

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 46 | NO. 4 | JANUARY 28, 2021

Reader

Bad trip

I never
saw
María
again

Who will win the Final Battle of Tech Overlords?

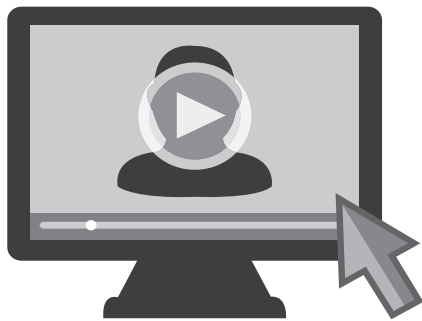


Trolley Extension

Fall 2021

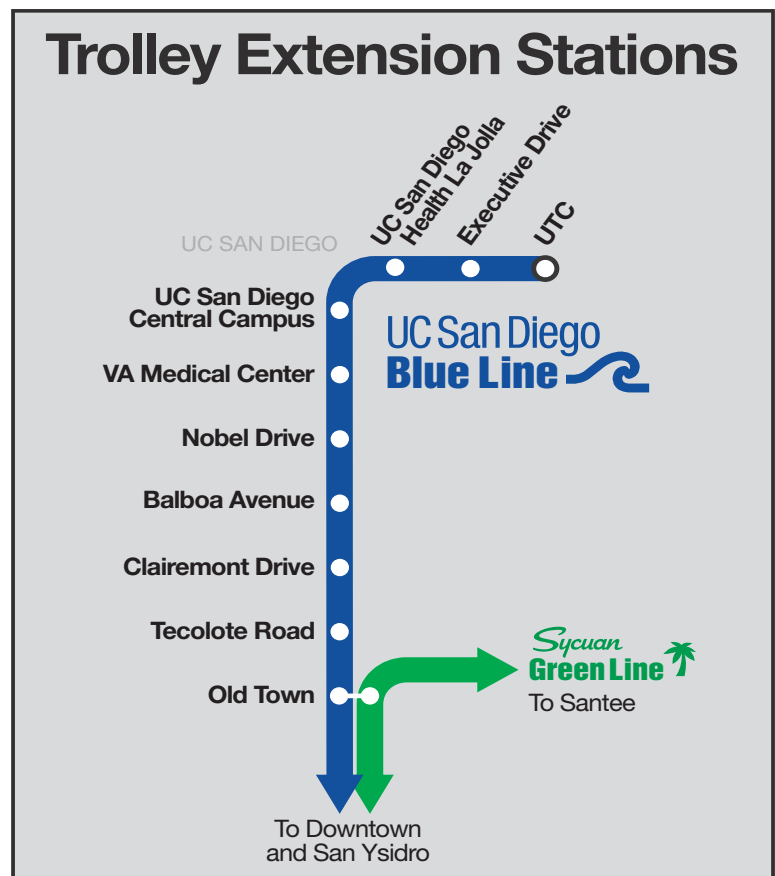
Public Input Needed!

The Trolley extension from Old Town to UTC opens this fall. Join us at a LIVE VIRTUAL MEETING to discuss proposed changes to bus routes, providing new connections to the Trolley from adjacent communities of Clairemont, Kearny Mesa, University City and the beach areas.



**Wednesday,
February 10**
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

**Tuesday,
February 16**
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Register and learn more at
sdmts.com/trolley-extension

LETTERS

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

Contagious regulation

So much of the backlash against these shutdowns could have been averted if they were approached with even one iota of nuance ("Carlsbad and Encinitas rebel against restaurant lock-downs," Cover Stories, January 20). In the spring, the shutdowns were understandable as we were all still learning about the nature of the pandemic. Months later, taking the same approach even after the relative safety of outdoor dining, is simply draconian and almost vindictive.

It seems as if Covid restrictions have taken on the same political calculus as being Tough on Crime did in the 1980s and 1990s, with officials competing over who can be the toughest. A glaring problem with their outbreak metric (and why they were so reluctant to release it, until journalists managed to expose it), is that it is anything BUT scientific.

The current metric basically defines an "outbreak" as any place that two individuals managed to be tied to over non-specific period of time. For example, if two individuals test positive, and both went to the same restaurant within 2 weeks, that place is in danger of being labelled as an outbreak location -- no matter how high the traffic is at that specific site. Correlation does not imply causation. What many state and local officials refuse to acknowledge is that you can be safe, while also allowing the economy to get moving again -- at a reduced level (just look at South Korea and Taiwan, two nations that have man-

aged to keep moving while also keeping the spread down).

The Covid threat is very, very real. I take it seriously as the husband of a physician frequently in contact with Covid patients. That being said, it doesn't take an Ivy League graduate to realize that no two public places of business necessarily share the same level of risk. Why can't county officials create a task force to investigate and identify which restaurants are relatively safe in comparison to others? This would incentivize those institutions that have been less than willing to adhere to basic safety precautions to get it together, and reward places that operate safely.

Health officials already inspect places that serve food, so it's not like the basic structure isn't already in place. A tier system that would outline how safely they operate, and subsequently dictate the nature of how they are allowed to operate in the midst of this pandemic would be an impressive and less controversial approach than these draconian measures. We all know the answer, though. Nuance takes work.

Name withheld
Normal Heights

Blindly noncompliant

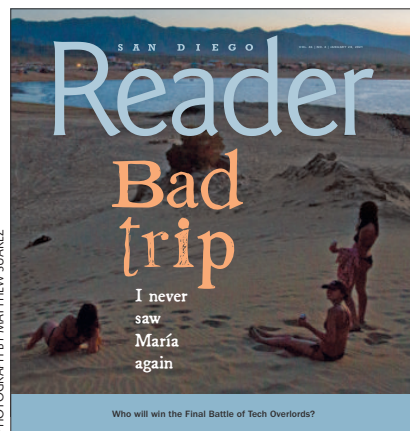
Your article entitled "Carlsbad and Encinitas rebel against restaurant lock-downs" published January 20th is one of the more biased pieces I've seen in the *San Diego Reader* in years. The author covered all of the reasons business owners are justifying violating the Health Code in a DEADLY pandemic but none of the pleas by citizens for the Carlsbad City Council to do something to protect the community. There was zero coverage of the January 19th meeting where concerned citizens countered restaurant complaints, nor did it bother mentioning the Mayor's vested interest in small business and how in the first "emergency" meet-

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San Diego Reader

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January 28, 2021



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

Beer, babes, and bikinis in Baja — page 14



Tempers flare at Gompers — page 2



Remember movie theaters? — page 29

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

CHOLLAS VIEW

Gomp and circumstance Board recants decision to deny benefits to charter starters

On Tuesday, January 12, parents and teachers from Gompers Preparatory Academy pleaded with the San Diego Unified school board to restore on-loan agreements that the district made with four of their founding staff members 15 years ago. Director Vincent Riveroll, executive assistant Paz Garcia, assistant director Lisa Maples, and Welcome Center lead Judith Franceschi were notified a year in advance that their on-loan status would be phased out July 1, 2021. They would



Trustee Kevin Beiser: "I remember when Gompers was not a charter school...The students were in control...They would throw their chairs and desks out the window."

then have to choose between keeping their jobs at the Chollas View charter school or keeping their employment with the district. Deidre Walsh, director of the district's Office of Charter Schools, stated in an October 27, 2020 memo, "As members represented by the district's labor organizations, the four on-loan employees receive district salaries and benefits, as well as other protections and benefits offered by the collective bargaining agreements. In contrast, all other Gompers employees receive Gompers salary and benefits... Ending on-loan agreements ensures all Gompers workers are treated equitably."

The January 12 board meeting was the first to include remote public comment by video. Fifteen public commenters were unanimous in asking the board to reinstate the on-loan agreements and make them good for life. The consensus was that these founders



Supporters to superintendent: why hound the founders?

were vital to the school's well-being. Parents told stories of their children graduating from Gompers and becoming the first in their family to go to college. In tears, one parent said she wanted her fifth grader to go to Gompers and wanted it to be the same school her older child benefitted from. (The school offers education for grades 6-12.)

Gompers chairman Cecil Steppe talked about the violent, failing school that Riveroll was asked to turn around in 2004. "We either had to correct the behavior and outcomes at Gompers or the state would have to take over... That's when you as a board asked [the four founders] to enter into on-loan agreements to do this important work [of turning Gompers into a charter] but retain their benefits. They honored your request, and did so with the assurance of indefinite return rights. After 15 years of success, and after four previous superintendents honored this agreement, why is our superintendent revoking these rights? Why now?"

After public comment, board trustee Richard Barrera motioned to delay the item to a future board meeting and questioned why these staff needed to remain employed by the district. Trustee Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, who represents Gompers in District E, countered, "If we did [make that commitment], then like it or not, we should honor that... for the tenure of these four employees." Trustee Kevin Beiser agreed with her. He said, "I remember when [Gompers] was not a charter school... The students were in control... They would throw their chairs and

desks out the window. You couldn't hire a teacher. They would quit before 10 am their first day." Trustee Sabrina Bazzo, new to the board, said, "I feel like there's a lot of attention being paid to just four staff members out of a huge district, and we have so many other important issues... that we're spending a huge amount of time on what is only affecting...

"We either had to correct the behavior and outcomes at Gompers or the state would have to take over."

those four people." Then she stated she wanted to spend more time figuring out why Gompers "can't support" their employees. Beiser responded, "These pioneers had the courage to go to this school and turn it around... Let's make an exception for four people who've made a phenomenal impact on the lives of thousands of children in San Diego."

Eventually, Barrera changed his mind and decided to approve the lifetime on-loan agreements. But before the vote was taken, his tone changed to that of a parent scolding a child. "I hope the Gompers board has heard loudly and clearly that as this board moves



"It didn't matter to the union leaders that 86% of teachers wanted it."

forward to honor the ability of four of your employees to continue to be employees of this district with full union representation and union-negotiated benefits that we are not unaware that you have been found by the Public Employee Relations Board to have committed unfair labor practices... As this board moves forward to do the right thing for your community... [we have] an expectation that you will do the right thing by your own employees." The board then voted 5-0 to reinstate on-loan agreements for as long as the four work at Gompers. Afterward, Gompers visual arts teacher Mary Davis said, "When Barrera said there was an unfair labor practices judgment, he left out the fact that the case was never heard (the school lost on procedural grounds) and is now up for appeal."

Parallel to the controversy over on-loan agreements has been controversy and division at Gompers over the recent introduction of a union at the school, as Joe Deegan reported for the *Reader* last August. Davis said, "Barrera knew there was a union at my school before I knew. I found out there was a union from a letter Barrera put in my mailbox. What does that signify?" She continued, "100% of support staff, 86% of teachers and

824 parents and community members signed a petition to support reinstating the on-loan agreements. Numerous staff sent letters to the Gompers Teachers Association saying, 'With 86% of union members wanting to support the founders, would you please send a letter of support on our behalf?' They refused. It didn't matter to the union leaders that 86% of teachers wanted it. I respect someone's personal decision not to sign a petition, but when your members as a supermajority are asking you, and [as the union] you refuse, that's questionable. This moment could have been a phenomenal unifying event bringing everybody together. If the union had sent a letter to the school board supporting our founders, it could have healed and brought back trust. But the union was formed by disgruntled teachers, some of whom have already left. That's what I say about the belief system. You don't leave if you really believe in Gompers' students' first mission."

Chemistry teacher Dr. Kristie Chiscano said, "This is what you call a heavy lifting job. You take a class two grade levels below and you have to get them college ready. You are a parent, a teacher, a supervisor and a counselor. It's not for everybody. We're in this marathon and we're not done yet. There's so much more the school wants to do and the community wants to see happen."

ERIC BARTL

continued on page 6

There's Goldstein on them thar boards!

Questionable developments in stem cell research following Prop 14 passage

During fall's ballot battle for Proposition 14 — which furnished another \$5.5 billion in state bond funding to keep the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine afloat — it seemed to many like UC San Diego Health neuroscientist Larry Goldstein was on the campaign trail full time. “Not only have a number of therapies been developed and proven to be useful, but we have numerous experimental therapies in progress,” Goldstein, who had gotten \$21 million in research funding from the institute, told San Diego public TV station KPBS in October.

Opponent Jeff Sheehy, a member of the institute's board since its founding in 2004 with the first round of voter-approved debt provided by that year's Proposition 71, begged to differ. “We've moved good research forward. We've done good work. So, I don't think the question is whether the work is good or not. The question is, did we ever talk about CIRM being something that would be funded forever with debt? And we did not. It was supposed to pay for itself, and it hasn't, and it needs to come back.”

Sheehy isn't the only former insider to voice doubts about the controversial funding renewal, which was so narrowly passed by California voters that victory wasn't confirmed by the Associated Press until November 12, nine days after the election. “Unfortunately, Proposition 14 sets a bad example for the use of public money for the advancement of science,” neurobiologist Zach Hall, the institute's president from 2005 to 2007, told *Nature* following the election. Added Arlene Chiu, the institute's ex-director of scientific activities, “As scientists, everybody always welcomes additional funding. But as a Californian, one wonders if there are better ways to do this.”

Since Prop 14's victory, Goldstein has been fighting back against his critics, writing in a January 15 editorial published by the journal *Science*, “The lives of many patients have improved because of CIRM. Notably, many CIRM-funded clinical trials rely on human embryonic or fetal stem cells, whereas the federal government currently does not fund any clinical trials using these types of cells.”

But criticism, centered on conflicts of interest created by the stem cell institute's practice of giving away millions of dollars to institutions with affiliated



Goldstein got the gold; now he's getting grief.

board members, has continued. “There were too many cases in which the ethics were strained to the limit,” Jeanne Loring, a Scripps Research geneticist who has gotten \$22 million for research from the institute, told *Nature*. And two weeks ago, Goldstein himself gained a seat on the stem cell institute's board, ending a 16-year history of absents direct funding recipients as members, per *Capitol Weekly*. “CIRM has accepted a board member who has personally received some \$22 million in CIRM grants, and whose institution has received far more,” Marcia Darnovsky, executive director of the Center for Genetics and Society in Berkeley, told the *California Stem Cell Report*. “Proposition 14, which just last fall gave CIRM another \$5.5 billion of public funding, should have been a chance for the agency to turn over a new leaf, but it made none of the changes that could have addressed the agency's built-in conflicts or other structural problems. Now it appears that CIRM will continue to flout basic principles of good governance, despite being a public agency wholly funded by public dollars. This is a real and ongoing problem.”

Noted the *California Stem Cell Report* in a January 11 account: “Goldstein is barred by CIRM rules from applying for grants. The agency said yesterday that Goldstein has stepped away from his research with the exception of one project.” Critics, however, continue to point to Goldstein's new board role as an example of the institute's ongoing conflict of interest dilemma, as cited by the Institute of Medicine in a 2012 analysis commissioned by the institute. “Far too many board members represent organizations that receive CIRM funding or benefit from that funding. These competing personal and professional interests compromise the perceived independence of (the CIRM governing board), introduce potential bias into the board's decision making, and threaten to undermine confidence in the board.”

Matt Potter

CALIFORNIA STEM CELL REPORT

UNDER THE RADAR

GEO riot The Western Region Detention Facility in Downtown's aging ex-county jail is looking for a new Chief of Security to make “improvements in security operations without compromise to the safety and security of the client population or staff.” Run by Boca Raton-based private prison operator GEO Group for the U.S. Marshals Service, the detention center faced a crisis this fall when 86 detainees turned up COVID-19 positive, according to a November 2 report by TV station KGTV. In addition, 64 GEO employees tested positive for the deadly virus.

But handling the pandemic hasn't been the facility's only problem. A decrepit prisoner intake system sometimes leaves police prisoner drop-offs idling outside, with potentially dangerous outcomes. The jail's chief of security, per an online job notice, “plans and responds to emergency situations, directs searches for escaped offenders,” and “participates in the formulation of escape and riot control plans.”

A botched prisoner handoff by the FBI to the detection facility caused a September 5 riot when the inmate escaped custody through the rear door of a car that was “waiting at the gate of the facility,” per a September 7 FBI news release. “The agents pursued her into a large crowd of individuals who were participating in an unrelated protest at Front and B Streets,” said the Bureau's account of the incident, captured on video and widely viewed on social media. “The agents regained contact with the woman and attempted to walk

back to the vehicle but were immediately surrounded by the crowd. Individuals began to actively interfere with the agents' lawful authority to take the woman into custody by pulling at the agents and the woman. During the incident, the woman appeared to become distressed, and an individual began to render aid. The crowd then encircled the woman and physically blocked the agents' access to take custody of the woman or otherwise assist her. Based on the size of the crowd and their response to the two law enforcement agents, the agents returned to their vehicle in order to deescalate the situation and request additional assistance. The agents remained at the scene and coordinated the transport of the woman to a local hospital for further evaluation. The FBI has opened an investigation into the matter.”

Million-dollar DROP-out With controversy still bubbling over the impending DROP retirement of police chief **David Nisleit**, another top official has taken advantage this month of the city's so-called deferred retirement option plan. The program, which was cut off for new employees in 2005, allows workers who signed up the ability to collect pre-retirement cash in a special account, so long as they agree to retire within five years of their enrollment.

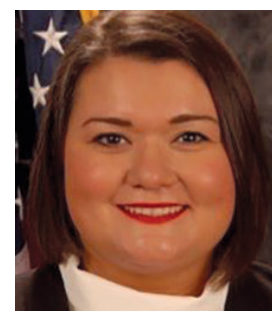


Police chief David Nisleit flashes the sly grin of a man who knows who to work the system for his financial benefit.

Nisleit, who has three-and-a-half years to go, reports the *Union-Tribune*, has already banked \$368,700 in his DROP account. Nisleit's predecessor, **Shelley Zimmerman**, had \$904,867 in her DROP account when she retired in 2018, according to the website *TransparentCalifornia.com*, bringing her total retirement payout that year to a handsome \$1,045,788. In 2019, Zimmerman's regular annual pension paid her

\$172,418. The ranks of DROP retirees grew by 30 this month, based on a roster of new DROP retirees posted online by the San Diego City Employees Retirement System, containing the name of ethics commission former executive director **Stacey Fulhorst**. In 2019 Fulhorst collected a total of \$223,810 in pay and benefits, and the year before got \$221,361, according to *TransparentCalifornia.com*. No DROP balances were immediately available.

Developer schooling San Diego Democrat **Vivian Moreno** is the latest city



San Diego councilwoman Vivian Moreno is the latest local politician to jump into the charity-as-lobbying game.

council member to request that a company with business at city hall make a charitable donation on her behalf. A disclosure filing last year showed that National Enterprises paid influence peddler **Cynthia Eldred** \$3000 to lobby regarding “drainage and/or construction plan changes for property along the western side of Harvest Road between Otay Center Drive and Siempre Viva Road in the Otay Mesa

Community.” According to that document, Eldred pitched both **David Karlin** of the city attorney's office and **Edric Doringo** of the Development Services department about the project. City campaign filings show that Enterprise employees, including company president **David Wick** and property manager **Diane Kirma**, came up with a total of \$2150 for Moreno's 2018 city council bid.

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Ask A HIPSTER

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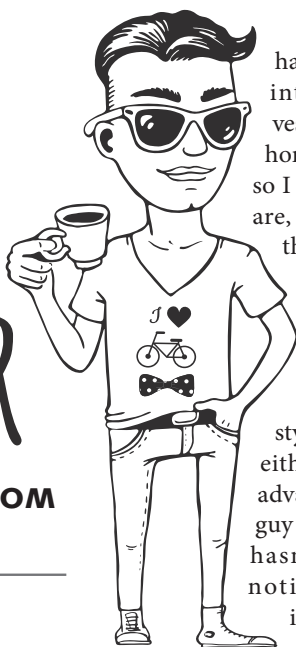
Dear Hipster:

When the big tech oligarchs who now clearly control everything turn on each other in a violent struggle to become CEO of the World, who do you see coming out on top? Tim Cook seems a little old and frail for what will certainly shape up to be a younger man's fight. Mark Zuckerberg looks like he's got a weak chin. Elon Musk has a kind of devil-may-care, bad-ass vibe, but is it all an act put on by a scared little boy? Jack Dorsey looks like a "full patch" Hells Angel these days, but that could be just the beard. Pre-beard, he looked a bit like Mr. Bean. I think a good bet could be Sundar Pichai of Google. He grew up in India, which automatically makes him tougher than the aforementioned gang of American college boys. And his background is in engineering and materials science, which somehow sound more intimidating than mere coding. Or is there a dark horse I haven't mentioned here? Please answer before Big Tech deplatforms you.

— WINSTON SMITH, FIVE POINTS

At first, this question resurrected fond memories of watching *Celebrity Deathmatch* on MTV back in the day and falling into a totally unreasonable and juvenile rage when my chosen celebrity didn't "win" the claymation battle. Then I thought about how the inevitable fall of western liberal democracy will probably lead to some form of corporate plutocracy as a surrogate for conventional government, which really sucked all the joy out of my nostalgic trip down memory lane.

A lot of these tech CEOs appear to

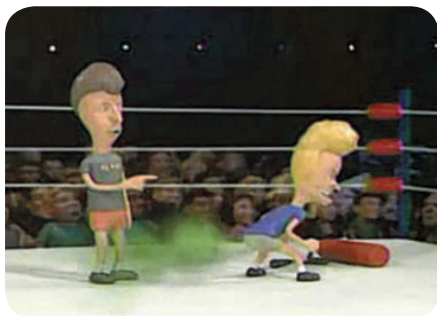


have turned themselves into glorified storage vessels for human growth hormone in recent years, so I tend to wonder if they are, as a practical matter, theoretically unkillable.

