

Readers



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LETTERS

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

Home seekers dig deep

So there's a dearth of homes on the market ("30-year-old San Diegans dream about real estate," Cover Stories, February 3). Allow senior citizens to keep their Prop. 13 tax benefits when selling and there will be an explosion of homes on the market.

Ralph Salerno
Oceanside

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

"Conviction of Army & Navy headmaster for child abuse is overturned"

Neighborhood News
February 9

That case was strange, in that he had been investigated for such activity more than once previously, and no charges were filed. But, the story went, he was warned to avoid even the hint of impropriety and keep his distance from the cadets. What a fool he had to be to offend again, and get caught.

The leadership of the ANA was asleep at the switch for allowing it to

reoccur. The head of the ANA, a retired army brigadier general, was out of there as soon as Barton was arrested. Later it was revealed that Barton had left a private school somewhere else in the nation after accusations of the same sort of abuse.

But he'd managed to get that school to stay mum about why he left its employ. Yet, he kept a copy of the documentation hidden in his car, and it was found by the cops after his arrest here, adding credence to the charges being brought. Without those documents the local authorities would likely have never known about it. Good to have you back, Eva!

—Visduh

"Spiny lobster comes back to San Diego"

Cover Stories
February 13

Meat comes from the cadaver of someone who wanted to live. Being Vegan embodies non-violence, renouncing oppression of all beings including non-human animals. For example: pigs, chickens, cows, fish and lobster commonly used and killed for "food."

When you get to know them, you recognize animals have feelings and are sensitive individuals. Just like you, as well as your dog and cat companions. Being Vegan represents a new moral baseline rejecting violence and animal use for pleasure, amusement or convenience. Being Vegan refutes the pervasive idea

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San Diego Reader

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February 18, 2021



PHOTOGRAPH BY MILLER HAWKINS

Bering Sea tales • Jewish Men's choir delivers the schmaltz • Flavors of East Africa

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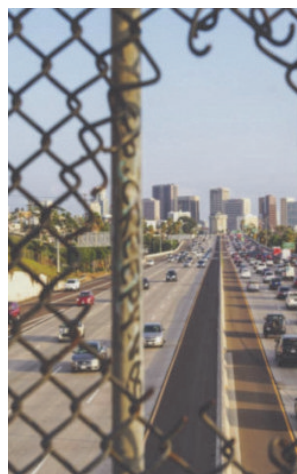
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

Offender Profile

BARTON, JEFFREY SCOTT



Known Aliases

- BARTON, JEFFREY S

Description

Date Of Birth: 11/22/1957
Sex: MALE
Height: 5'10
Weight: 225
Eye Color: BLUE
Hair Color: GRAY/PARTIALLY GRAY
Ethnicity: WHITE

Offenses

Offense Code: 288a(c)(2)
Description: ORAL COPULATION BY FORCE OR FEAR
Year of Last Conviction:
Year of Last Release:

Offense Code: 288a(c)(2)(A)
Description: ORAL COPULATION BY FORCE/FEAR
Year of Last Conviction:
Year of Last Release:

If you believe a crime has been committed, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

Barton's still a fink.

CARLSBAD Third time's for harm Once more into the court for boy-botherer Barton

A top official at a boys academy in San Diego County has had his child abuse conviction overturned, and been granted a new trial by an appellate court. Jeffrey Barton, then 55, was head of schools at the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad when he was arrested and accused of child abuse in October of 2013. He had been employed there for almost 20 years, from 1994 until his arrest. Accusations first surfaced in June 2013, when Barton was accused of molesting boys from 13 to 15 years of age.

Three months ago, on October 26, 2020, an appeals court overturned Bar-

ton's conviction, because the trial judge removed a juror who reportedly refused to deliberate. The 18-page decision was written by Associate Justice Richard D. Huffman, and justices Patricia D. Benke and Joan Irion concurred. The appellate court did not, however, dispute that Barton committed unlawful acts on boys. "The evidence was more than sufficient to support the jury's implied finding that Barton committed the sexual acts by means of duress. Thus Barton's challenge to the

sufficiency of the evidence to support the jury's verdict is meritless," the judge wrote. "While we reverse the judgment due to the error regarding discharge of Juror Number Twelve, Barton may be tried again for these offenses."

