Short poetic tribute
42. Determined to achieve
44. "Get a room!" elicitor, for short
47. Ma that might baa
48. Vibe
49. Settle on certain instruments when no others are available?
55. ExxonMobil brand
56. Metal food containers
57. Succinct reaction when given a list of instruments to choose from?

65. "... you know the rest": Abbr.
66. Berth place
67. Greet from a distance
68. "How could I be so silly?!"
69. Garr of "Tootsie"
70. Chocolate Post cereal

Down

1. Part of a stable diet?
2. From ____ Z
3. Night that "Friends" aired: Abbr.
4. The Blue Jays, on scoreboards
5. "Er ... well ... um ..."
6. June birthstone
7. Thomas featured in the documentary "The Last Dance"
8. Course number
9. Prints, e.g.
10. Handy person's inits.
11. Brand with a lonely repairman
12. ____ borealis
13. Free (from)
18. Susan of "L.A. Law"
19. "Well, ____-di-dah!"
22. Online exchange, in brief
23. Some partners in lesbian couples
24. "What am ____ getting?"

25. Closing section of music
26. Tennis score after deuce
27. Common first word
28. Australia's ____ Rock
33. Down for a pillow
34. Shoelace tip
35. Hwy. whose name includes two of NYC's boroughs
36. Pilfer
38. Small salamander
39. Decorative sewing case
40. Conflicted
43. Rapper Lil ____ X
44. Fed (on)
45. He landed in Florida in 1539
46. Per se
50. "Nice one!"
51. "SNL" alum Cheri
52. By way of
53. Bisected
54. Muppet whose tweets often end with "Scram!"
58. Like the name Mitt for a catcher
59. Conk out
60. The big eau
61. Biblical woman with a palindromic name
62. It's a sign
63. Thai neighbor
64. NBA tiebreakers

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

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

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

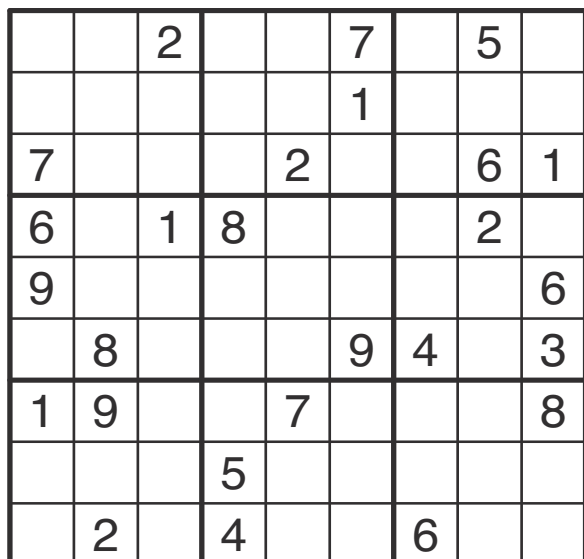
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Jon Hutchens, Cardiff, 10.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

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

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Hiroshi Miyazaki, San Diego, 14.**

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

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Creme de la Weird

— The Design Museum in London has included a "DIY meal kit" featuring steaks that could be grown from a diner's own human cells among the nominees in its Beazley Designs of the Year exhibit. Developers of the Ouroboros Steak envision that an individual will be able to harvest cells from their own cheek and feed them with serum derived from donated blood that has expired, Dezeen reported. After about three months, the steaks would be fully grown. "People think that eating oneself is cannibalism, which technically this is not," said Grace Knight, one of the designers. Researcher Orkan Telhan added, "Our design is scientifically and economically feasible but also ironic in many ways," he added.

Tis the Season

— An animal rescue worker in Adelaide, Australia, thought she was being pranked when Amanda McCormick called on Dec. 2 to report she had discovered a koala in her Christmas tree. The little marsupial didn't come with the tree; it wandered in the house and found a cozy new home among the ornaments, 9News reported. The female koala was safely removed to its more natural habitat. "Koalas are very curious creatures, and if the opportunity presents itself, they will investigate," the rescue team said.

— Socially distanced visitors to Tokyo's Sunshine Aquarium were delighted to see Santa Claus, complete with a mask and flippers

and holding a Christmas wreath, gliding among banana fish and a stingray in a huge tank on Dec. 4, according to Reuters. The swimming Santa, who also used a bazooka-like feeder to shoot treats to the fish, is a 20-year tradition at the aquarium. "I know it's difficult to hold events like these because of the coronavirus situation," said visitor Ayami Kobayashi, 35, "but I'm grateful they still held the event."