Might Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos actually be able to heal himself of any injury in real time, Wolverine-style? If so, it would give either of them a serious advantage over a younger guy like Zuckerberg, who hasn't yet flirted with notions of chemically induced immortality.

Depending on how broad you cast this net,

I wouldn't write off any of the alt-right microblogging social media guys. They're probably too small to be contenders, but what do you want to bet the CEO of Gab sleeps with a few homemade AKs under his



A preview of the fall?

bed? If you ask me, it's a phallic thing with these guys and their exotic weaponry displayed in crushed velvet cases, but if it came to a true battle for CEO of the World, you wouldn't want to rule them out. Then again, maybe they're all talk in the

long run. Like I said, it's a phallic thing with them.

Of course, if this *were* an episode of *Celebrity Deathmatch*, there would only be one way it could end. Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are perpetually stabbing each other and healing their wounds, and all the white power dudes are blogging about their homemade guns and trying to dox Mark Zuckerberg, who responds by deleting their accounts which leaves them super depressed because now they can't stalk their ex-girlfriends anymore. This goes on for a while till Elizabeth Holmes breaks out of prison by crawling through a *Shawshank*-style sewer pipe that she convinces everyone else to dig for her, and she swoops in on the battle and straight drains everyone's souls out through their eyes. She teams up with Martin Shkreli, because they're both members of the same prison gang, and somehow we end up believing we're all better off for it.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

ing he was cheering on violators who spoke in favor of ignoring Health Orders. It was lazy reporting at best, and purposefully empathetic to noncompliant restaurants at worst. This should have been an opinion article, perhaps written from an indoor table at Vigilucci's!

Sherri Sullivan
Carlsbad

**Comments from
SDReader.com — not
edited for punctuation,
spelling, or grammar.**
**"Carlsbad and Encinitas
rebel against restaurant
lock-downs"**
**Cover Stories
January 20**

It is interesting to listen to these restaurant owners talk about how concerned they are about their employees. Restaurant owners for decades have fought any raise in minimum wage. Most do not pay any benefits. Many take advantage of part-time laws. More that a few employ illegal immigrants and pay cash under the table. Some hold back tips. All fight like crazy any employee attempt to unionize. Now they are concerned about their employees?

—AlexClarke

**"San Diego Unified
revokes then reinstates
benefits for Gompers
Prep founders"**
**Neighborhood News
January 18**

This sort of fumbling and bumbling has characterized the district for years. Supes come and go but the ineptitude carries on. Now the current supe, who has many detractors, is joining the Biden team in DC. That's a perfect example of someone being "kicked upstairs." Just what has she done, other than survive her hot seat, while in charge? Ans: Nothing notable that I can identify. But now she can bring her limited competence to the national stage, and foul up there. Isn't it odd that Riveroll, with his

gold-plated benefits package doesn't extend the same deal to his own teaching and classified staff? Claiming that Gompers Charter can't afford to do that rings hollow. If anyone ever wanted to know the payoff of setting up these quasi-independent charter schools, this tells it all. Pay the teachers less, no tenure protection, and less pay and benefits. Why would any teacher, administrator or classified employee want to work for a charter school?

—Visduh

I am sick at heart to read this report about de facto Superintendent of Schools Richard Barrera, (actually a trade unionist and four-term school board shoo-in for lack of election opponents,) going after Vince Riveroll, founding head of Gompers Preparatory Charter School and three other staffers. Barrera threatened to renege on lifetime on-loan employment commitments from San Diego Unified School District to people who have devoted their professional lives to creating a rare seriously academic secondary school in southeast San Diego. I well remember the transformation of Gompers from a low-performing dispirited and dangerous place to a charter school with strong community support, volunteer commitments from UCSD educators and a talented, devoted, charismatic leader in Vince Riveroll. Charter schools are legal public schools, but when they are successful, they become targets of teachers' union opposition and harassment if not union takeover. Barrera attempted a union win in this shameful end-run.. Gompers Preparatory is one of the most effective charter schools in our city. Under Principal Vince Riveroll, Gompers actually educates its students, encourages them to attend college, follows them along the way, works positively against tremendous socio-economic odds at every turn.

—monaghan

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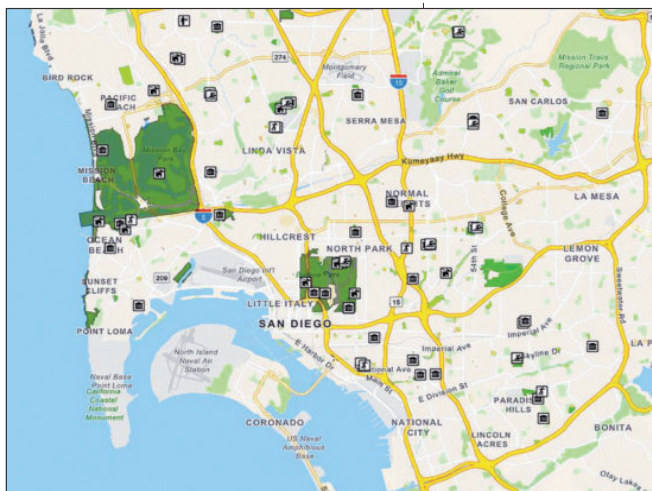
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Open space open for business

Dept. of Parks and Recreation and business and worship and dining and...

City parks will temporarily make room for certain brick and mortar businesses to carry on outdoors — against Gov. Gavin Newsom's regional stay-at-home order.

Two weeks ago, the San Diego City Council passed an emergency ordinance to aid the local economic recovery by waiving permit fees for gyms, fitness classes, restaurants, and others displaced by the pandemic — including places of worship — to operate on public parkland. Since November 10, the city has been in the state's purple tier, meaning that several restrictions are in effect because the region's intensive care unit capacity has fallen below 15 percent. (Southern California now has zero percent ICU capacity.) The restrictions prohibit nonessential businesses from being open indoors. Outdoor gyms, however, are considered part of the essential workforce because they help to maintain health, and are allowed to operate as long as there is physical distancing. Churches can also operate outdoors with modifications. Restaurants, however, are currently barred from even outdoor operations. Last week, the city of Encinitas stopped issuing temporary permits for outdoor dining until the state order is lifted.



San Diego has more than 450 parks.

The new ordinance expands on one proposed last July by councilmember Chris Cate, adding more types of businesses and not simply postponing fees, but dropping them altogether. Karen Dennison, assistant director of the city's parks and recreation department, said the ordinance is based on Mayor Faulconer's executive orders 10, 11 and 12, the latest issued on Dec. 30, and that the city will carry out their terms. "What is different from executive order 10 is that we have included certain businesses" in order to

expand the opportunity for other San Diego entities to take advantage of the program, she said.

Only businesses with an existing storefront are eligible. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Social distancing and other local, state and federal Covid-19 guidelines will apply. Fees will be waived until indoor operations can resume, or until December 31, 2021, whichever comes first. Those fees are: for grounds use, \$58 - \$173 per day; adult outdoor fitness, \$44 per quarter; special events application fees, \$150 per event; and special events late fees, \$10 per day (max. \$600). There have been 105 permits issued to use public parkland since the initial ordinance last year. A large number were for adult fitness in community parks.

While the city has more than 450 parks, they're not spread equally. Lower-income communities such as Logan Heights and National City are considered "park poor." Councilmember Vivian Moreno, whose district includes Logan Heights, said many communities in District 8 are densely populated with families who live in apartments and condos, and who don't have a lot of green space. "The city parks serve as their backyard." Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera questioned how businesses in park-poor areas would fare, and asked that the city submit information to the environment committee on the businesses that end up using the park permit. "We want to make sure the folks there can take advantage of this program as much as any other business," said Elo-Rivera.

SHEILA PELL



What a lovely place for a (for-profit) picnic!

THE ART WORLD

Sand One sandbagged Muralist's work bitten in TJ, tagged in San Diego

On January 5, the artist Sand One pulled into an undisclosed Tijuana strip mall and aimed her camera at the sign for an eyelash extension salon. She zoomed in on the woman's

"When I was younger, I painted signs on the streets of Los Angeles and other cities to be able to earn a living,"

face painted on the sign — specifically, her larger-than-life pupils and exaggerated eyelashes. "Who the f-ck do you think this is?" She then asked her 224,000 Instagram followers. "I'm so mad.... How do we sue someone in Mexico?" And while most commenters on Sand One's social media were positive, some naysayers were critical of her exaggerated doll features, while others said her designs are easy to "bite," and blamed the signmaker rather than the Tijuana business.

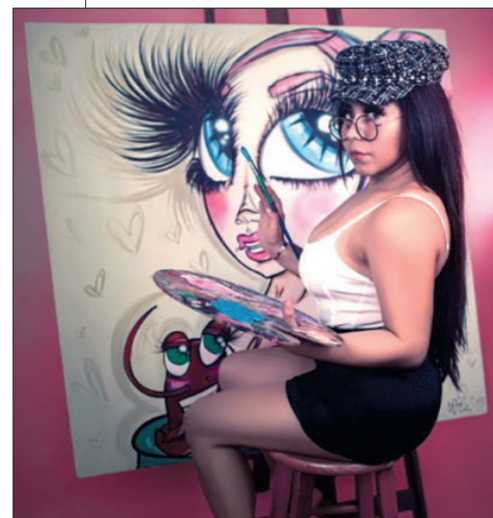
Back on this side of the border, I reached out to well-seasoned artists with a screenshot from Sand One's Instagram account, depicting a side-by-side image of her doll and the Tijuana-rendering. Briskone, a local muralist who's painted around the world, responded. "She worked for years developing her trademark style, and having someone bootleg it isn't right. The similarities are obvious: the way the head is tilted, the hair, the colors, etc. I saw Sand One at Art Basel a few years back; she paid her dues. I believe people should be called out for biting. Originality is something that should be defended and respected."

The Los Angeles graffiti muralist turned "art mogul" and I spoke on January 18, as she finished her fifth spraypainted, eight-foot doll-face mural in Mexico City in a little over a week. "I came home to the motherland, which

is Mexico City for me. I'm painting on the street at no charge and just painting for the love of art, and then I'll go back to my real life" in Los Angeles, where she owns and runs two art galleries. One of her works was a backdrop for an outdoor eatery in Mexico City. She posted a photo of the project, showing herself sitting next to the woman who managed the spot. "When I was younger, I painted signs on the streets of Los Angeles and other cities to be able to earn a living," reads the caption. "I painted to give my mother money, and what was left, I used to paint dolls, and to pay for the expenses of my designs that I was creating with my clothing line. I'm the mother of these dolls, and I have carried them."

But just because some of the paintings are free doesn't mean they are free to use. "I already had this issue with this lady in 2017, where she was directly grabbing the dolls from my websites and social media, and putting them on her propaganda, and not changing the look of my doll. And recently, I saw my doll on this sign. This one had some changes and tweaks,

and she added her business logo, but it's still my doll." Earlier this month, she says, she "went inside and spoke to the employee, but maybe that was the owner. I said, 'Listen, we had an issue before. Please tell the owner that she needs to stop and have her make her own doll.



Briskone: "I saw Sand One at Art Basel a few years back; she paid her dues. Originality is something that should be defended and respected."

And if not, I'm going to open a lawsuit if this continues.' My dolls have been trademarked; that specific doll in Tijuana is my Smooth Hustler doll. But the lady there was oblivious to the situation and said, 'I have no idea who you

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

The 3400-square-foot townhouse at 195 Cherry Avenue is billed as the first of three newly-constructed, “Frank Lloyd Wright inspired” condominium units erected last year, just a block inland from Tamarack Beach in Carlsbad.

According to listing materials retrieved from Zillow, this “iconic masterpiece” was “built as a luxury legacy to last a lifetime.”

“A private entrance to a brownstone staircase leads you to hand-



If only Frank Lloyd Wright could have lived to see the era of condos by the beach.

made mahogany doors surrounded within real stone on the exterior,” the listing continues. Upon entering, a wood-paneled stairwell made

of “Traditional Walnut and Birdseye Maple” that “sweeps through every floor of this Fung Shui [sic] four-story home” leads down to

the garage or up to the bedroom levels. Of course, you could also take the private elevator “equipped with an auto cage and phone”

to get everywhere from the semi-subterranean garage to the rooftop deck.

An “extravagant great room with soaring 15’ ceilings” is the unit’s centerpiece, as it “provides the modern open concept with the warmth of a traditional home thanks to Birdseye Maple encircling the interior.” There’s a floor-to-ceiling Italian Travertine fireplace that serves as both centerpiece and transition to the dining area, and rich-grained marble tile flooring that extends throughout the house. Fold-away doors, meanwhile, “extend your living space onto the spacious balcony with a gorgeous pre-stained and coated mahogany ceiling.”

Of course there’s room for a “well-

appointed chef’s kitchen,” with a Wolf commercial-sized range, Subzero built-in refrigerator with paneling to match the much-vaunted traditional walnut and Birdseye Maple, and a wall-mounted dual “steam oven” that, per the manufacturer, “detects the volume, shape, and consistency of your food with a climate sensor that adjusts time” and includes 50 “gourmet” presets to minimize the effort and skill involved in meal prep.

Moving upstairs to the owners’ suite, which occupies nearly 800 square feet of living space on its own, you’ll find another fireplace, this one with “remote controlled settings and blower fan, custom

continued on page 13

Street Style

BY SAMANTHA ST. PIERRE

All kinds of boob support

Women everywhere are boycotting bras during quarantine. Certain bras, anyway: classic underwire has been traded for comfortable bralettes and sports bras. Looking to add to my own collection, I asked around for recommendations.

Regarding bra comfort, 32C doesn’t hold back her feelings. “Burn ‘em! Underwire? Devil wires. Who needs them?” I know I’m on the right track. “I am obsessed with sports bras. They’re way more



LEFT: “I ONLY WEAR SPORTS BRAS THESE DAYS.” TOP RIGHT: LOUNGE COMFORTABLY IN CALVIN KLEIN. BOTTOM RIGHT: SET ACTIVE BRAS ARE PRICIER BUT WORTH IT.

comfortable and I feel more supported. I fully support all kinds of boob support.”

She sends me a link to her favorite find. “There is one from Lemony on Amazon (about \$17) with a million 5 star reviews. It’s like a tank top, but I wear it as a bra.”



My 34DD friend is on the same page. “I begrudgingly put on my laziest bralette when I leave the house. Unless I’m going somewhere that doesn’t require me getting out of the car — then no bra. I get covid tests sans bra.” When she must strap up, her go-to bralette is

scoop neck style with light padding (Target, about \$15). “It has light cups, just so the nip doesn’t show through. It’s a stretchy material, no clasps. A sports bra for people who don’t move much.”

Another friend confirms that she’s also over wearing traditional bras. “I can’t remember the last time I wore one, especially since I’m in oversized sweaters and hoodies every day anyway,” says 32B. “I only wear sports bras these days. That way I can work out right after I clock out. Otherwise, I get really lazy and don’t end up working out.”

She likes SET ACTIVE sports bras because they are very stretchy, comfortable, and stylish. “Their stuff is on the pricier side, but worth it in my opinion. You’re paying for quality. I know these sports bras will last me for years.” She bought a pair of ribbed one-shoulder bras plus a square-neck bra for \$29.25 each during a Black Friday sale. “They have various sales throughout the

continued on page 13

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There is nothing so terrible that a wedding planner can't make something of it.

Couching my approach to 2021

My boys found a couch by the side of the road that was neither falling apart nor inundated with animal hair, and so they carried it home. We don't have room for it, but never mind; scrounging and scavenging are family traditions. Their old man snagged the two flatscreen TVs they use for video games from the side of the road. (The larger of them had been put out with a neighbor's trash; she later told me that her daughter said it was broken. The boys think that meant the girl had lost

it — someday. In the meantime, the wife likes to lounge on it when she enjoys her postprandial cigarette. American Spirit, sky blue, one a day so she can tell herself she's not really a smoker. Except for the times when she has half a cigarette more, and tucks the unsmoked portion behind the statue of Saint Joseph in the stoop's corner. The next night, there it is, waiting for her. Last night, I sat with her, drinking while she smoked, taking in the silhouettes of the neighborhood trees. It was a good moment for taking stock of the year's slow start — slow in no small part due to a bout of covid that

Covid is a stark reminder that in the midst of life we are in death — and vice versa.

the remote.) Ditto the long white bureau upon which those TVs rest. Ditto, for that matter, the sturdy old IKEA futon frame that serves as their gaming couch. (Found that one free on Craigslist to anyone who would come and cart it away.)

This new couch, pale green with a gracefully curving back, sat in the front yard for a couple of days; my daughter liked to stretch out on it and sun herself as she strummed her ukulele. Then the rains came, and it got crammed onto the front stoop. It can't stay there. For starters, it blocks three-quarters of the front door. More importantly: for all my scavenging and trash-picking, there remain some things that simply aren't done. Placing an indoor couch in an outdoor setting, especially one as public as a home's entrance, is one of them. It goes back to growing up in a depressed town where sagging front porches collected all manner of thing: busted appliances, ruined furniture, and boxes and boxes of detritus, moldering in the upstate New York damp.

So, we'll have to do something with

hit me in late December. A final f-you from 2020, and a reminder that the virus, like the rest of nature, doesn't care about your calendar. Happy New Year, except it's the same old you with the same old sickness.

It hardly seems worth writing about, given how devastating it's been for so many, and how mild it proved for me. I lost my sense of taste for four days or so, which upset me much more than it should have. I had trouble with both sleeping and thinking, which meant that I spent New Year's Eve watching one-two-three-four Sean Connery Bond films back to back for free on YouTube. The experience made for an easy New Year's resolution: enough with the old Bond films. At a certain point, the nostalgia starts to curdle.

(Speaking of dogs returning to their vomit and fools reverting to their folly: I quit Twitter as well, just a few days ahead of the President. I had grown too fond of watching people tweak their fellow Americans for their sad and sundry hypocrisies. I did, however, allow myself a rueful chuckle when I read a January

5 news item about the Otay Mesa arrest of a 43-year-old Mexican national who had been deported years earlier after sexually assaulting two children. A genuine Bad Hombre, just the sort of person Trump was going to keep out with his wall. That unfinished work seems like a fitting monument.)

Covid left me fagged out and foggy for longer than I thought it would, but it's not like I had to go to the hospital to get help breathing. It's not even like I had to plan a wedding, because oh yes, there is love in the time of covid, social distancing or no. The wife spent last Saturday morning packing her excellent cole slaw into hundreds of clear plastic boxes for a friend's slantwise wedding reception. Guests were provided with a to-go lunch, cole slaw included, and if they decided to stay in the private, parklike setting to eat it, that was their call. Another friend's reception provided wristbands: you wore green if you were okay with hugs and handshakes, yellow if you were okay with talking but not touching, and red

if you were just "gonna wave from six feet." I didn't attend, but I heard that some people wore both green and red — because it's a wedding, and there are probably going to be a few people you'd just as soon avoid like the proverbial plague.

Covid is a stark reminder that in the midst of life we are in death — and vice versa. Which is probably why I started noticing the dead pepper tree on one side of my long driveway, and the way its witch-hair tangle of twigs was intertwined with the still-very-much-alive pepper tree on the driveway's other side. Neither one belongs to me, so there's nothing to do but pass beneath the bifurcated canopy and start in on a sonnet.

*A pair of pepper trees, one live, one dead
Bestride the drive that leads to where I dwell
Their branches twine and mingle overhead
Until just which is which, I cannot tell...*

I'll work on it. In the meantime, I've got to do something with this couch — starting with getting up off of it. ■



My pair of pepper trees.

Under the radar

continued from page 3

In all, Enterprise employees have given a total of \$46,320 to San Diego mayoral and city council races since 2010, with Wick giving \$1150 to **Scott Sherman's** failed bid for mayor last year against ultimate victor Democrat **Todd Gloria**, to whom Wick gave \$100. He gave a total of \$9400 to the successful 2020 Assembly bid of then-councilman **Chris Ward**.

A behesting statement filed by Moreno on January 13 says of National's \$5000 contribution. "Check sent to SY Women's Club at CM Moreno's request," for "scholarships to San Ysidro students for higher education."

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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Street style

Continued from page 8

year, so it's easy to score their bras and workout leggings for much cheaper, like I did!"

Similarly, 34C sticks to her brands. "I end up going with Calvin Klein just based on past experience. I've always liked their 'lounge' bras." The last set she purchased was a two-pack of spaghetti strap, V-neck bras sold at Costco (about \$15-20). "They've got those bikini pad inserts that you can leave in or remove, which I also like." They're a perfect fit for her new work-from-home lifestyle. "Definitely not something for true support or working out. More like a 'contain the girls while lounging at home' vibe." ■

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

lighting, and built-in storage. A photo note adds that the fireplace even comes with "built-in sound!" The space is completed by a large walk-in closet, automated curtains, and an en-suite bath with separate shower and freestanding tub where the ever-present marble tile even extends up the walls to the ceiling.

Each of the home's three bedrooms, including a ground floor guest suite with garage or street-level access, is outfitted with its own bath featuring "heated floors, Newport Brass fixtures [a single faucet in this line can cost nearly \$1000], and full

tilled showers."

Outside, there's a private rooftop deck with water, gas, and power installed to accommodate a new owner's outdoor kitchen, spa, or other entertainment options when the one-block walk to the beach is just too far.

Other design elements include hardy construction materials to withstand seismic threats and the corrosive nature of the sea air, including steel frame construction, "hardwood windows with powder coated aluminum and coastal exterior package," and a full 1½" of concrete, plus insulation, plus sound matting between floors and neighboring walls to minimize sound between levels



Everybody always gathers in the kitchen — now they'll have room to mingle!

and units.

