

Todd Gloria's Disneyland policy retreat

S A N D I E G O

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Reader

**2020
HINDSIGHT**

The re-education
of Walter Mencken

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

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OUR PRAYERS ARE BEING ANSWERED. Our Mom Judy is so much much better recovering from Covid.
OSCILLOSCOPES. Hickok Model 5002A, used, I don't have the probes.

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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.

Big money burritos

I have a recommendation that I'm sure will be both scoffed and chortled at. I think that it is time to change the name of Ed Bedford's column Tin Fork. There is little doubt, in my opinion, that Ed is fine writer of the cheapskate cuisine scene. Unfortunately for me and other slug-like working poor folk, there aren't any El Cheapo places to grub anymore other than Del Taco. In the 20 years that I have lived here, the demographics of San Diego have shifted from lazy bohemian types, surfers and military types to real estate developers, lawyers, dog walking yuppies, and whatever money-hungry profiteer that exists. Anyway, when Ed writes about joints that have \$10 glasses of wine, \$8 burritos, and \$10 sandwiches, I think that a name change should be in order. Ed Bedford's Silver Spoon is too obvious. How about Ed Bedford's Platinum Spork? Make Carne Asada Burritos \$5 Again! A faithful reader of the *Reader*,

Wink Sajak
North Park

Seasons greetings

Good morning on Christmas Eve. Happy holidays and I wish you an absolutely fabulous New Year 2021. The purpose of my call is to tell you how much I love you, all of you, your whole team and the *Reader*, and to tell you how much — it may seem like a small thing, but it is not — to tell you how much the *Reader* has meant to me during this crisis time. When I went to pick it up yesterday, it just hit me how much that little trip, my walking from home to the box where I


pick it up, how much that has meant to me. You know, I get choked up, but there's just so many parts of it that you know, Immortal Beauty, Ed Bedford, some of the Hipster, the stories. I mean it goes on and on. I don't know how you've been able to do it, you must have had a solid thing before this whole thing happened. I'm sure you did. It's a great piece of literature. Anyway it means a lot to San Diego and please tell your team, all of you, that I send my love and that you are so appreciated. Keep on keeping on, and 2021 is going to be a great, great year.

Anonymous

To heck with Amber

After reading the sob story of "Amber", describing the Co-vid-driven hardships of living in an RV to avoid paying rent, I can only say that I was unmoved ("San Diego cracks down on anyone living in his car," Cover Stories, December 16). I have seen RVs illegally parked in public venues, in business districts, and even on my own residential street. It is a form of vagrancy that would not be tolerated in other parts of the country, where the weather is inarguably much more extreme.

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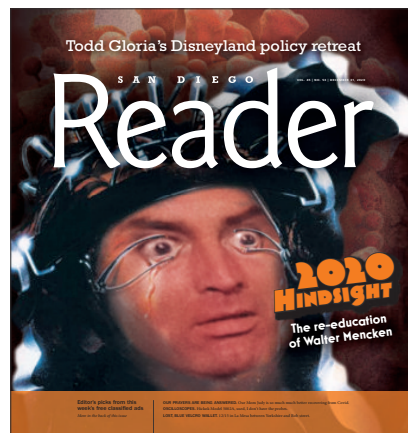
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

IMPERIAL BEACH

“Un-Boll-Weevil-ble”

Covid claims buggy burger joint

The South San Diego Boll Weevil is closing — the latest casualty among San Diego original restaurants. On December 13, Alisha Russell reached out to her Imperial Beach neighbors, posting on Facebook, “Boll Weevil is selling everything inside the restaurant from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday the 16th.” Russell, who worked at the restaurant for two

years after graduating high school in 1994 and then returned in 2006, explains that “we had to take the condiment trays away once covid hit. To me, it was never the same after that. They also took away the pool tables and video games, leaving us near naked. Those and the large gatherings in the back room were the main attractions that drew families there.”

As a result, “the business was very small, and eventually, it cost more

to stay open than they were making here. I’ll miss the friendly faces of regular customers, the sense of family and belonging, and the camaraderie of our staff.”

In the mid-2000s, I owned a car parts business near the restaurant. What drew my buddies and me were the unlimited hamburger toppings, including fresh tomatoes,



The unlimited hamburger toppings, including fresh tomatoes, lettuce, onions, pickles were the draw.



“We had to take the condiment trays away once covid hit. They also took away the pool tables and video games. Those were the main attractions that drew families there.”

lettuce, onions, pickles, and condiments. Also, the giant-sized beer schooners. When family and friends visited my car shop, I’d frequently treat them to the 1/2 lb. steer burgers or chicken wings. For me, Boll Weevil was a San Diego must-go-to spot, ranking

up with the Roberto’s on Highland Avenue.

Lorraine and Fred Halleman founded the Boll Weevil chain, opening their first restaurant on Midway Drive in 1967. Eventually, they expanded to over 18 restaurants throughout the county, and even had a Tijuana location. “Victor Tongco and Thomas Walker opened their first Boll Weevil restaurant in 1990 on El Cajon Boulevard near SDSU,” according to

ImperialBeachNewsCa.com. “They opened the Southland Plaza Boll Weevil, in South San Diego, on September 4, 1991. In September 2008, the parent company went bankrupt, but some independently owned restaurants stayed open, the South San Diego location being one of them.”

Up until its closure, the place maintained a 4.5 rating on Yelp. Maritess, an Elite 2020 Yelp reviewer, ordered the grilled bacon cheeseburger from Russell, posted a photo, and rated the restaurant a four out of five. “This burger had lots of cheese, which I love. The meat was seasoned well with salt, and was so juicy, and the crunch of the bread was great. The lady’s service was great; she was friendly with us and her other customers. They had TVs so you can watch sports. They had a pool table with an



“The pool tables were a hundred apiece, can you believe that? Now, everything is gone except a few beer mirrors and Boll Weevil signs.”

old-style juke book.”

Comments on Russell’s Facebook posted included sympathy and sale queries. “What a shame!” wrote Linda. “An IB landmark that has lost the economic battle of the times.

“The actual measurement of this sevengill is 9 ½ feet, the girth is about 3 ½ feet, and the weight is estimated to be at least 350 pounds. It was an epic battle.”

Wonder if they might have some wire shelves available?” Another local inquired about the photos of the youth teams that the restaurant sponsored, going back to the ‘90s. “Are they selling them? I would love to buy one for my adult son getting married, he was on one

som, used pool tables are a hot commodity. I’d pay \$100 in a heartbeat. Man, this whole shutdown is un-Boll-Weevil-ble.”

Russell notes that the Boll Weevil on Winter Gardens Boulevard in Lakeside is still open. “Walking in there is like a step back into time to Boll Weevil’s heyday.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

OCEAN BEACH

Santa Jaws

“My family will enjoy barbecued shark for Christmas.”

It took Danny Reid nearly four hours in the early evening of December 20 to haul in his “shark of a lifetime” off the Ocean Beach Pier. “It is a sevengill shark,” he told me soon after landing the huge fish. “The actual measurement of this sevengill is 9 ½ feet, the girth is about 3 ½ feet, and the weight is estimated to be at least 350 pounds. It was an epic battle.”

Reid, who is a member of the OB Extreme

Shark Fishing Crew, said his fellow crewmembers had left less than 30 minutes prior. “I was alone and was the only shark fisherman on the pier at the time,” he said. “When I first hooked it, I knew it was a shark because I’d seen it as it was eating the bait, right below the pier. It



“It was a monster. You could easily fit two basketballs in its mouth.”

of the teams, and we always joked about it when we went there.” But the most popular inquiry was about the pool tables. “They were a hundred apiece,” she says, “can you believe that? Now, everything is gone except a few beer mirrors and Boll Weevil signs.” Former regular Michael, noted that “since everyone is stuck at home because of [Governor] New-

was floating in the current on its side, gliding and drifting with the bait just going down its throat. So he’s hooked, and starts taking off around the pier, and I’m following it, I get close to it and ask a gentleman to bring me my gaff, ‘cause I need to bring it up, so I try to gaff it, I stick him once and he shakes it off

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It's hard to keep people clean when the showers are dirty.

ICE in hot water

Department of Homeland Security fuming after visit to Calexico detention center

A Calexico detention center run for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by a controversial Utah contractor has received a blistering review from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, which found that inmates "were held in administrative segregation for prolonged periods of 22 to 23 hours a day, including two detainees who had been held in isolation for more than 300 days."

"We also determined that parts of the facility were in poor condition, medical checks were insufficient to ensure proper detainee care, medical grievances and responses were not properly documented, and ICE communication with detainees was limited."

"Until ICE takes corrective action to address these violations of detention standards, the facility will be unable to ensure an environment that protects the health, safety, and rights of detainees."

The December 18 report, based on a surprise inspection by auditors to the Calexico facility in February, targets ICE's Imperial Regional Detention Facility, operated by Management and Training Corporation for the San Diego branch of ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations office.

"At the time of our visit, [the Imperial Regional Detention Facility] housed 626 ICE detainees with a facility capacity of 704 detainees. The detainee population then comprised 559 males, 63 females, and 4 transgender individuals."

Regarding costs, "ICE paid MTC \$155.65 per day for each detainee held at [Imperial Regional Detention Facility]," per the document. "During our visit, we inspected IRDF facilities, including detainee housing units, food service areas, medical care areas, and recreation and religious areas."

According to the report, "Medical staff regularly conducted medical checks during detainee sleeping hours and spent only 10 to 15 minutes completing the checks and documenting visits to 20 or more detain-

ees. Facility officials cited registered nurse staffing shortages as the reason for the short visits.

"The facility staffing plan shows there should be nine full-time nurses and one part-time nurse, but there were only six full-time nurses on staff, covering three shifts. By not thoroughly and appropriately conducting medical checks, IRDF staff are not able to adequately identify and address mental health or other medical concerns affecting segregated detainees."

Regarding a bevy of substandard physical conditions at the facility, the audit says, "we observed mold, rust, and peeling paint in showers in detainee housing areas." Standard issue jail garments and shoes were "ill-fitting, stained, and damaged," and "detainees told us they had complained of torn and deteriorating mattresses, but the facility had not replaced them."

"In the food preparation and storage areas we found expired frozen tortillas and turkey bologna, and moldy zucchini."

According to the report, ICE management has agreed to a list of six operational changes proposed by the Inspector General's office to improve conditions at the jail.

A December 11 account published by *USA Today* reported that Mississippi officials "failed to enforce contractual penalties that punish short staffing" at a state prison operated by Management and Training Corporation. "Instead, they continued to pay MTC the salaries of absent employees, aka ghost workers."

A company spokesman "attributed staff shortages to low pay resulting from a state law that requires private prisons to cost 10 percent less to operate than public facilities, as well as the small labor pools near the rural prisons."

During the latest federal election cycle the MTC PAC made a total of \$94,000 in campaign contributions, divided 50-50 among Democratic and Republican lawmakers, according to the website *OpenSecrets.org*.

Matt Potter

UNDER THE RADAR

Trash hauling lobbyist With a tumultuous election year drawing to a close, the revolving doors at San Diego City Hall have gone into overtime as old staffers depart for greener lobbying fields, and new ones arrive fresh from playing the influence-peddling game. **Michael Simonsen**, the freshly minted chief of staff for newly elected Seventh District Democrat **Raul Campillo**, hails from trash hauler Republic Services, where he's spent the last four and a half years as Municipal Relationship Manager, per his LinkedIn profile. "Pragmatic public affairs, marketing and business development professional with over 20 years' experience in developing and implementing

community, government, and media relations programs," says LinkedIn. "Highly successful in creating and managing strategic partnership initiatives while enhancing brand reputation. Excellent communication skills in small or large groups. Proven leader with outstanding writing and organizational skills." Before Republic, according to his bio, Simonsen worked a decade for controversial city paramedic provider Rural Metro as a market development director and California director of public affairs. Before that, he was director of labor relations for the city's firefighters' union, and before that, chief of staff for Sixth District Councilwoman **Donna Frye**. Campaign contribution disclosure records show that while employed by Rural Metro and Republic Services, Simonsen came up with a total of \$7348 for city candidates since 2006, including nearly \$2300 for the successful mayoral bid of Democrat **Todd Gloria**, and \$449 for the **Vivian Moreno** for City Council 2018 committee. While working as an influence peddler for Republic

in 2018, seeking a "non-exclusive franchise agreement" for "solid waste and recycling collection, processing, and disposal," Simonsen fundraised for Moreno and her fellow Democrat **Chris Ward**, who has since moved on to the state Assembly. That year, according to an October 17, 2018 filing with the city clerk's office, Simonsen sought on behalf of Republic an "Ordinance authorizing mayor, or his designee, to execute amendments to Solid Waste Transportation Franchise Agreements." According to the document, he lobbied then-councilmen **David Alvarez**, **Scott Sherman**, and **Chris Cate** regarding the issue. Republic has long been a financial pillar of ballot efforts by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce to manipulate city government. In 2011 the company kicked in \$25,000 in 2011 to Prop B, the chamber's bid to replace guaranteed pension for city workers with 401K plans, later tossed by the state Supreme Court. In January 2010,

Republic gave \$10,000 to Prop D, a proposed city sales tax boost favored by GOP then-mayor **Jerry Sanders** and Frye, but soundly rejected by voters. In October of last year, the *Guardian* reported that the largest stockholder in Republic with almost 34 percent, was billionaire Microsoft founder **Bill Gates**. The company has long fought with the Teamsters, backed by 2020 Democratic presidential candidate **Bernie Sanders**, over what the union says are low wages and lack of safety investment.

Gloria's Mickey Mouse policy klatsch Covid-19 has been responsible for keeping many at home, including legions of elected officials used to free resort stays and chowing down at eateries thanks to special interests seeking their favor. Such was true with newly elected mayor **Todd Gloria**, a state Assembly Democrat before moving over to city hall earlier this month. But Gloria managed to sustain the influence-peddling gravy train longer than most, making it up to Disneyland on March 6 for a two-day "policy retreat" by the California Latino Legislative Caucus, worth \$1362, provided as a gift from the non-profit California Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation, according to Gloria's December 17 disclosure report. A week after the legislators' junket, Disneyland closed its doors due to the pandemic. Besides funding legislator overnights in the Magic Kingdom, the Latino Legislative Caucus foundation was "established to promote and support Latino culture and heritage in California and to educate the public about Latino culture, heritage and issues of importance to Latinos in California,"

says its website. As a registered charity, the group doesn't have to reveal its donors. As of the end of 2020, Disneyland remains shuttered, with 32,000 workers in Anaheim and Florida's Disneyworld set for lay-offs in the new year. Gloria's other pre-pandemic freebies included food and beverage worth \$87.64 from Los Angeles utility giant Southern California Edison on January 13, \$110.40 in food and beverage from the Building Industry Association of San Diego on January 25, \$120 in event tickets from the Century Club of San Diego on January 26, and \$125 worth of food and beverage from the San Diego Lodging Association on February 13.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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Raul Campillo raided the rubbish removal industry to find a chief of staff.



Disneyland and freebies make Todd Gloria smile.

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Dear Hipster:

I grew up in the '60s, when being hip was an ineffable, deliciously rare characteristic. Both my parents were Beats in their day, listening to Billie Holiday and yes, smoking the occasional joint. One became a lawyer, the other a teacher. As teenagers, my two brothers and I would probably have been categorized as 'hippies', but back then, no one reveled in labeling themselves. Every Christmas Eve, our family — along with the bravest of our friends — gathered round the dining room table, having enjoyed a traditional feast and plenty of wine. We all held our breath as my mother would ceremoniously emerge from the kitchen brandishing... the Snap-Dragon enameled dish was brim-full with brandy and floating raisins. The lights were dimmed, and that year's 'anointed one' produced a Bic lighter, setting the bowl aflame! Playing Snap-Dragon was a contest of who could pull the most raisins out of the flaming bowl... with bare fingers! Any raisin plucked from the bowl could only go directly from flame to fingers to mouth. No one was ever burned, and nothing but the bowl was ever set on fire. But Snap-Dragon was such a crowd-pleaser, we reprised it year after year. Not to encourage playing with fire, but I wonder how many of today's "hipsters" are industrious or courageous enough to take on this holiday tradition. I wouldn't say it's for the piña colada-sipping crowd.

— TH, POINT LOMA



I have so many questions, not the least of which being: what did "the bravest" of your friends say the first time you asked them, "Hey, you guys wanna some play Snap-Dragon?" and then explained the actual game to them? I'm shrewd enough to ask these kinds of questions, purely rhetorically, because I know that any actual answers would only detract from the mystery. In any event, I love stories like this that remind us of the amazingly dangerous ways we humans have invented to amuse ourselves over time. When you look back at the dizzying array of toxic kiddie toys, cars without seatbelts, and tobacco companies directly targeting expectant mothers; a little game of "snatch the flaming raisins from the burning brandy" sounds downright wholesome by comparison.



Meta: a dragon playing Snap-Dragon

FROM ROBERT CHAMBERS' BOOK OF DAYS

I dare say the modern hipster set could embrace the charms of Snap-Dragon as a Christmastime celebration. If I know anything about hipsters, they'll take the idea and run wild with it. Raisins are good, so a potpourri of rare and exotic dried fruits is better, right? And if dried fruits are better, then dried fruits that have been steeped in various alcohols for a week in advance so they get you drunk as well as amuse you are best, right? Of course, at some point, getting clever turns into "trying too hard," and maybe we're all better off sticking with the classic edition of raisins and brandy. If I might make one suggestion for those inclined to adopt this tradition as their own — heat the brandy before putting it in the bowl, as room temperature booze does not ignite easily. I'll save you all the embarrassing details of how exactly I know this, but let's say a surprisingly large number of flabbergasted women agree that accidentally inviting me to a bachelorette party was not a good idea, and we'll leave it at that.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

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San Diego has generously offered many amenities to those "affected by Covid", even issuing e-debit cards to students from families (such as those on my own street) who have plenty of expensive toys, high-end vehicles, one parent electively unemployed, and constant parties (beer and carne asada are not cheap). "Amber's" daughter no doubt has one of those free-meal cards, I am assuming. Also, what is her husband doing about finding employment? I see young Mexican men in my area doing all kinds of jobs, construction, road crew, yard work, etc. Some can barely speak English (I speak Spanish) or not at all, yet somehow they find honest work. "Amber" fails to even allude to why her husband is not working. If he did have a job from which he was laid off, they'd be getting some form of benefits. If he isn't working, why can't she work? (I worked when my children were young, as I had no choice.) No reason for both of them to stay 'home' with one non-infant child.