Barton's first trial ended in November 2015. He was acquitted of some charges, but the jury could not come to unanimous agreement on other counts. Patricia Lavermicocca led the second prosecution of Barton in May 2016, in which he was found guilty. The jury deliberated some days and complained about one female juror who reportedly would not join discussions. An alternate juror was substituted in, and the jury came to unanimous decisions in about five hours. Barton was convicted of five felony counts of sexual abuse of one student, plus one more felony molestation charge. Honorable judge Harry Elias sentenced Barton, then 59, to the maximum time allowed by law, 48 years.

Lavermicocca is expected to prosecute Barton's next trial, his third. Barton, now 63, is expected to return to local custody in San Diego County on March 3. He has been in California State prison since 2017.

EVA KNOTT



When it comes to fires, it's safety first — unless maybe we need more housing.

ALPINE Red-hot real estate? Plan calls for new homes in hazard zones

In Alpine's latest Community Plan Update, wildfire is given its own standalone section, a result of changes to the environmental review process made by the state in 2018. The idea was to put the brakes on development in places most prone to wildfire and other hazards. Alpine, 25 miles east of San Diego, has many such areas; its long fire history includes the 2003 Cedar

growth to the village. As it is, the project instead allows development throughout the plan area, wreaking havoc on agricultural and forest lands, they say. "Perhaps of greatest concern, the Alpine Community Plan area is also located in a highly fire prone area." As shown by the recent West Fire and Valley Fire in San Diego County, fire breaks and setbacks are no solution to the wind driven blazes that are becoming more prevalent, the letter claims. Even if fuel modification zones and building design can protect the homes, "nothing can

"Perhaps of greatest concern, the Alpine Community Plan area is also located in a highly fire prone area."

Fire, among the state's worst. Last September, the Valley Fire torched 76,067 acres. But the update to the existing 1979 Alpine Community Plan considers increased densities, both within and adjacent to forest lands. According to the planning report, 60,072 acres of the Alpine Community Plan area are within the Wildland-Urban Interface, which represents 88 percent of the community. All of the areas eyed for development are entirely within that region, in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The update would allow 2013 more homes than the general plan now allows, for a total of 6078 dwelling units at build-out. Past efforts to open up land during updates and amendments were defeated by local concerns, concerns that included wildfire risk.

Though the updates are still a work in-progress, the plan's critics are calling for an overhaul. In a letter from their attorney, the Cleveland National Forest Foundation "urges the County to go back to the drawing board" to prepare an update that limits

guarantee the safety of the new residents."

After receiving public feedback, a process that began in 2017, the county developed six alternatives for land-use changes. The one that was chosen is village-focused; the other five are alternatives in the draft supplemental environmental impact report. The village alternative proposes land-use changes in four of seven subareas, concentrates density in more developed areas, and puts commercial options near residential communities. Opponents say the plan creeps into the forest by expanding higher density land-use designations outside the established village boundaries. It would increase the density in one area several miles from the village "by more than five-fold."

So what is the county doing to address how projects will create or exacerbate wildfire risks? One goal is to use clustered development, keeping homes close together, as supported by the Conservation Subdivision Program, they say.

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Patricia Lavermicocca and judge Harry Elias in court. Patricia Lavermicocca, left, led the second prosecution of Barton in May 2016. Judge Harry Elias, right, sentenced Barton to 48 years for each of the six guilty counts



All hands on deck, but please wash them first to help prevent the spread of Covid.

Kidd conquers Covid

But *Theodore Roosevelt* succumbed, says audit

A heavily redacted report by the Inspector General's office of the U.S. Department of Defense had critical words for both the Navy in general and the leadership of the San Diego-based *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, one of two warships to suffer severe outbreaks of Covid-19 last year. "As of August 1, 2020, the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* and the destroyer *USS Kidd* were the only Navy warships that had a Covid-19 outbreak while underway at sea, and both had the highest number of cases relative to the crew size," noted the document, dated February 4. "The *USS Theodore Roosevelt* had just completed a port call in Da Nang, Vietnam, when its leadership reported the ship's first Covid-19 case on March 24, 2020." Twenty-five percent of the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt's* 4800-member crew ultimately turned up positive for the virus after the March outbreak, and one crew member died. "On March 24, 2020, the first sailors tested positive for Covid-19, while the ship was underway at sea to Guam." Three days later, on March 27, the aircraft carrier "arrived in Guam to receive medical care for the crew and to clean and disinfect the ship."

"Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic," the report said, "we found that four out of five Navy Component Commands did not conduct a biennial Pandemic Influenza & Infectious Disease exercise in accordance with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations requirements. As a result of not conducting biennial [Pandemic Influenza & Infectious Disease] exercises, most Navy commands did not exercise pandemic response in coordination with their supported combatant commanders."

The removal of *USS Theodore Roosevelt* commander Capt. Brett Crozier, fol-

lowing the April leak of his memo critical of Navy higher-ups, went unmentioned in the report. But the audit echoed the blame-laying against the *USS Roosevelt's* leadership by an in-house Navy audit. "The Command Investigation report stated that *USS Theodore Roosevelt* leadership believed that social distancing would be impossible onboard an aircraft carrier." Added the document, "The command investigation further stated that the *USS Theodore Roosevelt* leadership team allowed social gathering areas to remain open and continued to perform urinalysis testing for illegal substances that the leadership team should have considered non-essential during the Covid-19 outbreak. Despite the release of Navy guidance allowing Commanding Officers to reduce urinalysis screening and to close social gathering areas to support Covid-19 mitigation efforts, the ship continued to conduct command urinalysis screenings and keep gyms open" In addition, auditors said, "Leadership decided to prematurely release sailors from shipboard quarantine because conditions in quarantine were crowded and believed that the quarantine was causing more sailors to become infected. According to the Command Investigation, these decisions likely resulted in an increased infection rate."

No criticism, however, was leveled against leadership of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer *USS Kidd*, based in Everett, Washington. "The *USS Kidd* was supporting counternarcotic operations in the U.S. Southern Southern Command area of responsibility in the the eastern Pacific Ocean when its leadership reported the ship's first Covid-19 case on April 22, 2020," said the new audit. "On April 28, 2020, the *USS Kidd* arrived at Naval Base San Diego to receive medical care for the crew and to clean and

continued on page 13

UNDER THE RADAR

Virtual giving, post facto Covid-19 has proved no barrier to post-election fundraising for winning mayoral candidate **Todd Gloria**. Influence peddlers **Stephanie Saathoff** and **Denise Z. Price**, two Clay Company employees, threw a "virtual coffee" on November 24 that raised \$5200 for Gloria's campaign fund. Besides that event, the pair's virtual coffees came up with \$5350 on October 16 for City Attorney **Mara Elliott's** reelection. Saathoff and Price raised \$2850 on December 7 for newly elected council Democrat **Marni Von Wilpert** and \$3200 on December 4 for council Democrat **Joe LaCava**, another November winner, at other online events. The report says a December 3 "virtual mtg" by the pair for councilman **Stephen Whitburn** raised \$600. Prominent Clay Company clients include Evans Hotels, which leases from the city the land under the company's Bahia and Catamaran hotels, and the Lodge at Torrey Pines. Evans paid the lobbyists \$13,000 in the final quarter of 2020, the disclosure shows. The hotel group has been pushing hard for rent relief during the covid-19 pandemic.



Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert received \$2850 from a "virtual coffee."

David Alvarez, the former San Diego city council Democrat who lost the February 2014 mayoral runoff to Republican **Kevin Faulconer**, now hoping to be governor, has signed up his first city hall lobbying client. According to his February 3 lobbying disclosure registration, he's advocating for Los Angeles developer Kilroy Realty regarding "Acquisition/Development of 951 Park Blvd." The so-called Popular Market site is being sold by the city to Kilroy for a reported \$8.5 million for development as offices for technology and life science companies. Kilroy already owns adjacent real estate, sold by the Salvation Army for \$40 million, to be included in the mega-complex.