Despite technically being part of a condominium development, the Cherry townhome is advertised as having no homeowners' association fees. That's probably not an issue, as the eventual owners willing to pony up for the place are likely to have enough cash on hand to cover building maintenance as it becomes necessary.

Public records

show the property has bounced between a handful of developers and LLCs over the last 15 years before capital was finally raised to cover construction via a pair of loans totaling nearly \$6.4 million in 2018. After construction was completed, the property was first offered for sale in mid-August of 2020, its asking price of \$4,395,000 remains unchanged to date. ■

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Bad trip

I never
saw
María
again

We arrived at Punta Final Saturday at dawn after an arduous seven-hour trip. We left Tecate before midnight after packing the green Durango with camping gear and a shit ton of beer. The driver, a 22-year-old named Gerardo, kept himself awake with a baggie of cocaine he snorted during a bathroom pitstop at a gas station somewhere in San Felipe. In the backseat were Elmira (Gerardo's sister), Juan "Johnnie," and Natalia (the cousins). The García family. I acted as co-pilot, making sure Gerardo stayed on track as he sang reggaeton, *corrido*, and American country (the likes of Alan Jackson). Gerardo was a great driver and what in Mexico they call a "*carrilludo*" — a sort of loudmouth jokester.

Camping at Punta Final were the other García cousins, waiting for us. Angelina "Angie" (the oldest cousin), Angie's boyfriend "Yogaman" (a tanned paddle-surfing hippie in his 40s), Talía (the middle cousin), and María, the birthday girl for whom I longed.

Just a few days earlier (on a Sunday), I was sitting with Angie and María at Winchester Pub in Tijuana, drinking beers and discussing the travel plans. They were to leave Thursday at dawn

for María's birthday. Though I had been craving traveling anywhere remote in Baja, I couldn't go. I had a couple of photography gigs in San Diego that

The phone signal was spotty to
non-existent from that moment on.
Towns were very small and far between.
The rest was the Baja desert.

Thursday, and hours of editing on Friday, as well as a therapist appointment in the morning. Angie scrolled through her phone, showing pictures and

videos of the remote beach while telling stories of how wonderful and hidden it was. María insisted that I should go and meet them there any way I can.

The next day, I took María to shop for bikinis, camping gear, and more in San Diego. That same night, at Dandy del Sur bar, Angie and María introduced me to their friend Roberto, a dentist who was willing to go on the adventure (and take his car). We agreed to leave Tijuana at around 1 pm on Friday. Roberto was lacking clients due to the pandemic, and I could stay up all Thursday night editing. We exchanged numbers to coordinate the trip.

There was little communication with Roberto on Wednesday, except that he was still willing to go. I texted María my concerns. "He is going for sure," she texted. "Just relax. Bring all the drugs you can, molly and weed, or what you can get. Put it under your balls because there are military checkpoints along the way."

I texted María Thursday morning before crossing the border to find out if they were on their way. She texted back later in the day while I was working in San Diego. They had left late because Angie and Yogaman were too hungover to drive in the early morning. In between gigs, I stopped by Goldn Bloom dispensary in Southeast to buy a 1-gram cartridge for a vape pen. I also had one hit of acid that a friend left in my apartment before crossing the border to the U.S. Roberto was still not being responsive.

On Friday, after finishing the edit of the pictures and going to therapy, I texted Roberto that I was ready to go. My therapist told me I should go and have fun but watch my feelings for María.

"I'm delayed an hour, what are you driving?" Roberto texted at noon. I thought I had made it clear that my old 2001 Suzuki was not up for the long trip. "I thought you were driving

and meeting the girls in San Felipe. My girlfriend has my car because hers is at the shop, let me see if I can get another car," Roberto texted back.

I texted María that Roberto was probably not going to make it. She replied, "Fuck him, he is a pussy. My cousins are thinking of coming. Let me link you up with Johnnie." María created a WhatsApp group with the cousins and included me. She named the group "Fear and Loathing in La Baja."

María started the chat with a sticker of the anime character Sailor Moon naked, pushing copious amounts of hearts between her legs. "Fuck you guys, you love making WhatsApp groups," replied Elmira. "Cousins, we want to see you here later today or tomorrow!" wrote María. "If Angie is still in a bad mood, there's no way I'm going," texted Elmira.



I woke up feeling refreshed, as if I just had a good night's sleep, though I napped for less than two hours. The girls were playing in the shallow water near the camp, the guys went to the store. "Take out your camera, Matt," yelled María and I snapped pictures of the girls playing and posing in the water. María's tiny black bikini did not help me in not falling more for her.

"I'm already drunk! Just come over, it will be great. We're about to lose signal. Figure it out," texted María.

The chat between cousins continued until someone asked, "How far is it?"

I replied with a screenshot of Google Maps showing it was seven hours away.

"Who is Matinas?" Gerardo wrote in response to seeing my screen name. "Just some added dude,"

I replied.

"He is a lost cousin," said Natalia, María's little sister.

The chat developed into a myriad of stickers and inside cousin jokes in which I played no part until

Johnnie said: "Most of us are still at work. We will leave before dawn at around 4:30 am."

I packed my bags and went out early drinking in Tijuana with the idea to fall asleep early and wake up at 4 am.

At 8:10 pm, Johnnie, the only cousin I had previously met, texted me in private: "Hey Matt, we decided to leave in 2 hours. Take an Uber to *Tecnológico de Olay* and we will pick up the other cousins in Tecate."

I linked up with Jonnie at 10:41 pm at the pick-up spot. I had a big green bag with my camping tent, sleeping bag, tripod, beach apparel, towel, snacks, and a 12-pack of Tecate. I had an extra backpack to hold my camera with two lenses, Chuck Palahniuk's book *Pygmy*, and extra accessories. In a small pocket of my shorts, I kept the vape pen. The acid hit I cut into four pieces and hid

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

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under my phone's case in a mini Ziploc bag.

On our way to Tecate, I learned that Johnnie was about to graduate college. He had just come back from a study abroad program in La Coruña (Spain), and he loved to party. He had a beer pong table in the trunk of the Durango. We picked up the rest of the cousins in a remote neighborhood in Tecate. Gerardo took the wheel after one last pit stop at 11:30 pm to get beer, water, and snacks. We filled up the gas tank and were on the tricky La Rumorosa highway by midnight.

We hit a big military checkpoint between Tecate and Mexicali. It was uneventful. I felt the famous hot air of Mexicali. Twelve miles before the city of Mexicali, Gerardo took the road south towards Federal Highway 5.

"Check it out, it's Amado Carrillo's crashed airplane," said Gerardo. Just a few miles south from the city, there's an abandoned plane with the nose broken, revealing the inside of the plane. An *LA Times* article from 1995 explains the crash of the famous drug dealer nicknamed "El Señor de Los Cielos."

We hit another military checkpoint on our way south to San Felipe. The soldiers made us get out of the car, did a quick inspection, asked a couple of questions, and let us go. They never checked our



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

There was a trail of feces on the upper part of the beach, more feces surrounding the animal, and still more all over its tail. It didn't seem injured or distressed. The low tide was a few yards away and inching closer every minute. I wasn't sure if she was stranded or just lazy. Confusing it with a sea cow, I named her Mumu. (Later research proved me wrong; Mumu was a female elephant seal)

pockets. "*Pinches guachos me la pelan.*" They didn't even check for the gun in my bag," said Gerardo. We weren't sure if he was joking or not.

The phone signal was spotty to non-existent from that moment on. Towns were very small and far between. The rest was the Baja desert.

We stopped at an Arco gas station at 3:43 am in San Felipe to use the bathroom and stretch our legs. Gerardo went behind the bathrooms to inhale cocaine without telling anyone but me. The rest of the cousins were having cigarettes after the bathroom break. Believing we had passed the last military checkpoint,

I took the opportunity to take a couple of hits of my wax pen.

Gerardo continued the drive south. The backseat passengers fell asleep. After a couple of hours, I started to snooze but stayed drowsily awake to try to be a good co-pilot. For the sake of a bit of comfort, I took my wallet, phone, and wax pen from my pockets and put them in my backpack. I must have closed my eyes for no more than 10 minutes, but when I opened them I saw the sign "*Revisión Militar - 750 metros.*" There was some light, but it wasn't dawn yet.

I ruffled through my bag, trying to get my wax pen, but could not find

it. Instead, I pretended to be half asleep and tried to act nonchalant.

"*Vamos a Punta Larga,*" said Gerardo when the soldier asked him where we were headed. "*Punta Final,*" I corrected Gerardo. "*Bajense todos del carro,*" said the soldier. We obliged. I stayed near the passenger side; the rest of the cousins stayed on the other side of the car. As if the soldier knew, he went straight for my bag and opened the front pocket. "*¿Qué es esto?*" The soldier asked me after finding the wax pen I couldn't find. "*Tabaco,*" I replied, well knowing he wouldn't believe my lie.

He instructed me to unscrew the top and he

inspected it. The cartridge had a small sticker of a marihuana leaf printed on it. "*¿Me crees pendejo? Esto es wax de mota.*" He gave my wax pen to another soldier, who took it to a nearby hut.

"Don't lie to me *güero* and make my job easy on me. Where are the rest of the drugs?" said the soldier in Spanish. I told him I had no more and told him my other bag was the green one. "What about the rest of them?" he asked. "I don't think so," I replied.

The other soldier came back with an extra soldier and the wax pen. He placed the wax pen near the Durango and the three soldiers instructed us to open all our bags. They examined everything in the car, going through the girls' bikinis, stretching out the sleeping bags, checking a toolbox, and more. "Grab whatever you like my man, there's plenty for all," Gerardo joked with the soldiers as they rummaged through our things. There was nothing else in the car; they never checked our pockets.

"Look, *güero*, this is not enough to get you arrested," said the main soldier, holding up the pen. "Don't lie to us. Are there any more drugs in the car? Just for this, I could call the Federales and they will process you in front of a judge. They will let you go, but I can still do that."

I told him I had nothing

else. The soldier held up the pen, and for a moment, it seemed like he was going to give it back. Instead, he gave the wax pen to the soldier next to him who was salivating at the loot and let us go.

"*Pinche Matt, con más labia y una lana te hubieran regresado tu pluma,*" said Gerardo, meaning that if I had employed better talking skills and offered the soldiers some money, they would have given my wax pen back.

"I still have cocaine in my pockets, but I never had a gun," Gerardo assured us a few minutes after the checkpoint, showing off a little baggie. "I also still have some drugs," I said. The backseat passengers scowled at me. I apologized for the whole commotion and said I was only kidding.

Just a couple of miles after the military checkpoint, there was a small Pemex gas station and a grocery store. "We're close, only like 20 more minutes," exclaimed Elmira, the only one who had been to our final destination before. We stopped by a dusty hot dog stand that was opening up outside the market and asked for directions. The guy told us to keep driving for a bit and we would see a sign for Punta Final. After driving for more than 20 minutes, we still hadn't seen a sign and decided to go back.

On our way back, I

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spotted a tire mounted on a pole with white letters that read "Punta Final." It opened to a dirt road that stretched for more than ten miles until it reached the Sea of Cortez. Halfway through, our path was blocked by a gate with instructions and a small hut next to it. A middle-aged man appeared and told us we were lucky, only 20 cars were allowed in the camp and we were number 20. He charged us 250 pesos for the night and swung open the gate.

The bay had a dozen houses; half of them looked decent, the other half looked like dusty huts with trailers. Near the water, there were a bunch of cars and people camping. At the end of the camp, the cousins spotted Yogaman's white Tacoma. We headed in that direction as two dogs barked and chased the car aggressively. María and Talía were already up outside their tent, watching the sunrise. Gerardo came up to the encampment honking, announcing that we had made it. We all gave María birthday hugs (a day late) and excitedly greeted each other. I told María the soldiers took my wax pen; she told me she lost hers the previous night. Angie and Yogaman stayed in their

tent, barely acknowledging our arrival.

We opened up some beers for breakfast as the cousins kept bothering Angie to get up. "Fuck this part of the camp, let's go over there," said Angie, finally coming out of her tent. She pointed to a remote part of the bay away from the main encampment. We threw the built tents on top of the cars. The Tacoma led the way and parked near a sign that had a car crossed out. The Durango got stuck on the sand halfway towards the other spot.

Angie took the wheel of the Durango as Gerardo and Johnnie dug the sand around the tires. Angie instructed us to take the air out of the tires. All the guys pushed the Durango out of the sand towards the Tacoma. It got stuck again and it was decided that it would be best if we left it back in the main camp. We pushed it back to the main camp and got stuck a few more times before we parked it near the original spot.

We set up the camp where the Tacoma was parked. Behind us, the rest of the encampment. In front of us, our private beach, with more than a football field of ocean floor due to the low

tide. We all grabbed beers and walked towards the ocean. The shallow water revealed small white fish, medium crabs, and a few round stingrays. To play in the deeper water, the girls grabbed an inflatable mattress (not to be used as a floatation device) and Yogaman let us play with his paddleboard.

I borrowed a snorkel from Talía as the girls decided to float away around the rocks towards another part of the beach. After playing with the snorkel for a few minutes, I felt sick and tired. I puked foam from swallowing seawater and the beers for breakfast. I walked back towards camp, grabbed my towel, and headed to a shaded spot to sleep.

I woke up feeling refreshed, as if I'd just had a good night's sleep, though I'd napped for less than two hours. The girls were playing in the shallow water near the camp; the guys went to the store. "Take out your camera Matt," yelled María and I snapped pictures of the girls playing and posing in the water. María's tiny black bikini did not help me not to fall for her.

After some pictures, I joined the girls on the water. "What's that floating

towards us?" I asked. It looked like a gigantic seal, swimming no more than 30 feet away from us. Natalia ran out of the water to get her phone for pictures; I did the same for my camera. After I snapped a couple of frames, the big sea mammal disappeared.

The guys returned from the store with ice and more beer. We told them what they had missed. We reviewed the pictures, and it was undecided if what we saw was a seal, sea cow, elephant seal, or a walrus. I said, "If it's a walrus, all we need is a carpenter and some oysters." No one understood my joke.

We continued to play in the water and drink beers. There was a big canned tuna casserole with tostadas at camp. I despise canned tuna and opted to eat some bananas that I had brought.

At around 5 pm, I told Yogaman, Angie, and María that I had a hit of acid.

Yogaman was excited to take some. As I took it out of my phone cover, María pulled out a large bag containing magic mushrooms. I put the acid back as the baggie of shrooms was passed around. Gerardo and Elmira refused to eat any, despite the peer pressure from the cousins. It was Johnnie's second time eating shrooms (his first was in Amsterdam). It was Natalia's first time. I'm not sure about Talía. Those three cousins barely ate any. The rest of the bag was eaten by Yogaman, Angie, María, and me. They didn't taste bad, and we ate more than a couple of grams each. I was excited to eat some since I hadn't done any mushrooms in over a decade. The last time was also desert camping, in Anza Borrego for my brother's birthday.

While we waited for the shrooms to kick in, the conversation shifted from circumcised versus

uncircumcised penises to race issues in America versus race relations in Mexico, to whether it was appropriate to take a dump in the ocean, to Cancún travel plans the cousins had arranged for January. We all went back to the water before the sun left us, except for Yogaman and Johnnie, who stayed at the camp pounding beers. Looking out to the horizon, I realized that the final point of the beach looked like a turtle with its tongue sticking out. The hill to my left also had a turtle shape. I thought of my late mom, because it was her favorite animal. I have a turtle tattooed on my chest (with my mom's ashes mixed in the ink). I also realized it was my first time swimming in the Sea of Cortez and my first time in the ocean since before my mother's death two years prior. I felt solemn, like the sea.

continued on page 36

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are and don't know what you're talking about."

I first met Sand One in 2017 when she spray-painted the "Tooth Fairy" doll face mural on a dentist's office wall in North Park, near the University Avenue I-805 entrance. For the last 15 years, she says she always asks for permission from the building owners or managers before "piecing" or "dolling-up" a wall. Many of the 100-plus spectators wore Sand One's gear or clinched her merch in hand: lanyards, backpacks, purses, prints, pencils, and cell accessories. But not everybody lurking that day was a fan. "The tooth fairy one is gone now," said Edwin L., the founder of the Mural a Month program in City Heights, in September. "Somebody must've found out about Sand One and defaced the whole mural. It wasn't easy to restore, so they painted over the whole thing."

Word on the North Park streets was that area taggers — not to be confused with art-muralists — disapproved of the tooth fairy mural. Of the 30 or so murals on University and El Cajon Boulevard between the 805 and the 15 that Edwin has contracted, none was tagged like Sand's piece. "I was sad when I heard about that," says Sand One. "I met so many of my San Diego fans there. I'm a woman in the streets painting dolls by myself,



"She added her business logo, but it's still my doll."

and I'm not here trying to take nothing from you. I'm just here to leave a doll and keep going with my journey."

I asked if she planned to return to San Diego. "Yes!" she replied. "I don't think about art politics or being territorial. I paint for the people, so when I go to different areas, I'm thinking about the moms, the girls that are going to college, everyone that's struggling, the men and women out there like me that have feelings and emotions that nurtured my success."

MIKE MADRIAGA



LOTO ROJO FACEBOOK PAGE

Arreola: "I would just like to feel safe carrying my daughter's medicine."

BAJA

Parent pleads for pot Mexico's medical marijuana morass

"The neurologist told me there was nothing more to do, that my daughter would probably die in about eight months," said Alejandra Arreola, the mother of a minor with epilepsy who used to have 80 daily attacks. "In her condition, she could die of a cardiopulmonary arrest at any moment." Arreola's seven-year-old daughter never showed symptoms of any serious illness until the age of 3, when her epilepsy started. She and her husband looked for help in private hospitals and from special-

ized neurologists, but no treatment seemed to improve her condition. Instead, the medications just worked to sedate her. "My daughter was taking six different prescribed medicines," says Arreola. "In that time, she had attacks every five minutes. She was not speaking. She could stand up by herself, but someone had to be next to her all the time. So I had to quit my job to dedicate myself 100 percent to her. But no medication was working, and I did not want to keep her sedated, so we refused to accept their diagnosis."

Arreola said that the hospitals and doctors they reached out for help were just prescribing treatments according to their medical representatives and the pharmaceutical partners with whom they did business. They never told her there were alternative treatments for her daughter. But as they searched, the family found Loto Rojo Foundation, which helps members who going through terminal illnesses or epilepsy through the use of cannabis-based medication. One of its founders, Victor Rocha, made a personalized prescription of CBD for Arreola's daughter, and the new medications began to

have positive outcomes. "Just three weeks after starting the treatment, her convulsions went down gradually, and six months later, her attacks dropped from 80 to barely three. She started to speak, play, and dance again," Arreola noted.

Attorney Farias repounded, "The judgement we won expresses that even if the medicines are not in Mexico, the authority has the duty to manage the arrangements needed or cast importation permits for these products. Ignorance on this controversial topic is an obstacle.

"no medication was working, and I did not want to keep her sedated, so we refused to accept their diagnosis."

Under the guidelines of Loto Rojo Foundation, Arreola's daughter and 24 patients presented and won a collective legal figure called an *amparo* (legal claim or protection to make a constitutional right effective). According to their lawyer, Emmanuel Farias, the right to health of these patients was being violated. He said this was due to the nexus between epilepsy, Parkinson's, or cancer and the administration of marijuana-based medication. The protection lawsuit suffered a one-year delay in getting resolved, a time in which two of Loto Rojo's members died, and in which Arreola almost got detained at a military checkpoint for carrying CBD with her. "We were traveling to Sonora on vacation. They said they would take me to the general prosecutor's office. I had my prescription with me, but they did not care because it was from San Diego. At the end, I spoke with the captain and they let me go, but I would just like to feel safe carrying my daughter's medicine," she stressed.

In June 2020, a federal judge delegated the jurisdiction of this matter to the Baja California's Health Department, forcing it to provide cannabis-based medication. But that has not happened. They officially responded through their legal representative that those medicines are not available in Mexico, and therefore the Mexican health system can't provide it.

We know we are in a political crisis with the health services overwhelmed by the pandemic, but that's no excuse to ignore a federal order." Farias considered that the state government has not aligned its policy with the federal one. Further, because of the incoming elections, they have shown reluctance in order to not lose voters.



LOTO ROJO FACEBOOK PAGE

"Since 2017, the health department has acknowledged marijuana's medical properties,"

But health department data shows two million epilepsy cases in Mexico, of which 35 percent are minors like Arreola's daughter. "Since 2017, the health department has acknowledged marijuana's medical properties," said Farias. "Three years have passed, and people are still living in a medical exile."

IVÁN MOLINA

Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



Thursday | 28

CHIBO'S COVID; THIS IS WHO I AM

Shari Wallace's radio play is a covid comedy based on the true story of an old lady whose dog encountered illness as the world began its shutdown and died 10 weeks later, but not before voicing his protest. Tickets/Donations will support Community Actors Theatre, since they are not able to do performances at the venue. Viewers will receive a link to watch video.

WHEN: Thursday, January 28, 7 pm to 8 pm. Through Monday, February 8.

WHERE: communityactorstheatre.com

Friday | 29

ADAM LAMBERT: LIVE FROM THE ROXY THEATER

Singer Adam Lambert, who grew up in Rancho Peñasquitos, was 12 when he began impressing local audiences with a children's theater company, performing operatic solos in musicals like *Fiddler on the Roof*. After graduating from Mt. Carmel High School, he earned fame as a finalist on the *American Idol* TV show and

went on to become a sometime front-man for Queen. Lambert will perform a one-time livestream concert from LA's Roxy Theater, playing songs from his latest album *Velvet* as well as his hits.