It is outrageous that people like "Amber" would try to 'guilt' the rest of us into accepting their living-in-a-parking-space arrangement at venues (Mission Bay Park, for one) that the rest of us occasionally try to enjoy and have to compete for a parking space which we would occupy for but a few hours. Taking up more than one spot will, of course, get you a ticket! What would you expect? Surely there were signs posted that she and her spouse chose to ignore.

Doug Higgins also whines about all the new red curbs, no parking zones, and other safety measures the city has prudently implemented. Public streets are not meant for living. There are RV parks for that, for all budgets. The City has been kind enough to open up parking lots where people

who claim, true or exaggerated, to be forced to live out of their cars can set up camp. Then if the free lots are "unsanitary", not suitable for "Amber", and create Covid fears, fix it. Wash your hands. Spray Lysol on the toilet if you must (you don't...) sit on the seat to use it.

She might even do what I've done most of my adult life, be a leader and try to organize the other lot 'residents' to get a protocol established. BTW are the other residents trying to get into your trailer? Covid isn't spread in the air outdoors! I don't wear a mask outside. Unless the other 'residents' are right up in your face, they aren't going to spread the virus outdoors in the open air. I suspect "Amber", like other RV street squatters I know about, just want to be all by themselves in their own solo spots. The man in the article, Doug Higgins, self reported living for free in a vehicle for six years. As a veteran, as my father is, he should be eligible for certain benefits. I can't believe that he has to live on the street and not pay rent. I wonder what he does with his black water? I hate to imagine, although he asserted that he obeyed all laws.

I do believe that some people just get used to not having to pay rent, doing things that would never be an option in other states, such as my own home state. If "Amber" and her husband cannot find work here, and can't manage on their unemployment benefits (not mentioned in her tale), they might consider relocating to a state with a lower cost of living.

My own two young adult children did exactly that. Why? Because despite graduating with honors from a BA from a reputable university, he couldn't find a job in San Diego. So, he moved blind to Wisconsin, yes, after spending most of his life in sunny San Diego and swimming in the ocean. He did that because he got a job

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and gets away. Then he did a death roll and dove down, so I thought I lost him.”

About 15 minutes later, Reid re-cast, “using the same bait, Moray eel. I re-cast and he comes back. It took about an hour or so to get two gaffs in him.”

By this point, a small crowd was helping Reid. Word had spread fast — *dude is catching a shark*. “As we were hauling him up, he got stuck. His weight broke one of the gaffs, bent both of the hooks, broke the barbs. The second gaff, he just ripped off, broke the main line, belly flopped and was floating off in the current. I had to get all my leaders cut off my gaff, sliced my finger open, pulled it up, went chasing him down the pier, swinging the gaff, finally got close enough, had a group of people following me as I was following it. I kept saying, ‘Bring my rope, bring my rope, I need more drag, more rope.’ Finally got him

weight estimate is correct, it might be the heaviest sevengill caught from a fishing pier.

Robert, who witnessed the catch, told me, “It was a monster; you could easily fit two basketballs in its mouth.” He estimated the weight at “around 400. I lived on a boat this summer around all the fish coming in. This thing was fat!”

According to *PierFishing.com* previous sevengills caught from SoCal piers include:

185 Lbs. Santa Monica Pier, 1996 (Source: Santa Monica Pier Bait Shop)

150+ Lbs. — Crystal Pier (San Diego), March 2012 (Source: PFIC)

112 Lbs. — Ocean Beach Pier, May 2006 (Source: PFIC)

DELINDA LOMBARDO

LOMA PORTAL

Circling the triangle

Developer closes in on Famosa lot

The city standard for open space is 2.8 acres for every thousand people. Loma Portal does not meet that standard, but for over 20 years,



FACEBOOK/SAVE-FAMOSA-CANYON

The current proposal includes a potential 87 units with a mix of affordability.

acres was gifted by DC Collier, who wanted it to become a park.

But in 1956, the park designation was rescinded, ratified by a public vote for ballot measure L, according to a city report. The city sold the land to the Housing Authority in 1981, specifying that it be used to build at least 78 low-income rental apartments. But all that was ever built was a neighborhood pump track for bikes and dirt trails through the weeds. At one point, discussions were

firmed the potential for multifamily housing, and opposition re-heated. In August, after receiving nearly 200 letters objecting to development of Famosa Canyon, the Peninsula Community Planning Board voted to oppose any housing on the site. They criticized the feasibility study, the need to drain a coastal wetland, and loss of eucalyptus trees for monarch butterfly habitat.

The current proposal includes a potential 87 units with a mix of affordability. Devel-



FACEBOOK/SAVE-FAMOSA-CANYON

The Peninsula Community Planning Board criticized the feasibility study, the need to drain a coastal wetland, and loss of eucalyptus trees for monarch butterfly habitat.

close enough to stick him good, used another gaff, and knowing it didn’t work the first time and he might fall off again, we used the rope to lasso its tail. Once we lassooed his tail, we were confident we could bring him up. Took nine of us and about thirty pulls to heave him up, almost breaking the (pier) railing in the process.” Reid has several videos of the catch on his Instagram feed.

“It’s taken me years to catch this one,” he said. “I would have released it, but it’s so big, I’m so tired and I’m like so full of adrenaline, I don’t really know what to do — throw it back or just keep it.” He kept it. “We were thinking maybe the pier café would want it, they could stuff it and put it on display,” he added while staring at the shark. “But yeah, we’re going to eat it. My family will enjoy barbecued shark for Christmas that’s for sure.”

According to multiple Internet sources, as of 2017, the maximum published length of the sevengill shark is 9.8 feet, and the maximum reported weight is 236 pounds. If Reid’s

the five-acre lot on the southeast corner of Nimitz and Famosa Boulevards has served as an informal playground, a patch of open space for dog walkers, and a shortcut for neighborhood residents. The triangular lot was originally supposed to be a park: acquired by the city in 1874, it was designated as such in 1909, when an additional 1.5

“Selling one of the last parcels of open space land in Point Loma hurts the community.”

held between the Housing Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department about a long-term lease for a proper bike park, but they went nowhere. In 2012, after city landscapers cleared the bamboo, the stumps made for even better mounds to ride over, according to residents. Workers returned to dismantle the tracks and trails, but even so, every step towards creating affordable rental housing on the lot has met with protest from residents, biking groups, and Peninsula planners. When the city sent one last bobcat in 2018 to demolish the paths and jumps, citing liability issues, neighbors got wind and parents staged a sit-in until they left.

In 2019, further land-use studies con-

oper Bridge Housing Corp. has procured a \$910,000 predevelopment loan to Bridge Housing Corp. to continue vetting the hilly site for its suitability for rental units, and says an environmental analysis will be done before any further commitment to the project. And since the sale hinges on that further analysis, the fight is not over yet. “Selling one of the last parcels of open space land in Point Loma hurts the community,” wrote Susie Murphy, who represents the San Diego Mountain Biking Association. Supporters of the affordable housing point to Bill Cleator Park right across the street, but residents say it’s been overtaken by organized sports.

SHEILA PELL



Turns out you can fight city hall — for a while, at least.

The New York Times
CRITIC'S PICK



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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

The 10,300-square-foot mansion at 308 Vista de la Playa in La Jolla is billed in listing remarks retrieved from Zillow as “a rare legacy property.”

Built in 2000, the seven-bedroom, nine-bath residence is described as a “custom Mediterranean masterpiece that boasts lavish custom appointments throughout,” including “imported Carrera marble accents, floor to ceiling panoramic view windows, oversized ocean viewing decks on all three levels”



Really, why even live in La Jolla if you don't have a private beach access point?

and a private elevator to provide passage for those uninclined to use the grand marble staircases.

The home features the requisite custom

kitchen with commercial-grade appliances, oversized center island, two chandeliers, and a butler's pantry. A formal dining room includes intricate

molding, recessed tray ceiling with decorative detail work, and another crystal chandelier. There's also a “generous game room” with wet bar and

fireplace, a custom home theater, an “impressive home office” lined with built-in cabinetry, and a wine cellar.

While each of the seven bedrooms has its own en-suite bath, the owner's suite enjoys a fireplace retreat, private ocean view deck, his-and-hers separate bathrooms, and a “closet large enough to be your own clothing boutique” spanning several rooms on its own. (A previous listing notes this includes a temperature-controlled fur closet.)

Outside, the rare double-wide oceanfront lot occupies nearly three-quarters of an acre, with a gated front entryway providing secure parking for residents and guests. The backyard includes a “unique and rare impressive oceanfront pool,” spa with built-in cocktail

table, and a sunken outdoor dining area to keep dry guests at eye level with others who choose to soak. A tightly manicured lawn in back slopes down to one of only a handful of private beach access points a few blocks south of Marine Street.

The Vista de la Playa estate was last listed for sale in 2013; at that point it had an asking price of nearly \$20 million and was one of the first homes *Unreal Estate* ever examined. At the time, we noted that the location was just a few doors down from US Senator and onetime presidential hopeful Mitt Romney's vacation home and its controversial “car elevator.”

While it was reported in 2015 that Romney had sold his nearby residence at 311 Dunemere Drive,

continued on page 9

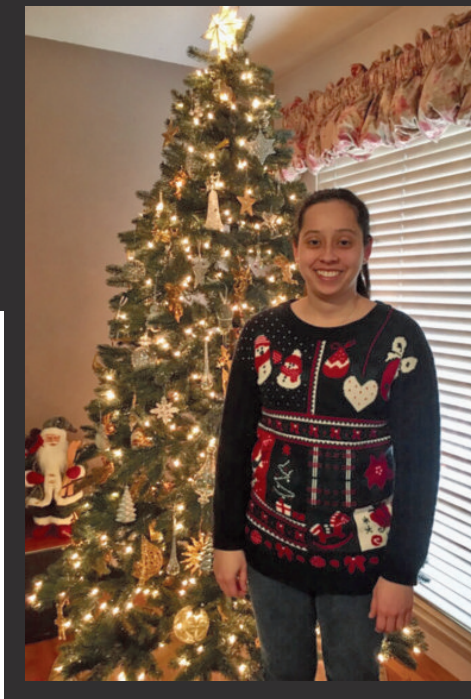
Street Style

BY SAMANTHA ST. PIERRE

Ugly Sweater Weather

‘Twas the week before Christmas, and I was Facetiming with my friend, Alex, 30, who was wearing an ugly Christmas sweater after finishing her virtual Secret Santa office party. “Still had my slippers on, though. I won't let them change me!”

Her black pullover (Amazon, \$24.99) was decorated with all things holiday, including red bows, snowmen, and poinsettias. “I don't think there is such a thing



ALEX DRESSED UP FOR HER VIRTUAL SECRET SANTA WORK PARTY



JENNA AND SPENCER FELT FESTIVE IN THEIR UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS

as an ‘ugly’ Christmas sweater; all sweaters are beautiful. But these sweaters in particular, in my opinion, are more comfy and allow you to be your true, goofy and unique self.

There's no pressure when you're wearing an ugly Christmas sweater. Not to mention, they're a good conversation starter.”

Alex fully endorsed the message behind

this particular seasonal trend. “I don't know when this tradition started, but I am here for it and never want it to end!”

This year's restrictions didn't stop Jenna and Spencer from feeling the holiday spirit. The couple captured a picture of their festive outfits one evening, when they took a stroll around the neighborhood to look at the lights.

Jenna, 30, found her “Merry Christmas” tassel sweater (Walmart, \$15) while shopping a few years ago. “My mom stopped and said, “These are hilarious!” She and I bought one for that year, grabbing the tackiest ones we could find.” She decided on hers because “it looks like someone in elementary school might have designed it! I love the plastic beads around the neck and sleeves.”

We attempted to pinpoint exactly when the ugly Christmas

continued on page 9

Find more Street Style at sandiegoreader.com/style

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

public records still list him and his wife Ann as the owners. The Vista de la Playa house, on the other hand, did sell — but at a price far short of what the former owner, a defense contractor who also sold the Romneys their beachfront getaway, had

hoped. Tax rolls show local professionals Yongquan He and Xiaomei Zhang paid just \$13.8 million for the home in August 2013, while luxury markets were still recovering from the Great Recession — far short of the \$19,950,000 originally sought.

After more than seven years off-market, the property, seemingly unchanged in condition from the time of its last sale, was re-listed in early



Eat like a king. Or at least, where a king might eat.

December. Its asking price of \$25,988,000, good for the fourth-highest currently on offer throughout the county, remains unchanged to date. ■

LETTERS

continued from page 4

offer. My daughter drove across the entire country in her tiny car with two cats and two dogs to relocate to Massachusetts. She did this in September.

Unlike too many adults, my kids want to be grown-ups and not live with, or off, “mommy”, much less the good, kind-hearted, enablers known as the taxpayers. I do help my kids from time to time but, they rarely ask because of the values I’ve instilled in them, the same as my parents did for each of their eight children. It takes guts and courage to pack up and leave when you realize California is just too expensive. Both my kids grew up here, brought here from Philadelphia with me when their late father established his business here.

I’m a fairly well paid nurse and I don’t own a home or even a nice car.

The cost of living here is ridiculous so, I can’t understand why people who can’t support themselves in this economic climate, even before the Covid pretext, don’t move where they can actually afford to live. Living in an RV at a public venue, in a business district, or on a residential street cannot be allowed.

Don’t be fooled by the emotional appeal and “Amber’s” presumptuous, reeking-of-entitlement plea for city funds to be directed toward bailing them out. Those funds are hard earned dollars from the tax payers. The government has no money, it comes from the people who work. Nobody ever handed anything to me and I have done whatever I have had to do excepting anything illegal or immoral, to provide for my children. Adults, aside from the very old or the very infirm, need to be more self sufficient and self reliant.

Jane Underwood
Chula Vista

Street Style

Continued from page 8

sweater became all the rage. Husband, Spencer, 32, estimated that “it had to be around 2011-2012. I purchased mine from Urban Outfitters back in

December 2014.”

He added an extra long Santa hat to match his bright red *Home Alone* graphic sweatshirt. “I’m embarrassed to say my sweater cost \$85. In my defense, ugly Christmas sweater parties were becoming more of an annual occurrence, and I didn’t want to have to

buy a new one every year. And it didn’t smell like a thrift shop, which was a plus!”

Spencer was skeptical about the trend’s longevity. “It’s been fun, but I think it has about run its course. I’m expecting Gen Z’ers to disavow this tradition, label it as lame, and figure

out something different in the next few years.” He expected this memo to be sent via TikTok.

Jenna was along for the sleigh ride, however long it lasts. “I’m always a fan of a themed party, so I’m on board with it! It’s a silly tradition, but it adds some fun to holiday get-togethers.” ■

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Chris Ahrens: The money's real

You Can't Give It Away

Chris Ahrens and his Encinitas buddies had this crazy idea. "Let's just give it away. Let's go out to a crossroads one morning and give cash away to anyone who needs it. No strings! Like, \$5, \$20, \$100. We'll just reach out to everyday people and say, 'Let me know what you need.'"

So on a recent Tuesday morning around 7:30, Chris and a bunch of his buddies turn up in the parking lot of Cottonwood Park where North Vulcan Avenue meets Encinitas Boulevard. They gather round a pick-up that's already

and just give, from, like, a freeway offramp? I have written ten books. I can get so isolated, and it's not just me. I think that everybody's just so out for themselves. We're trying to counter that!"

So here they meet, on a dewy, sparkingly cold Tuesday morning. It's certainly an eclectic group. One guy was in the US rugby team. Another, Cameron, an Australian, was a professional Aussie Rules footballer. Steve's an airline pilot, Wade's a famous painter. On and on.

The group, it turns out, is also, you might say, casually Christian. They're not out to sell

"Let's go out to a crossroads one morning and give cash away to anyone who needs it. No strings."

bristling with bags of food, snacks, water, gym memberships, and yes actual cash, tacked to cardboard signs that say things like "FREE," "What do U need?" and "Need a few \$\$\$?"

"We're not looking for the homeless, but for the hurting," says Chris. "I think that the middle class is really in great pain right now. I know! Look at me. This is the first time in 40 years I've had a bank account, a savings account. Somebody asked me what I wanted for Christmas, and I realized I couldn't think of one thing I needed. And I said, 'Wow. I really have more than I need.' And me and my buddies here all kind of feel that way. So we said, 'Let's share our spare cash.' And what better way than to go out

it, and they won't use the money to rope in more converts. But Cameron does say a prayer before they move out.

Steve the pilot admits that yes, he's a little nervous at the prospect of walking up to perfect strangers in their cars and waving dollar bills at them. "I have never done anything like this before. I think they're going to be a little suspicious," he says. "Most people offering you something want something in return. I mean, I did carwash money-raising in high school, but that was institutionalized, kinda respectable. Here, we're adults approaching strangers in their cars on a street corner. You never know how they are going to react. There could be

some haters out there, too."

We walk to the crossroads of Encinitas Boulevard and Highway 101. Already the morning commute is starting. The guys go to work at the corners and hold up their signs. Cameron leads the way in actually approaching cars as they wait for the green light. But most drivers just look away.

The other problem is that at this corner, every second vehicle seems to be a Beemer, an Audi, a Cadillac Escalade. Big cars, one person per, in a hurry, and worst of all, definitely not in need of a few dollars more. "Do I look like I need a couple of bucks!?" says one angry 40-ish exec type. "You'd be surprised how many don't look like they need help, but actually do," says Chris. The guy rolls up his window and pulls a rocket-assisted take-off.

"Go figure," says Chris. "You can't give it away!"

Chris and Cameron realize this crossroads ain't gonna deliver. "Moonlight Beach!" Cameron shouts to the rest of the crew. "There's a good parking lot there."

So, like a ragged scout group, we all make our way down the steep slope of B Street, then puff our way up to the parking lot that overlooks Moonlight Beach.

"Everyone needs a hand up these days," says Garrison. "But it's rare to be in a place where you feel comfortable accepting assistance."

Garrison is a yoga teacher from LA. "I've taught yoga and served tables for years. And then back in March, I lost all of my work. Yoga studio shut down, restaurant shut down. It didn't make any sense to stay in Los Angeles, paying rent. So this car has been home now for 4-½ months. I've adopted it. Uncomfortable, but honestly this has been one of the most refreshing experiences of my life."

He says he's lucky to have unemployment, \$450 a week. "The only reason I can survive off that is because I am living in this car, and not paying rent."

"These guys are amazing," says Tamara.



Ready to exercise the generosity gene: (l-r) Steve, Randall, Wade, Dan, Chris, Cameron, Ron



Tamara and Tylee, 9, at entrance to their Magic Bus

"They're very generous for handing out money. Normally people don't do that."

Tamara used to have an online website selling bath lotions and soaps, until covid. "The [online network] put my whole store on a 'vacation.' I'm trying to get it turned back on."