Bright Idea

— Matthew Piercey, 44, has been indicted on 31 federal felony counts related to a suspected Ponzi scheme, but when FBI agents tried to arrest him in Redding, California, on Nov. 16, he took off, authorities said. NBC News reported agents followed him to Lake Shasta, where Piercey pulled a \$1200 Yamaha 350LI Seascooter out of his vehicle, then disappeared into the frigid water, spending about 25 minutes "out of sight underwater where law enforcement could only see bubbles," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Hales wrote in court papers. The agents waited him out and arrested him when he resurfaced. Piercey faces up to 20 year in prison if convicted.

Signs of the Times

— Alexios Gerakis, 37, a candlemaker in Thessaloniki, Greece, has updated his Santa Claus candles for 2020 with blue surgical masks covering the big elf's beard. "Because of the times, we are trying to convey a message that health comes first, then everything else," Gerakis told Reuters Television. His snowmen candles also sport masks.

— And in Lajosmizse, Hungary, confectioner Laszlo Rimoczi can't keep up with the orders after he added tiny marzipan surgical masks to his chocolate Santas. He has simplified the design, Reuters reported, and has increased production to about 100 Santas a day in his rural workshop. Father Christmas "will have to wear a mask because Santa has to show a good example to people," Rimoczi said.

Names in the News

— A newly elected local councilman in Om-pundja, Namibia, is assuring constituents that he has no plans for world domination, despite his unfortunate name: Uunona Adolf Hitler. The 54-year-old, who prefers to be called Mr. Uunona, told a German news website that his father named him without an understanding of the Nazi leader, Sky News reported. Namibia is a former German colony, so many streets, places and people have German names. "It was a perfectly normal name for me when I was a kid," Uunona said.

Cliches Come to Life

— After a heated argument with his wife in late November, a 48-year-old unnamed man from Como, Italy, stepped outside to walk it off and kept on walking until he was stopped a week later by police officers patrolling after curfew in Gimarra, more than 260 miles away, *Oddity Central* reported. The man said he had walked the entire way, without using any other modes of transportation and relied on the kindness of strangers for food and drink. "I'm fine. I'm just

a little tired," he said. His wife, who had reported him missing, picked him up the next day, but had to pay a fine of almost \$500 for his violation of the curfew.

Least Competent Criminal

— Daniel M. Rizza, 20, of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, was driving a gray Audi SUV on Nov. 27 when he ran out of gas and called state police to ask for help. But when he was told a trooper would be responding, he abruptly said he'd changed his mind and hung up, according to court documents. WTJ reported that the trooper responding to the call learned en route that a gray Audi had been reported stolen nearby earlier in the day, and after a check of the SUV's make, model, identification number and registration, he arrested Rizza, who was charged with a felony count of receiving stolen property.

Turnabout Is Fair Play

— An unnamed hunter near the Czech Republic village of Horni Plana contacted police in late November after a deer startled by the man's dogs charged him, snagging his .22-caliber rifle on its antlers before running into the woods, United Press International reported. The gun was unloaded, and police said another hunter saw the stag more than a half-mile away with the rifle still hanging from its antlers.

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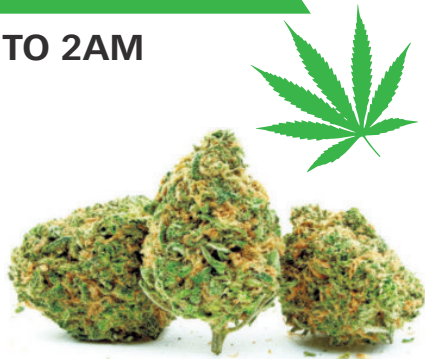
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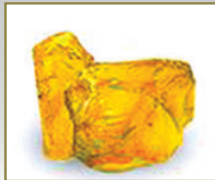
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Cookies



Kushy Punch

ROVE

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Bombay
Fire



CandyCane

Cookies



Kushy Punch

ROVE

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Sky Walker OG
28G \$80 Oz

Forbidden Fruit
28G \$80 Oz

Butter Cake
28G \$80 Oz

Top Shelf

28G \$90
14G \$70

Private Reserve

28G \$160
14G \$90

Exclusive

28G \$199
14G \$99

VIP

28G \$300
10G \$120

MOON ROCKS PRE ROLL

10 for
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