WHEN: Friday, January 29, 12 pm to 1 pm

WHERE: nocapshows.com

OVATION THEATRE: ALL SHOOK UP

View a virtual stream of this live production inspired by the songs of Elvis Presley. Jukebox musical comedy set in

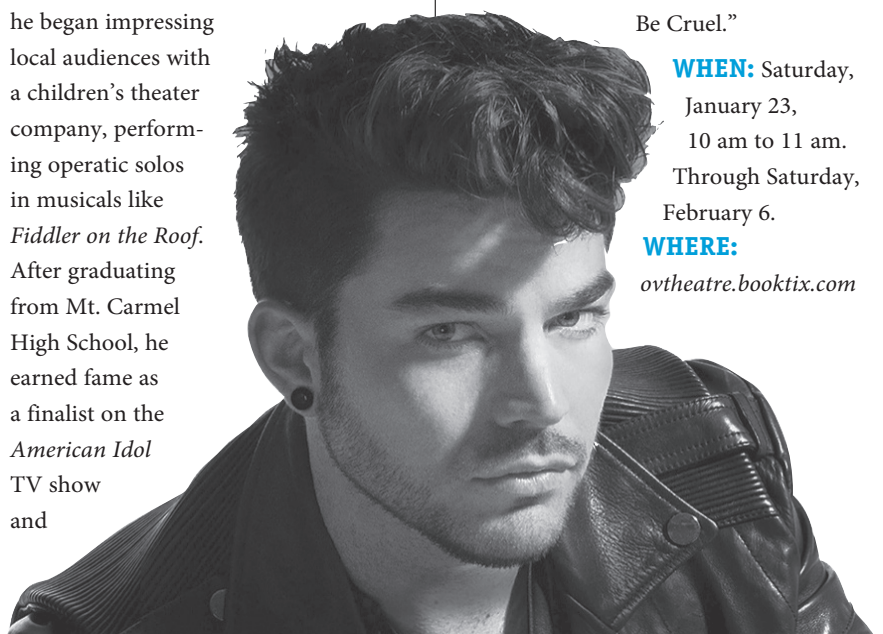


ALL SHOOK UP

1955 in a square little town in a square little state, until a guitar-playing young man rides in and changes everything. Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, this musical includes the classics "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Jailhouse Rock," and "Don't Be Cruel."

WHEN: Saturday, January 23, 10 am to 11 am. Through Saturday, February 6.

WHERE: ovtheatre.booktix.com



ADAM LAMBERT

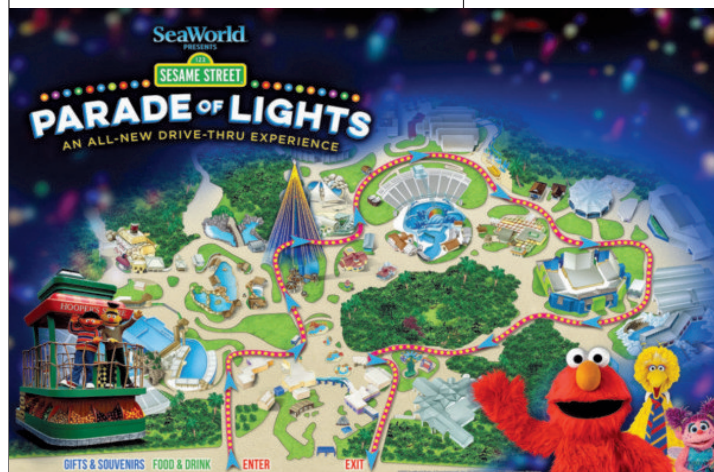


MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1: ATHENAEUM LIVE: GERALD CLAYTON AND GILBERT CASTELLANOS

Saturday | 30

SESAME STREET PARADE OF LIGHTS DRIVE-THRU

Come enjoy the Sesame Street Parade of Lights at Sea World San Diego! See friendly, furry monsters dance on parade floats. Drive under the illuminated Sky Tower and through two different tunnels of lights before cruising through the Sesame Street



Village. Munch on soft pretzels, tear into some cotton candy, or sip hot cocoa — they're all available to enjoy in your car.

WHEN: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 6 pm. Through Sunday, February 14.

WHERE: SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive, Mission Bay. seaworld.com

Monday | 1

ATHENAEUM LIVE: GERALD CLAYTON AND GILBERT CASTELLANOS

Pianist Gerald Clayton and trumpeter Gilbert Castellanos have enjoyed a collaboration that has spanned nearly two decades. A four-time Grammy nominee, Clayton has worked with Charles Lloyd, John Scofield, Diana Krall,

and Dianne Reeves. And Castellanos is the curator of a decades-long weekly jam session and also the San Diego Symphony's jazz series. He has also has served as resident

composer for the San Diego Ballet, and is the director of the Young Lions Jazz Conservatory.

WHEN: Monday, February 1, 7 pm

WHERE: ljathenaeum.org

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

Paws and Pages Struggling readers can improve their fluency skills by reading to animals! So grab your favorite book and get ready to read to and interact with some super cute animals! Participants will read to and interact with a small mammal. An animal interaction is included in the program, but the primary focus is on reading. Species may vary depending on animal health, safety and availability. Make sure to bring your own book from home! Wednesday, February 3, 5pm; \$10. 6 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RAN-CHO SANTA FE)

Virtual Fun Animal Friday: Spiny-Tailed Lizard & Rabbit Explore scales and tails with Zovargo. Meet Petrie the spiny-tailed lizard and Finn the rabbit to learn how these two animals are important to our world and how we can help save them. Get your questions ready, they'll answer them live during the event. This Fun Animal Friday will take place on Facebook. Be sure to follow San Diego Children's Discovery Museum to be notified. Friday, January 29, 10am; **free**. <https://bit.ly/2YnpBYx>. (ONLINE)

ART

Memories at the Museum Take part in a discussion and virtual tour of several Balboa Park museums. Docents with the Memories at the Museum program engage people

with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease and an accompanying family member or friend in discussions about the artwork to stimulate visual and verbal abilities, and to spark memory. Facilitators trained by the UCSD Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Center. No obligation to participate in research. No cost to participate. Memories at the Museum alternates among three co-sponsoring museums that are all located in Balboa Park. This event is free of charge to participants. Virtual tours are held the first Tuesday of each month from 2 to 3pm with one of several San Diego museums, including the San Diego Museum of Art, the Museum of Photographic Arts, and the Timken Museum. Link to Zoom meeting will be provided with registration. Tuesday, February 2, 2pm; **free**. 21 and up. <https://bit.ly/3ocLZ11>. (ONLINE)

BEER

Gelson's Beer Tasting: Firestone Walker Gelson's invites you to a virtual beer tasting event with Firestone Walker Brewing Company featuring Brewmaster Matt Brynildson. This virtual event will feature three beers available to purchase in-store including the recently released 805 Cerveza Lager, 805 Blonde Ale and Firestone Mind Haze IPA (6-packs at \$8.99 each). Guests can RSVP for \$1 online by visiting online. Special pricing for the beers will be available on January 27 and 28. Pickup is available at Gelson's. The last day to RSVP is January 26. Thursday, January 28, 6pm; \$1-\$8. 21 and up. [gelsons.com/firestone](https://www.gelsons.com/firestone). (ONLINE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream: Cicely Tyson & Whoopi Goldberg This event is in partnership with the non-profit Girls Write Now and instagrammer/blogger

Rhyme & Verse

Three sonnets by Edgar Allen Poe

Silence

There are some qualities—some incorporate things,
That have a double life, which thus is made
A type of that twin entity which springs
From matter and light, evinced in solid and shade.
There is a two-fold Silence—sea and shore—
Body and soul. One dwells in lonely places,
Newly with grass o'ergrown; some solemn graces,
Some human memories and tearful lore,
Render him terrorless: his name's "No More."
He is the corporate Silence; dread him not!
No power hath he of evil in himself;
But should some urgent fate (untimely lot!)
Bring thee to meet his shadow (nameless elf,
That haunteth the lone regions where hath trod
No foot of man,) commend thyself to God!

To Science

Science! true daughter of Old Time thou art!
Who alterest all things with thy peering eyes.
Why preyest thou thus upon the poet's heart,
Vulture, whose wings are dull realities?
How should he love thee? or how deem thee wise,
Who wouldst not leave him in his wandering
To seek for treasure in the jewelled skies,
Albeit he soared with an undaunted wing?
Hast thou not dragged Diana from her car?
And driven the Hamadryad from the wood
To seek a shelter in some happier star?
Hast thou not torn the Naiad from her flood,
The Elfin from the green grass, and from me
The summer dream beneath the tamarind tree?

To Zante

Fair isle, that from the fairest of all flowers,
Thy gentlest of all gentle names dost take!
How many memories of what radiant hours
At sight of thee and thine at once awake!
How many scenes of what departed bliss!
How many thoughts of what entombed hopes!
How many visions of a maiden that is
No more — no more upon thy verdant slopes!
No more! alas, that magical sad sound
Transforming all! Thy charms shall please no more—
Thy memory no more! Accursed ground
Henceforth I hold thy flower-enameled shore,
O hyacinthine isle! O purple Zante!
"Isola d'oro! Fior di Levante!"



Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849) is one of the best-known American writers, contributing verse, short stories (including some of the first detective stories), literary criticism, and a novel to the established canon of American literature. He is universally recognized for his poetry — especially "The Raven" — and for his macabre short stories, such as "The Pit and the Pendulum." Considered one of the main importers of Romanticism to American literature, Poe produced a body of work that influenced many writers in a diversity of genres — including the horror story, detective story, poetry, and literary criticism. His essays on poetry, in particular, which stated the need to avoid writing didactic or allegorical verse, had an impact on the late-19th and early-20th-century Symbolists in France, who in turn influenced modern poets such as T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

Well Read Black Girl. The event will include a live introduction by Miss Tyson's editor; a 30 minute pre-taped conversation between Miss Tyson and Whoopi Goldberg; and a live Q&A as Miss Tyson and her editor take questions. Thursday, January 28, 3pm; **free**. [warwicks.com/event/tyson-2021](https://www.warwicks.com/event/tyson-2021). (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Kristin Hannah Warwick's will host Kristin Hannah as she discusses her new book, The Four Winds, in conversation with Har-

lan Coben. Kristin Hannah is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty novels, including The Nightingale and The Great Alone. Wednesday, February 3, 6pm; **free**. [warwicks.com/event/hannah-2021](https://www.warwicks.com/event/hannah-2021). (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Susan Meissner Warwick's will host Susan Meissner, in conversation with Kate Quinn, as she discusses her new book, The Nature of Fragile Things. Susan Meissner is a former managing editor of a weekly

newspaper, and an award-winning columnist. Tuesday, February 2, 4pm; **free**. [warwicks.com/event/meissner-2021](https://www.warwicks.com/event/meissner-2021). (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Advanced Shmues Beshas di zeks vokhn vet ir praktitsirn tsu bashraybn un taynen ayere shtand-punktn vegn kolerley temes, un tsuherntsu audio-materialen (lider, intervyyen, redes, un dos glaykh). During these six weeks, you will practice to describe and argue your point of view about a variety of topics, and listen to audio materials (poems, interviews, speeches, and the like). With Sasha Hoffman. Tuesday, February 2, 10am; **free**-\$60. <https://bit.ly/3nT9RXh>. (ONLINE)

Arts & Crafts: Yiddish Class For Kids Lomir lernen mit ale hushim - let's learn Yiddish with all the senses! In our new unique Yiddish class for children we sing, dance, and make crafts associated with the topic of the class. Get your pencil/crayons, paper, and playdough ready. Sunday, January 31, 9am; \$20-\$100. <https://bit.ly/39hC1WI>. (ONLINE)

Exploring the Spiritual Path & Meditation This class meets regularly on Saturday mornings and consists of seated meditation and a Dharma talk that speaks to integrating ancient Buddhist teachings into our 21st Century lives.

Turiya, Spiritual Director of DharmCenter leads this class. Saturday, January 30, 11am; **free**. 18 and up. [dharmacenter.com](https://www.dharmacenter.com). (ONLINE)

Intermediate Shmues During these six weeks, you will expand your active vocabulary, practice talking about everyday topics and listen to audio materials (songs, interviews, plays, and the like). With Sasha Hoffman. Thursday, January 28, 11am; **free**-\$60. <https://bit.ly/368ytoR>. (ONLINE)

Middle-Eastern Drumming Class Frank Lazzaro teaches Doumbek/Darbuka Middle-Eastern drumming on Facebook Live by donation. Mondays, 6pm; through Wednesday, March 31, \$5-\$15. www.facebook.com/frank.lazzaro. (ONLINE)

Packaging & Shipping Soap Worldwide Students learn how to package soap to prevent dents and damage, how to use biodegradable shipping materials, how to meet United States Customs requirements for shipping commodities internationally, the fastest shipping methods, and how to get discounted shipping rates, including discounts on US postage. Students are invited to bring recipient address information and finished labeled bars of soap that are ready to be shipped, in order to correctly pack and secure the soap for shipping during the class. During the class, if time permits, students may purchase a shipping label and schedule a carrier pickup. Attend in person. 2 classroom hours. Saturday, January 30,

NOW OPEN



LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm

Shop safe at open-air farmers' markets
Fresh Fruit • Vegetables • Meat • Fish • Eggs
Flowers • Yogurt • Baked Goods and more!
Limited entry for safe shopping

OPEN YEAR-ROUND, RAIN OR SHINE

Information and safety protocols:
[sandiegomarkets.com](https://www.sandiegomarkets.com)

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Trinity Episcopal Church

Contact: 845 Chestnut Street, Escondido 760-743-1629 www.trinityescondido.org

Membership: 200

Neighborhood: Escondido

Pastor: Rector Meg Decker

Age: 58

Born: Reno, NV

Formation: University of Nevada-Reno; Graduate Theological Union-Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley

Years Ordained: 30

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

Pastor Meg Decker: In our world, religion by now is getting a bad name because it's easy for it to be distorted into a self-centered and

superstitious way of managing life. Our world, our society, everyone is tossing faith out as something that is not good for life or necessary for human flourishing. It worries me that faith and religion are being tossed out – or being distorted into something that should be tossed out. The faith shouldn't be a holding onto the past and never changing, but a way of moving into the future – a good future for everyone.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PD: Trinity's mission is to bring Christ to the people and the people to Christ. I suppose any church could go with that sort of thing. But what makes Trinity unique is

that it is a place where there's an attempt to find space for everyone's gifts. For example, we try different spiritual exercises, different ways of worship, grounded in the Episcopal traditions and style. But there's space for everyone to offer things, and that's what we try to emphasize. It's a little harder now with covid, but that's our intent. Covid has turned everything upside down, but I think Trinity has risen to the challenge in an amazing way. In the way we tell the gospel story, we want it to be different from the churches that say, "Are you saved?" We emphasize the sacred and community, and we're rational and relevant. All those things

we managed to live out in covid, so it has not changed our identity – but we did a good job of moving all that into a more diverse online platform.... We formed a community even if we can't see each other; so it's a way of maintaining community but in a completely different way. **SDR:** Where's the strangest place you found God?

PD: My most surprising pathway to God was when I got divorced. Something like that is obviously traumatic and not something you choose.... It was definitely a difficult time but also a holy time of being called out of the mess my life had become and into something whole and life-giving that allowed me to



Meg Decker

serve the vision of God and to be a whole person in that way.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PD: I believe we go into God's presence; we are beloved of God, and anything God loves is not lost. So we will be with God, but what that means exactly, what that looks like, what our particular identity

will be, I don't know, because I don't think we *can* know. But I do trust that I belong to God, and that I will be held in his good will.... Now, will everyone be in God's presence? Will everyone go to heaven? I don't know for sure, because you do have the reality that probably some people have rejected that gift, not in the sense of creeds and statements of faith, but rejected that gift of love and life by living lies that are abhorrent and vicious.... Then again, grace can manage to overcome all that. I don't know. God has all eternity to work these things out. So maybe.

– Joseph O'Brien

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

1pm; \$54. soapmakingstudio.com/registration/soap-business-340.html. (ONLINE)

Shmues for Beginners Discuss topics such as family, professions, and weather. Students will improve their speaking skills and understanding of oral Yiddish speech. Students will also enrich and practice the vocabulary and grammar that they learn in the main Yiddish course. Sunday, January 31, 10am; \$15-\$80. <https://bit.ly/35t1tGI>. (ONLINE)

That's Swale: Saving Water With Soil Learn how to slow, spread, and sink water into your landscape through various earthwork applications like swales and basins. Bringing you an easy to understand process so you can irrigate your yard the free and easy way with swales, and passively water your garden with little upkeep after it's set up. Swales are also a great compliment to existing irrigation. Wednesday, February 3, 11am; free. thegarden.org. (ONLINE)

Website Design & Internet Commerce In this understandable and thorough class, learn about domain names and hosting packages. Also, learn to create your own website for free, optimize keywords, rank high on search engines, and verify your site code is valid. Finally, setup PayPal payment buttons and start selling on the Internet. Attend in person. Prerequisite: None. 3.5 classroom hours, includes one 15-minute break. Sunday, January 31, 12pm; \$82. soapmakingstudio.com/registration/soap-business-350.html. (ONLINE)

YAAANA's Advanced Yiddish Class Series In this new 6 class series, a native Yiddish speaker and a Holocaust survivor Yakob Basner will guide us through what a Yiddish poet, writer, and editor Avrom Reyzen (1876 - 1953) wrote about socialism. This class is designed for

advanced students. Wednesday, February 3, 5pm; \$25-\$150. <https://bit.ly/2XptLym>. (ONLINE)

Yiddish Beginners Reading Circle Reading together the book *Yiddische Kinder Alef*, which follows the life of fictitious school-age children Motl, Gitl, and Faygl. Read, interpret, and unpack it all together, learning as things come up in the story. No pressure, go at your own pace, no pain – much gain, reading circle. Wednesday, February 3, 2pm; \$15-\$60. <https://bit.ly/3nxFndt>. (ONLINE)

Yiddish Class Series for Beginners By the end of this program, students will have a better understanding of how the Yiddish language works, creating a foundation for continued education. We will learn through a mixture of sources, including textbooks, poetry, humor, and of course, The Simpsons. Wednesday, February 3, 11:30am; \$18-\$75. <https://bit.ly/3owRgBr>. (ONLINE)

Yidish Fun Breyshis: Learn the Yiddish Alphabet 2 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. Sunday, January 31, 11am; \$15-\$75. <https://bit.ly/2KK1HDf>. (ONLINE)

COMEDY

Drive Up Comedy: Aida Rodriguez Each Drive-Up Comedy ticket guarantees you and your guests a parking spot and show experience. Drive-Up and crank your radio as you watch a live,

in-person comedy show. Get the luxury of attending a stand-up comedy night of laughs, while also practicing social distancing. Clean comedy for all ages. Saturday, January 30, 7:30pm; \$49. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Finding Compassion for Self & Others Discover the Compassion Practice, a transformative mindfulness practice designed to help you nurture care and understanding, starting with yourself and extending out to others. Cultivate your capacity for compassion – even for those who are difficult to love – with this weekly Compassion Practice group led by trained Compassion Practice facilitators. Through guided meditation, mindfulness, visualization and group sharing, you'll be surprised to find a wellspring of compassion within. We will meet online on Tuesday evenings from January 12th through February 23rd via Zoom. Register once to attend any or all of the Tuesday night sessions. Registration is free. All registrants will receive access to the Zoom link. Register online. Tuesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, February 23, free. 18 and up. belovedsandiego.org/compassion-practice-group.html. (ONLINE)

Masterclass: James McAvoy Each month, Artistic Director and renowned Scottish actor, Shauna Macdonald, hosts a conversation with a different distinguished guest, who will tell you all they know about their craft. You are part of the conversation and are invited to ask questions throughout. Golden Globe nominated actor James McAvoy continues to test himself with a wide variety of work

on stage, television and film and is regarded as one of the industry's most exciting acting talents. Monday, February 1, 12pm; free-\$20. <https://bit.ly/369xqoS>. (ONLINE)

Sandag & Caltrans: South Bay to Sorrento The 28-mile South Bay to Sorrento project study area is one of the first five corridors prioritized for a CMCP by the SANDAG Board of Directors. The first public meeting for the South Bay to Sorrento corridor will be held via Zoom. During this public engagement event, SANDAG staff will explain how the development of an innovative transportation network will transform the way people and goods move through the San Diego region. Attendees will have a chance to share their input about the challenges they face in the South Bay to Sorrento corridor and suggest solutions. A Spanish interpreter will be available at the meeting. Use Zoom link and enter meeting ID: 843 0017 0028. To attend the meeting by phone: US: (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782 or (346) 248-7799 or (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626-6799 or (929) 205-6099 Thursday, January 28, 6pm; free. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3iG3UMz>. (ONLINE)

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

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)

FOR KIDS

Sesame Street Parade of Lights Drive-Thru Drive under SeaWorld's Skytower lights and through tunnels while enjoying the Sesame Street Parade of Lights, featuring friendly furry monsters dancing to a lively soundtrack. Drive under the illuminated Skytower and through two different tunnels of lights before cruising through the Sesame Street Village. Snacks, hot chocolate and cotton candy available for purchase. Ticket prices start at \$49.99 per vehicle. Fridays, 6pm; Saturdays, 6pm; Sundays, 6pm; through Sunday, February 14, SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

LECTURES

Exploring Ethics: The Antibiotic Resistance Crisis The steady and alarming rise in antibiotic resistance poses one of the greatest challenges to public health and modern medicine, and has been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Guest Speaker Dr. Victor Nizet, MD, Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair for Basic Research in the

Department of Pediatrics, Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Chief of the Division of Host-Microbe Systems & Therapeutics at UC San Diego. Wednesday, February 3, 5:30pm; free. <https://bit.ly/36b4UmH>. (ONLINE)

SPOKEN WORD

Vamp: First Rodeo Welcome 2021 with the VAMP Storytelling Showcase theme "First Rodeo," with tales of first times, not-so-first-times, renewal, and...rodeos? VAMP is So Say We All's monthly curated storytelling showcase, featuring remarkable nonfiction stories on a theme. Thursday, January 28, 8pm; free-\$5. facebook.com/SoSayWeAllOnline/. (ONLINE)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Fantini Wellness Week Fantini is hosting their 1st Annual Wellness Week series, with experts in color, materials, design, relaxation and more. Thursday, January 28, 1pm; Friday, January 29, 1pm; free. fantiniwellnessweek.squarespace.com/events. (ONLINE)

Walk The Block: Barrio Logan "Walk The Block" is a community initiative that was created in July 2020 to help struggling small businesses in Barrio Logan. Shop owners and local vendors set up their outdoor booths all along Logan Avenue. Every Saturday in Barrio Logan on Logan Avenue from Chicano Park to 26th Street. Masks Required Social Distancing Enforced Saturdays, 12pm; through Monday, May 31, free. Chicano Park, Between National and Logan Avenues under the Coronado Bridge. (BARRIO LOGAN)

HAPPY HOUR

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

ALLIED GARDENS

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

BAY PARK

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

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

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

CARLSBAD

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

CITY HEIGHTS

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

CORONADO

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

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

Gaslamp Fish House: *Daily*, 3:30-6:00pm: \$4 Fireball shot, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap,

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

A hundred years of Aztec Brewing

North County's **Aztec Brewing Company** will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year — no small milestone. But it will also spend the year celebrating something bigger: the one hundred year anniversary of the Aztec Brewing brand.