"Have these guys helped?" I ask.

"At first I wasn't sure about them," she says. But then Chris said, 'Do you

want to have a donut?' And I haven't had donut in so-o long, and I knew [Tylee] would love a donut. And it was still warm!"

"He was actually a very delightful person," says Tylee, who is 9.

Chris left good snacks in a brown paper bag, vanilla protein shake, donut, crunchy cookies, and an extra \$5.

"Literally, my bank account has \$2 in it," says Tamara. "No one else has come around and handed out cash like that, no questions asked."

"That visit made my whole season," Chris says later. "Just talking with Tylee and her mom, I knew we did good. And there's no better feeling than that. But next time we're going to go to Vista. Not so many BMWs." ■

"I heard you guys got the knock last night."

This is Garrison. Living in his van. He's talking to Tamara and her 9-year-old daughter Tylee, who are parked next door in their "Magic Bus."

Last night was the cops knocking. Scary. But now, it's Chris, with cash, donuts, and conversation.

"They asked if we needed anything," says Garrison, after. "They offered donuts, and money! Which is an interesting experience. It's a little bit uncomfortable. But it's assistance. And it's energy. That's what money is, energy. And they were generous!"

"And we're so happy because now my mom can get donuts so she can invite someone like Garrison," says the precocious Tylee.



Garrison



Garrison's slide-out "kitchen," and "bedroom" in back of his van.

BILL MANSON



"You've come to the right place, Mr. Mencken."

2020 HINDSIGHT

The re-education of Walter Mencken

Disclaimer: None of this ever really happened. But then, La Mesa did burn on national television...

O'Brien: Ah, Mr. Mencken. San Diego Reader, SD on the QT: Almost Factual News, isn't it? Come in, sit down.

Walter Mencken: Thank you.

O'B: Now, what seems to be the trouble?

WM: I think someone is stalking me.

O'B: Stalking you.

WM: It sounds ridiculous, I know. But for the past month, I've been receiving odd messages. Sometimes texts from unknown numbers. Sometimes tweets from accounts that have numbers instead of names. Sometimes emails. And lately, even actual postcards.

O'B: And these messages – what do they say?

Hot and/or Bothered?

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

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

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



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

WM: Fine. Yes. It's on one of the slides from the White Privilege Powerpoint presented to San Diego Unified teachers this year. They got asked for a one-word reaction as well.

O'B: Now we're getting somewhere.

WM: No, we're not. For starters, I'm not a teacher.

O'B: Oh, but you are, Mr. Mencken. We're all teachers, in our own little way. All shaping the next generation by our words and actions, all building a future that is either better or worse. Some of us even have newspaper columns to help with our teaching. A platform from which to speak. You will protest, no doubt, that kids today don't read, and that they certainly don't read newspapers. But of course, some of your work shows up online, and the internet is forever, at least for now. You never know who might stumble across one of your little articles. And besides, we pride ourselves on being thorough.

WM: We? Who is we?

O'B: The authorities, Mr. Mencken. The people you came to for help. And help you we shall. I want you to look at a photograph for me. Do you recognize it?

WM: I ought to. I took it. How did you...

O'B: I think you'll find that is not a fruitful approach.

WM: ... Yes. It's from the La Mesa riot back in May.

O'B: The La Mesa what?

WM: Right. The protest that turned into a riot.

O'B: Protest has many forms, Mr. Mencken. It

WM: "You are racist."

it makes me feel?

WM: Good? How on earth is that good?

can really accept the possibility — even the necessity — of change.

'You are a racist,' as if you were merely an example of a type. After all, as Hamlet noted, all moods, forms, and shapes of racism are but actions that a man might play, and you know all about that sort of 'just kidding' slipperiness, don't you? Always ready to play the 'just kidding' card and point to that 'Almost Factual News' disclaimer on your little page in the *Reader*. But 'You are racist,' that gets at that within which passeth show, hm? Those three little words create an identity between 'you' and 'racist,' a deeply problematic identity. Tell me, have you seen that particular formulation anywhere else recently?

WM: This is crazy.

O'B: I don't think now is the moment to start tossing around slurs against the mentally ill.

O'B: And, using just one word, how does that make you feel?

O'B: You tell me.

WM: Okay, fine. Unsafe.

O'B: Because it's only when you're in a state of disequilibrium — or "unsafe," as you choose to call it — that you

WM: Change? What are you talking about? The only change I'm interested in is the stopping of these messages.

O'B: And that's precisely why I've been sending them. Because you're not yet interested in meaningful change.

WM: I'd call not being stalked pretty meaningf — wait. You've been sending them?

O'B: Sit back down, Mr. Mencken. There's a good fellow. Now I want you think for a moment, about that one message: 'You are racist.' Not, 'You have racist opinions,' not 'You have committed racist acts,' not 'You have said racist things,' not even the tantalizingly similar,

WM: What? I'm being stalked! How do you think

O'B: Very good.

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seems it's my turn to be a teacher. Look at the photo. Tell me what you see.

WM: A mostly peaceful protest.

O'B: I don't know what's more concerning — your sad attempt at humor, or the fact that you think it is somehow appropriate right now.

WM: I see three riot... protesters, right after they put an incendiary device in a city vehicle, turning pointless destruction into a photo op.

O'B: Pointless?

WM: They set a fire department vehicle on fire, which you have to admit is a little bit funny. And also pointless, if what you're protesting is police brutality.

O'B: Perhaps. But when



Witnesses to history.

you consider how fire department and ambulance response times vary according to neighborhood demographics, you may

begin to see that police brutality is merely one symptom of a disease that is very much systemic. They also set fire to a Vons delivery truck. Do I really

need to tell you about food deserts in poorer neighborhoods? It's the wisdom of crowds, Mr.

Mencken. Even if they didn't know what they were doing, they knew what they were doing.

WM: They smashed up the library, too. Are books the problem?

O'B: : That very much depends on which books, and who is writing them.

WM: Here's one: 1984. The people in that one had concerns about a book as well. Full of dangerous ideas that challenged the prevailing orthodoxy.

O'B: Yes, 1984. A book written by George Orwell, who pretended to be a friend to the poor even as he savaged the one real force in this world capable of smashing the capitalist regime that creates the poor. A man who denounced communist propaganda but wrote a defense of P.G. Wodehouse, a British dandy who broadcasted from Germany during

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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POINT(S) TAKEN

San Diego Unified announces plan to judge winners of athletic contests based on “mastery” instead of scores

On February 28, the San Ysidro boys basketball team defeated Coronado 71-59 to win the Division III CIF Championship. For San Ysidro, it was an occasion to celebrate. For Rachel Justice, San Diego Unified School District’s Anti-Racism Program Director and Re-Education Chief, it was an occasion to do some hard thinking. Says Justice, “When you see that kind of lopsided score in a game between teams that are supposed to be competitive, you have to ask yourself some questions about why Coronado’s players couldn’t perform at the level of their Black opponents. Is it because they’re white, and white men can’t jump? Or is it because they’ve been told their whole lives that they’ll never be able to compete in this arena? Is it because Blacks are just quicker, or is it because nearly every role model for a young basketball player is Black? Is it because Blacks have better court sense, or is it because these white boys have stood on the sidelines at park pickup games, going unpicked again and again, and thus being denied the opportunity to hone their skills during crucial developmental years? These plucky, pasty youngsters have ignored the haters and persevered, content in the knowledge that they’ll have to work twice as hard to earn a place at the table. They’ve beaten the odds, become the best ballers they can be, and made it all the way to the finals, only to



Above, San Ysidro’s starting five. Below, four of Coronado’s starters. Justice: “The idea that there’s a level playing field here — or in this case, a level basketball court — is simply laughable.”

get blown out of the house and essentially told they don’t belong. It’s not healthy, and it’s not right, and it’s not how it’s going to be any more, I can tell you that.”

Continues Justice: “San Diego Unified has already announced their plan to stop issuing grades based on test scores and the timely completion of homework or any ‘other factors that directly measure students’ knowledge and skills in the content area,’ since Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans were shown to be more likely to

fail when those are the criteria. Instead, grades will be the result of a student’s mastery of the subject matter, as determined by the instructor. Similarly, going forward, the officials regulating a high school sporting event within the school district will determine the winner based on a number of factors, as opposed to the reductive simplicity of the final score. Things like fundamental skills, teamwork, and a demonstrated understanding of the sport’s dynamics. Fair is fair.”

the war. Not a good look these days. Need I remind you that Antifa stands for

anti-fascist?

WM: That’s not fair –

O’B: Neither is life, as the haves are forever telling the have nots. But we’re

doing what we can to change all that. That’s why the teachers at San Diego Unified are looking at slides that explain how White Privilege is both a weightless knapsack and a weapon.

WM: Gotta say, a weightless knapsack sounds like a lousy weapon.

O’B: I think I see now. Your silly jibes are a defensive reaction, an expression of White Fragility. The conversation makes you uncomfortable, so you attempt to make a

joke out of it. But no one is laughing, Mr. Mencken. Just like no one laughed at your story about the statues. You thought you were being silly, exaggerating to make a point. But they will come down, all of them. They must, if we are to be freed from the tyranny of the past and its normalization of white racial identity. The way that white people’s customs, culture, and beliefs operate as the standard by which all other groups are compared.

WM: I thought white

people didn’t have culture. Appropriation and all that.

O’B: I know you don’t mean that. I read your story about the district’s new policy on subject mastery. It wasn’t amusing in the slightest, but it was instructive. It showed us that You Are Racist. That’s why we started sending you the postcards, which were the beginning of your education. Deep down, you knew those cards were telling the truth. That’s why you couldn’t ignore them.

continued on page 34

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 31

ELECTRIC WASTE BAND LIVE NYE FROM WINSTONS

A classic-rock group that showcases the music of the Grateful Dead, local jammers the Electric Waste Band began playing Monday nights at Winstons in OB on February 3, 1992.

They've continued their long-running residency in the age of Covid by livestreaming performances from the nightclub, and they have a special marathon show planned for New Year's Eve. Says the band, "We'll be counting down for all the time zones."

WHEN: Thursday, December 31, 10 pm

WHERE: [facebook.com/ElectricWasteBand](https://www.facebook.com/ElectricWasteBand)



and polkas by the Strauss family, plus works by Bach and Handel, introduced virtually through presentations from settings all around Balboa Park.

WHEN: Friday, January 1, 2 pm

WHERE: balboaparkconcerts.org

JURASSIC QUEST DRIVE THRU EXPERIENCE

Go back in time from the safety of your vehicle. The

Jurassic Quest Drive Thru transforms the outdoor parking area of Del Mar Fairgrounds into an interactive experience featuring over 70 moving, lifelike dinosaurs, plus a 50-foot-long Megalodon.

WHEN: January 1-10, closed Mondays & Tuesdays, 9 am to 8 pm



WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, jurassicquest.com.

Friday | 1

VIENNA-STYLE NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

Ring in the new year with a Vienna-style New Year's Concert. Continuing a longtime tradition in Balboa Park, this year's Spreckels Organ Concert by San Diego Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez will showcase popular waltzes



Tuesday | 5

AS YOU LIKE IT SHAKESPEARE READING, PART 1

Join the San Diego Shakespeare Society for a night of reading this comedy with Patrick McBride. McBride has worked

as a professional actor at Shakespeare festivals and theatres around the country. He has spent the last two years touring with Intrepid for their Shakespeare education tour and playing the fool for the San Diego Shakespeare Society's stage reading of *King Lear*.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 5, 5 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: sandiegoshakespearesociety.org

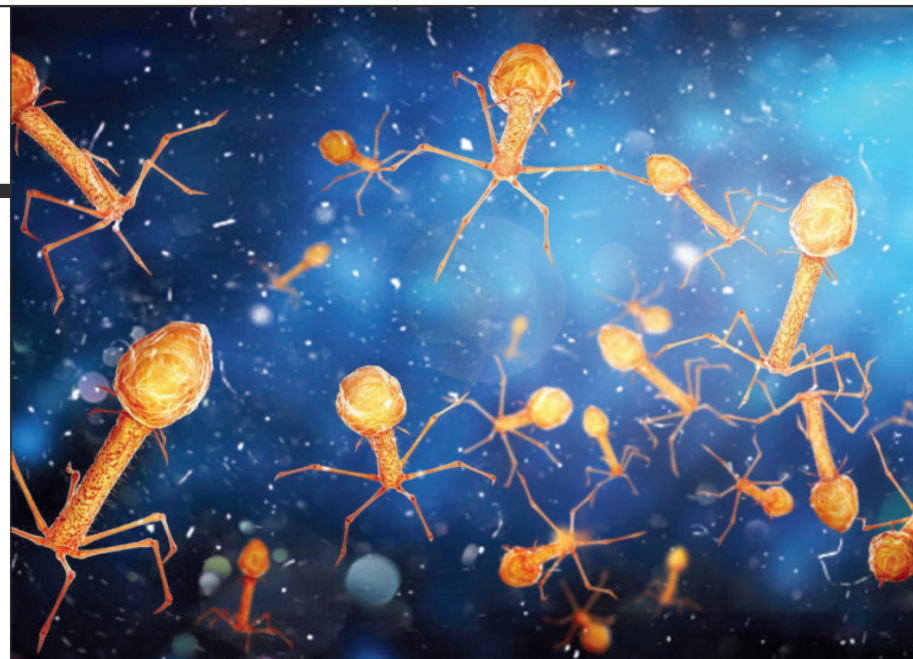
Wednesday | 6

WHEN THE DRUG IS ALIVE

In 2016, Dr. Strathdee was involved in a case in which she and her colleagues revived a hundred-year-old forgotten cure — bacteriophage therapy — that saved her husband's life from a deadly superbug infection. Since then, UC San Diego faculty have used intravenous phage therapy to successfully treat superbug infections in over a dozen other compassionate-use cases, and have been the first to use a genetically modified phage cocktail. Strathdee will share the details of her family's story and discuss ethical issues related to treating bacterial infections with viruses — when the drug is "alive."

WHEN: Wednesday, January 6, 5:30 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: ethicscenter.net



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6: WHEN THE DRUG IS ALIVE

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Winter Break Camp for Kids

What does winter mean for animals? Your kids can find out at Winter Critter Camp. Campers will discover why chinchillas don't mind being chilly, how reptiles deal with falling temperatures and how other critters cope with the changes caused by the cold weather. Each day includes hands-on animal encounters, cute crafts, awesome activities and the chance to connect with peers. Thursday, December 31, 9am; Monday, January 4, 9am; \$82. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

Art of Elan: Identities Spanish artist Ana de Alvear's work shifts perceptions and perspectives in a way that's both subtle and transformative. A "search for identity" pervades her multifaceted projects, explored through this engaging 15 minute pop-up performance that features the haunting "Spectra" for violin, viola and cello by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir. Live on-site, free with Museum admission. Tuesday, January 5, 7pm; free. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

Decadent Holiday Takeout Packages 3 Holiday Takeout Packages Each Package serves 2 Adults While we'd love nothing more than to celebrate with you in our cozy restaurant, we realize that this year we will be celebrating a bit differently. Let us bring the outstanding cuisine of Chef Benjamin Navarro into your home. Let us do the cooking. All packages come with reheating instructions. Sorry, no modifications. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve Pick Up Available 11am-2pm Call 619-795-1501 Thursday, December 31, 11am; Parc Bistro Brasserie, 2760 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

Winter Wonders & Holiday Lights Wild Wonders invites you to book an exclusive Winter Wonders and Holiday Lights tour of the facility which will showcase nocturnal animals. A keeper/educator will host your visit, which will be exclusively for your family. You'll meet

several of our ambassadors while strolling a 5-acre facility which has been decorated for the season. Only offered on selected Saturdays and Sundays in late December and early January, and there are only two events per night — one at 4:30PM and one at 5:00PM. The price is \$250 for a family of up to four people. Additional members 12+ are \$30, and additional children 5-11 are \$15. Saturday, January 2, 4:30pm and 5pm; Sunday, January 3, 4:30pm and 5pm; \$250-\$350. Wild Wonders, 5712 Via Montelano. (BONSALL)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Elizabeth Hospice Volunteer Training Sessions The Elizabeth Hospice invites individuals interested in helping adults and children impacted by serious illness and those grieving the death of a loved one to a free volunteer orientation session via the Zoom video-conferencing platform. Attendees will learn about a wide variety of opportunities that are available throughout San Diego County and Southwest Riverside County, including: serving as a patient companion, providing caregiver respite, performing aromatherapy, sewing Cuddle Bears, officiating at veteran pinning ceremonies, and much more. Information will be provided on both the application and training process. Register: 800-797-2050 or volunteer@ehospice.org. Tuesday, January 5, 4pm; free. 18 and up. (ONLINE)

Intergenerational Fun with Yiddish In this new class series, Yiddish teacher and native speaker Naomi Miller will teach Yiddish conversational skills through songs, storytelling, word games, and skits. All lessons are interactive and fun. The program will be adjusted to the age of the participants, so don't hesitate to sign up. All children, parents, and grandparents are welcome. Sunday, January 3, 10am; free-\$50. <https://bit.ly/3h5e4oX>. (ONLINE)

Let's Learn the Yiddish Alphabet Together Start with vowels and add on consonants each week. By the end of the first class, the student will be able to read a number of words and phrases in Yiddish. Each week, our knowledge will build upon the previous week's material, to reinforce our learning and build confidence. This class aims to teach literacy — the ability to read Yiddish in Yiddish. There will be some elements of grammar and style, but nothing beyond a beginner level. Along with "doing the work" of literacy, we will also learn through culture, idioms, jokes, curses, and of course, songs. Be prepared for a lot of Simpsons gifs. This is a one-hundred percent no judgment, no attitude, no shaming classroom environment, and we take a light and easy approach to learning Yiddish. Sunday, January 3, 11am; \$15-\$75. <https://bit.ly/3mzh5u>. (ONLINE)

Rhyme & Verse Resolutions

A poem for the New Year by Joseph O'Brien

-For Cecilia

A spirited play for words, like a December wind punching your breath Back down through your esophagus; a resolute sense of commitment Like the bold disregard maple, chicory, and sumac pay at summer's end, Folding in fidelity to the flattening arc of the sun as it carves up the sky Into dimming quadrants, each a folio text for winter's constellations Emerging from the palimpsests of autumn's fallen harlequin kingdom.

(St. Meleagar, pray for us, that the log we place on the fire tapers With a fit conclusion to light. Merit for us that winsome necessity Which peaks to ash after embers slump and settle in the cooling grate.)