San Diegans for governor

Rancho Santa Fe Republican **John Cox** kicked off his latest campaign for governor with a TV spot drilling ex-San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer, another declared Republican gubernatorial hopeful, for the city's Ash Street office building scandal. Cox, who lost to Newsom in 2018, self-funded his latest campaign with \$1 million on January 5, records show. Real estate mogul and Los Gatos vintner **Joe McCarthy** kicked in \$31,000 for Cox on January 26. Meantime, yet another famous GOP name is being floated for governor. Ex-Trump administration acting Director of National Intelligence **Ric Grenell**, no stranger to San Diego's rough-and-tumble political environs, is said to be the



Deep-pocketed clients make politician-turned-lobbyist David Alvarez smile.

top pick of some MAGA adherents, according to a February 5 dispatch by *Breitbart.com*. "A recall fight could be the best way for a Republican, especially one this close to Trump, to get into the governor's mansion in California with just a plurality of the vote," notes a February 5 take by the website.

Grenell cut his teeth in San Diego as a manager for the 1996 GOP convention here and later as tough-talking spokesman for Republican mayor **Susan Golding** and her quickly abandoned race for the U.S. Senate. After that, he briefly served as vice president of corporate communications for La Jolla-based military contracting giant Titan Corp., where Golding was a board member. "After a lifetime career in the public sector, Grenell calls this private enterprise post, which he assumes in December, a great challenge — and a welcome return to San Diego," wrote *Union-Tribune* columnist **Diane Bell**. But Grenell vanished from the role when Titan's connection to the Abu Ghraib torture scandal emerged in 2004. In 2014, Grenell briefly returned to San Diego politics as a hard-hitting champion of GOP ex-city councilman **Carl DeMaio's** congressional challenge to La Jolla Democratic incumbent **Scott Peters**. "Congratulations to @PeteButtigieg on becoming the second openly gay member of a President's Cabinet. Welcome to the club!" Grenell tweeted on February 2 following Buttigieg's confirmation as transportation secretary in the **Joe Biden** administration.

Total recall The first would-be challenger to council Democrat **Jen Campbell**, subject of a current recall campaign, has filed a February 8 candidate intention statement with the city clerk. **Loxie Gant**, a victims-rights proponent who in 2017 went public with allegations that a La Jolla High School teacher groped her in 2003, relates her platform on a new Facebook page: "Recent policies and Council votes are riddled with racism and waste - the "Smart Streetlights", 101 Ash Street, the Hep A outbreak, the covid-19 convention center mega-shelter/outbreak epicenter, the militarization of our police, the sprawl development, the 10+ year waiting list for Section 8, and the beach coming to a place only tourists can afford."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

The *Reader* offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or sandiegoreader.com/staff/matt-potter/contact/.

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Dear Hipster:

We can all agree that maintaining your own urban herb and vegetable garden is tres hipstère, particularly where you use your garden to grow unique foods for hosting elaborate dinner parties where each course features something that has to be introduced with, “You can’t get this at the store.” However, I have heard that gardens can be used to grow other things, specifically, flowers. I think it’s kind of weird that I never hear about hipsters growing flowers. What did flowers ever do to hipsters to deserve second-class citizen status compared to herbs and vegetables?

— MARGARET

OMG. Plants. So hot right now. Quarantine life has us all relentlessly greenhousing our homes; putting potted plants on every surface in the far-fetched hope that indoor greenery will purify the stale air we’ve been breathing and rebreathing as we gradually forget what

it’s like to put on real pants and leave the house, or put on pants at all.

There are so many ways for hipsters to love plants. You’ve already identified the aspiring urban farmer who lovingly tends her crop of lovage, borage, and cardoons in anticipation of preparing obscure recipes that have been floating around the blogosphere ever since some studious hipster unearthed a 19th-century cookbook from a dusty corner of his local bookstore. I remember hipster dinner parties. Humblebragging about your ability to cook borage is one thing that definitely doesn’t work on Zoom.

But while we’re on the subject of hipster horticulturalists, let’s not leave out the mini-



malist interior decorating hipster who has the perfect arrangement of succulents — its always succulents — to complement each and every room done up in varying shades of white. And how about the weed-growing hipster who deploys a unique brand of amateur science to clone and hybridize new strains of his drug of choice (all of which receive stupid names like “Obama Kush”)? You even might call that one guy with the collection of carnivorous plants a very particular kind of hipster in a category

of one.