According to a history maintained by the **Chicano Park Museum**, the original Aztec Brewing Company opened for business in 1921. Given that this was during the U.S. Prohibition, San Diegans Edward Baker and Herbert Jaffe launched the brewery in Mexicali, where A.B.C. (as they often advertised the brand) became known for its medal-winning pale lager.

After Prohibition's repeal at the end of 1933, Baker and Jaffe moved A.B.C. to San Diego, establishing an ornate beer hall in Logan Heights dubbed the Rathskeller. Decades before the

murals of Chicano Park added color to the neighborhood, the Rathskeller's walls featured murals by Spanish artist Jose Moya del Pino, meticulously depicting traditional Aztec and Mayan imagery.



A retro bottle label for the modern Aztec Brewing's latest IPA release

Though the Rathskeller building was demolished in 1990 (coincidentally about the time San Diego's modern brewing scene was getting started), many of its murals were preserved and are now displayed at the Logan Heights Library.

As Tristan Faulk-Webster, co-owner of the modern Aztec Brewing, explains, "In the late '40s, a brewery from back east, the **Altes Brewing Company**, acquired the Aztec brand. They retired it by the 1950s."

The brand would lie dormant for half a century. In the mid-2000s, Faulk-Webster started homebrewing with his father, John Webster. A shared

interest in beer initially led them to discover a different historical beer brand, that of California's first lager producer: the **Boca Brewing Company**, which made beer from 1876-1893, not far from



A vintage can from the original 1921 Aztec Brewing Company, part of a collection kept by John Critchfield

Lake Tahoe.

"We acquired that brand, and we still own it" says Faulk-Webster, noting that he, his father, and mother Claudia Faulk briefly considered reviving it. "But," he adds with a laugh, "none of us wanted to move to northern California."

Instead, the family returned to San Diego and started researching historical brands closer to home. In doing so, the Faulk-Webster family managed to track down grandchildren of Baker and Jaffe, and with their blessing, set about reviving the long-abandoned brand.

Beginning in February, the new Aztec Brewing

will celebrate the brand's hundred year history by issuing recreations of the old brand's brews, including a stout and pale ale. "Our brewmaster, Paul Naylor, worked together with White Labs to track down the types of ingredients used in that time," says Faulk-Webster. "The exact recipes are unfortunately lost to time, but we've done our best to reproduce them."

Meanwhile, Faulk-Webster tracked down a collector named John Critchfield, who has assembled a small museum's worth of old Aztec Brewing memorabilia, ranging from neon signs to unopened bottles of beer. Beer labels for Aztec beers released throughout the year will be based on the original A.B.C.'s century old designs.

The retro vibe will extend beyond the beers, too, once fans are legally allowed to return to brewery venues. Aztec plans to furnish its tasting room with prints depicting the Rathskeller and old Aztec designs, in addition to providing an era-appropriate soundtrack. "Over the last seven years or so, we've become a live music venue," explains Faulk-Webster, "Once we can host music again, we'll be hosting live acts performing music from the 1920s."

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

EAST VILLAGE

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

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

EASTLAKE

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

ENCINITAS

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

ESCONDIDO

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

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

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

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

martini. *Sunday*, 9pm-close: \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini.

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

NORTH PARK

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

OLD TOWN

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

Old Town Mexican Café: *Tuesday*, Half off well drinks and selected appetizers all day.

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.

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

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

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

POINT LOMA

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

Hooley's 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.



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Japanese curry?

I'm a sucker for it. A kind of human touch. Makes me feel plenty good.

'Konnichiwa!" I love how all the crew in some Japanese eateries stop everything

when customers arrive or leave and shout out "Konnichiwa!" Kind of "Hello!" "Good bye!" "Thank you!" "Good day!" I don't know about you, but I'm a sucker for it. A kind of human touch. Makes me feel plenty good, every time.

So, okay, this isn't happening on La Mesa Boulevard exactly. I am sitting on a park bench in the chill late afternoon air, sucking a beer through a straw, and holding a heavy, warm, box of Japanese curry.

Uh, hold that thought! Japanese? Curry? Indian, yes, but what are the Japanese doing, selling this stuff as theirs?



appetizer, \$5.95." And Cilley Roll (yellowtail amberjack with spicy crab and tuna on top), \$10.95. But the arty patch on the whiteboard that catches my eye says "NEW! Try Our New Curry! Vegetable (\$12), beef (\$15), chicken (\$13), shrimp (\$15)."

Huh. Of course, they also have the usual list of sushi bar suspects, ranging from basic rolls (from \$7), to hand rolls, to nigiri, to bento boxes (\$14), to maki rolls, to sashimi mix (\$20-30).

But no. I'm hooked on the idea of a nice warm curry. And specially since Juan Cabrera, the chef, says it's a Japanese curry?

"So," I ask Juan, "think I could get, say, a chicken curry and eat it on a public bench without being hassled? Like that one right next to your sidewalk patio?"

"Don't see why not," he says.

So I go for the \$13 chicken curry. And hey, one of those \$5 beers to go they're pushing. With a straw, natch. It doesn't have to be a Bud Light, either. I go for the one at the top, from that Mission Gorge company, Prodigy. Their Amber Ale. Delish.

And yeah, there is something kinda cool about sitting here near Konnichiwa's midnight blue outside lighting, sucking this nice malty

beer through a straw, listening to the incredible silence. I imagine summer nights here, bulging with the cool La Mesa crowd sluicing up and down the boulevard, with music ringing in and out of the sidewalk patios. Sigh.

"Be very careful. This could spill."

It's Amanda. She's carrying this polystyrene box groaning with food. She lays it on the beautiful, wrought-iron, black street bench, the one that has "City of La Mesa. Jewel of the Hills" stenciled through it, along with a nice art nouveau silhouette of palms, sun and hills.

I open the box. And man, I see what Amanda is saying. The front half is a lake of golden curry with potatobergs and carrots. The back half is all rice, but with a complete panko'd chicken breast sliced across the top, and pickled pink bits of some root. And all so warm to the touch. It may be 13 bucks, but this is a deal.

I take up my black plastic spoon. Maybe it's just the picnic thing, or the quiet, or the cold, or the smells of cumin and turmeric, but I'm a happy camper. Mmm. Take another sniff. Coriander?

Definitely ginger. Mild, but totally seductive.

I start with rice, of course, soak in some curry, add a chunk of potato, carrot, and a little bit of the tangy root taste. Then throw in a chunk of breadcrumb chicken. Man, there is a lot of stuff here. Goes so nicely with the ale that I'm tempted to have another. Uh, no. Gonna



Amanda, carrying a ton of curry, chicken, rice



Finest (and only) seat in town! Straw helps with discreet beer

work tonight. But I swear, the sweet-savory curry thing just keeps you eating, and eating, and eating.

Only thing gets me up and stops me gut-stuffing myself is that I'm getting more and more curious about the Japanese aspect.

"Is there really a difference between this and Indian curry?" I ask, because I can't taste one.

"Flavor," says Juan. "The Japanese use soup flavors, the bones, and a little garlic, onions, carrots for sweetness. We make it every three days. The Japanese don't like it to get greasy, or old."

He ought to know. He says his boss recently sent him over to Japan to refine his knowledge. And they're seeing results: for the past three years in a row, *La Mesa Courier's* readers have voted

Konnichiwa "Gold Winner" for Japanese cuisine.

But the Japanese thing? I still ain't sure about the difference from the Indian. "For a start, Japanese curry flavors are more modest, understated than Indian curries," says Juan. "Maybe more subtle. Thicker, sweeter, less spicy."

It turns out curry spread with the British and Japanese empires. The British Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy were

both responsible for bringing curry across from India during Japan's Meiji era, in the late 1800s. It was good for an illness named *beriberi* and other tropical diseases, and from the start, the Japanese Navy, and army, and school kids just, well, ate it up. Now, it's eaten more often in Japan than tempura or sushi.

Me, I could live off this stuff too. Specially in this cold weather. It is so warm and filling. Also, it is supposed to be quite good for you.

OK. It's not the cheapest eat in the world, but Juan has an answer for that. "If you don't have a lot in your pocket, we always do our \$4.95 special. That's rice, veggies, and chicken. You won't go away hungry." ■



Chef Juan Cabrera: trained in Japan



Pink ginger's tang counters the curry's sweetness

We'll come back to that. First, let's back up: I was looking for someplace, anyplace that would feed me and give me a place to sit. I know. The laws, that's cool, gotta keep people socially distanced in the face of this virus. I understand.

Whatever, still gotta eat. Here in downtown La Mesa, the effect is like a neutron bomb. Everything's as it was, except no people.

I only stop outside this sushi place because it is showing signs of life. The guys are trying. "\$5 pints of beer to go." "Sushi Specials!" "Tuna tempura

The Place: Konnichiwa Sushi Bar, 8350 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-466-6446

Prices: Tuna tempura appetizer, \$5.95; Cilley Roll (yellowtail amberjack with spicy crab and tuna on top), \$10.95; salmon roll, \$7; Philly roll, \$7.50; eel hand roll, \$7; nigiri Japanese omelet, \$5; four baked mussels, \$9; mixed tempura, \$11.50; soft-shelled crab (2) \$12; tonkatsu ramen noodles, \$14; Japanese curry, \$12, (vegetable); \$15 (beef); \$13 (chicken), \$15 (shrimp); sashimi mix, \$20-30

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Thai times two

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A tale of two Thai restaurants

Bahn Thai; 4646 Park Boulevard, University Heights. It's kind of surprising that I haven't written before about Bahn Thai. I've been eating at the University Heights restaurant since it opened, going on ten years ago, and I've returned often. The most likely reason I haven't

FEAST!

is that I've always gone there for take-out. The actual storefront is so tiny, it needs the sidewalk to get up to five tables.

Still, when I heard the Thai eatery had opened a second location in Hillcrest, five minutes away, I didn't get it. Who would order from Bahn Thai on Fifth Avenue that wouldn't just as easily pick it up on Park? I compared menus at the two locations and could discern no difference. I went on ordering take-out from the original. Drunken noodles, usually.

Medium spice at the hot-test, because this place appears to get a kick out of adding more heat than you expect it to.

Finally, almost a year to the day after the Hillcrest location opened, I switched it up and ordered from the newer place. And I realize it made all kinds of sense.

First, it's a lot larger than the University Heights location. The sort of size increase the owner of a very small restaurant might enjoy moving into. How novel to be able to serve a lot of customers at once, right? Except, of course, I found the larger venue sitting empty, the extra square footage wasted during the pandemic.

But not really wasted. That larger Bahn Thai is doing brisk business, like a well-oiled take-out machine. Unlike the University Heights hole in the wall, this joint has a handful of parking spots out front, dedicated short term for pick-up orders only. I could just pull up, park, and run inside.

Though the larger space had been cleared of its tables and chairs, a number of employees could be seen hustling behind the counter. I was there to pick up *pad see ew*, and a special of the month: green curry with avocado — \$12, with pork, and an interesting diversion from my usual yellow curry order. In the fewer than five minutes I was there, I watched about fifteen to-go orders come out of the kitchen, bagged and ready to go. Some were pick-up



Pad see ew with beef, from Bahn Thai.



Yellow curry with chicken (featuring a very hot 'medium' spice).



A larger Thai restaurant, sitting empty but moving plenty of take out.



Bahn Thai went bigger with its Hillcrest location.

orders like mine, many would be picked up by delivery drivers.

I've heard from knowledgeable sources that, despite the struggles the restaurant industry as a whole has faced since the pandemic began, there are some, most in the fast casual range, that do take-out so well they have actually been thriving during the shutdown. Here in Hillcrest, the phenomenon may be witnessed in Thai food alone. The neighborhood's atmosphere-oriented sit-down restaurant, Amarin Thai, recently closed its doors after two decades due to the pandemic. The experience it offered didn't translate to our latter-

day mask-in, mask-out mode of dining. And yet, the neighborhood's new fast casual Thai alternative is humming along at an encouraging clip. It probably doesn't hurt that *Reader* readers recently voted Bahn Thai the city's Best Thai of 2020.

It success likely presages a trend we can expect to see in restaurants over the next year or more — businesses with smaller footprints that can move consistently good food around fast. Kind of like the original Bahn Thai, come to think of it.

by Ian Anderson

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blurt the inside track

Beyond comprehension “I was raised in San Diego, and one of my most memorable [memories] is being six, and my Mom taking me to my Auntie’s AA meetings. We sat in a

influences. “I remember him being murdered, yet seeing his video of him in Heaven. It was as if he had predicted his own demise. A book called *Religion in Hip Hop* talks about this concept and the

and a few teachers from Platt College. We noticed the gap between creatives that could afford school, and those that didn’t have access. We were blessed with an opportunity to open a space in 2014 with an investment... and never looked back. The function was to provide a safe space for artists to practice their craft and build a business. For the first year we rented out space to creatives and allowed them free rent. BeatBox Records

emerged from that and a host of other businesses and creative ventures.

“I am The CEO of The Holyfield, and we started off as the music studio within ThChrch. The Holyfield is an organization that focuses on identity construction through unique art modalities, storytelling, and content. We work with people on the individual level, and we work with companies and nonprofits on the organizational level. Recently we licensed a song for a podcast called *Dear BAMf*. We also work with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine art where I am also a

board member.”

Asked about the protests in the wake of George Floyd’s murder, he’s blunt. “The entire process has created Post-Traumatic Woke syndrome. Everybody got woke in a week. This is deep social trauma, I wish people would take time to process that. This is pain beyond comprehension....

— Andrew Hamlin

Commercial endeavors

Back in december, local singer Leonard Patton’s voice was heard on a national commercial for a Pizza Hut jingle (doing a take on “The 12 Days of Christmas.”) It was recorded at Singing Serpent studios in Kensington.



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How did that opportunity come about?

“Well, I get called two or three times a year to do local stuff through them — usually it’s a car commercial or something. This is the second national opportunity I’ve had. Back in 2014, I did a Coca Cola/ NASCAR spot which was really sweet, because it ran (with minor changes) for a few years.

“This time, I got the call like the week before Thanksgiving. This is typical, it’s usually a text inquiring about my availability the next day.

In this commercial, there’s really no on-screen actor, you just see a pair of hands picking up a slice of pizza. Everything you hear is my singing or doing the voiceover. This was kind of an audition, because they were also considering using another voice. So I went in and gave them what they wanted. The next day, I get another text asking if I can come back in to try some different things. I was told the ad company liked my voice, and was going to go with me. At this point, they were just changing lyrics and trying to come up with the final product.”

How long did this go on?

“So over the course of eight days, I went back to the studio like eight times, tweaking the lyrics and even doing Zoom interviews with the talent agency to really nail down what they wanted,” Patton

explains. “At this point, I’m pretty confident, but it’s never a done deal until you sign the paperwork. They can always change their mind at the last minute and go in a different direction, but this one landed. I’ve had a bunch of friends calling me saying they’ve seen the spot. It [aired] on ESPN, Comedy Central, BET all over the place, basically.”

So what does a job like this mean financially?

“If the company hadn’t gone for it, I would have just been paid an hourly rate for my time. There’s nothing

I would imagine that comes in handy during these bleak pandemic times?

“It’s definitely a blessing to land something like that. If you get just a few jobs like that over the course of a year, it can really help out. I’ve never really sought out this kind of gig. The traditional route involves finding an agent and have him pitch you for jobs. The life I live is usually so busy that I don’t pursue that. But maybe this is a situation where life is kind of pointing me in that direction.”

Did you ever envision this in your future?

“Not really. But it looks good on the resume. I mean I went to school all those years at Berklee (in Boston) and SDSU to understand and perform complex music. This you just go in and give them what they want, and it’s relatively quick. It’s not like learning a Peter Sprague chart.”

What can you say about the studio?

“Singing Serpent is great. They’re really considered a studio production company that’s geared

toward commercial endeavors. I’ve been working with them for at least ten years. They’ve used a lot of local musicians along the way.”

— Robert Bush

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



Real J. Wallace mistook an AA meeting for a game of Duck Duck Goose.

circle and I thought that we were going to play Duck Duck Goose. I learned a lot that day, and I listened to people’s stories.”

That’s hip hop artist Real J. Wallace, aka Ramel Wallace, aka the Last Black Man in Barrio Logan, talking about his local upbringing. Regarding local live shows, he opines, “The Belly Up is hands-down the best music venue in San Diego. From the location of the bar, to the sound system, to the seating. The first time I went there I opened up for Blackalicious, and it was unforgettable.”

“I grew up on 2Pac as an artist and as a political figure if not mythological,” reflects Wallace on his musical

concept of prophecy within hip-hop.

“The prophetic nature of hip-hop made me want to take a deep dive. I wanted to be able to see myself in some sort of future. They say a black man isn’t supposed to live past 25; I feel like hip-hop helped me see past that. I remember watching Nas perform the ‘Made You Look Remix’ with Ludacris and Jadakiss during a Hot 97 concert. I watched it in middle school on MTV. This was the first time that I said to myself, ‘I want to be like them!’”

Civic responsibility followed, though. “ThChrch was a creative space in Barrio Logan created by members of the creative community



LOW AND BE TOLD

Metal-punk band Low and Be Told was founded by singer Doug Thompson (the Marsupials), bassist George Vidaurri (Uncle Joe's Big Ol' Driver), drummer Darrin Lee (Tragic Tantrum), and guitarist Frank Blackcat, who was recently replaced by Tom Lord. "Frank was moving to Portland in August 2020, and we realized that it would be a lot easier to teach Tom the songs if they were down on tape," says Thompson of why Lord doesn't appear on their debut self-titled album, released on New Year's Eve. "Dean Reis recorded and mixed the record during the pandemic lockdown. It was recorded live in two days at the end of

July 2020, with minimal overdubs, and two samples. It captures a time and place with the band, with a collection of anthems designed to aid in navigating the uncertain future and coping with the resolute and unyielding before times." The 11-song album, recorded and mixed at Singing Serpent and mastered by John Cota at K Street Studios, will forgo a traditional launch. "Thorn Brewery made a second batch of Low and Be Told IPA, and we aimed to have a live show, record release party, and beer release simultaneously. We'll do that next year when they release the third batch and we drop our next record."



SUBSURFER

After making their live debut in January 2011 at 710 Beach Club in PB, Subsuffer released their debut *We Are Stars*, recorded with Brian Karscig (Nervous Wreckords, Louis XIV), who also worked on their next full-length, *Devil's Lounge*. A followup called *La La La* was engineered by Steve Albini (Nirvana, the Pixies, the Breeders), but they're working with Karscig again for their upcoming fourth album, due this summer and titled *Subversive*. Its first grit-pop single "Hollow" is a melodic pop-driven vocal track sporting a dance vibe within the grunged-out guitars. "We wanted to capture the darkness and uncertainty of the mo-

ment, which is something we went through at the time we recorded that album," says lead singer David Montalbano. "At the same time, the hope of light at the end of the tunnel is captured with backup singers and light keyboards. I had a lot of friends who have personally not made it through these dark times. It's had a profound effect on me and the writing of the song. I want people and friends to know we are all in this boat together, and though it may look like I have everything that anyone would want, the covid reset has affected me in profound ways as well."