Some place for the sour dottle of conversation declining into overtures, Tagged with a dense Horatian incipit: *Vides ut alta stet nive candidum...* (At least a foot of it to renew the auld lang syne of relations); an ashtray, A salver, some shallow receptacle in which to rest the instestate remains Of thoughts dressed up as desires, become disheveled as desperations; A primal place to edit stone, revise the grave, compose the breath;

(In some Wisconsin places, where winter sunlight never reaches, frost Fastens all day to fields of fallen corn—until ashen clouds break like flint And a sudden sunset ignites the hobbled stalks with crimson wounds.)

The wisdom to know that time is not our creature to tame; fortitude To justify the margins that will give shape to a moment's cenotaph; A full, unvarnished look at the new year's pink flesh to rectify failures In squaring the old calendar with our coming days; an even beginning At stroke of midnight; the odd roundness of cobalt-electric double zeroes Hugging at the eyes; a hope to clean up life's messy little exits and ends;

(Lucy offered her eyes on a base plate; we only think to stare in horror: Her unsightly sockets, each a faceless bezel; we ignore the blood that pushes Past our own flawed tourbillions; we kindly take from time what little she had.)

A restoration of makeshift altars to lost things; intoning the sea-shell echo Of empty niches that await their proper lares and penates; canonization Of gratitude against complaint; courage to battle the world's bedeviled flesh With a mystic's play on words; early inebriation; noon obsequies; late hours; The final touch of empty chimes, empty bottles; warm welcome to winter's Harsh absolution — a vatic reminder of what yesterday's sadness sees:

The blue light of evening shimmers behind you, resolute you, in the snow.



Joseph O'Brien is poetry editor for the San Diego Reader.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

FARMERS' MARKETS

Escondido Certified Farmers Market Local, organic and delicious produce from certified farms. Also, a variety of local hot food vendors such as El Veganito, Evelias, Little Someone Japanese cuisine and much more. Tuesdays, 2:30pm; through Monday, December 27, free. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

FOOD & DRINK

Curbside New Year's Eve Takeout Make ringing in the New Year at home a special evening with A.R. Valentien's New Year's Eve takeout cocktail party menus with savory and sweet selections.

With options to set the tone for any celebration, choose among family-style spreads of chilled seafood, house-made pâtés and terrines, Mediterranean favorites, Spanish delights, artisanal cheese and fruit, as well as caviar. Pair your feast with one of our curated wine selections. Pickup on Thursday, December 31 between 2:00pm - 5:00pm Thursday, December 31, 2pm; \$20-\$325. Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Weekend Brunch Special Plated Brunch Menu at the clubhouse with sweeping views of the Pacific ocean, golf course and Carlsbad hillsides. Bottomless Mimosas, Bloody Mary's and Sangria for \$18. All reservations between 8:00-8:30am will receive a 2-for-1 discount on bottomless mimosas. Saturdays, 8am; Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, December 19, \$11-\$40.

Crossings at Carlsbad, 5800 The Crossings Drive. (CARLSBAD)

New Year's Bubbles & Brunch Enjoy bubbles and brunch all New Year's weekend long. Pop some champs and celebrate the start of 2021 with an award-winning Trust brunch at home. Pick up brunch classics and craveable favorites such as an Ultimate Sticky Bun, Smoked Salmon Toast, Chiliqueles Rojos, and the Wood Grilled Burger. Enjoy bottles of champagne, sparkling wine, mimosas, and craft cocktails to-go. Visit the website to order online and view the entire brunch menu. Saturday, January 2, 9am and 9am; Sunday, January 3, 9am; \$15-\$75. Trust, 3752 Park Boulevard. (HILLCREST)

New Year's To Go Enjoy a New Year's Eve Dinner for 2 choosing between a Wellington of Salmon or Beef Short Rib as your main course. The side-dishes included are Winter Squash Fritters, Crab

Louie Salad, Potato and Truffle Gratin, Twice Baked Sunchokes, Grilled Mushrooms and Sautéed Chard. Complete your meal with our Spicy Chocolate Firecracker dessert. Enhance your evening with 20 grams of Imperial Ossetra Caviar, served with Chino Farms Sweet Potato Pancakes and Egg, creme fraiche, shallots, chives to ring in 2021 in style. Keep the celebration going and add our New Year's Day brunch. This day after menu features Jordan's bagels with smoked salmon and dill cream cheese, Chino Farms broccoli and potato frittatas, seasonal fruit and a pint of orange juice. Don't forget to pair your meals with our curated cocktail or wine selections available for purchase. Thursday, December 31, 12pm; Friday, January 1, 12pm; George's California Modern, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

FOR KIDS

Jurassic Quest Drive Thru Experience The nation's best touring dinosaur exhibit will transform the outdoor parking area of Del Mar Fairgrounds into an interactive drive-thru experience, featuring over 70 moving and life-like dinosaurs, as well as our 50 foot-long Megalodon! The drive-thru experience has seen over 250,000 cars and 1,000,000 people in attendance since launching the national tour in mid-July. Although the drive-thru experience means visitors will stay safe inside their vehicle, you'll still need to avoid the swinging tail of our 80 foot-long Spinosaurus. The Jurassic Quest Drive Thru is the only place to encounter some of the largest dinosaurs to ever roam the earth, and some of the eeriest marine creatures to ever lurk the ocean's depths, from the safety of your family vehicle. Guests will be among the first in the nation to go on a quest with our online audio tour that will lead them throughout the thrilling dinosaur safari. The audio tour is available in both English and Spanish for the convenience of all guests and special accommodations can also be made for the hearing impaired. For \$49 per vehicle (8 people or less), your dino crew can time-travel and enjoy about an hour-long ride back in time. Friday, January 1, 9am; Saturday, January 2, 9am; Sunday, January 3, 9am; Wednesday, January 6, 9am; \$49-\$80. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

LECTURES

Exploring Ethics: When the Drug is Alive Exploring Ethics: When the Drug is Alive: Treating Superbug infections with Bacteriophage Therapy: Speaker: Steffanie Strathdee, PhD, Associate Dean of Global Health Sciences, Harold Simon Professor, UCSD Department of Medicine, Co-Director, Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics. Over-

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Oceanside Sanctuary

Contact: 204 S. Freeman Street, Oceanside 760-722-8522 www.oceansidesanctuary.org

Membership: 200

Neighborhood: Oceanside

Pastor: Jason Coker

Age: 49

Born: San Bernardino

Formation: Vineyard Institute (www.vineyardinstitute.org/usa); Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena.

Years Ordained: 19

San Diego Reader: What's your favorite subject on which to preach?

Pastor Jason Coker: The Lord's Prayer. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gives us an unusual way of thinking about spirituality. When the

prayer talks about how the rule, the power, or the love of God comes on earth as it is in heaven, that message of love and goodness is translated as food for those who are hungry and forgiveness for those who have made mistakes. The ability to avoid making those mistakes in the future – deliverance from sin – all of that opens up the reality that what we do, in terms of people who follow Christ, is practiced here on earth in tangible ways. But it's not about fire insurance for where we go after we die. **SDR:** What is the mission of your church?

PC: Our mission is to make disciples for the sake of the city. For us as a church, that means learning to become fol-

lowers of Christ, not for our own sake but for the sake of our neighbors, for the sake of Oceanside, for the sake of North San Diego County. We practice our faith not to make ourselves more comfortable, but to be of good use to the people in our community. We believe in being a radically inclusive church – so anyone and everyone is welcome here. We celebrate open communion, which means we share communion every time we gather and everyone is welcome to come to the table of communion, no matter what they believe, their socioeconomic status, their sexuality or gender or creed or race. We run a few small-scale social service programs to meet

the needs of the poor in our community.... We also are actively engaged in advocating in policy change locally on behalf of those marginalized or oppressed.

SDR: Where's the strangest place you found God?

PC: Myself. I never expect to find God in myself. In my experience, a sense of God's grace, presence and goodness coming out of myself is always a surprise, and I'm always grateful for it. A big part of what I try to open up people to the possibility of is that God is present and working through them even when they don't feel like it.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PC: Obviously, I don't know



Jason Coker

where you go after you die. Ultimately, I'm counting on the idea that in the end, God will have turned out to be much bigger and more gracious than any of us could possibly imagine. Whatever happens after we die, in terms of our consciousness, we can trust it will be good. I don't subscribe to a traditional belief

in eternal conscious torment in hell; I don't think a good God would subject anyone to an eternity of torment because of mistakes they made on earth, and I understand scripture to be referring very figuratively to this idea of judgment. Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount that if a child asked his father for a loaf of bread, the father wouldn't give him a stone. To me, Jesus is teaching us that God is a good God who gives us good things, and gives us exactly what we need. That applies not only to our temporal lives on earth, but also to whatever happens to us after we die.

– Joseph O'Brien

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

view: Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most pressing global health issues of the 21st Century. In 2016, Dr. Strathdee was involved in a remarkable case where she and her colleagues revived a hundred year old forgotten cure – bacteriophage therapy—which saved her husband's life from a deadly superbug infection. Since then, UC San Diego faculty have used intravenous phage therapy to successfully treat superbug infections in over a dozen other compassionate use cases, including the first use of a genetically modified phage cocktail. In 2018, UCSD's Chancellor provided seed funding to launch the Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH), the first dedicated phage therapy center in North America. Strathdee will share the details of her family's story and discuss ethical issues related to treating bacterial infections with viruses, where the drug is 'alive.' Wednesday, January 6, 5:30pm; free. <https://bit.ly/3mWJ1gu>. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Highest Monthly Rainfall totals in San Diego are most likely to occur in January and February (nearly two inches each on average) according to weather-service statistics. If low temperatures accompany the typical Pacific storms of this period, there's a chance of snow in the mountains, including a very slim chance of snowfall as far west as the coast. Only during the months of December and January have traces of snow ever been recorded at San Diego's National Weather Service station.

Gray Whale Migration off San Diego County's coast peaks this month. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks

on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various cliff-top view points and beach access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using highpower binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 a.m. to noon.

After noise and whoopla on TV at the turning of midnight, step outside into the silent, cold dark. The bright Moon will now be shining high in the southeast. Sparkling less high in the south will be Sirius, with the other bright stars of Canis Major to its right and below it. Sirius is the bottom star of the bright, equilateral Winter Triangle. The others are Betelgeuse in Orion's shoulder to Sirius's upper right, and Procyon the same distance to Sirius's upper left. The Triangle now stands upright, just about in balance, as the Moon looks on.

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Oysters and champagne

I've never been seduced by the whole lobster mystique before. Until tonight.

"I've got a hundred bucks that says we celebrate!" I say.

"Uh huh," says Annie. "Now, on this braw, bricht, moonlicht nicht?"

It's like five o'clock. Dark already. We're just starting out along the Imperial Beach pier. Been hanging around piers a lot lately, just 'cause you know these breezy places will be as covid-free as it gets.

Plus Annie wanted to celebrate the end of this crazy year, so we could start 2021 with a clean slate.

But where do you go to celebrate anything right now? This is when I had my brain flash. "IB! Fish place, pier. Might do take-out. We can eat on the pier!"

So that's what we're doing: walking the planks towards this glowing little gedunk at the end of the pier. "America's most southwesterly restaurant," says its sign.

"You're lucky," says the lady at the counter, Susan. "We've just had a shipment of oysters come in today. It's rare. Many fishermen don't fish any more. Their restaurant markets have dropped out. So today we're celebrating, with oysters and champagne."

"Oysters and... champagne?" I say. This being a diner and all, you don't expect it.

"Oh yes. Henri Marcel. Blanc de Blancs, from the Champagne region in France itself. Eight dollars for a little bottle. And also, we

have bottles of Guinness Stout on special for \$2." Say what? Two bucks for a Guinness?

"How about champagne and fish and chips," says Annie. "I'm hungry."

"Fish and chips and champagne? Well, why not?" I say. "But I like champers and oysters! Classier combo. How much are the oysters?"

"Well, \$32 for a dozen, \$16, half dozen."

Ouch. Still, I'm thinking, have this C-spot burning through my pocket.

Oh, what the heck. "Let's get the oysters and the champers, and that Guinness," I say.

"Uh, excuse me," says Annie. "Oysters ain't gonna fill us up."

She has a point. I check the wall menu. Tons of stuff, and it starts off really cheap. A cheese quesadilla goes for \$2.50. That climbs to \$8.95 for a grilled chicken quesadilla, or \$9.95 for a grilled shrimp quesadilla. I mean, you can get

away with \$3.95 for nachos and jalapeños, or a basket of crisscut fries. Or one of their staples, fish taco (probably cod) which goes for \$4.50.

Or for a dollar more, you can choose your fish:

halibut, swordfish, salmon, mahi, shrimp. Burrito versions cost mostly double. The one I want sometime is the garlicky shrimp burrito. It's \$13.50. So is their "signature dish," fish and chips (you get 6 pieces of lightly-battered cod), though if

you just want three fish, you'll pay \$8.50. Most in the "platter" category go for \$15. Same choice of fish, plus fries and coleslaw. For \$4 extra, you can substitute grilled veggies.

They also have an interesting "sesame crusted ahi salad" for \$16.50, or a lobster salad for \$24.95.

Sandwiches and rolls start at \$8.50 (for the fried fish) and go up to \$18.95 for the lobster roll with fries.

"That is a good one," says Susan. "It's butter-grilled lobster — double claws — with Italian parsley, and sizzled with a lemon squeeze, and they tuck it in this brioche roll, which is really buttery, and crispy-tender. People come back for that."

"Captain's Platter" sounds good too, because you can take a 12 oz. combo of any fish you want for \$20. And yes, they do burgers here too (cost from \$7.50), but hey, we're at sea, right? Let's stay fishy.

Half an hour later, Annie and I are sitting

outside on the deck, waiting for our orders. I confess I have gone crazy. For starters, I ordered the dozen oysters - only divided in two because Annie wants hers sautéed and breaded and I want mine raw in the shell. We also ordered a side of crisscut fries (\$3.95), a half-order of fish and chips (\$8.50), a lobster roll with more crisscut fries (\$18.95), two mini bottles of "champagne," (\$8 each), and a can of that \$2 Guinness. Talk about Two-Buck Chuck!

Waves rumble through underneath us. The lights of the California coast stretch north, like an exotic foreign land. That wind starts to bite. Then Susan calls for us to go bring out our stuff. Oh man. An array of boxes. We both agree, the food is truly good. "Fish is superb," says Annie. She's eating the fish and chips and her breaded oysters now. "And I'm from Scotland. We know good fish."



Susan brings our grog, Guinness (\$2!), and two small bottles of champagne (\$8 each)



My oysters, with horseradish, Tabasco sauce, lemon, and hot sauce



Sydnie dances at end of the pier. Lots of kids come for fish, fries, fresh air, fun.

I suddenly wonder: How is this legal? Selling food, grog, when everybody else seems to be shuttered up. "We're allowed to sell anything to go," says Susan. "Outside, it's public property. What you do with it is your business. We can't stop you sitting down."

So I get back to sipping champers and slurping raw oysters from my big ice bowl. What a luxury. They have everything from horseradish to Tabasco to lemon to flavor them up. So good.

But the climax comes with the lobster roll. Mama Mia! The warm, sweet meats of the lobster claws in the feathery-light brioche are kinda sublime. I've never been seduced by the whole lobster mystique before. Until tonight. So simple but buttery-lush. Don't have to add anything by way of sauces.

Uh, price? Four bucks worth of change from my Franklin.

"Whew," says Annie as we walk the pier's



My lobster sandwich

plank deck back to America. "I truly don't know how we got through it."

"So close," I say. "But worth every penny."

"No, you plonker. I'm talking about this last year."

Oh, right. Guess she has a point there. That 2020 was scary. Here's to a better 2021! ■

The Place: Tin Fish, 910 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-628-8414

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Bomb sushi

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

Exquisite sushi at Catalina Offshore

Catalina Offshore Products; 5202 Lovelock Street, Bay Park. There have always been many great reasons to visit Bay Park fish market Catalina Offshore Products, most of them having to do with seafood you take to prepare at home. But if you've stopped by in the past couple months, at the right time of day, you may have discovered yet another one: expertly prepared sushi to take home and eat.

From 10 am til 2 pm, Wednesday through Saturday, longtime local sushi chef Joey Maldonado sets up at a sushi counter in the corner of the shop to prepare *maki* and *nigiri* out of some of the market's choicest cuts.

Maldonado has worked for several sushi restaurants over the past dozen years or so, including Harney and Tabu. He didn't go to Catalina Offshore expecting to make sushi, but

when ownership saw his resume, they decided to put his skills to work.

Which turned out to be a fairly consumer-friendly proposition. His limited, rotating menu might include a spicy tuna roll for eight bucks, a salmon avocado roll for nine, and a blue crab California roll for ten. A \$12 daily chef special might include uni or mackerel *nigiri*.

FEAST!

However, the best and most delicious bargains may be found in ordering Maldonado's *omakase* specials. For \$23, he offers what he calls the basic cuts: *nigiri* featuring the likes of salmon and albacore, for example. More than a dozen pieces of sushi

Better still is a \$30 "bomb cuts" sampler. That's where you may turn up some of the truly best fish in the shop. My order featured a couple *nigiri* each of local white sea bass, yellowtail belly sourced from Japan, and smoky seared albacore from Fiji.

The cornucopia of treats included torched sea bream, Atlantic salmon, and *inari* pockets filled with Maldonado's California mix of Baja swimming crab and KaniKama (the processed fish cakes otherwise known as krab). As if that weren't



A box of "bomb cuts" sushi. Top row (left to right): Uni and quail egg, bluefin tuna belly, yellowtail belly, white sea bass. Middle row: gizzard shad, seared albacore, Atlantic salmon, tamago. Bottom row: crab inari, seared sea bream, pickled wasabi.

enough, there was a cucumber-wrapped selection of sea urchin paired with quail egg, and exquisite wild caught blue fin tuna belly, which the chef serves with genuine pickled wasabi, rather than the usual green horseradish paste.

It was an diverse spread, especially priced at \$30. And given that most sushi has been take-out this year, taking home a sealed package of quality *nigiri* feels almost natural by now. Thanks to few edible flower petals dressing the box, the assortment of fish even looks pretty.

Maldonado explained to me that when and

how a fish dies after being caught has a lot to do with the quality experienced by the diner, especially when it comes to sushi-grade fish. And that's one of the great, lesser known values of shopping from a seafood market such as Catalina Offshore: it sources fish from trusted vendors and fisherman who know how to handle that properly.

Also given it's just Maldonado at the sushi counter, it's a smart move to order ahead if you can. Or, even better, order sushi first, then shop at the fish counter while you wait.

by Ian Anderson



Catalina Offshore fish market in Bay Park.



A sushi counter in the corner of a fish market.

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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.