But whither the peaceful hipster flower gardener, lovingly aerating a raised bed of hybrid tea roses, or patiently dead-heading a beloved geranium? When you picture that level of gardening, does your mind conjure up an image of a sweet little old lady named Myrtle who might invite you in for tea (and perhaps some of those “Royal Dansk” shortbread cookies in the blue tin)? Or perhaps you get an image of a grizzled veteran who has seen enough of war and destruction, such that he now prefers to tend his flower garden in peace, nurturing life in an otherwise savage world. Maybe you envision the wholesome, Midwestern, 4-H kid nurturing a crop of posies for the county fair. None of these eminently plausible visions fits anybody’s definition of a typical hipster, but there you have it.

I suspect the explanation has something to do with how growing flowers is an activity both solitary and evanescent, neither of which qualities has a ton of appeal to social creatures such as hipsters.

Of course, now that I’ve said it, this probably opens up a door for a renaissance of hipster flower gardening. Next thing you know, we’ll see a hashtag trend for Instagram gardeners posting up their best Chrysler Imperial blooms. A handful of affable misfits will no doubt show up to the party expecting pink wine, and we’ll all have a laugh over it.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

that harming sentient beings is “normal.”

The best thing you can do, the most positive action that you can make is to become Vegan. Please take 12 minutes to watch Vegan Video, elaborating on the logic and ease of being Vegan. After you have enjoyed this thought provoking feature, please consider becoming Vegan.

— WatchVeganDotVideo

“Alpine struggles to stay safe from fires” Neighborhood News February 9

Alpine has had to sweat blood every time there is a fire in the area. That was true at the time of the 1970 Laguna Fire and has been true ever since then. There were other fires in the area that were not mentioned. The area is a wind tunnel for every Santa Ana wind that comes through there, and is inappropriate for development. Rather than allow for more growth, the county should ban any further development, and then focus its efforts on measures to protect the vulnerable homes and businesses that are already there.

The old Diane Jacob solution of adding more fire engines to the area isn’t the answer. When those fires get started there’s no stopping them, fire engines or no. Add to the mix the fact that Alpine has the county’s worst air quality, due to inversion, and you have an area that needs no more growth.

— Visduh

“Paris Bakery: Don’t forget Tet” Tin Fork

February 4

I hear ya, Ed. Those price points are right up my dirty alley. That place is pretty close to my overpriced hovel as well. Thanks for the mention, man and keep those El Cheapo reviews coming.

— Wink Sajak

Good thing, it looks very appetizing! A real treat!

— liemmayer

“Stadium sayonara” Golden Dreams

February 10

San Diego State made an awful decision demolishing the stadium, but then..... have they made any good decisions in the last twenty-five years?

— Strelnikov

“Tijuana neighborhood 3 de Octubre cracks up” Neighborhood News February 8

So the neighborhood was built illegally. Whose land was it built on? No responsibility? When there are no building codes, or none that are enforced, anything can go wrong, and in Mexico what can go wrong will inevitably go wrong. These poor folks are now losing everything they worked for.

A leaking water line is never something to just tolerate, because the water leaking out has to go somewhere, and often saturates the soil or undermines the surface. “Heavy” rains recently haven’t been heavy at all. That’s just gov-speak in good ol’ TJ.