ANDRA DAY

Vocalist Andra Day began singing at Chula Vista's First United Methodist Church and studied at the local School of Creative and Performing Arts. Her debut album *Cheers to the Fall* earned a Best R&B Album nomination at the 2016 Grammy Awards, where she was also up for Best R&B Performance for the song "Rise Up." Spike Lee directed her "Forever Mine" video. As a follow-up to her Covid-19 benefit single "Make Your Troubles Go Away," Day recently released a cover of Billie Holiday's "All of Me," in advance of her starring role in *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*, a Hulu biopic about the late singer. Day's acting debut

concerns the FBI's attempt to imprison Holiday on drug charges, mainly in retaliation for singing politicized songs like "Strange Fruit" and her efforts to integrate audiences. The film, directed by Lee Daniels and written by Suzan-Lori Parks, co-stars Moonlight's Trevante Rhodes. Day will be honored February 2 at the Critics Choice Association's third annual Celebration of Black Cinema, and she was just on the cover of *Time* magazine, which cites the film on its list of Most Anticipated Movies of 2021. She's also mentioned in *Variety* magazine's 2021 Oscars predictions as a solid bet for Best Actress.



LOWLANDS

Founded in 2014, Lowlands plays slow, dark, minimalist ghost-punk rock. The band features local player Tommy Garcia (Mrs. Magician, Northern Towns, Drug Wars) alongside NYC-based singer Gabriel Spatuzzi, originally backed by drummer Jon Greene. Citing influences such as soundtrack composer Ennio Morricone, as well as gloomy alt-rockers like Nick Cave, Joy Division, and the Cure, they made their recorded debut in 2015 with singles such as "Annabella" b/w "Drown" and "Velvet Boots" b/w "Long

Black Hair." Their album *Lovers Blessings* was released in 2016 via Thrill Me Records, before they embarked on their first national tour with True Widow. A white vinyl edition was released, limited to only 250 copies, after which the band went into low profile mode all the way up until their April 2019 track "The Fall," which – though only three minutes long – was cheekily marked as a "Single-track album." Currently a duo of just Garcia and Spatuzzi, Lowlands just dropped a new single, "Manifesto" b/w "U.S.A."



MIKE KENEALLY

Asked to describe his music, former Frank Zappa guitarist Mike Keneally says "It's essentially rock, with equal emphasis on improvisation and strictly composed things. There's a lot of guitar in it. I'm mainly known as a guitarist, although keyboard was my first instrument, and I play a lot of different instruments on my recordings. Dynamically, melodically, rhythmically, and lyrically, it's real diverse and eclectic. I love a lot of different musical styles, and it all gets mashed in." Keneally has released over a dozen albums of original music since 1992 and has shared

the stage with Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Robert Fripp, Negativland, Wayne Kramer, Solomon Burke, Sting, the Persuasions, and the Loud Family, as well as playing keys in Joe Satriani's group. Keneally launched a new band and self-titled album last year with Scott Schorr (Marco Minnemann), *MFTJ*, full of instrumental prog flavored with art-rock, hip-hop, hard rock, and psychedelia, with guest player Tony Levin (King Crimson, Peter Dinklage). A sophomore MFTJ album was just released, *My Mom's Getting a Horse*.

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, 6pm — Rexx Life Raj Livestream. \$9.
Thursday, 6pm — iHeartRadio ALTer EGO 2021. **Free.**
Friday, 12pm & 7pm — Adam Lambert: Live from the Roxy Theatre. \$18.
Friday, 2pm — Jimmy Eat World Phoenix Sessions.
Friday, 7pm, Saturday, 5pm — Ovation Theatre: All Shook Up.
Friday, 2pm — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.
Saturday, 3pm — Avatar Ages: An Impossible Concert Experience.
Saturday, 5pm — Cage The Elephant: Bread & Roses Winter Benefit.
Sunday, 8pm — Charlie Parr & Friends Sunday Residency. **Free.**
Sunday, 5pm — Psychedelic Sunday with Mark Fisher. **Free.**
Sunday, 2pm — Regional Music of Mexico: Hermanos Herrera. **Free.**
Monday, 7pm — Athenaeum Live: Gerald Clayton & Gilbert Castellanos.
Monday, 5pm — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**
Monday, 5pm — Marble Eyes Mondays. **Free.**
Monday, 7pm — Stephanie Anne Johnson: That Blues Show. **Free.**
Tuesday, 3pm — Creekside Music Hall Show with Scott Guberman. **Free.**
Tuesday, 4:30pm — Neighbor Live From Planet Silver. \$10.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream On the heels of his second Grammy Award nomination — Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for *Unfollow The Rules* — singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright announces Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective! 2021 the

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Mozart meets Wagner? I don't get it

San Diego Symphony and music director Rafael Payare have announced a special 2021 digital season that strives to inspire and connect with its audience while in-person performances cannot occur. From January to May 2021, the San Diego Symphony will release monthly virtual concerts conducted by Payare.

The series begins on Friday, January 29, at 7 pm with a concert entitled *Wagner Meets Mozart*. The first piece is an arrangement for brass of Wagner's *Prelude to Act III* from *Meistersinger*.

I'm a little confused by that choice to start off a concert. The *Act III Prelude* is contemplative and subdued. It's not a traditional piece with which to start anything,

except of course the third act Wagner's opera *Der Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

I have no idea what the brass arrangement will sound like. I'm sure the choice to use only brass is based on the expense of using the complete orchestra.

Following *Meistersinger* is a brass arrangement of "Siegfried's Funeral March" from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*. This piece has a lot more punch, but again I have no idea what a brass arrangement will sound like. It makes more sense with this piece as it's more brass-dominant than the Act III *Meistersinger*. One possible snag: the Funeral March is scored to have four harps. I'm not sure there are even

four qualified harpists in San Diego.

The Funeral March is also scored to include four Wagner tubas. Wagner designed the Wagner tuba to meet a specific brass sonority he wanted. However, they are almost impossible to find so trombones are usually substituted.

The program concludes with Mozart's *Symphony No. 29*. You might recall a catchphrase from *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, "And now for something completely different." That is certainly applicable here.

We go from the contemplative *Meistersinger* to the dramatic and ominous Funeral March to one of the most delightful and light-hearted pieces



Siegfried's Funeral March makes more sense as it's more brass dominant.

of music ever written. Mozart's *Symphony No. 29* is a masterpiece of the classical style and one of my favorites, but I'm left scratching my head as to how this concert hangs together. For the record, I'm not saying it won't hang together. I'm saying at first glance, I don't get it.

I'm sure Maestro Payare has thought this through and will share his thoughts during the livestream, but

on the surface, this appears to be a concert that is being pushed around by a pandemic. Alas, what are our options?

If I were to guess, I'd say the total running time for this concert is about 45 minutes unless there's a lot of talking before each piece. To purchase an All Access Pass or individual livestream access, visit sandiegosymphony.org/digitalpass.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

UPCOMING SHOWS

Loft:
Wednesday, Mar. 3 — Gretchen Parlato. \$9-\$39.

Online Internet Events:
Friday, Feb. 5 — Tombs Virtual Concert.
Friday, Feb. 5 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.
Friday, Feb. 5 — Ovation Theatre: All Shook Up.
Saturday, Feb. 6 — Ovation Theatre: All Shook Up.
Monday, Feb. 8 — Marble Eyes Mondays. **Free.**
Friday, Feb. 12 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, Feb. 12 — Jimmy Eat World Phoenix Sessions.
Friday, Feb. 12 — Michael McDonald Home Alone 2 Birthday Bash.
Saturday, Feb. 13 — Dust Bowl Faeries: Wish You Were Hear.
Saturday, Feb. 13 — Laura Stevenson: Sit Resist Livestream.
Sunday, Feb. 14 — Laurie Berkner's Valentine's Day Party.
Sunday, Feb. 14 — Laurie Berkner's Valentine's Day Party.
Wednesday, Feb. 17 — Tibet House US Benefit Concert.
Friday, Feb. 19 — New Faces of Country Music. \$49.
Friday, Feb. 26 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.
Thursday, Mar. 4 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.



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Human rights and human rites

The Museum of Photographic Arts once again hosts the annual Human Rights Watch Film Festival, which, for the first time in its 11-year history, screens virtually and therefore all across the United States. The lineup is yours to watch between February 2-8. Purchase tickets by visiting [MOPA.org/HRWFF](https://mopa.org/HRWFF). Tickets are limited and likely to sell out. It's wise to book in advance.

Talking About Trees (2019)

"Once upon a time in the land of films..." mutters Suleiman Ibrahim as he looks down at the abandoned projection booth floor, where gritty, unspooled yards of celluloid, curled from the Sudanese heat, crunch beneath his feet. The 35mm projectors, so dirty that it takes a leaf-blower to clean out the dust, are unusable. "My dear, a young lover has replaced you," he continues. "Digital technology is the young lover." After going almost a year without a projected image, this viewer doesn't need a reminder of the importance of movies as something more than just pixelated feed-through to television. But I thank the Gods of Cinema for *Talking About Trees*, first-time director Suhaib Gasmelbari's profoundly fervent documentary on the subject.

Moviegoing as we know it perished years ago in Sudan — as a result of Islamist censorship, not natural causes. Since 1989, cinematic divergences have been placed on the endangered species list, with film production scotched, the National Film Institute shuttered, and movie theatres abandoned. But that's not enough to stop semi-retired filmmakers Ibrahim Shaddad, Suleiman Ibrahim, Eltayeb Mahdi, and Manar Al Hilo, collectively known as the Sudanese Film Group (SFG), from trying to resurrect the dead. Their goal is to restore cinema to its former glory by dusting off an outdoor amphitheater — appropriately named The Revolution Cinema — and making it ready to once again bring artistic enlightenment to the masses.

Armed with a questionnaire and a box of Bic pens, our four historians — looking to find what type of film would attract the biggest crowd for their first free public screening — seek the advice of a group of soccer players milling about the front of the Revolution, some of whom have never attended a cinema. Anyone who has ever booked a revival program will no doubt wince when they hear, "There's an audience for classics, but start with American action films." Credit

the team with the wisdom to overlook comic book slobbery, though; the locals appear to speak fluent Tarantino. After the polling, *Django Unchained* is chosen to be the opening night attraction.

The cadre of dedicated colleagues, recognizing the almost certain impossibility of the undertaking, approach their calling with equal parts trepidation and humor. The closest most Americans get to an outdoor moviegoing experience is a drive-in theatre, where the two

biggest distractions are ambient light or airplane engines that momentarily drown out the dialogue. There are eight mosques within earshot of the Revolution, all equipped with electronic public address systems. Imagine periodic bursts of "Allah is great" punctuating a picture, as evidenced during a practice run-through of Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

The meaning behind the title is twofold: first, a tree planted outside the offices of the SFG with roots that grow and symbolize a new beginning for cinema. Second, Manar's quote from the Bertolt Brecht poem, "To Those Born Later" references a time when "to talk about trees is almost a crime, because it implies silence about so many horrors."

We never come face-to-face with the "morality police" that act as a roadblock to success. Nor are we vulnerable in the face of a sea of talking heads. Gasmelbari instead keeps his camera at a distance, valuing the importance of friendship and going to the movies over futile hostility. Fortunately, that doesn't apply to television: a correspondence found in a storage locker — written by departed colleague Atef El-Tayeb "during the days of exile" — perfumes the proceedings with a hint of sublime snobbery as we return to a yesteryear when big and small screens didn't commingle. The letter, dated 1985, speaks of a day "when ignorant tyrants have torn our past to shreds and emptied out lives of substance." Not satisfied with his then-current standing in Egyptian cinema, he complains of punching a clock, "desperately trying to escape the clutches of television." One wonders what El-Tayeb would have thought of living in the age of the Netflixing of cinema.

To anyone who has ever projected film, or sat in the audience and silently cursed out a projectionist's glaucomatous job performance, or fallen in love in the dark hard enough to rush home and call everyone in the phone book to boast of their latest cinematic affair, and to those for whom going to the movies is as vital



Talking About Trees: I'd walk a mile for a movie.

as the next breath they draw, who can't wait for this damned pandemic to end so that we may resume our bi-weekly pilgrimages to the multiplex, I cannot recommend this film highly enough. The exigency of the discussion cannot be overemphasized, and the end result is unlike anything I've seen.

A Q&A featuring Mohamed Osman, assistant researcher in Human Rights Watch's Africa Division, follows the 1 pm screening on Friday, February 5. ★★★★★

Missing in Brooks County (2020)

This twisted tale of kindness and cruelty begins 70 miles north of the Mexican border: Brooks County, Texas is the end of the line for many migrants looking to enter the United States the hard way. After a coyote deposits them at the crossing, it's up to the human contraband to circumvent the checkpoint and try their luck against the forces of nature. If they're among the fortunate, they won't be counted among the 300-600 poor souls who each year die of exposure or dehydration.

There is no protocol as to what to do when a family member turns up missing, and that's where Eddie Canales comes in. Canales heads up the South Texas Human Rights Center, where each day, he fields calls from families hoping beyond hope that a loved one can still be counted among the living. And as the leader of the Texas Border Volunteers, veterinarian/militiaman Mike Vickers is the anti-Canales. "I'm compassionate," says Vickers, the sound of Sean Hannity blaring in the background as the camera pans across the dozens of mounted deer heads that line the walls of his trophy room. Like duck hunters positioned deep in the tulies, Vickers and his conscripts spend their nights on the lookout for evacuees. Meanwhile, Canales maintains a system of water stations, a humanitarian gesture that Vickers laughs off as providing nesting

sites for criminal activity. (Vickers does maintain a water trough for his cattle, a reservoir of sepsis from which the undocumented are free to sip.)

Canales' efforts are frequently rewarded with "Build the Wall Now" emblazoned across the bins, or worse. Sometimes, they're kicked apart, and the 30-foot flagpoles designed to make them visible splintered into twigs. Vickers blames the vandalism on Canales, pronouncing it a ploy on the part of the immigrant rights defender to gain sympathy for his cause.

Directors Jeff Bemiss and Lisa Molo-

mot follow the plights of two families desperate to find closure: Juan Salazar crossed the border to make money after his girlfriend's father demanded that his daughter marry a better provider, while Homero Román, deported on the basis of a traffic violation, had not spoken to his family in over two years. Needless to say, the outcome for both is the same.

A discussion with director Jeff Bemiss and Clara Long, associate director, US Program, Human Rights Watch immediately follows the 7 pm screening on Thursday, February 4. ★★

—Scott Marks



Zombie pets and dynamite
Vietnam vets combine for a pair
of hilarious late-2000s parodies.
For more on *Fido* and *Black
Dynamite*, visit us on the web.

— Scott Marks

FIDO (2007)

For a seemingly limited genre, it's amazing how many great zombie pictures have risen up and shambled onto the screen. *Fido* could be the funniest living dead romp since George Romero put an amen on his archetypal trilogy with *Day of the Dead*. It's easily the sweetest comedy ever made about necromance. From fade-in to fade-out, it's clear that we're in the care of skilled mimics. Not a splice, scratch or bad haircut

is overlooked. (One jarring continuity flaw: although set in the '50s the film's opening montage features clips from Romero's 1968 version of *Night of the Living Dead*.) And director Andrew Currie can handle more than just master period re-animators; he expertly guides his cast and crew as they establish a nostalgic fantasy universe oozing with charm, dexterously understated irony, and dark logic. The peaceful small town of Willard is an all-white storybook haven, free of crime and pollution. Timmy Robinson (K'Sun Ray) even has his own 6-foot, green faced monster named Fido (Billy Connelly) for a pet. Actually, he's the Robinson family's servant. Theirs was the last house on the block to get a domesticated zombie — because in the '50s, servitude was not only applauded, it was a status symbol. This is one zombie satire that packs an extra bite.

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PERSONALS

COOP C Sorry for your loss. Patti was a great woman. Her absence will be a loss for all of us who knew her. Brian B.

GOD'S LOVE "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." CMR

IS IT February 5th yet?

MERNIE Don't forget to turn over the care. Stay dry, Brian B.

MOM MOM MOM, I love you. From your daughter, Stella.

PAT G OF EL CAJON Take care and keep your animals dry in this deluge. Brian B.

TOMMY M Just saying hello I am still free. Thinking of you. I love you. Patti D.

BECKY AND JAN, You better have a plan to take down my Dawg and me....Pinochle on a Friday night, championship in sight.Jan, Shuffle Up and Deal....Love you both for real...Double Five Double Deuce...It aint no puzzle.Gman

BECKY LYNN Hope your birthday was as great as you....Love you lil Sis....Now give me a hug and a kiss...Your brother, ME....

MADISON T. Good luck on your fast pitch softball career.No. 9 in your program, No 1 in your heart, your going to break records...It ain't no puzzle...Stay focused and give all you got....Now, Us lucky Ones Have You To Watch....Gman

BIRTHDAY Jan and Becky - I love you both with all my heart, but me and Scoe will teach you how to play pinochle, all in fun, but gonna kick your buns. Happy birthday Becky Lynn. GMan and Nancy....

JAN I had so much fun the other night....You beat me and Patti and that's a feat, but no more table talking (I know it wasn't much) but you will be disqualified if you must chat, chat, chat. Me and Becky Lynn are in it to win. Love ya Girlfriend. G

KERIANNE You did a fantastic job on me and Nancy....You're the best.

We love you, girlfriend.....Gary and Nancy. Happy Valentines Day Girlfriend.

LETTER READER VACCINE TRASHER writer H.Applebaun was totally correct in what he wrote about the treatment of the seniors and vaccine treatment; it is not good cant blame the the staff at Petco. for 5 days;website stating. NO appointments.OH Note there are no bathroom anywhere.

SCOE DAWG.... Pinochle is my game, and you better not play really lame...We have the potential to be world class, please don't choke and make us look sick....Dawg, we got this...It ain't a puzzle. Double Five Double Deuce.Gman

CRASH.... do you even read these?

GOD'S ASSURANCE OF SALVATION "that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."CR

SADIE LOU YOU MATTERED You brought me so much love, I'll see you someday at rainbow bridge, love mommy, daddy & Stella.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING as YOUR TRUTH. There is only THE TRUTH and your opinion.

WILLIE O'REE the coolest guy to ever be! Congratulations #22 and keep blazing your trail!

BIRTHDAY Pat, Pris, Pam and Becky, Happy Birthday to you. I Love you all so much. Fifty years have passed since we met and we are a special family. Enjoy your special day. Hugs and Love. Gman

BIRTHDAY Marvin, Happy Birthday to my blood brother. 64 years we have been friends. I cherish our friendship and the crazy stuff we have done. Love ya my brother. Gman...

THE NEW PRESIDENT is right with getting the vaccine to all American now if we are to recover this year. No excuses from the bunch running the show here. I

have counted 12 different reasons for not giving us the vaccine.we need to vaccine over 50k people per WEEK Now

GERARD ARMSTRONG WHERE ARE YOU Hey Buddy! I dumbly lost your number and I have a new number, (619) 592-0882. Can't find your address in Mt.Laurel, New Jersey either. Will have to try and contact you on and around March 3rd when you'll be staying at that Motel 6. Bye, Kevin (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

TO MYSELF AGAIN I would like, but I'm a mess. A real wreck. And there's nothing here to salvage. Glad you made it.

MARK MILLER Babe, I miss you. I miss the sound of your laugh. I miss your smile. I wish you were here with me now. Happy Birthday. Please call me, (619) 314-1065. Your wife, Katie Miller.

SEEKING OLDER MENTOR Hello, I'm a 28 year old female who is looking for an older, successful, professional to be my mentor. Send a text to (619) 512-3360 if you're interested. (619) 512-3360 / Labixxy@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR MY HUSBAND Michael Flitterman, 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

JT PRODUCTIONS YOUTUBE "Fly", "Willie Lynch", "Beefheart", "Karmapa ", "Uncle Tom", "Manos", "Michael Brown", "Un Chien", "Folk Song", "Platypuss",Phyllis Pryor", "Mickey Mouse". sangpoincorporated@gmail.com

BE KIND TO THEM AT PETCO was there watching the hard working staff giving vaccine they work long hrs so be nice, as they open 7am to 7pm on their feet. I will bring a small coffee gift token card just to say thanks for working so hard, I hope the city treats them right.

NEW COVID 19 VARIANT IS COMING if this takes hold here we are in big Trouble look what is

going on in England and Ireland it is spreading like wildfire we must now take steps to control movement of people more testing everywhere otherwise a lot worse is coming. all close down

TOTAL VACCINES ADMINISTERED up to 200k by 21. Jan. total shipped to us 442k fully vaccinated 31k we are now are moving to win this fight to recover but we need lots more covid 19 vaccine sites set up NOW in every part of the city use church parking lots where open space

VACCINE MISSING INFO if you want to find out how many covid 19 vaccine shipped to San Diego, check (covid-19 vaccine dashboard). SDcountry web site you will find the big difference between amounts and doses administered; and what was shipped there is a question here.



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WHO'S RESPONSIBLE California got 31,161,075 Covid 19 vaccines on 15 Jan 21; they only gave out 12,279,180 vaccine doses. No one in the main media is asking questions? I am over 70 yrs and told there no vaccine available. Why? now with the new PRESIDENT there is HOPE

SAN DIEGO CAN DO IT We need to vaccinate 50k people each week if we are to have a small scale recovery by August 2021. The question is do you see this happening? Sadly maybe but we all have to work together and HELP to make it happen no more lock-down we can do it

PB PLANNING GROUP ELECTIONS The Pacific Beach Planning Group is holding elections to fill open seats. PB Planning Group is made up of residents and local business representatives. Applications are due by 5 pm on February 24, 2021. Visit pbplanning.org for more information. adriennegallo@me.com

BBQ TAKEOUT EVENT PARC BISTRO Join us every Saturday for a BBQ on our patio at 2760 5th Ave- Menu Changes Weekly--menu Jan 16th: all items served with house-made coleslaw and buttermilk biscuits. BBQ Pork Ribs with Chef Bengy's Special BBQ & BBQ Shrimp & BBQ Veggie Burgers (619) 795-1501 / info@parcbb.com

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\$662 FEB.1, 92122 4-BDRM HOUSE w/3 Prof. M's (near Governor. Genessee), lundry,private 1/2 ba., no smoke, util, cable, internet shared. Txt first name to - (858) 622-0111 / lajollapm@aol.com

ROOM FOR RENT 2 rooms for rent in great neighborhood \$850-\$925 to single responsible female. Call Maria @ (858) 254-2479. Rooms available January 1, 2021. mariatuell7@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT \$350-\$600 per month, private room, female preferred, (619) 665-2856, Mark.