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.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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.

The Topsy 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.

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Where and how will we be allowed to drink beer in 2021?

The business of making and selling beer went all kinds of sideways in 2020. So, with vaccinations beginning across the country, when can we start to look forward to some semblance of normalcy?

The first significant change for the beer industry could come sooner than later. Statewide trade group the California Craft Brewers Association last week filed a federal lawsuit against governor Gavin Newsom and California State Public Health (CDPH) officer Sandra Shewry over the mandate that the state's thousand-plus breweries offer meals with any on-premise beer service. It suggests that the restriction is "decimating California's breweries."

Several California breweries, including San Diego's Second Chance Beer, are named as co-plaintiffs in the suit, which

alleges, "constitutional violations, including denying beer manufacturers their equal protection rights," because "the same onerous requirement is not imposed on wine manufacturers." Indeed, California's four-thousand wineries (including cideries and meaderies) have been allowed to serve wine during the pandemic without the food requirement.

Tom McCormick, the soon-to-retire executive director of the CCBA, says Public Health department has offered only a "vague and in our opinion unjustified explanation" for the discrepancy.

As detailed in the suit, the CDPH contends that, "breweries are often social hubs and meeting locations for different households in a community. In contrast, wineries are generally located in certain regions of the state... settings people travel to visit, often have limited seating, and often operate with more limited hours and consequently are generally not social hubs or meeting locations for different households."

The lawsuit cites the equal protection clause granted by the 14th amendment, contending, "Beer manufacturers and wine manufacturers are substantially similar businesses, with essentially identical public health risk profiles." Aside from attorney fees, the suit primarily asks that California be prohibited from singling out the beer industry be required to serve food while under pandemic restrictions.

Of course, while that legal wrangling plays out, even if San Diego remains in California's purple tier, which prohibits dine-in service altogether, a return to indoor dining seems weeks if not months

away. Or doesn't, depending on the results of a controversial San Diego Superior Court ruling in mid-December allowing a pair of local strip clubs to remain open. The ruling left enough wiggle

of regulatory relief measures, introducing such allowances as take-out cocktails, drive-through booze sales, and (prior to a statewide curfew) expanded hours for some businesses.

Most important to beer businesses was a relief provision expanding the footprint of their licenses — in other words, allowing them to serve beer in those city-granted outdoor spaces. The ABC says it's approved more than 9600 such Temporary Catering Authorizations since March, specifically tying them to a brewery's ability to serve food.

Which adds up to a recipe for more legal confusion in 2021. The ABC currently has no end date in mind for its various regulatory relief measures, but when it happens, breweries will get 10 days notice to return their license footprint back to normal. If that happens to correspond with the August expiration of the city's outdoor permits, we can expect to return to unencumbered indoor drinking... just in time for the hottest days of summer.

With luck, by that point we can stop buying beer to support our local breweries through these tough times, and simply get back to drinking beer because we like it.

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



Second Chance Beer is one of the parties that filed suit against Governor Gavin Newsom over food service restrictions

room for restaurants and breweries (including Second Chance Beer) to resume on-premise service while the matter makes its way through appeals.

Regardless of what happens in the courts, there's a ticking clock hanging over our ability to drink at expanded outdoor venues. City permits allowing restaurants and breweries to expand outdoor seating into sidewalks, courtyards, and parking spaces are set to expire August 3, 2021, unless the city council votes to extend them.

More relevant for breweries may be outdoor service decisions made by the California ABC. Throughout 2020, the ABC has issued a series

Old Town Mexican Café:

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

PACIFIC BEACH

Ambrogio15: *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.

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:* \$4-6pm: \$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.

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.

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.

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 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

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.

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.

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blurt the inside track

Layer up Nick Costa became interested in guitar when he was ten years old. He noticed a friend that he admired playing one and thought he looked cool. Lessons commenced and he became skilled at the instrument at a young age. He concentrated on sports in high school but returned to the six-stringed fold while attending college at the University of California Santa Cruz.

"I took some music classes and got serious with the jazz ensemble," Costa explained. "I really enjoyed the community of musicians there. I had a lot of fun intermingling with everybody and it just kind of attracted me. I really got into it and knew that I wanted to do something musically."

He ended up minoring in music, and when he returned to his hometown he pursued a master's in music from SDSU. It was at the tail end of his graduate studies when he started playing guitar in The Sure Fire Soul Ensemble and immersed himself in the San Diego funk scene. He ended up playing in the band for about six years. Like countless others throughout the history of bands, he left to pursue a solo project.

"I write a lot on my own, so I was just getting that itch to create some new, original music," he said. "I like to write music, and not just play it. So, I developed the idea of MY MYND in 2018. I was looking for an outlet to be more creative and to be in control of everything I wanted to do, instead of doing what others want me to do."

MY MYND is a noticeable departure from the funk and soul projects that Costa has been involved with since he returned to San Diego.

"I would say it's more in that pop/alternative realm with some R&B flavor in there," he explained. "That kind of always incorporates electronic instruments. Tame



"I'm trying to release a song every month and half," says MY MYND's Nick Costa.

Impala is a favorite band of mine, so I think sometimes you hear more synthesized sounds like that with heavy guitar riffs and soloing. I'm trying to incorporate that, but I'm also thinking, 'What's a good sound that would work well in a place like The Observatory?' [A sound] that can really get people moving and jumping but still has integrity in its compositional format."

Over the past couple of years, Costa has taken MY MYND out to some of the local clubs as a duo with Max Putzolu backing him on drums. Costa handles guitars, vocals and triggers additional backing tracks with pedals. It is quite a shift from playing live in an ensemble where your mistakes can easily get drowned out by numerous bandmates.

"When I'm doing these MY MYND shows I'm more up front, but I think it's good because I like to be in the front at times and I like to get people riled up. I acted when I was a kid, so I was part of

that performance art. I like making people laugh and get off in some way," he said.

He continued, "I love production value. I always have visions of more production values incorporated into my shows with lights and movement. I was really trying to get on that level this year, but then the pandemic hit. 'Nope, you're good. Just write songs in your bedroom for the next year.'"

If you have heard Costa's MY MYND material and are hoping for a full-length album...well, you may be waiting for a while. He released an EP back in 2018, but the current plan is a march of singles. "When you put out an album it could definitely go untouched because it's just in that little box — it's an album," he said. "Whereas when you put singles out you can kind of layer up what you are going for."

He continued, "I'm trying to release

a song every month and a half right now. I'm also just trying to take my time and have fun. With this pandemic, I'll wake up sometimes and be like, 'Good lord, what's the state of affairs at this point?' What's killing me this time is the lack of connection with human beings. I'm a guy that will go up to you and give you a hug and kiss, slap your ass, and say, 'I LOVE YA!' Not everybody likes that, but most of my friends do. Right now, it's so awkward. You have to be like 'What's up? Can I give you an elbow?' That's been messing with my psyche, because I'm such a people person."

— Dryw Keltz

Les Misertoys San Diego musicians don't often count off their seminal musical influences in terms of musical theater. But La Mesa-raised Morgan Hollingsworth — the son of Grossmont High's drama teacher — loved musical theater before practically anything else.



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So the co-leader of Satin Nickel, whose debut album *Shadow of Doubt* appeared recently, recalls such highlights as *Sweeney Todd* at the Cygnet Theatre ("An all-star cast of many regulars of the San Diego theater scene, including my brother as Mr. Fogg"); and *George Gershwin Alone* at the Old Globe ("The story and Hershey Felder's performance were utterly inspiring to me as I was still new to the world of composing").

"I think one of the biggest musical influences for me was the 10th anniversary concert [DVD] of *Les Misérables*, which my parents would put on frequently," Hollingsworth recalls. "I even had all my McDonald's toys set up so I could put on *Les Misertoys*. That musical has always defined musical theater for me, even as I've grown and recognized its flaws.

"But I think it was the combination of Josh Groban's first two albums, and Frank Wildhorn's *Jekyll & Hyde* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, that inspired my interest in big, romantic, sweeping orchestra scores and the sort of dark romanticism present in those works. Many people laugh at them because of the cheesy, idealistic romances they invoke, and while I would agree with those people now, my six-year-old self found them highly profound and passionate. Naturally with those influences, I wrote my first song at the age of ten: a sad, intimate ballad in D minor for the Pokémon Articuno."

But, he confesses, his tastes took a drastic turn as he got older.

"Soon I discovered the San Diego-based bluegrass band Nickel Creek, which was what really inspired me to want to start a folk/Americana band. Something about their intimacy and simple instrumentation suddenly made it accessible and playable. Chris Thile has been an idol of mine since then, particularly because of my fondness for the mandolin, and now his influence and the mandolin are integral to my work with Satin Nickel."

He finds a great deal of common ground between live theater, and creating songs. "Theater is all about storytelling, and songwriting is no different," he elaborates. There's a beginning, middle, and end. Each character starts a song in one place and

to dissect a song, find the various shifts in thought, and take the audience on that character's emotional journey through those shifts to their conclusion. The greatest music artists do exactly that when they perform their songs, because it's simply another form of storytelling. Think of Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, and Paul Simon, who are renowned for their storytelling abilities through song."

Asked to name favorite destinations when he visits his hometown, Hollingsworth affirmed his love for the burrito (and beyond).

"One of my all-time favorite Mexican restaurants is El Azteca. It's a small, hole-in-the-wall place off Jackson and Fletcher Parkway that has some of the best Mexican food in the country, and everyone I've brought there



Satin Nickel's Morgan Hollingsworth moved from musicals to the mandolin. "Theater is all about storytelling, and songwriting is no different."

ends in another, and that song needs to help further the plot of the show in some way.

"That's how I was taught to write musicals, and that's how I approach my songwriting, and for that reason I've had many people say that my stand-alone work should be in a musical. As a musical theater actor, I was trained

agrees with me afterward. Whenever my parents pick me up from the airport, I always insist we stop there before going home."

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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JORDAN KRIMSTON

The local School of Rock is where Jordan Krimston got his start with bands such as Pandemonium and Lua. “The more important things that I think students usually take away from School of Rock are staying humble and grounded and just being more thoughtful, on and off stage,” he tells the *Reader*. “I was teaching there for a little bit, and it’s remarkable to see how much kids grow socially through music.” His next group, Big Bad Buffalo, released their debut 2012 EP while Krimston was still in high school. “I don’t think of myself as a prodigy, that’s more of what Gilbert Castellanos’ Young Lions are or something. I’ve

just always been obsessed with music and noise, and I definitely can attribute that to my Deadhead parents.” Among his other musical projects are Band Argument (an analog-digital hybrid), Weatherbox, and Miss New Buddha. His debut solo EP *Turn the Page* was released last year, featuring guest turns from guitarist Joey Harris (Beat Farmers) and the wizard of the Wurlitzer, Jackson Mansfield (the Obsessives). A new solo LP called *Bushwacking* is due out February 5, which Krimston says was “recorded pre-covid, but this has basically been a quarantine bedroom record.”



FUZZ-HUZZI

“Drinking a beer is easy,” says Fuzz-Huzzi singer-guitarist Allen Camp. “Writing, recording, and releasing a song is not. But we’re not letting covid stop us. Fuzz-Huzzi has been busier than ever in the studio. We are creating, writing, recording, and releasing a song on Spotify every 14 days, then we’re celebrating with a beer.” The band, which has seen an almost complete roster turnover and announced multiple hiatuses since forming in Imperial Beach circa 1994, plays Southern California rock with an indie feel and a classic-rock approach, specializing in a funky, bluesy alt-vibe. Their previous album *Ghosts* came

out in September last year, promoted with singles such as the immodestly titled “I Am Rock N Roll.” Their current 14-day Song Challenge kicked off September 4 with “Let It Shine,” including a two-fer of Christmas songs on November 27, “Angels Heard on High” and “Little Drummer Boy.” The most recent track debuted December 25: “Today,” a listener-suggested acoustic version of a previously released song. “We had so much fun that we recorded nine unplugged tracks for an album called *Lost Dog* that we’re releasing in January with an outtake reel,” says Camp.



FOLK UKE

Folk Uke is a comedic acoustic duo featuring Willie Nelson’s daughter Amy Nelson and Arlo Guthrie’s daughter Cathy Guthrie. The two met in the late 1990s, when both worked at Croce’s downtown restaurant bar run by Jim Croce’s widow. Hitting it off, Nelson took Guthrie to buy her first ukulele, and soon they were writing songs together and appearing at outdoor concerts such as Woody Fest, the annual Oklahoma celebration of Guthrie’s grandfather. Since recording their self-titled debut album in 2005, they released follow-ups in 2011 (*Reincarnation*) and 2016 (*Starfucker*), with both of their famous fathers making guest

appearances. Their song from the *Orange is the New Black* soundtrack, “Motherfucker Got Fucked Up,” hit number one on Spotify. The pair just dropped two new tracks, “Don’t Bite Beyoncé” (“My fiancé knows Beyoncé, but it doesn’t faze me ‘cause I’m friends with Jay Z”) and a Trump-roast called “Small One” (“And then in the debate you were so proud, you bragged out loud, about how well you are endowed, but you must have a small one to act like such a big one”). A cartoon video for the latter track is streaming online, animated by Amy’s brother Micah Nelson and his wife Alex Dascalu Nelson (aka Particle Kid and Sisterlu).



CHRISTOPHER LEYVA

Raised in Mexico City, Falling Doves frontman Christopher Leyva made his solo debut in 2008 solo with *Singled Out*, produced by fellow troubadour Lee Coulter and nominated for Best Local Recording at the San Diego Music Awards. His 2009 release, *27*, was nominated for two SDMAAs. “Looks like I’m headed to Abbey Road in the age of the pandemic,” says Leyva, currently recording a solo album called *Liverpool* at the iconic British recording studio made famous by the Beatles. “I’m still somehow in this dream, you know.” Leyva has been retracing the Fab Four’s steps by playing overseas clubs from the Beatles’ history (places

like the Kaiserkeller in Hamburg Germany), posing for a statue of the late bassist Stu Sutcliffe, and meeting up with Pete Best, which led to performing locally with the original Beatles drummer at Queen Bee’s in March 2018. The Abbey Road sessions are being done with engineer-producer Chris Bolster (Foo Fighters, Kate Bush, Oasis), with pre-production already completed in Liverpool at Motor Museum and Liverpool Sound Distillery. “I’m still here making music,” says Leyva, “and it’s a cool new album in the midst of the grim reality we’re all in.”



SACHA BOUTROS

The daughter of a Lebanese father and a Mexican mother, native San Diegan Sacha Boutros grew up playing soccer, attending the University of San Diego on an athletic and academic scholarship. She trained on the field with hall-of-famer Jean Willrich and played soccer semi-professionally for ten years before choosing to pursue a full-time career as a jazz singer. Boutros has gone on to open for Julio Iglesias and Marvin Hamlisch, as well as performing at jazz festivals across the U.S. and Mexico, with *Riviera* magazine once naming her as one of the “hottest music

artists to come out of San Diego.” Over the course of her career, which has included multiple overseas residencies in France, she also learned to speak French, Italian, Spanish, and English, as well as a bit of Arabic, Portuguese, and Swiss-German. “I am always learning,” she says. “I am classically trained, yes sir, I sing opera and have a four-octave range.” Boutros has a new single now available for streaming or purchase online, inspired by her recent musical sojourns overseas (where she’s becoming a marquee headliner), “Reviens-Moi.”

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, 10pm — Bob Weir & Wolf Bros.

Thursday, 10pm — Electric Waste Band Live NYE from Winstons.

Thursday, 8pm — Gloria Gaynor Live From Times Square.

Thursday, 11pm — KISS 2020 Goodbye.

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

Thursday, 7pm — New Year's Eve with the San Diego Symphony.

Friday, 2pm — Spreckels Organ Vienna Style New Year's Concert. **Free.**

Saturday, 2pm — Bad Religion: Decades.

Saturday, 4pm — Forevergreen: A Vermont Adventure in Music. **Free.**

Sunday, 7pm — Deep Sea Diver: Stay Home Stems. **Free.**

Monday, 5pm — Marble Eyes Mondays. **Free.**

Monday, 4pm — May Erlewine: Mondays With May. **Free.**

Tuesday, 7pm — Daring Greatly. **Free.**

Wednesday, 6pm — Marco Benevento: Bunky's Favorites. \$5.

Wednesday, 2pm — William Fitzsimmons: On The Couch. **Free.**

CLASSICAL MUSIC

New Year's Eve with the San Diego Symphony 2020

has certainly been...something! To celebrate the launch of a healthy, hopeful 2021, the San Diego Symphony is proud to present an "at home" New Year's Eve concert program of joyous music by Johannes Brahms, "Duke" Ellington, J. Strauss Jr. and Sr., plus a special performance of George Gershwin's immortal Rhapsody in Blue featuring young piano sensation Ray Ushikubo. The concert will be led by music director Rafael Payare, and for a minimum donation of just \$25 you can enjoy exclusive access to this lovely hour of music as part of your own New Year's celebrations from the comfort of your own home. San Diego Symphony Orchestra Rafael Payare, conductor Ray Ushikubo, piano GERSHWIN: Rhapsody in Blue (arr. Cliff Colnot) (feat. Ray Ushikubo, piano) BRAHMS: Selected Hungarian Dances (arr. Peter Stangel) ELLINGTON: "Sophisticated Lady" (arr. Morton Gould) J. STRAUSS, Sr.: Radetzky March (arr. Peter Stangel) J. STRAUSS, Jr.: Emperor Waltz (arr. Schoenberg) Thursday, December 31, 7pm; Tickets: sandiegosymphony.org/tickets-events/2020-21-season/new-years-eve-at-home/.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Loft:

Wednesday, Feb. 3 — Dom Flemons: The American Songster. \$9-\$39.

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:

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

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

Online Internet Events:

Friday, Jan. 8 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, Jan. 8 — Hanson Live at Cain's Ballroom.

Friday, Jan. 8 — Mike Garson's Bowie Celebration.

Friday, Jan. 8 — A Bowie Celebration: Just For One Day.

Saturday, Jan. 9 — Avatar Ages: An Impossible Concert Experience-.

Saturday, Jan. 9 — Hanson Live at Cain's Ballroom.

Saturday, Jan. 9 — John McCutcheon Virtual Tour.

Saturday, Jan. 9 — Sleaford Mods: The Demise of Planet X.

Sunday, Jan. 10 — Hanson Live at Cain's Ballroom.

Monday, Jan. 11 — Marble Eyes

Mondays. **Free.**

Monday, Jan. 11 — Athenaeum Live: Peter Erskine, Alan Pasqua, Darek Oles.

Friday, Jan. 15 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, Jan. 15 — Jimmy Eat World Phoenix Sessions.

Saturday, Jan. 16 — Avatar Ages: An Impossible Concert Experience-.

Saturday, Jan. 16 — John McCutcheon Virtual Tour.

Monday, Jan. 18 — Marble Eyes Mondays. **Free.**

Wednesday, Jan. 20 — Wolfheart Studio Stream. \$9.

Friday, Jan. 22 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Saturday, Jan. 23 — Avatar Ages: An Impossible Concert Experience-.

South Bay Drive-In:

Thursday, Jan. 14 — Casbah Day Presents: Fanboy World Premier. \$10.



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WW84: A long, bad dream(stone)

Like it better when the special-effects wizards have to leave their chairs in order to make a movie. Seated before a bank of computer screens and presented with a budget of \$200 million for *Wonder Woman 84*, or *WW84* as the kids call it, the studio lab rats delivered a finished product that's as unimaginative as it is endless.

We open in Themyscira on a thud of action: in a CG blur, wonder lassie Diana Prince (Lilly Aspell) competes against adults in the Amazon olympics. The ten-minute tournament — an over-produced Decathlon after the fashion of TV's *American Ninja Warrior* — does nothing but rehash past glory and pad a hulking two-and-a-half hour (!) running time. Flash forward to the titular time frame to find Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), full-grown and ubiquitous to the point of parody, kicking oncoming cars out of the path of stationary joggers or

golden lassoing a bride who topples off a bridge during her wedding photoshoot. Enjoy the costume while you can. It's going to be a long, lax hour before Diana once again suits up.

Diana works as a high level anthropologist at the Smithsonian. It's here that she meets unctuous new hire Barbara Ann Minerva (Kristen Wiig), a degreed geologist with a minor in prehistoric comic relief. Her comic magazine origins peg Minerva as a DC Comics LGBT supervillain, but you can't prove it by what's on screen. The closest writer-director Patty Jenkins gets to addressing gender identity is via double-entendre. Commenting on Diana's ebullient personality over lunch, the vestal, clearly smitten Minerva lets slip, "You seem to be the kind that's always out."

While cataloging items from a recent robbery, Minerva comes across the Dreamstone, a fabled gem



Wonder Woman 1984: Gal Gadot takes her place beyond the Pine in this all-around unwatchable sequel.

that has the power to grant one wish per customer. Fake museum donor Maxwell Lord (Pedro Pascal), a charismatic TV celebrity with a bogus oil company Ponzi scheme to sell, is a greedy, indolent rogue: a genie's offer to grant him but one wish would be

answered with a request for hundreds more. But the Dreamstone doesn't work that way. Lord leapfrogs over the multiple wishes nonsense: his desire is to embody the stone. Analogies to impeached one-term president Donald Trump are so dopily drawn — Lord

eventually goes so far as to build a wall — one wonders why the magical relic wasn't named the Roger Stone.

Wiig's "from not to hot" transition is a small matter of an exchange of nervous laughter (her one and only character trait) for a



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FATALE has been rated R for violence, sexual content and language.

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Cheetah suit that would feel right at home on a background extra in *Cats*. Hers is a variation on the stereotypical librarian who, after removing her glasses and letting her hair down, leaves every man in the stacks swooning. Jenkins should have known better. As for our lead Gadot's performance: an uninspired blend of reaction shots, CGI, and stunt doubles makes it almost equally as culpable.

Other than a few cars, costumes, and a belly bag, Jenkins appears to go out of her way to avoid having fun with the mid-'80s milieu. She attributes part of her inspiration to the Christopher Reeve *Superman* films. *WW84* liberally "borrows" from *Superman II*, right down to Minerva's return for revenge and the parting shot of Wonder Woman in flight, minus the American flag three times the size of the one raised at Iwo Jima. Unfortunately, she chose to trace Richard Donner's donnish vision rather than follow Richard Lester's enormously appealing path to wit and emotional intelligence.

The resurrection of Diana's dead lover, Steve Trevor (Chris Pine), is explained away as an inadvertent wish spoken with Dreamstone in hand. How does one know that the dream has become a reality? A production assistant aims a hair-puffing blow dryer in the hoper's direction. Trevor's anachronistic presence raises more questions than it's worth. How does one manage to steal an airplane from a military base on the 4th of July? And where does WWII pilot Trevor get off knowing how to fire a missile from a modern day Arab tank?

Why is it that these accursed comic book movies always place more value on the lives of children than they do on the lives of their adult counterparts? Besides visceral thrills, cheap pathos is their best (only?) way of tapping into a fanboy's psyche. The manner in which Lord's relationship with his young son plays out is, at best, sick-making. He eventually takes control of the media, ensuring every viewer's fancy — other than his boy's — becomes a reality. If only someone had wished for it to end. ●

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

Greenland — With the world poised to suffer the fate of immolation by the red-hot remnants of an errant comet, the government earmarks a select group of civilians, based on their occupations, to evacuate their families to Greenland and begin rebuilding the wreckage. Among the chosen: John Garrity

(Gerard Butler), a structural engineer with a semi-estranged wife (Morena Baccarin) and a diabetic son (Roger Dale Floyd) refused access at the air base. (Kids with a chronic condition have no place in the new order.) A solid, modestly-budgeted B-grade disaster picture that never tries to be something that it isn't by either spouting obvious messages or bowing at the altar of technology to drive its narrative. If anything, the effects take a back seat to the characters — the film's sole blockbuster scene is held until the end, where it belongs. The biggest casualty is Hope Davis, a talented actress done in by a thankless role and lighting that renders her nearly unrecognizable. In his second pairing with Butler, writer-director (and former stuntman) Ric Roman Waugh (*Snitch*, *Angel Has Fallen*) doesn't bring much in the way of "new" to the project, but to his credit, the thought never crossed my mind while watching the picture. With Scott Glenn, once again proving he has the right stuff as John's ever-agitated father-in-law. 2020 — S.M. ★★★

Soul — The accidental and premature death of Joe (voiced by Jamie Foxx) on the biggest day of his life lands him in limbo, where he's compelled to plead his case at a corporate, other-worldly way station. Sound familiar? It's the premise for Albert Brooks' fantasy comedy *Defending Your Life*. In this case, Joe is a middle-aged high school music teacher — a vocation categorized by writer/directors Pete Docter and Kemp Powers as somewhat pathetic — who has reconciled with the fact that his dream of becoming a musician of note might never be realized. The same day Joe lands a spot at a prestigious jazz club finds his mother urging her son to set aside his dreams and hang onto the teaching gig. As much as one applauds any film that encourages children to actively explore the arts, the messages being sent here are mixed at best. While in the abyss, Joe is paired with 22 (the voice of Tina Fey), a disenchanting, Boo Berry-colored soul assigned to his case. Pixar's character animation has come far since the early days of *A Bug's Life*, and the film's feel for New York is at times breathtaking. But it's difficult to imagine younger viewers being able to tap into the film's abstract thinking and dependence on math to sell its story. You'd be better off showing your kids the Brooks. Tell them it was directed by Nemo's dad. 2020 — S.M. ★★



Out with the new and in with the old with this trio of diverse films that all take place on or around New Year's Day.

— Scott Marks

LA BONNE ANNEE (1973)

The clip from director Claude Lelouch's *A Man and a Woman* that opens his *La Bonne Année* (*Happy New Year*) lasts long enough to remind viewers of the visual gimcrackery that contributed to the former's success. The film is being screened for a captive audience: a group of convicts, among whom is Simon (Lino Ventura), a jewel thief about to be granted what appears to be a New Year's parole for good behavior. In flashback (and color!), we see the caper that earned him his six-year stretch and the reason behind the amnesty: the cops want to find out where he and his partner stashed the stolen gems. Françoise Fabian is the woman in the picture, an antiques dealer surrounded by intellectuals who's capable of making room in her heart for an unpolished gem. A study in craggy repose, Simon's approach to both crime and romance — psychology is screwing someone before they screw you, a woman is a man who cries more, etc. — is the epitome of reductivism. Before product placement became the rage, elite French jewelry company Van Cleef & Arpels purchased enough on-screen advertisements to help bankroll the production. Nothing new, but Lelouch does a commendable job of rearranging the familiar.

THE NEW YEAR PARADE (2008)

Stories of imperfect parents, broken children, and the toll divorce takes on a family are as common as



La Bonne Année: Lino Ventura wishes you a Happy New Year.

hand-me-down clothes, but few arouse the firsthand dramatic intensity and heart-break of Tom Quinn's *The New Year Parade*. The story, sandwiched between a pair of Philadelphia's Mummers Parades — an elaborate display with almost as many moving parts as a family in disarray — makes it clear that Mike (Andrew Conway) is losing control of his clan. Wife Lisa (MaryAnn McDonald) cheated on him, yet their two grown children, Jack (Greg Lyons) and his younger sister Kat (Jennifer Welsh), appear to be siding with mom. Kat learns of the pending divorce from gossip in her father's bar, Jack contemplates jumping ship for another band, and at several points in the proceedings, the children act as therapists for their parents. The parade, an annual tradition passed down from father to son, gives the film its through line as Mike's South Philadelphia String Band prepares for next year's competition. Shot over a period of four years and largely improvised by a cast of non-professionals committed to seeing Quinn's vision through to the end, the finished prout is so seamlessly integrated as to leave the impression of a hidden-camera documentary.

GRIDLOCK'D (1997)

I am almost entirely unfamiliar with Tupac Shakur's discography, but I can personally vouch for the

quality of his performances in the half-dozen films in which he starred. This black comedy romp places near the top. Spend New Year's Day with a trio of junkies — Spoon (Tupac Shakur), Stretch (Tim Roth) and Cookie (Thandie Newton) — as they fight to keep the latter alive after a heroin overdose puts a crimp in the celebration. (The three have reached that point in a junkie's life where they no longer get high, but must shoot up just to avoid getting sick.) Spoon's resolution to convince a reluctant Stretch to spend January 1 getting clean results in the two butting heads with bureaucracy, the cops, and a well-dressed lawbreaker (played by writer-director Vondie Curtis-Hall) who doesn't cotton to finding a brick in the box where the illegal camcorder Stretch sold him should have been. Roth is superb, bouncing comic relief off Shakur's urbane shooter. As dope addict comedies go, Curtis-Hall's semi-autobiographical escapades far outclass those in *Trainspotting*.

There is one rule that the filmmakers should not have followed: If you introduce Howard Hestman in the first act, in the second or third act he absolutely must go off. Other than that, this has the makings a great double-bill with *48 Hrs*.

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PERSONALS

ARIANA It's great that you are working at a restaurant, good for you girl, proud of you. From your auntie, lot's of love.

BRIAN what am I, chopped liver?

ESTELA You are the spine of this family, without you we would have crumbled, you are a powerful mom, from your daughter Stella Donolly.

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

MOM I love you, keep up the good work, continue studying God's love letter to you (the Bible). From your daughter, Stella.

TOMMY M we met in the 4th grade. You once came to my restaurant. We last spoke in 2008. I think of you every day. Patti D

SWEET LYNN, I LOVE YOU Your passing broke my heart after 47 years together. I will miss you for the rest of my days. Love, Bill.

A THANK-YOU TO ALL WHO CARED Our prayers are being answered. Our Mom Judy is so much much better recovering

from Covid. Grateful to all, Kelly & Sarah.

BROSKI IT'S BEEN 7 YEARS since you've passed. I sure miss my brother. I Love You. Tell we meet down the road. KK

CRASH You are joyful breeze entering a room.

GOD'S WILL "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." CMR

HELL KEEP THE VACUUM life already sucks enough. I'm not myself and can't relax now that you've shown me, that a vacuum is all I'm worth. Maybe you could vacuum up some ashes. Just don't get mad at the vacuum it still requires human contact but you can still control how it sucks.

LJ AND MICHELLE, Merry Christmas to an awesome couple....Love you guys.....Gman....No 9 in your program, No. 1 in your heart, the Gman, The Man The Myth, The Legend.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all those at the Amity Vista Ranch. And Happy New Year to all the graduates of the West facility this year. - PJ

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MY WIFE (Pooh's) I love you to infinity and beyond. KK

MIRACLES AREN'T CONTRARY to nature, just contrary to what we know about nature.

MW Thank you for reminding that there are still honorable people in this godforsaken world. MM miss you every day.

MY WIFE'S BIRTHDAY I love u very much Arlene B... You are my world thank you for everything here even though sometimes I can drive you crazy... Xoxo

ONE REASON I've never read these before, the first time I did. I opened the reader went right here and read. That's more of a sign I guess.

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN and mean what you say. And stop being so mean.

SHAWSHANK Happy Anniversary Baby....One year and they said it wouldn't last... Love you Mrs Jones.....Gman

THE SUPERNATURAL is just the Natural which we don't understand yet.

WE LOVE U ST JUDE Merry Christmas!!

IGNORANCE. is bold and Knowledge is reserved.

SNOWSTORM Few things are as democratic as a snowstorm

SO CALLED JUSTICES No such thing to day as Justices, all Judges are political appointees. Justices use there office for to carry out their political views.

RONNIE F. ALL MY LOVE TO YOU. I miss you so much, baby. I'm in quarantine with covid-19 and have no way to get in touch with you. Please know that I love you very much. I'm looking forward to being together with you soon. I love you. Jackie G.

BAMBOOMERANG PIE We love you oodles galore! Tamara & Daniel.

LET'S PLAY PERSONALS ROULETTE. I'm not perfect but my merits outweigh my flaws. Into SCA (the medieval pic) & a geek of many genres. Like Socrates if he had been into Sci-Fi. SWM 49 Looking for SWF 35+ 4 a Soc. Dist. good time, maybe more. I'm 5'7" & keep a consistent panda shape. dl_f_ghost@yahoo.com

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

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

NOTICES

SHALOM 132 FREE BIBLE CONTENT Somos creyentes del Mesías Judío YAHSHUA (Jesus) guardando y obedeciendo lo que marca la Bendita Torah (Biblia). Únete a nosotros. We are believers of the Jewish Messiah YAHSHUA (Jesus) who keep and obey the Holy Torah (Bible). Join us.

2 HIKES Holiday lights- 6pm:Grape & FernSouth Park. Prior-Bird Park, thru SwitzerCyn-Hike, to Burlingame Lights:2pm. (858) 571-6058. Text only; on bus. #7footApartHikes 1 hr meal break!

LOST BLUE VELCRO WALLET 12/15 in La Mesa between Yorkshire and Bob street. Please Call (619) 587-5585. Thank you.

VACCINE? The Moderna vaccine should have been approved 6 weeks ago and we would have over 20 million doses available today as you don't need special distribution no issue with rock ice. Just a cold fridge truck, but no, we suffer.

COME WORSHIP GOD WITH US 2002 Granger Ave; National City, Calif 91950. Sunday 11:00am Worship Service. Come as you are/all are welcome. National City Church of Christ

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

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

OVERCOMING BETRAYAL IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM Written by fRee SPIRIT UNiQUe.... available now on... iTunes, Amazon, Xlibris and Barnesandnoble.com!!

CLASSES / LESSONS

STUCK AT HOME? LEARN SPANISH! We believe that in order to speak a language, you must actually SPEAK the language. Join our community today for SPANISH conversation immersion classes in a fun, relaxed, non-intimidating environment in the heart of North Park and ONLINE (right now, only online). Learn from a caring native speaker. Make friends and have fun! PuraBuenaOnda.com. (619) 916-8339.

ImmerseYourself@PuraBuenaOnda.com

YOGA WITH SHAWNA Donation-Based Outdoor (Covid Safe) Yoga. Sound Healing + Meditation Classes Donation Based Online Yoga + Meditation Classes. Online Yoga Teacher Trainings. Reiki Trainings. Breathwork Trainings. Essential Oils, Sound Healing Instruments + Crystals. \$25 Reiki Sessions. Learn more: YogaWithShawna.com

LEARN TO BOLLYWOOD DANCE We are planning to go Zoom for a virtual Bollywood dance party (for all age groups) every Sunday. www.meetup.com/virtual-zoom-bollywood-dance-party/ WhatsApp 1-(587) 338-3133 for details

MOSAIC CLASSES This workshop is for beginners and also suited for levels 1 a 2 as teaching will be scaffolded throughout the session for all attending. Message for details @ https://www.mosaicforms.com/mosaicforms@gmail.com



MUSHROOM HUNTER CLASSES Want to get into mushroom hunting, identification, or growing? This is the group for you! Rogue Valley Mushroom Enthusiasts www.meetup.com/rogue-valley-mushroom-enthusiasts/ Rachel.Werling@oregonstate.edu



SHAMANIC SUNDAYS ON ZOOM Meet the ancestors this Sunday. Join in for an hour-long shamanic journey circle. www.meetup.com/Zoom-Shamanic-Sunday/ (239) 658-4144

UKULELE ON ZOOM Tiki Dave is a highly regarded ukulele instructor sharing his love for all things tropical and sunny. For more info: https://www.facebook.com/TikiDaveMusic/ (808) 321-5515 / tikidavemusic@gmail.com

BASIC PERMANENT MAKEUP COURSE Become a certified PMU artist just in 5 days and start earning up to \$85k per the first year. (619) 298-7777

ONLINE SPANISH LESSONS Hola, muchachos! -Online Spanish Lessons with experienced instructor. -SDSU Professor. -\$25 per hour. -Materials included. For more info, please, contact me at thi-

west@hotmail.com. Muchas gracias! thi-west@hotmail.com

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.



VINYASA YOGA CLASS ON ZOOM Vinyasa yoga class with Toma, via Zoom. Train your mind & body to induce a mode of consciousness to reach inner peace. We will move our bodies and flow into poses using movement with breath sequence with mixed vinyasa flows. https://www.toma-j.com/ toma.j@yahoo.com

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

LAKESIDE, \$697.50 on furnished bedroom and two bedroom apartment. Share kitchen, living room, bath. First and last and \$500 deposit. Utilities paid. Military or single older male preferred. Phone number 1-(619) 456-5016.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT \$500-\$600 per month, private room, female preferred, (619) 665-2856, Mark.

SANTEE ROOM FOR RENT \$900 NEW Also Master Suite room available \$1300 per month (619) 850-3264 female preferred.

CHULA VISTA, \$750. Furnished room. Single occupancy. Proof of employment required. Includes utilities, cable/ Internet, refrigerator, microwave. Quiet neighborhood. No drugs, smoking, alcohol, pets. East of I-805. (619) 840-7299.

MASTER BEDROOM IN DUPLEX Linda Vista. Near USD and all freeways. Nice neighborhood. Bright, sunny, clean and quiet. Laundry onsite. Utilities split. Credit report and score, proof of income and references required. \$795/month + security deposit. Text Glenda @ (858) 232-0214

ROOM FOR RENT \$500 per month. Conveniently located near downtown. Call now (619) 394-3868.