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.

SHARE HOME room for rent. Near downtown, walk to shopping, dining, bus stops. \$550 per month. Call now (619) 394-3868.

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

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

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

RENTALS

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1795. 1BD+1BA cottage style unit in North PB; wood floors; private fenced patio; washer, dryer; remodeled kitchen w/ new appliances and marble countertops; parking space; small pet w/ extra deposit; available 2/1/21; 1782 Diamond Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1545. 1BD+1BA updated unit on 2nd floor; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; coin laundry; elevator; sparkling pool; nice breeze; no parking ever!! No pets; available now; 1433 Oliver Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1625. 1BD+1BA downstairs large unit; kitchen w/ all appliances; sparkling pool; coin laundry; garage space; no pets; available now; 1433 Oliver Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1975. 2BD+2BA; twin master suites; stove, refrigerator; 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, \$1825. 1BD+1BA duplex; remodeled; hardwood floors; appliances; coin laundry; small fenced yard area; 3 blocks to ocean; available 2/1/21; 4417 Dawes Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

BANKERS HILL, \$1195. STUDIO+1BA. Downstairs unit. Stove, refrigerator, plank floors, laundry room. No pets (service animals not considered pets). Near Balboa Park. 2254 5th Avenue #3. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

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.alpointsrealestate.com

LA MESA, \$1595. 2BD+1.5BA apartment in La Mesa/Lake Murray. Small, quiet complex. Stove, refrigerator, A/C, dishwasher, sun deck, laundry, parking. Near lake. No pets (service animals not considered pets). 7490 Collins Avenue #10. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

LA MESA, \$1750-2249. 3BD+2BA (\$2249) and 2BD+1BA (\$1750) apartments. Welcome to Mt. Helix Gated Community! New kitchen. Stainless steel appliances. Spacious. Clubhouse. WiFi. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1750-2249. 3BD+2BA (\$2249) and 2BD+1BA (\$1750) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable, Casa club. Wi-Fi. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

MISSION HILLS, \$1425-1550. STUDIO+1BA and 1BD+1BA. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 W. Washington. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$1295. 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, \$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.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1595. 1BD+1BA upstairs unit, Sunset Cliffs. Stove, refrigerator, laundry room, parking. No pets (service animals not considered pets). 4736 Point Loma Avenue #6. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1995. 2BD+1BA upstairs unit. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, plank flooring, parking, laundry room, balcony. No pets (service animals not considered pets). 1735 Reed Avenue #9. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

TALMADGE, \$1395. 1BD+1BA 600 sq ft, wood-like flooring throughout. Upstairs unit. Fireplace. Private balcony. Water and trash included. No pets. 4416 47th St. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.alpointsrealestate.com

BANKERS HILL 1,650 MO plus deposit. View of downtown, 1 bedroom/1 bath. A highly desired location. Freshly painted, NW appliances, upstairs, by Little Italy. (619) 887-8786

NORTH PARK, \$1,825 Excellent location, 3738, 31 st #F. \$1,825 deposit, 2bed/1 bath, upstairs. Carmen (619) 887-8786.

VETERAN VASH/HUD approved. Looking for a 1 bedroom apt. Golden Hill, North Park, or Hillcrest areas. Contact Keith (619) 551-6368.

VEG. ROOM RENTAL-NATIONAL CITY \$600/mo. 2,000 sq' home, meatless kitchen. Peaceful, no smoke/pets. Near 5/805. Secdep/shared utilities, (161) 926-7635 / wayneenglish@yahoo.com

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.

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

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

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

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

NEED AN APARTMENT SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every month. Studio+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

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS HOUSE \$45K Beautifully remodeled double wide in 55 and over Las Vegas community. \$45,000. Perfect for that LV Raiders season ticket holder. 2 bedroom 2 bathrooms with a den. Fully renovated. Painted inside and outside. Brand new waterproof vinyl laminate flooring (702) 618-6111

4-UNIT APARTMENT OCEANSIDE Desirable location, "0" vacancy. Apt# 1-3BE/2.5BA, patio, 2car; Apt#2- 2BE/2BA, patio, 1 car; Apt#3- 2BE/2BA, patio, 1 car; Apt#4- 2BE/1BA, 1car, laundry hook ups in ea. garage. No upgrades built in 1975. \$6,625.00 rents. Alfredo BRE01298430 (760) 473-9291 / missionrealtyservices@gmail.com



MORTGAGE PAID BY OTHERS 5BE/5BA Once in a lifetime opp, house is set to make you money. Serra Mesa Neighborhood. On canyon remodeled 5/5 boasts 3 Masters, Studio, at app. 2,200 sq. ft. Full Fence, 280 sq. ft. to develop to 6/5. 2car attached. Alfredo BRE 01298430 Must see. (760) 473-9291 / missionrealtyservices@gmail.com

LAND IN BAJA Land for sale in Baja California Mexico, \$2,000 USD a hectare. Location of land is 250 kilometers south of San Quintin. Terreno en venta en Baja California México, 2.000 USD por hectárea. Localización del terreno a 250 kilómetros al sur de San Quint marcelahernandez1988@gmail.com

MUSIC

BACH 36 TROMBONE w/F, fastest slide in the west, rare find at a low price, \$695. Call for info, (619) 264-3686.

DUAL TURNTABLE dual turntable \$260, contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

FENDER FM65R GUITAR AMPLIFIER Excellent condition

Fender amp, made in 2005. No odd buzzing, no issues period. Tolex covering is excellent. Great Fender tones without the high \$\$\$. (619) 995-7058 / emcozic@gmail.com

BASS GUITAR \$1100 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, maple neck, ash body, audere preamp, glassy highs, excellent condition \$1100. (619) 980-6008.



I'LL BUY YOUR RECORD COLLECTION Interested in all genres of music - rock, reggae, hip hop, funk, etc. cash paid. (714) 805-7794

BASS GUITAR \$2000 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, red burst body, figured maple neck, chrome hardware, sadowky preamp, MEC gold pickups, mint condition, \$2,000. (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

PETS

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES Hi, I have beautiful golden retriever puppies for sale.https://goldenretrieverpuppies4sale.com +1 (707) 679-0014

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS Golden retriever, Meet our, fluffy and playful Golden Retriever puppies. They are excited to meet their new forever families! Raised with lots of love and care, they will make the perfect pups with their new family. send a text. (305) 834-7737 / borisroy3327@gmail.com

HEART MELTING YORKSHIRE PUPS Heart melting Yorkshire

Terrier puppies for adoption. If you call and no answer then leave a message or send a text. (305) 834-7737 / borisroy3327@gmail.com

LABRADOR RETRIEVER WITH SPEED Labrador retriever with speedy spirits. They will be stunning with out going personalities. They come with AKC registration. They have 3 year health guarantee each, chip, shots, vet check, and dew clawed. Call or text. (305) 834-7737 / borisroy3327@gmail.com

PRECIOUS CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES Registered, Current vaccinations, Veterinarian examination, Health certificate, Health guaranteed precious Chihuahua puppies. They are the perfect companion. If you call and no answer then leave a message or send a text. (305) 834-7737

BULLDOG PUPPIES AKC bulldog puppies \$1350

CMSEALS1973@GMAIL.COM



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



ROTTIE-LAB MIX 9 weeks, female. To loving home, great with other pets. \$150. CMSEALS1973@GMAIL.COM

ISO MALE CHIHUAHUA I'm in search of a white purebred teacup chihuahua to breed with my female teacup, she is all black very smart. Please, contact via email. We prefer all white but any color is fine as long as he's purebred and healthy. Can't wait to meet! tommiclm192@gmail.com

DOG E TREATS Yummy online Dog e' dining treat menu created especially for your dog. www.DOGEDRIVEsd.com DOGEDRIVESD@GMAIL.COM

TALKING PAIR OF RINGNECK Talking pair of Indian Ringneck parakeets for sale. For more details please contact us at:

(424) 738-8000 / johnroy28067@gmail.com

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



BEAUTIFUL POMSKY PUPPIES. Beautiful, happy, playful, and full of life! These adorable, friendly pups are family raised with lots of TLC and are very well socialized with children. Up to date with shots and dewormer and have been vet checked. The mother is a family pet dchney@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

HORSE PIPE CORRAL \$200 text (619) 438-4567.

SPORTS

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

TENNIS MACHINE RENTAL WITH OPE Hi there, I have a spinshot machine and feel people may want to get a great workout and lots of tennis practice! This machine shoots balls at variable speeds, heights, angles, directions...amazing, fun workout. I am superchill and friendly. Fozetani@yahoo.com

TRAMPOLINE 13 ft. trampoline for sale (619) 840-2943 / rhuffman@voitoco.com

DEEP-SEA FISHING BELTS Pair of 100% leather and vintage, deep-sea fishing fighting belts for sale. They are made by Action LeatherCraft and the total belt length is approx 41". \$25 for both. (949) 441-0669

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS JERSEY Selling a Golden State Warriors Steph Curry official Adidas Jersey for \$20. Size: youth large (305) 744-1753

GOLF BALLS I have blemish-free PRO-Vs for a dollar, slight blem PRO-Vs, clean Tp5, avx, soccer,

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

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etc. for .50 cents apiece. All other brands with blimps a quarter. You pick and choose the best ones. (619) 623-4778

POISON ARSENIC POOL CUE \$250 for a Poison Arsenic Venom 2 pool cue with hard leather case. It's like new, and only used a dozen times. Bought new and paid over \$400 with case. Text (858) 731-6363.

SIGNED CHARGER'S HELMET Authentic Chargers helmet with 24 signatures for \$300. It will pass any major certification company (PSA, JSA, Global, Upper Deck, Steiner, or any other major company). (619) 519-0232

ONEWHEEL E-HOVERBOARD RENTALS Onewheel XR or Pint Hoverboard rentals available any day this week. Each rental comes with a free in-depth lesson and safety gear. No board sport experience is required. Visit sdonewheel.com or call (619) 786-2614 to reserve your board today. (619) 786-2614 / sdonewheel@gmail.com

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

BICYCLES

2 CRUISER TYPE BIKES Male and female styles. Good shape. \$100 both. Firm. Text. (619) 438-4567

VINTAGE SCHWINN TANDEM Selling a 1980s built Schwinn 5 speed tandem bike for \$750. Immaculate museum quality bike. Very low miles Looks like it has been garaged its whole life. Atom rear drum brake. Shifts smooth. Everything works. (760) 583-4073

POWERTAP G3 REAR WHEEL 700C Powertap G3 rear wheel on

Vision rim. Tool, skewer included. 10 or 11 speed. Great condition. \$175



ELECTRIC BIKES Looking for the ultimate electric beach cruiser with unmatched warranties, style, comfort, and accessories? Text to set up an appointment: (760) 717-8150



HIGH WHEEL BIKE Selling a high wheel Penny Farthing reproduction bicycle for \$4,300. If you've wanted a high wheel bicycle to ride, use for advertisement or decor, ride in parades, here is your opportunity to own an extremely well-handcrafted copy! (760) 473-6201



VINTAGE 3-WHEELER Selling a vintage 3-wheeler bike for \$120. It's a project bike that needs restoration. Brand: Bill Mathews Size: 24" (619) 799-7537

MOTORCYCLES

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

MOTORCYCLE WANTED 3 wheel trike, any kind, must be ready for a long trip, excellent condition, current license, clear title, send picture. Call (760) 420-3641, San Marcos, CA.

AUTOMOTIVE



3 MINI COOPER HEADRESTS Great shape, from my totaled 2013 Mini, fits most Minis. Call Fredz (619) 223-9236.



1990 DODGE VAN Selling a 1990 Dodge D-150 van for \$6,480. The van has a manual transmission. Only 20 made for speed with a six-cylinder in line engine that has 38,000 original miles. Original white pearl paint and interior are immaculate. (657) 363-9836



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

LEER FIBERGLASS 6 ft truck cab for sale. (619) 704-6320

2000 VOLVO S 70 GLT TURBO 115,000 miles, sun roof, runs great, no leaks, no wrecks, no rust, 4 door sedan, good condition. \$2800 OBO. (760) 213-4961.

BINATIONAL 32' TRAILER We have a 2008 Rockwood 32' trailer that has binational paperwork. Travel back and forth across the border in style. (619) 480-8713



1990 TRUCK RV \$3000 Interior complete and nice, equipped with led lights, stove works, can sleep 4 people, has a stereo cassette, water system, water heater, microwave, and fridge. Everything works. \$3000 OBO. Includes the truck but will not pass smog. (858) 286-8676



2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4.0L V6 2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4.0L V6 with a clean title. It is gold color with 184,000 miles, smogged, and a clean Carfax. \$4495 (619) 383-1368



2016 DODGE RAM 1500 I'm selling a 2016 Dodge Ram 1500 for \$26,995 in Vista. Its color is black and it only has 45,000 miles! (858) 285-9458



2016 HONDA PILOT \$21,995 I'm selling a 2016 Honda Pilot for \$21,995. It's white in color with only 72,000 miles. (858) 285-9458



2018 KIA RIO \$7250 Selling a 2018 Kia Rio S Hatchback 4D for \$7,250. Driven 56,000 miles with an automatic transmission. The exterior color is blue and the interior color is black. 4/5 overall NHTSA safety rating (619) 882-4616

38 BUICK STREET ROD 1038 Buick 4 door. chopped top. Olds 350 v8. Disc brakes. Contact Bob (760) 943-7326 for more info and pics. \$11K. (760) 943-1500 / skutter@pacbell.net

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

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

ASSOCIATE: CORPORATE & SECURITIES (San Diego, CA): Rep. & advise companies on bus. issues inc: incorp., sale & public offering, structuring, capital raising, debt, & securities. Prepare transactional & legal docs. 5% U.S. & int'l travel. JD, CA license & 4 yrs exp req. Apply to melissa.westwood@us.dlapiper.com. DLA Piper LLP (US).

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST: Analyze competing

firms' marketing methods. App must have master's deg in Business Administration, Economics, Management or related field. In alt, app must have bachelor's deg in any field plus five years exp as business development specialist, market research analyst, sales and marketing manager or related occupation. Mail Resume to MDD Logistics, Inc. 9295 Siempre Viva Rd, Ste H, San Diego, CA 92154; Attn: Mr. Park

CAREGIVER (EAST COUNTY). Active Quadriplegic male seeking PT caregiver in East County area (Santee/ Lakeside La Mesa/El Cajon). Must have reliable transportation and be dependable, energetic, enthusiastic, compassionate. Experience preferred but will train right person. Must pass fingerprint and background check. Duties include: personal care, transferring, dressing, bathing, grooming, cooking, cleaning, shopping. Please send resume or brief description of why you are an excellent candidate to agarciajr14@sbcglobal.net or leave message at (619) 596-9343.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (Req# IIC1327) Create genomic analysis tools used in the leading edge of research to adv human health by unlocking the power of the genome. BS+1yr rtd exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

RFIC DESIGN ENGINEER (Code: RDE-HK) in San Diego, CA. Design of some CMOS RFIC blocks using industry IC design standard tools such as Cadence design/simulation toolset. MS+2yrs rtd exp. Mail resume to Microchip Technology, Silicon Valley HR, 450 Holger Way, San Jose, CA 95134. Ref job title & code.

SR. ENGINEER, DEVELOPMENT (Req# IIC1328) Design, dvlp & implement nanoscale wafer fab tech to dvlp novel consumable devices. MS+2yrs rtd exp or PhD. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following position in San Diego, CA: Software Developer (5142): Development of a reverse proxy solution in Java for client-side encryption. Development of cloud cryptographic solutions in Java in distributed systems. Development and maintenance of a Key Management Framework involving key containers manipulation and key wrapping and unwrapping techniques. Mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 4810 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, CA 92121. Resume must include job title, job ref. #, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

VALIDATION ENGINEER (Req# IIC1326) Coor w/end users & process owners to lead dvlpmnt of validation strategy for proj, sys & processes. MS+6mos rtd exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

75 YEAR OLD LADY who is an invalid needs help from 4pm-11pm on a daily basis. All interested parties please apply. Only principals need apply, \$14.50/hour, no children. (619) 297-3382

SUBJECTS NEEDED FOR UC SAN DIEGO RESEARCH STUDY Dr. William Perry and his associates at UCSD are conducting a research study on how cannabis affects thinking and behavior. We are seeking adults ages 18-50 who either use cannabis at least 4 times a week or do not use cannabis at all, with a history of Bipolar Disorder or with no psychiatric conditions. You must have no serious medical or neurological conditions, including heart problems, seizures, or significant head trauma. Study Procedures: One visit lasting about 6 hours; saliva, blood, and urine tests; computer and paper and

pencil tests; wear a device that measures the movements of your body. Participants reimbursed up to \$20 per hour for study participation. Located at the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest. For More Information, call us at the UCSD Psychiatry Department. Research Study, (619) 543-6575.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) Bella Vista Health Center is hiring for full and part time positions. New higher pay scale. Experienced CNAs 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

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. mysandiegocarl@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

MARINE MECHANIC inboard outboard, no job too small, dockside services, mechanical, electrical, full services, old boat disposal, free pickup, contact Bill (619) 931-4674.

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER Hi, I'm looking for a live-in caregiver position. I have 10 years experience. I cook, clean, laundry, etc... Please text or call (619) 592-0882 Thank You. GHF92565@gmail.com

GARDENING BY KEVIN Hi, I am doing p/t gardening work. Mowing, trimming, etc... I have no set rate and will only work 3 hrs. max per day. So make me an offer, I accept cash or card. A days notice is appreciated. Please text or call (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

P/T F/T PREP-COOK/ DISHWASHER Hi, I am looking for a p/t or f/t position in the mid-city, mission valley area. I have 10 years kitchen experience. Never late, never sick. Please text or call (619) 592-0882, you can also email. Thank you. GHF92565@gmail.com

HOME CARE FOR ELDERLY- SCRIPPS RANCH I'm a home-care assistance with 5+ years of experience in Scripps Ranch. I help the elderly with grooming, bathing, meals, laundry, medication, daily physical activities, transportation to appointments, and more. (858) 408-5923 / Donnatangtran@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,

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

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

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BUYING OLD BASEBALL CARDS Looking to buy your old pre 1980 baseball cards (football, basketball, hockey, all sports and non sports too). Also more recent value cards in all sports. Garbage Pail, comic books, autographed items. All sports collectibles. What do you have? (832) 651-8302 / ashscot@aol.com

I BUY ROLEX WATCHES (619) 280-2075

WANTED TEETER INVERSION TABLE Trying to find one

inexpensive or free. Would need delivered. My back thanks you please text (619) 631-9258.

WILL PAY \$50 to rent a small basket lift for couple of hours, need delivered. Text info and picture (619) 631-9258.

QUARTO GAME WANTED Looking for used Quarto game for sale for reasonable price. If you have one to sell, please call me; Wayne @ (619) 267-6356 - I can come pick up. (619) 267-6356 / wayneenglish@yahoo.com

RC MODEL AIRPLANE ACTION MAGAZINES and Wings and Airpower for the 80's. Does anybody in San Diego County have these magazines? (760) 912-1775

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

I BUY GOLD AND SILVER (619) 280-2075

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

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

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.

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I BUY USED GOLF CLUBS (619) 806-6703.

ADULT TRI WHEEL BIKE Not selling. Wanted. Need bike delivered, budget \$50 or less. If more, not interested. Please text. (619) 631-9258 Please serious only.