SANTEE ROOM FOR RENT \$900 NEW Female preferred (619) 850-3264 also Master Suite available 1300 per month (619) 850-3264.

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

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

RENTALS

DOWNTOWN \$550-880



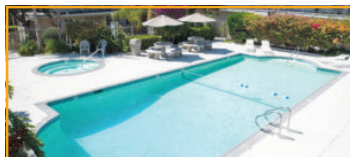
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(858) 799-0219



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

HILLCREST, \$1825. 1BD+1BA 900sqft. vintage 100 year old upstairs unit in 4 plex on the park; formal dining room; remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; beautiful wood floors; coin laundry; garage fit for a horse and buggy; cat OK with extra deposit; available now; 1632 Upas Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. (858) 270-2071.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1545. 1BD+1BA; Crown Point area; all utilities paid; huge kitchen w/stove, refrigerator, garage, lawn area, middle unit in quiet triplex behind 1934; small pet ok w/ extra deposit; available now. 1936 Reed Ave. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. (858) 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1575. 1BD+1BA large upstairs unit in Crown Point area; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; coin laundry; parking; cat OK with extra deposit; available now; 1448 Thomas Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. (858) 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1895. 2BD+1BA cottage in 4-plex; North PB; remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; parking; washer/dryer in unit; small pet OK with extra deposit; available now; 1780 Diamond Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. (858) 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2300 1.5 bath, 2 bedroom, 930 square ft. town house, completely renovated, one assigned parking space, move in ready. (858) 274-6422.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2300. 2BD+1.5BA; close to bay with private patio; washer/dryer hookups in unit; parking; seconds to the bay on Fanuel Street Park; month-to-month lease; available now. 1311 La Palma. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. (858) 270-2071.

STORAGE SPACE for truck, van, motorhome. Call (619) 394-3868.

LOOKING FOR SMALL STUDIO/ROOM Hello, I am living in Germany right now, but am planning on moving to S.D. as soon as possible. Therefore I am looking for a small studio or room with own bathroom for rent. Possible even for rent from out of country? I am 33 years, social worker.

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.allpointrealestate.com

MISSION BEACH, \$1620 1BR/2BA ground floor apt. W&D, new windows, floor, bathroom, newly painted, \$1620 inc. all utilities. Text (858) 733-0770

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.

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.

HOME RENTAL - CARLSBAD/VISTA Shadowridge community (association neighborhood), minutes from Carlsbad in Vista. Monthly rental \$3800. Furnished or unfurnished. Available February 1, 2021. See pictures/more info: <http://www.screenprofile.com/homerental.html>. Call (818) 359-8243



3 BED CONDO RENT IN MIRA MESA 3 bed/2 bath renovation condo \$2800 per month deposit \$2000 in Mira Mesa. In house laundry Arguably the best location in the complex, completely upgraded end unit in desirable Mira Mesa. Lives like a townhome, no one above or below. Away from traffic (858) 578-8801 / rullah56937@gmail.com

MISSION BEACH 1BR/1BA ground floor apartment W&D on premises. New windows, floor, newly painted, new bathroom. \$1495 +\$125 all utilities. Beach across street. Text (185) 873-3077 / gernottroll@gmail.com

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. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

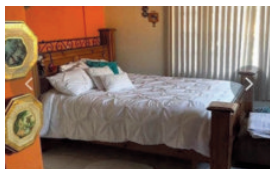
LA MESA, \$1749-2149. 3BD+2BA (\$2149) and 2BD+1BA (\$1749) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable, Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

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+1BA 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



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

MARCHING VALVE TROMBONE F.E. Olds. Compact, dent free and great player. \$395 with case. (619) 264-3686

DUAL TURNTABLE Dual turntable \$20, contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

EXECUTIVE MUSIC PRODUCER looking for mellow and honest woman age 28 to 38 text (619) 251-2729.

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

70S ERA MUSIC PLAYER PIANO With bench and rolls of music, works but needs work. Make offer. Contact (619) 987-5682

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

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

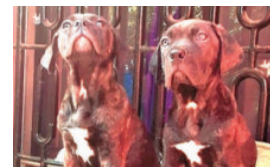
MUSIC REHEARSAL STUDIO Upscale facility, Kearny Mesa. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. Adder Studios, (858) 522-9505. www.adderstudios.com.

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. (858) 401-2973

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WANT SMALL DOG Prefer chihuahua, text (619) 438-4567.



CANE CORSO ITALIAN MASTIFFS I have two males available. Three months old. Vaccinated and de-wormed. Call only please. (619) 614-9640



CHICKS/HENS EGG LAYERS Will be quite great brown egg layers. Text or call (858) 775-9928

BORDER COLLIE WANTED TO WALK Border collie wanted to walk cheap hourly rate. Only charge a dollar an hour. I will walk your border collie and ride them on the bike. Email me. (714) 457-7658 / tracycollinsbecky@yahoo.com

DOG AND CAT CAKES The perfect treat to celebrate with your dog and cat. All the ingredients are pet friendly. (619) 721-1822

DOGGIE FLOATATION UNIT \$40 Ruffwear doggie floatation device for dogs on the go. It's a size XL, made w/high visibility material with a light loop, \$79.99 retail. 619 three84 five474 (619) 384-5474

ITALIAN MASTIFFS two male cane corso Italian Mastiffs available (619) 614-9640.

CANE CORSO ITALIAN MASTIFFS I have 2 males available (619) 614-9640 / Maldonadosonia1995@gmail.com

DOBERMAN/CANECORSO I have three male and one female doberman/canecorso puppies available sbasave666@gmail.com

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

CHARRO SADDLE Authentic. Mexican. Big seat, very safe and solid saddle, complete. \$200 firm, text. (619) 438-4567

SPORTS



GOLF EQUIPMENT \$195 Selling new golf equipment including 300 golf balls, 8 golf gloves, TaylorMade wrenches, 100's of golf tees and ball markers, golf shoe spikes with wrenches, digital score counter, golf scope, misc. (619) 672-0526



SCHMELKE POOL CUE Schmelke pool cue that is 20 oz. in weight, 58" length, and has a 13 mm. tip. It's in good shape, but the shaft isn't straight. The case is included. \$125 (619) 424-9208

SNOWBOARDS AND GEAR Used snowboards, boots, jackets, goggles, gloves, and helmets. Call, email, or text to set up a time to see the gear. (619) 929-0601

SPORTS FACE MASKS Padres, Dodgers, Lakers, Raiders,

RENTALS

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.

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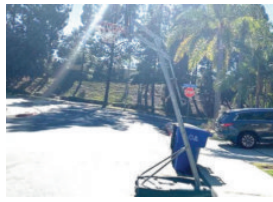
TENNIS BALL LAUNCHER
Metaltek electric tennis ball launcher that works. \$100. (619) 887-8020



TEST DRIVE THE ONEWHEEL XR Try the Onewheel XR or Pint before you buy it. Weekday (Mon-Thurs). \$49 for a half-day (4 hours). \$69 for a full day (8 hours). \$59 Multi-day (Per 24 hours). \$275 Weekly (619) 786-2614 / sdonewheel@gmail.com



VINTAGE ISLE SURFBOARD
Selling a vintage Isle surfboard that's 73.5" in size for \$200. It needs some TLC and comes with a strap. (760) 224-0512



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Front or rear. Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars

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RADIATOR \$45
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Parts & Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

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OR ALTERNATORS. Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

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the backboard is broken but in good condition. Please call (619) 646-1738



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TENNIS ANYONE? Playmate Portable tennis ball machine with 2 new batteries. The "Portable" series has been designed to be light-weight, convenient to charge, and easy to use. Feeds at up to 100 mph! \$1095 (602) 989-9893

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WOODY RESIN SURF SHOP- SALE Woody Resin Surf Shop Christmas New Year 2021 Sale. 50% Off any Clothing Item. New / Used Wetsuits Sale. Used wet suits up to \$59.00. Surfboards Used Any Brands 20% off. Surfboards, Boogie Boards, Skim Boards, T-Shirts, Apparel, Wetsuits, Skate Boards (760) 696-3393 / woody.resin.surf.shop@gmail.com

BICYCLES

NEW 4 BIKE HITCH RACK A heavy-duty all-steel construction bike rack will easily transport up to four bicycles. Features padded bike cradles with hook and loop straps to protect bike finish. can carry up to 150 LB. Fit all cars, trucks, SUVs, or minivans. New in box - \$125 (858) 245-5183

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SOLO MOTORCYCLE SEAT perfect for a chopper or bobber build, only \$40. Perfect condition, was \$280 new. (619) 464-6255

CUSTOM SEATS FOR YOUR HARLEY Ever since 1969, Raul's been hooking up the custom work on Harleys. Here are some examples. Need a custom seat or repair done on your Harley? Call/text at (619) 721-5331 for a quote



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

AUTOMOTIVE

2010 MINI COOPER clubman, 4 cylinder, AC, 80,000 miles, one owner, lot's of extras, leather, cruise, bluetooth, expensive stereo, like new, gas saver, 34 mpg, clean title. Email micarhe3000@yahoo.com.

CHEVY 2015 SPARK 4 cylinder, 4 door, AC, 74,000 miles. one owner, fully loaded with lot's of extras, like new, gas saver, 39 mpg, clean title, ready to go. \$6,450 obo, (808) 398-8568.

2010 HONDA INSIGHT HYBRID 1-owner, sunroof, security, all records, kept in garage. (858) 837-0713 / sakima9@hotmail.com

2004 INFINITI G35 \$2,550 Runs and drives but idles a little rough. It has plenty of power and handles like a luxury car. \$490 due on registration which I'll split it with you. \$2550 obo. (619) 497-9716.



2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 — \$21,800. 66,000 miles on a 6 cyl. 4.3 motor. (760) 234-4998



2019 TOYOTA TACOMA 2019 Toyota Tacoma \$33,999 with 4X4, 3-foot lift, off-road 35" tires, Abs, 4-Wheel braking assist options (858) 285-9159

CHEAP AUTOMOBILE AUCTIONS Completely free entry at 17770 Valley Blvd., Bloomington, CA. There are more than 100 cars available here @ All Towing & Storage Public Auction, north of San Diego County. <https://www.facebook.com/alltowingandstorage/> (909) 815-0447

SEEKING USED VEHICLE Recently disabled senior seeking a reliable used vehicle. Appealing to your sense of generosity and the Principle of Abundance. Have \$1000 saved. Patrick (775) 237-8455



2011 JEEP PATRIOT LATITUDE 4X4 4 cylinders, clean title, without problems, current smog and insurance, zero issues! Mechanic proof, new tires, cold air conditioning, heater in the front seats, good sound system (619) 678-7267

2012 BUICK LACROSSE 2012 Buick LaCrosse for sale. 70,000 miles. Runs great. Leather, Hybrid, Many extras. Serviced at dealer. \$15,000. safranalin1@gmail.com

2015 AUDI A5 QUATTRO 2015 Audi A5 Turbo Quattro with a clean title, turbo, carbon fiber dash kit, moon roof/leather, s-line package, and custom exhaust. (760) 415-1842

FOUR TIRES Used only 1200 miles, p 215/60-15, paid \$450, asking \$250. (858) 792-7777

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

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

MECHANIC Hybrid- Ford, help me with 2008 Escape- steering shut it down, text only (619) 254-5991.

PLUMBER/HANDYMAN have about 3 weeks work: plumbing, carpentry, painting, landscape. Text only please (619) 254-5991.

STAFF IT ENGINEER (Req# IIC1321) Dvlp scalable & modular sw components that meet high standards of quality & architecture. BS followed by 5 yrs prog rtd exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

CARPET CLEANER WILL TRAIN Carpet and upholstery cleaner needed for east county business. Good pay. Jeff (161) 932-2367 / jsmica@yahoo.com

IHHS REGISTERED CAREGIVER NEEDED with car, in San Diego. 8:00 AM to 1:00, 26 hours per week, 105 hours per month. Be flexible. Includes cooking, cleaning, shopping and medication for elderly woman. Call Mary at (619) 488-0822, no texts

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

ASAP IHSS REGISTERED CAREGIVER needed with car in Mission Valley. 7:30am-12:30pm, 25 hours per week, 105 hours per month. Monday-Friday. Includes cooking, cleaning, shopping, medications for sweet lady. (619) 269-3434

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 north city worker wanted for home repairs and cleanup. \$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

P/T F/T PREP-COOK/ DISHWASHER Hi, I have 15 years kitchen experience. Never late never sick. Get along well with others. Please text, call or email me. Thank you! (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

GARDENING BY DAVID Hi, I am offering garden work, raking, mowing, trimming, etc. I'm easy so just make me an offer. I prefer jobs that will not exceed 3 hours per day. Thank you, David (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

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

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will shop for groceries, prepare meals, light housekeeping, drive to doctors/hospital appointments, companionship. 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

I BUY BOSE STEREO SPEAKERS (619) 279-7833.

WANT FREE MOPED looking for quick trip to store, so does not need to be perfect. As long it runs. Need delivered. Text (619) 631-9258

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

WE BUY CARS Buying cars with check engine light on, salvage title, title from another state, all years and models, non-running. I can drive to the car, truck or van and I'll pay you instantly! (858) 302-9708

I BUY GOLD AND SILVER (619) 280-2075

OLDER DODGE OR CHEVY VAN Wanted. Running, registered, smogged, decent condition. No major problems. Text info/desired price to (931) 637-8568. Will pay cash!

WANTED: WASHER/ DRYER COMBO gas fired, or reasonably priced standard units. (760) 291-7712

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

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-unused 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, Shakespear 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. Pre-recorded 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 (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

BEAUTIFUL GEMSTONE AND BIWA PEARL BRACELET white pearl, blue, yellow, green and purple gem stones. Amethyst, blue topaz, citrine etc. Set in sterling silver. \$300 value, only \$120. Please call (858) 243-1533.

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

CAMPING CHAIR small, red fold up camping chair: \$10. (858) 505-0685

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

ENGINE FOR SALE Out of a 1999 Chevy Blazer V6. Ran great when removed, lot's of extra parts included. \$350. Hearing impaired, text best: (619) 928-8220.

GATE: CHAIN LINK AND PIPE 2 sections each 5'9" wide, 6'4" long, \$100. Text only, (619) 438-4567.

REPO PICTURE famous, barefoot girl. \$30 (858) 505-0685

SANTA SUIT complete santa suit, \$20. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

WOODEN AMPLIFIER phone stand, plays music: \$15. (858) 505-0685

ART WORK Beautiful framed artwork 50" x 63". Originals and professionally done prints. May barter. For more info. Please call Mike. Serious buyers only. (619) 599-3000 / jennutz4u@gmail.com



12/3 SOOW 100' SPOOL CABLE Portable electric cable. I have a spool, unopened of 12/3 portable heavy duty (SOOW, not SJOOW) electric cord. 600v 3 wire 12 AWG flexible cable. Planned using this to hook up my generator to my home. + generator 4 outlet box and R14-30P (619) 807-4742

NEED POND ACCESSORIES? Want something for your pond? We have it all. Location: San Diego 92120, close to SDSU. Phone: (619) 300-0835



NEW YEARS CARNITAS Need some carnitas for the holidays? We are located at 1956 54th St. in City Heights, in the parking lot of Scorpion Tires. (619) 453-4507

TV SMARTBOX You get every channel on the planet (619) 850-3264 includes all local channels as well Sports pay-per-view all new and old movies and TV shows and series and more (619) 850-3264 \$300 you need internet that's all guaranteed satisfaction or your money back. (619) 850-3264.

16 INCH ELECTRIC CHAINSAW in box by Craftsman. \$55 cash only, txt 619-395-4081.

2 SKATEBOARDS, 2 SURFBOARDS Would like to sell before Christmas. Please make an offer. Call (619) 296-4065.

55" HITACHI TV New TV in the box. 55 inch Hitachi class 4K HDTV. Cracked glass, has picture and works. \$100. (805) 294-8641.

APPLIANCES Gas dryer, \$50. Refrigerator, stainless, side-by-side doors, \$100. OKeefe Merritt stove-center grill, \$150. (619) 220-6888



SOUR MANGOES Sour mangoes — \$15/lb. Free delivery with the purchase of 6 lbs. or more, or we can meet up here—1025 Euclid Ave., San Diego 92114. (323) 629-5941

DOG BEDS HARNESSES CUTE (619) 850-3264 filled with poly fill and cedar chips repel fleas \$50 zippers washable large dogs jumbo size or small \$250.00. (619) 850-3264



ROUND RUG Thick and plush; 66" diameter round rug. Perfect condition; no stains. \$85 obo. (760) 519-0024 / jeffanshel@gmail.com

STUN GUN FLASHLIGHT COMBO \$20 + \$30 model (619) 850-3264 great bodyguard get protected today (619) 850-3264.

BLACK LEATHER BACKPACK For sale: \$20. (858) 505-0685

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR Electric wheelchair good working condition newer batteries. Original price over \$2800. asking \$500. Can deliver for extra charge in San Diego. (858) 302-6376 / dustbutcher1026@gmail.com

LCD SMART TV 65 inch. Price is \$450 or best offer. Has a three year warranty, the brand name is Onn. For more information, call Anthony at (619) 755-2459. First come first served.

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks, good condition suitcase, fancy candle holder, folding laundry basket. you MUST BUY these items for 40.00 obo any and all very much interested candidate ask for james @ (619) 450-7914 / j.fiffild31@gmail.com

MISC FOR SALE Roundtrip ticket in U.S. + Hawaii, \$200. GE Microwave, \$25. (619) 283-8417

MISC FOR SALE Pan set: one skillet with a top and two pans with tops, \$25; small white baby bath tub, \$5; Boogie board, \$15; a long skate board, \$20; black leather back pack, \$15. (858) 505-0685

OSCILLOSCOPES Hickok Model 5002A, used, I don't have the probes, selling three used oscilloscopes for only \$150., (760) 746-7209

RIGID ROLLING PIPE CUTTER up to 3 inch. \$25. (619) 987-5682

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12 High pressure laminate forming machine for a cabinet maker. Purchased new for \$5,000., used once, selling for only \$2,900., (760) 746-7209

VINTAGE SCHWINN Stingray parts, vintage BMX parts, redline Hot Wheels, etc, call for info and pricing. (619) 586-2814.