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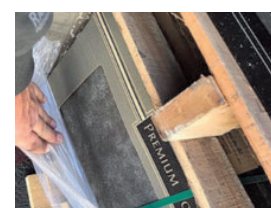
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MISC. ITEMS misc. items for sale. electric alarm clock \$5, radio shack speaker/amplifier \$5, portable cassette recorder \$10, portable cd player \$40, contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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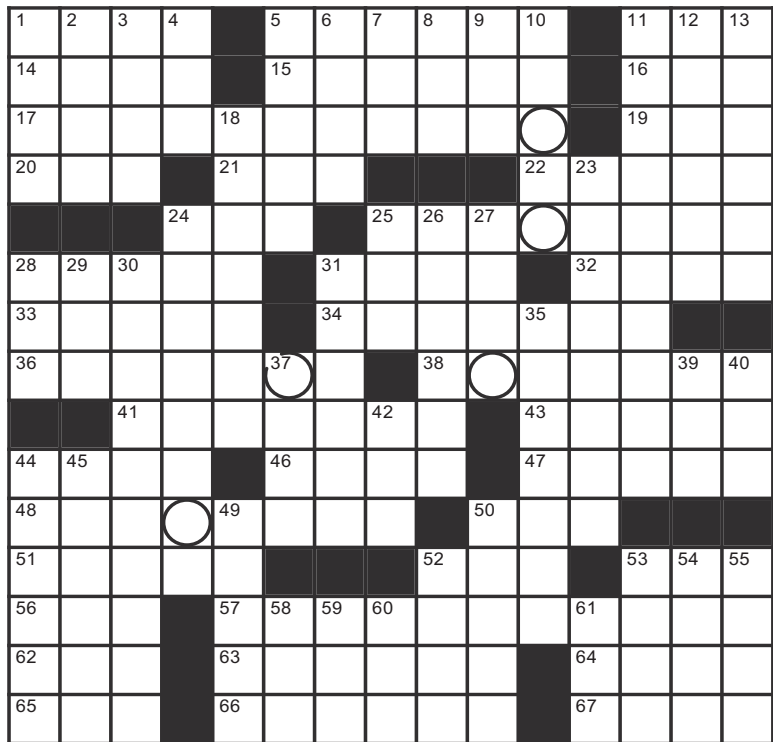
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Across

1. Nominee for the first two Nobel Prizes in Literature (1901-02), but never won
5. Popular cold and flu medicine
11. There is a "super" one every four yrs.
14. "Thirtysomething" actor Ken
15. Like some laughs and stews
16. Bookkeeper's mailing: Abbr.
17. Keats poem that opens "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"
19. Artichoke heart?
20. "It's Raining ____"
21. Check bouncer's letters
22. Westernmost capital in mainland Africa
24. Meat in many an omelet
25. Word after funny or serious
28. Indian flatbreads
31. Leaf (through)
32. iPhone alternative, once
33. Israel's Barak and Olmert
34. Thingamajig
36. Like some accents
38. Tart pie filling
41. One who's morally flawed
43. Cordoned (off)
44. Twin of Jacob in the Bible

46. Cousin of -trix
47. Blissful areas
48. Monopoly deed figure
50. More than unfriendly
51. Finalize, as a deal
52. Celebrity chef Garten
53. Overly
56. Howard's end?
57. Classic hymn ... or what the five circled letters represent
62. Caesar's end?
63. Ornamental light fixture
64. High fever for Caesar?
65. Avg.
66. "Yes, honey"
67. Usually fuzzy tabloid pics

Down

1. ____ fatigue
2. Ye ____ Shoppe
3. Real estate claim
4. Red or black insect
5. Deep divide
6. "Why do the French have only one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is an ____" (old joke)
7. Rebellion leader Turner
8. 1989 play about Capote
9. You can bank on it
10. Singer Lauper
11. Rain on one's parade?
12. Anxiety
13. To the greatest extent
18. The O in "Jackie O"
23. Biological immunity agent
24. Places to lie low
25. "Harrumph!"
26. Lorre's "Casablanca" role
27. MacFarlane or Meyers
28. WNBA official
29. "What have we here?!"
30. Recovery
31. Dominating, in gamer lingo
35. "No prob!"
37. Greek earth goddess
39. "Star Wars" character Kylo
40. What directors sit on: Abbr.
42. Pittsburgh-to-Buffalo dir.
44. Award show hosts
45. Went for in an auction
49. Painter's base
50. Prefix with galactic and spatial
52. Speakers of Quechua
53. Cry after a hectic week
54. Only state with a nonrectangular flag
55. Singer Redding
58. "Bleah!"
59. El Al hub city
60. Chemical ending
61. Post-op locale

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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.

☛ **Margarita Garcia, Pacific Beach, 1.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

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

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Hans Butifoker, San Diego, 1.**

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

continued from page 17

I commented on how the hill and the beach point looked like turtles and all the girls agreed, except Elmira, who said we were just tripping. Gerardo and I went back to the camp to join the guys and pound beers. The girls stayed in the water, forming a circle and giggling with each other. They looked like mermaid witches, floating in the ocean plotting something sinister.

Though we still had plenty of beer, Gerardo insisted on getting more before the store closed. Yogaman and I were tripping hard and told him we were not moving. Johnnie said he felt fine and joined Gerardo. Johnnie later told me: "The shrooms hit me hard when we were on our way to the store. It felt like Gerardo was driving like a maniac. He drove by some hot girls that were with other dudes riding



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

As the sun was setting behind the turtle-looking hill, I felt a sudden urge to climb it and take pictures from the top. I grabbed my tripod and my camera and started walking towards the hill. Yogaman shouted words of encouragement: "You are one crazy dude my man, but I admire you for it!" He then started frolicking on the beach, tripping balls with Angie. The rest of the girls followed me.

ATVs and lifted a lot of sand their way. They seemed angry so I thought they were following us and wanted to kill us. It wasn't until we got to the store that I realized no one was following us. It was a bad trip."

The last two girls out of the water were Angie and Maria. Yogaman said, "Take a picture of that man! Look at our girls looking hot as fuck running toward us." I didn't tell him that Maria and I weren't dating. All I

said was that I didn't want to ruin the moment.

As the sun was setting behind the turtle-looking hill, I felt a sudden urge to climb it and take pictures from the top. I grabbed my tripod and my camera and

started walking towards the hill. Yogaman shouted words of encouragement, "You are one crazy dude my man, but I admire you for it!" He started frolicking on the beach with Angie. The rest of the girls followed me.

When we made it to the skirt of the hill, I asked the girls if they wanted their picture taken before I climbed it. They posed for a second, each with a can of Tecate in hand. I started climbing the hill, which was harder than it looked (especially with a camera and a tripod). The girls were still trailing behind me when I heard Natalia exclaim, "Oh my god, the sand is so soft! Maria, feel the sand! It feels so good!"

The girls lay down on the soft sand and enjoyed the sunset as I made my way to the top of the hill. The top was narrow and it was formed mostly by jagged rocks. The view was astounding, and I yelled at

them that they were missing out. I was ignored.

I sat on the top of the hill by myself, setting up my tripod. It was not an easy task. While attempting a selfie, I almost slipped and fell down the other side of the hill which would most likely have killed me. I tripped about life and death as I felt my heart pounding in my ears. Darkness crept in as I was taking long-exposure landscape shots. I knew I had to climb down the hill before it was too dark, but I also wanted to take amazing shots since I had made it up there.

It got dark faster than I expected. I couldn't see the girls at the bottom of the hill anymore. After a few minutes, I heard them yell to ask if I was okay. I yelled back that I was. I wasn't sure if it was them or if I imagined it. After attempting a few more shots, I started to climb down in the dark. Lucky

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Stains
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\$100 Full oz

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\$10 a Gram
Several
Strains to
Choose from

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Stay Happy Healthy And High

for me, a car was moving around the main camp and the headlights happened to illuminate the path I was coming down.

At the skirt of the hill, I found María, Talía, and Natalia enjoying the display of stars overhead. Near them were Angie and Yogaman, fooling around. Angie was shushing the other girls to be quiet. I pointed my camera southwest towards the core of the Milky Way and took a 20-second exposure at 800 ISO and aperture 1.8f. I was happy with the result, so I didn't play with the camera settings any more and started snapping at the Milky Way and playing with different angles.

I showed the girls the pictures. They were impressed, but they seemed to be enjoying their trip. I felt alienated, so I walked back to camp, stopping in different places for more astrophotos. Back

at camp, Johnnie, Elmira, and Gerardo were drinking. The coolers had more than enough beer to last more than one night. I took a couple of beers, asked Gerardo to turn off a bright flashlight that was ruining my pictures, and walked away from camp towards the water to keep shooting.

I noticed the other girls joining the camp again. Yogaman and Angie were presumably making love by the hill. The full moon was rising, which threatened to ruin the rest of the astrophotos.

Back at camp, María didn't acknowledge my presence and I felt unwelcome again. I left my camera in my tent and walked towards the edge of the water. The low tide allowed me to get away from the camp — more than 100 yards away. I sat by the edge of the water with my beers and suddenly started sobbing. Not only

because María was giving me the cold shoulder, but also because of accumulated feelings about my mom suddenly coming to the surface. It seemed each year had been getting worse since her parting, and my life didn't have any direction. I felt some pride when I thought of how I self-published two books this year, but got depressed again when I remembered I haven't made much money from them and didn't know what to do next.

I thought about how much mom would have loved this place, and thought of bringing some of her ashes on a different occasion. I thought of my brother and his family and how I would love to see his kids playing on this beach.

The idea of traveling all of Baja, spreading my mom's ashes in beautiful spots, brought a smile to my face while tears still rolled down my cheeks. It gave

me a sense of purpose. I enjoy exploring Baja and taking pictures. I'd rather do it accompanied, especially by a beautiful woman like María, but I can do it by myself. Perhaps she knew that's what I needed in my life and it had nothing to do with us being together. Getting away from it all feels great. Especially leaving the phone behind. No more paying attention to social media, posting, and craving social currency. No more constantly refreshing my Amazon account to check how many books I sold or if my book rank has gone up. No more doomscrolling for constant news updates about politics and world issues.

The news can't reach you if you are disconnected from it all.

I went back to camp after finishing my beers and without saying anything, I went to my small tent. I checked my phone, it was

10:43 pm.

I slept comfortably despite the tent being too small for me. I woke up a couple of times during the night, disoriented, thinking I was back at home. My dreams were wild.

I woke up to a man walking towards my tent near dawn. I thought he was going to yell at us for camping where it was indicated the cars weren't allowed. Instead, he told me he saw a seal stranded by the rocks near the end of the beach and we should later help him push it back into the ocean. I told him we would and lay down a bit longer.

I got out of my tent before 7 am to find María and Talía cleaning up the camp. The beer pong table was set with red plastic cups filled halfway with sand. There were beer cans and assorted trash everywhere. We had plenty of garbage bags. Without saying much,

I started picking up trash with them. After filling up a bag and throwing it on Yogaman's Tacoma, I grabbed my book and walked toward the shady part of the beach where I'd napped the day before.

The two dogs that were barking at the car when we entered camp were barking at my shaded spot. As I approached it, I noticed they were barking at a large sea mammal stranded at the beach. It was the same animal that had been swimming near us. There was a trail of feces on the upper part of the beach, more feces surrounding the animal, and still more all over its tail. It didn't seem injured or distressed. The low tide was a few yards away and inching closer every minute. I wasn't sure if she was stranded or just lazy. I decided she was a sea cow and named her Mumu. (Later research proved me wrong; Mumu was a female

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elephant seal.)

I went back to camp to tell the cousins, who were having breakfast beers. I grabbed my camera and went back to Mumu. I took some pictures and went back to camp to show them. The cousins joined me with their beers to try and help the animal (Yogaman stayed behind). Gerardo approached Mumu, getting closer than I'd dared before. Mumu opened her mouth wide in his direction, showing us four little teeth.

"Let's not bother it, I'm sure it will go back to the water," said Gerardo. He collected seawater with an empty XX bottle and sprayed Mumu, who seemed annoyed but didn't do much. It was clear that Mumu could move on her own and did not need a push from us. After a while, the cousins went back to camp.

I stayed with Mumu, wondering if she was



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

I noticed the other girls joining the camp again. Yogaman and Angie were presumably making love by the hill. The full moon was rising, which threatened to ruin the rest of the astrophotos. Back at camp, María didn't acknowledge my presence and I felt unwelcome again.

pregnant and being concerned for her well being. Mumu ignored me and closed her eyes. I continued reading *Pygmy* while observing the massive animal next to me. Every once in a while, she would look my way, as if saying, "I wonder if he is still here."

We would lock eyes and she would go back to napping. She changed napping positions several times. She would also scratch her head and toss sand on her torso with her flippers.

As the sun crept upwards and my shaded spot started to disappear, I went back

to camp. Elmira was annoyed, ready to leave and demanding a shower. Yogaman was sleeping in his Tacoma. The rest of the cousins were drinking. It was agreed that we would swim once more in the ocean and start our journey back. Elmira and Yogaman

stayed in the camp. The rest of us went for one last swim. Angie suggested swimming around the rocks behind the turtle hill.

Already sunburned and trying to avoid the sun, I went ahead on foot. I climbed around the jagged rocks until I found a shaded swimming area. There was a greater diversity of fish and other animals in the area, and I regretted not having the snorkel.

Angie and María were the first ones to show up. Angie said it wasn't the spot, and continued around the hill. I followed behind them, climbing sharp, tricky, mossy rocks. This was the area where I would have fallen the previous night. Angie found the spot and dove from a higher rock. María followed. I was still yards away from the diving rock but I spotted the rest of the cousins swimming around the rocks instead of climbing them. Natalia

was holding on to Gerardo, exhausted from the swim.

The other side of turtle hill opened to a natural and deep pool, filled with an even greater variety of fish. I took a few dives for fun from different rocks while María and Angie encouraged the other cousins to reach the spot. The party swam in the pool for a while as I sat on a shaded spot in between the rocks. We saw Yogaman paddle far out on his board until he disappeared. We also spotted a turtle that came out for a breather now and then until a jet ski went by and spooked him for good.

It wasn't even noon but the 100-degree heat was upon us. Elmira was still annoyed and demanding a shower. We packed the tents, huddled under a shade tent, and drank beers while waiting for Yogaman to return.

Though most of us were

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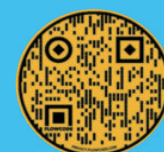
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okay with not showering until getting back home, Elmira got her wish and we stopped by the market to rent showers. Yogaman, Gerardo, Angie, and I went to a small hut that was serving seafood. A bit famished, I ordered two tostadas. Gerardo went back to the Tacoma to grab the last of the beers. The scallop tostadas were fantastic, while the fish was nothing too special. I ordered another round of the scallops for all, not realizing that each order was 250 pesos.

The rest of the cousins were still in the shower area when we finished eating. Tickets to shower in the market were 45 pesos. Claiming she was uncomfortable on the middle backseat of the Durango, Natalia switched cars and went to the middle backseat of the Tacoma. Before we started our journey back, Yogaman

chugged the rest of a bottle of tequila.

The first military checkpoint, the one that took my wax pen, was uneventful. We continued our journey north, following the white Tacoma driven by Angie, who was speeding. Elmira and Johnnie were concerned that she was too drunk to drive and told Gerardo to stop following her. They were also hungry and insisted on stopping to eat anywhere without the other cousins, though Angie said she knew a spot in San Felipe.

The San Felipe boardwalk was filled with cars and people entering and exiting. Angie went the wrong way on a one-way street road as locals yelled at her to turn around. Gerardo followed behind her. While backing up, Angie hit the back window of a car with the tip of the paddleboard, not damaging the vehicle. Nonetheless, she freaked

out and drove away from San Felipe in a hurry.

Gerardo got into an argument with his older sister about staying together with the other car, while Elmira said Angie didn't give a shit about us and we should stop to eat. Johnnie was on Elmira's side and wanted to stop in San Felipe to eat. I tried not taking any sides and said in awkward silence while the siblings fought. We went to an Arco station to fill up the tank while trying to reach the other party. The argument about what to do continued.

Finally, Johnnie reached out to Talía, and she sent us the location of a restaurant Angie found outside of San Felipe: Jollymon Bar. We found them sitting on a table near the entrance. At one table sat two older Mexican gentlemen, at another, an old American couple drinking in silence, and at a third table, four old Americans drinking

and having fun. There was a plump Mexican woman behind the counter, bored out of her mind. The NFL was playing on the television and the decorations were tropical. It felt more like a Parrothead bar in a strip mall in Arizona than something you would find in Baja.

The waiter came to take the order of his surprise guests. Yogaman, Angie, Gerardo, María, and I got beers. The rest ordered sodas and lemonades. The menu had pizza, plates of pasta, barbecue ribs, hamburgers, and more Americanized food. Two burgers, a large mushroom pizza, spaghetti and meatballs, a large order of fries, and barbecue ribs appeared on the table after a 30-minute wait. We all feasted. Maria sat on the opposite side of the table and didn't acknowledge me.

Gerardo didn't stop drinking. Johnnie said he

would take the wheel of the Durango. Elmira took the co-pilot seat. Angie still drove the Tacoma, passing cars aggressively. Johnnie, a more conservative driver, stopped following. Reggaeton still blasted on the stereo. I tried ignoring all of it and went back to my book.

The second military checkpoint was uneventful.

At the third military checkpoint, the larger one before La Rumorosa, the soldiers pulled us to the side. One soldier made us get out of the car as other soldiers inspected a different vehicle in the vicinity. The soldier separated us until it was only Elmira and him in the back of the Durango inspecting the bags. The soldier then came up to me and asked if I did any drugs. I told him I didn't and asked why he would ask me — if it was because I'm a güero. He said it was because my eyes were red. I told him

my whole body was red and he laughed. I still had the hit of acid hidden in my phone's case.

They let us go.

Elmira told us the soldier was hitting on her when she got separated from us. The soldier asked if I was her boyfriend, and Elmira replied I was a friend. He then inquired if she had a boyfriend. She did. He still asked if she would go out with him, and she said nothing.

We dropped Elmira and Gerardo at their home in Tecate. On our way back to Tijuana, I asked Johnnie if he could drop me home instead of in Otay, and he agreed.

I made it home shortly before midnight. I noticed my extreme sunburn and the sun blisters on my back. I took a cold shower, applied aloe vera cream, and went to bed.

I never saw María again.

— Matthew Suárez

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Too Hot to Handle

— *The Sun* reported on Jan. 18 that a woman in the United Kingdom suffered an "inferno" in her living room after a candle exploded as she was lighting it. Jody Thompson, 50, won the candle, labeled "This Candle Smells Like My Vagina," in an online quiz from Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop website. "The candle exploded and emitted huge flames," Thompson said, "with bits flying everywhere. The whole thing was ablaze and it was too hot to touch." Thompson and her partner "eventually got it under control and threw it out the front door."

In Plane Sight

— On Jan. 16 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, two employees of United Airlines approached a man and asked for his ID. Aditya Singh, 36, of Orange, California, produced an employee badge, but it was not his: Another employee had reported it missing on Oct. 26, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. Authorities said Singh had arrived at O'Hare on Oct. 19 from Los Angeles and was too afraid to fly back home because of COVID-19, so he hid in a secured area of the airport for three months, living off food given to him by strangers. Singh is unemployed but has a master's degree in hospitality and doesn't have a criminal background. He was charged with felony criminal trespass.

Irony

— Esequiel Robles, 40, was caught after a traffic stop in Williston, North Dakota, with methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia

on Jan. 14. *The Smoking Gun* reported that Robles was on probation for narcotics possession at the time, following a 2019 conviction for meth possession. Notably, however, when Robles was arrested, he was wearing a T-shirt with the message, "Don't Do Drugs." Do as I say, not as I do.

Least Competent Criminals

— Leobardo Hernandez, 32, of Pomona, California, went to extraordinary lengths on Jan. 16 to evade police after allegedly stealing a car. As Hernandez ran from officers, he entered an apartment complex and found an unlocked door, the *Daily Bulletin* reported. The apartment residents were not at home, so Hernandez moved right in, shaving his face, changing clothes and even cooking tortillas to make it seem as if he lived there. Unfortunately, he also burned the tortillas, summoning the fire department. Hernandez eventually surrendered and was charged with burglary and possession of a stolen vehicle among other offenses.

What's in a Name?

— Before social distancing and masks became the world's norm, CBS News reported on Jan. 12, Paul O'Sullivan of Baltimore was noodling around on Facebook one night, searching for other Paul O'Sullivans. Several of those he found accepted his friend request, which was when he noticed that some were musicians, as he was. Baltimore Paul, as he's known, reached out to others, and eventually he and three others formed the Paul O'Sullivan Band. Manches-

ter Paul plays bass; Pennsylvania Paul is the percussionist; and Baltimore Paul and Rotterdam Paul play guitar and sing. They recorded a single at the beginning of 2020, but when COVID hit, they thought it was a great opportunity to make a whole album. "It feels great to be able to contact people on the other side of the world when you're in lockdown because you don't feel alone at the moment," commented Rotterdam Paul. "If you learn to play an instrument, it can help you through some dark times," said Manchester Paul.

Government in Action

— Bigfoot hunters in Oklahoma will be happy to know that their pastime could get its own season, KOKH reported. State Rep. Justin Humphrey introduced a bill on Jan. 20 asking the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission to establish a Bigfoot hunting season, "set annual season dates and create any necessary specific hunting licenses and fees." Southeastern and south-central Oklahoma is infamous for Bigfoot sightings, including a large festival (canceled this year because of COVID-19). If passed, the bill would become effective in November.

Questionable Judgment

— Cam Faust and Kevin Joiner weren't sure at first how to react when, during a fishing trip on Jan. 3 near Darwin, Australia, they "heard this faint like 'ahhh ahhh,'" Faust told 9News, and found a naked man clinging to branches in the mangrove forest, filthy and covered with bug bites. Luke

Voskresensky, 40, told them he'd gotten lost on his way to a New Year's Eve party a few days earlier and had been eating snails to stay alive. Faust and Joiner offered him a cold beer and a ride back to town where they found out the real reason Voskresensky was stranded in the croc-infested waters: He had been arrested for armed robbery and fitted with an ankle monitor, which he had broken before escaping bail. "I was going to go visit him in hospital," Faust said, but a paramedic said "he's in hospital with handcuffs on, two cops babysitting him" so ... maybe we'll leave it."

Home of Your Dreams

— The house for sale at 43 Courthouse Drive in Guildhall, Vermont, has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, an updated kitchen and seven jail cells, complete with barred windows, toilets and cots. United Press International reported that the property, listed for \$149,000, used to serve as the Essex County jail, with the jailer's quarters attached to the back of the house. Out of use since 1969, the cells are now covered in dust and, according to the listing, just waiting for a creative buyer to "bring ... ideas on what this 28-foot-by-40-foot wing could be!"

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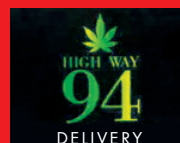
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* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 2-1-21. **No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required.

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