MY ENTIRE LOAD IS FOR SALE I have everything - from elegant men's clothes (many never worn) to collectibles (baseball cards, Charger gear), old school Comic-Con gear, Mr. Olympia shirts as well as general housewares. Contact me for more information. JMR45@COX.NET



NAVY BLUE SUITCASE \$35 Never used, measures 16" across by 14" high by 10" wide, 4 zippered pockets (one with lock & key), wheeled, carry strap, and laptop bag. (760) 274-4664

NEW UNOPENED 50" TV 50" ONN TV. brand new, unopened box with 3HDMI outlets. 3 available at \$200 each, reg. \$300. JMR45@COX.NET



PRINCESS HOUSE DECANTERS \$50 2 Princess House full lead crystal decanters, still in box/never used. Product number is 0498. Each are 10" high by 4.5" wide. (760) 274-4664

PRINCESS HOUSE ICE BUCKET \$35 Full lead crystal ice bucket & plastic tongs, never used/still in box, model number 874, measures 5.5" high and 6" wide. Please call/text. (760) 274-4664

JAZZY ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR Weight capacity: 600 lbs. Top speed of 4.5 mph/High-performance and efficient motor/Front-wheel drive for traversing various terrain. Key specs: turning radius: 26.50", top speed: 4.50 mph, heaviest piece: 195 lbs., battery charge distance: 15.70 miles, weight cap. (615) 267-8322 / latinamary99@gmail.com

YAMAHA KEYBOARD Yamaha PSR 225GM 61 Key

Educational keyboard with MIDI, Musi... https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00009W3N6/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_awdb_imm_11_4ZN2Fb1MFYRNJ (615) 267-8322 / latinamary99@gmail.com

CHICKEN WINGS Chicken wings plus more than ten sauces to choose from for your wings. A perfect treat for the holidays! (619) 255-1697



LUMPIAS AND PANCIT FOR FAMILY New pancit and lumpia deals: \$22 half tray pancit & 7pc lumpia. \$30 half tray pancit & 14pc lumpia. \$36 half tray pancit and 21pc lumpia. \$41 half tray pancit & 28pc lumpia. <https://www.facebook.com/deliciouslumpias/> (619) 410-9264 / deliciouslumpias@gmail.com

NEED TIRES FOR GLAMIS? Do not miss this great promotion that will last throughout the month of December, if you buy three tires, we will give you one. Call now (619) 798-9645



SANTA'S DESSERT Stuffed pastry shells with cream, strawberries, and chocolate Nutella or Hershey's syrup. A perfect dessert for this holiday season. Served from 10AM-8PM at 4154 Gamma St. 92113 (619) 577-9220

TIGER KING An original life-like sculpture of a life-size tiger head created by Charles R. Curtis, who was an artisan to Wyland. \$1150. (858) 214-8061

BEAUTIFUL FIREPLACE SCREEN Scrolled metal fireplace screen for sale. Bronze finish. Brand new in excellent condition, very clean. Get ready for the holidays, the upcoming cooler weather, and staying at home due to Covid. \$125 cash. Oceanside/Rancho del Oro. par21459@msn.com

WALL MOUNTED DISPLAY SHELVES Wood display shelf pair for sale, light green finish.

In excellent condition, like new, no scratches or damages, clean, cute! Great for a cottage or farmhouse look. \$25 cash for the pair. Oceanside/Rancho del Oro. par21459@msn.com

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



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.



12-QUART POT 12-quart pot for just \$120. If you are interested, please call (619) 995-7726.

POZOLE Pozole Oaxaqueña - \$9 per order with extra lemon, onion, tostadas, mole sauce on top, pork meat, and yerba santa alaoaxaqueña@gmail.com

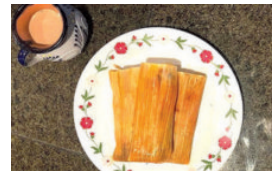


CONVECTION/RADIANT HEAT OVEN works well - cash only \$40. (Mira Mesa) favod@hotmail.com

EXOTIC LEATHER BOOTS 100% leather, size 9.5-10 US\$250 dlis each pair. (619) 548-3410

SPEAKERS BLUETOOTH LOUD Bluetooth speakers very loud (619) 850-3264.

SURF FULL WETSUITS or spring, have 2-3-4 an 5 mill good shap O'Neil, Xcel \$20-40 size M or Lg (619) 586-7736!



TAMALES OAXAQUEÑA Tamales Oaxaqueña for the holidays. Freshly made of red pork meat \$2 each. (619) 598-7042

WINTER SHAWLS, CAPES, CAPS Shawls, capes, caps, and more! Visit our Facebook page for holiday prices, send us a message and we will gladly assist you. <https://www.facebook.com/mex.made.sd/> (619) 248-2853

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

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

HUTCH/BAR Custom butternut wood, rustic New England

style finish, 2 x 8 x3 inch thick top, mirrored upper back with shelves, chair, duel bases, one of a kind, \$2,500 OBO. Peter (802) 236-5604, will deliver.

PRINTER HEWLETT-PACKARD desk jet 1000, used twice only, like new, still in box. Ideal for senior or student \$25. Telephone 1-(858) 484-4483 bargain, buy now.

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

SERVICES

LANDSCAPE PLANTS ARE ALLOWED by Governor Newsom. For sale. Lalo Of Vista Energizes. Alluadia, Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dicksonia & Euphorbia. (760) 945-7892 for appointment

CLASSIC CAR AUTO DETAILING A detail makes a great gift. Ask about gift certificates. We do washes, waxes, sealers, ceramic coatings, and interior/exterior/full details. (619) 653-0616



ELECTRICAL ISSUES W/ VEHICLE? I can fix/install electrical windows, HID lights, LEDs, stereos, alarms, amplifiers, etc. (619) 536-6897

FIX YOUR PHONE Screen repair and unlocking services @ 4771 University Ave. San Diego CA, 92105. (619) 735-5858

AUTOMOTIVE

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK

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

\$1175

+ \$8.25 Cert.

BRAKES

Front or rear. Most cars.

FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair

\$50 from Labor

OIL CHANGE & FILTER

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

\$1395

+ \$1.00 Waste Fee.

TIMING BELT

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

AXLE SPECIAL

Includes Parts & Labor

\$99

MUFFLER

from \$29 + Labor

\$29

PREMIUM SHOCKS

Monroe or KYB+ Labor

\$70 from pair

PREMIUM STRUTS

Monroe or KYB + Labor

\$130 from per pair

STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR

from \$95 + Labor

\$95

*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



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 **\$2495**

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

\$6995

Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL

from **\$17995** 4-cyl. Most vehicles.

Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil & filter change • Lube chassis Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE from **\$15995**

Parts & Labor

TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$50 off quoted price

Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.



SAN DIEGO SMOG & AUTO REPAIR CENTER

4664 Park Blvd. (at Adams Ave.)

619-543-4828 • Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 8 am-3:30 pm

www.sdsmogandrepair.com

2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE

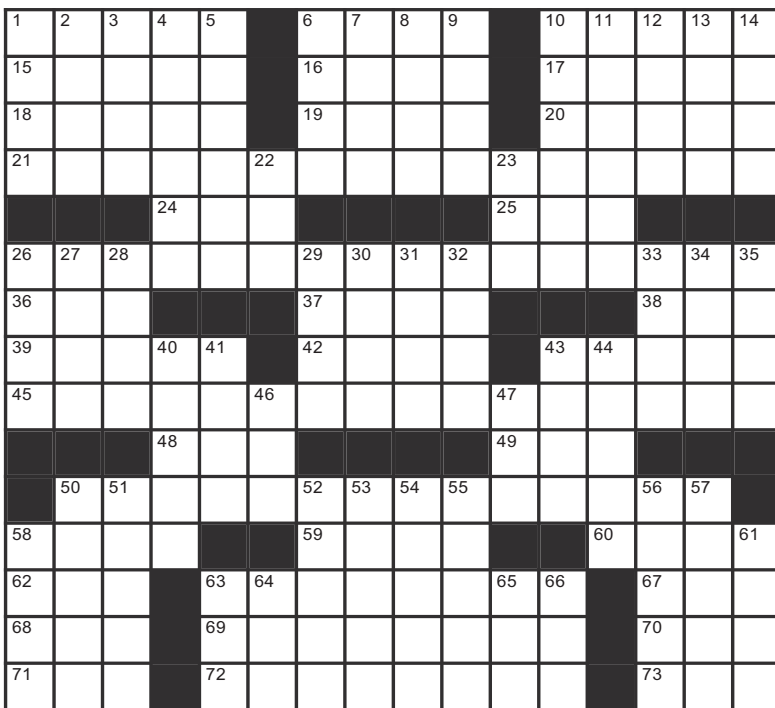
4491 Park Blvd. (Park & Monroe)

619-297-4204 • Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm

www.cliffbrownautomotive.com

Coupons must be presented prior to service. Senior discounts available.

CROSSWORD



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Across

1. Taking advantage of
6. Plumbing problem
10. Northeastern octet
15. McGregor with the Twitter handle @TheNotoriousMMA
16. "... on second thought, pass"
17. "As I'd've expected!"
18. ____ cum laude
19. "You ____ kiddin'!"
20. Prefix with phobia
21. Motto that translates to "Out of many, the actress who played Punky Brewster?"
24. "I figured it out!"
25. Wide shoe spec
26. Made tons and tons of food in a wok?
36. Scarecrow material
37. 12-time NFL Pro Bowler Junior
38. "Seinfeld" uncle
39. Company that launched Pong
42. 1970s heartthrob Garrett
43. Spanish 101 verb
45. Leaned on kids to spill the beans?
48. Junk ____
49. Suffix with market or musket
50. With 63-Across, a fast-food employee's classic query ... or this puzzle's theme
58. Portia de Rossi, to 56-Down

59. Home of 60% of the world's people
60. Screenplay structure
62. Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
63. See 50-Across
67. Put (down)
68. Below zero: Abbr.
69. Something that may be found in a belt
70. Flub
71. Dr. with Grammys
72. Cowboys, at times
73. Org. concerned with cyber threats

Down

1. Bay Area research sch.
2. Sweet companion?
3. "Waiter, there's a fly ____ soup!"
4. Dietary restriction
5. Staples of annual reports
6. Gathering of lei people?
7. Mideast leader
8. Years in the Roman Empire
9. Hoda of "Today"
10. "Be with you soon"
11. Less specific
12. Take ____ the chin
13. Light beige
14. Pillow cover
22. Back muscle, for short
23. One-eighty
26. "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" duo
27. "I could ____ horse!"

28. Diana with a record-setting swim around Manhattan in 1975
29. Manhattan, por ejemplo
30. Attachment to a fishing rod
31. Epic ____
32. Lab noise?
33. Utah resort town
34. Passion
35. British city after which the Big Apple is named
40. Change the color of again
41. "Do or do not. There ____ try": Yoda
43. Observer
44. Unit of bacon
46. Egyptian ____ (spotted cat breed)
47. NBA official
50. One may have '50s decor
51. Old enough
52. Lightbulb units
53. They're often under fire
54. Part of TNT
55. Lake in the Sierra Nevada range
56. See 58-Across
57. Goes to great heights
58. Bubble-blowing tool
61. Banks on a runway
63. ____-Mart
64. "There ____ God!"
65. Make public
66. Emmitt Smith's 175, for short

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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.

☛ **Andrew Williams, San Diego, 11.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

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.

☛ **Kathi Fisher, San Diego, 2.**

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

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

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MONU-MENTAL

Statues stored for sake of safety (and sanity)



Some members of the committee objected that the Cat in the Hat that accompanied the Dr. Seuss statue ought to be cut away and permitted to remain on display, since it was unfair to condemn the creation for the sins of the creator. But they were outvoted by others who noted that the Cat was “pure White Privilege in a bow tie. Just look at how the story starts. Dude just walks into the home of a white family and starts messing with stuff. A Black Cat would have been shot dead by the cops by page six.”

“When the City of Chula Vista opted to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus from its home in Discovery Park and place it in storage ahead of a planned protest, it got me thinking,” says Mayor Faulconer. “We have a lot of statues around San Diego, and it turns out that a lot of them are of pretty problematic people. I mean, maybe none as bad as Columbus, who committed genocide for fun and profit, but still. I gathered a blue-ribbon panel of offended people and started making lists of statues that should join Mr. Columbus, at least for the time being.

The grand El Cid in Balboa Park was an easy call; the man was a complete Islamophobe, and led campaigns that killed countless Muslims. Kate Sessions was trickier, because she was a powerful woman in a time when that was tough going, but the fact remains she imported countless non-native plants into San Diego’s ecosystem, including the ruinous eucalyptus trees that blight our native flora today. A true colonizer, that one. But even she wasn’t as tough a call as Dr. Seuss, because kids love his work. But that doesn’t excuse his anti-

Japanese propaganda during World War II. Vicious racist caricatures of a people who were being imprisoned by their own country just because of their race. Happily, Bill Walton was a no-brainer after the way he appropriated the game of basketball and stole a starting spot on UCLA’s great teams under John Wooden from some deserving young African-American. Just terrible.”

Asked whether any of the statues would ever again see the light of day, Mayor Faulconer replied with a query of his own. “Any of you guys remember the ending of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*?”

continued from page 16

That's why you came to us. And now, if you'll kindly step this way...

WM: Wait, what? Help!

[Time passes.]

O'B: Now then, let's try this again. Here is another picture from the La Mesa protest in May. Tell me what you see.

WM: I see a bank on fire in a small town that didn't know how to deal with a massive protest that used a dumb cop's shove as a flashpoint for out-of-towners outraged over George Floyd. No, wait! I see...a blow against income inequality, which helps create a permanent underclass that can be safely dismissed for racist reasons by those in power. Or, or, wait a second! I see...protest against systemic racism



"Don't think of it as torture. Think of it as exercise — stretches for your soul. No pain, no gain."

embedded in lending practices that prevent minorities from buying

homes and starting small businesses! No? Wait! I see...the first step toward

dismantling capitalism itself, a deeply racist system which concentrates

wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people, almost invariably white, at

least in this country, at the expense of and through the exploitation of the poor, who are sometimes white, but never mind them, because they are still fundamentally privileged by the color of their skin.

O'B: You're trying too hard, Mencken. You know why? Because you don't believe any of it. You just want to guess what I'm thinking, so that the pain will stop. But remember the slides from San Diego Unified. There is always discomfort when confronting your own privilege. You must learn to welcome it. As DiAngelo teaches us, "Niceness will not get racism on the table when everyone wants it off." Let's take the dial up to 60 this time, shall we? I really am looking forward to seeing what you come up with in the new year. ■

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— Police in Sarnia, Ontario, arrested two suspects after they allegedly broke into the wrong house on Dec. 11 and offered to pay damages after they realized their mistake. CTV reported that residents of the home were watching television when two unnamed 27-year-old men broke through a door, one holding a hammer, and demanded money they claimed was owed to them. They apologized and left the home after discovering their error, according to police, who quickly apprehended them.

Bad Dog

— An unnamed "pug-like" dog was found at the wheel of a family's van after it plummeted into a ditch on Dec. 9 in North Grenville, Ottawa. *The Ottawa Citizen* reported that police determined the owners had left the dog in the running car, and it probably bumped the gear shift into reverse, causing the van to slowly back up as the driver ran alongside, trying to get in. "Of course, the dog wasn't charged," said Grenville County police acting Sgt. Anne Collins.

Horsing Around

— A 25-year-old Russian man identified as Vasily was out with friends on the evening of Dec. 9 in St. Petersburg when he encountered two women riding a horse through the streets and decided he wanted to pet the horse, *Fontanka.ru* reported. He said the rider offered him a carrot to give to the horse, but "the horse turns sharply to me

and bites!" – taking off a chunk of Vasily's nose, then spitting it out. The missing piece was retrieved, and doctors were able to sew it back into place, but they expect there will be scarring. Vasily denied the police report of the incident that claimed he was drunk and tried to kiss the horse.

Nice Try

— Jin Wu, of Taiwan, told his Facebook followers on Nov. 21 about his good fortune in purchasing a PlayStation 5 the previous day, and marveled at the low price he paid for it, reported *Taiwan News*. The reason became clear when the seller revealed he had tried to pass the console off as an air purifier, but his wife wasn't fooled. "My wife wants to sell it," the middle-aged gamer told Wu. "It turns out that women can tell the difference between a PS5 and an air filter."

Bright Idea

— A Washington State Patrol officer pulled over a motorist on I-90 near North Bend on Nov. 30 after noticing the vehicle's "super dim" headlights, patrol spokesman Rick Johnson told CNN. Closer inspection revealed the unnamed driver had duct-taped flashlights to the front of his vehicle to replace the headlights, which had been damaged in a crash. Flashlights-as-headlights are illegal in Washington because they don't provide enough brightness, Johnson said, adding that the driver also had a suspended license.

Awesome!

— The British Museum on Dec. 9 announced that among the historical finds it has registered this year was a cache of 63 gold coins dating from the reign of Henry VIII, dug up by a family weeding their garden in New Forest. The coins, totaling 24 pounds and equivalent to more than \$18,000 in today's dollars, were probably buried around 1540, *The Guardian* reported. The museum has experienced an increase in garden finds this year, as Treasure Registrar Ian Richardson said people are spending more time in their gardens, "resulting in completely unexpected archaeological discoveries."

More Awesome!

— French chef Benoit Bruel in Lyon struck a blow for French cuisine by capturing the Guinness World Record for most varieties of cheese on a pizza with 254 cheeses, *United Press International* reported on Nov. 30. Guinness posted a video of Bruel making and then enjoying the pizza with friends along with its listing of the achievement, noting also that "Benoit took this as a patriotic challenge, as one of the things France is most famous for is its cheeses."

Superfan

— Houston Astros fan Darren Johnson in Fort Worth, Texas, posted photos of the chicken coop he built on Facebook in November and was "totally shocked" by the overwhelming response, he told KTRK. The coop, which Johnson estimates took about 100 hours to construct, is an exact 1/60th-scale replica of the

Houston Astrodome, including details such as an Astros logo and the numbers of all the Astros' retired jerseys, and the chickens who call it home are all named after Astros players. The social media attention "shows my kids that I'm not the only one obsessed with a stadium that's been closed for 20 years," Johnson said.

Coping

— Seattle dad and self-described travel enthusiast Steve Simao attracted a following after his daughter, Annisa, called him out on her TikTok account for his purchase of a pair of first-class leather seats taken from a Delta MD90 Jetliner, complete with an air safety card. Simao, who is vice president of sales at Windstar Cruises, found the seats on eBay in November, reported *The Washington Post*, and has had fun scratching his itch to travel with them ever since, sending his daughter videos of her mother "bringing food to the (tray) table and him just sitting there enjoying it," Annisa said. Delta CEO Ed Bastian has taken notice and given the three Simaos round-trip, first-class tickets to anywhere in the United States. Hawaii is high on their list.

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Goodie
Bag

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