— Visduh



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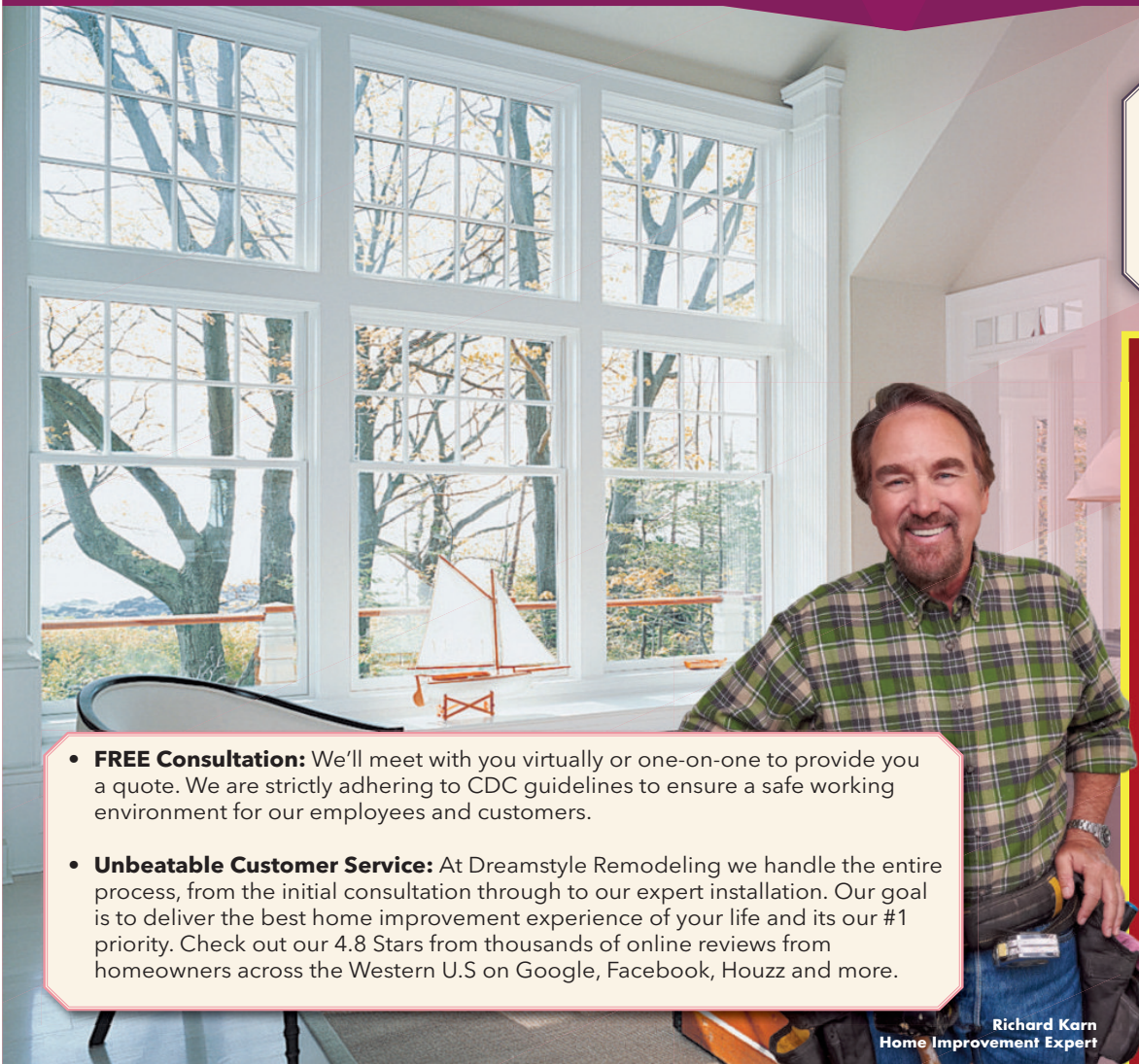
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Homes built in such a pattern are easier to defend, and the same level of housing can be achieved while there's less vegetation to clear. Agricultural land can serve as a protective buffer; another measure suggests encouraging development with fire preventive practices and fire-resistant plant types.

The county has extended the public review period for the Alpine Community Plan to March 5.

SHEILA PELL

ON THE ROAD

Cops follow the mules Because the mules don't follow the rules

A feeling of déjà vu struck John Sears — and perhaps his two mules as well — when county sheriffs recently escorted them out of the Poway city limits. “It was about a week ago,” Sears said to me on February 7, “we had problems on Poway Road, where it was narrow.” During this



Po-po vs. hee-haw in Poway.

not be on the road.” Then a third patrol vehicle pulled up, Sears said. “He was a little bit more reasonable. He started with the same ultimatum: this road was not made for horses, and [the mules] can't be walking on this road. He went back to his

“I guess it was from the county sheriffs. They stopped us and told us flat out we could not be on the road.”

time of the year, the 72-year-old nomad walks our county's streets and bush with his mules, Little Ethel and Little Girl in tow. The three had almost reached Mina De Oro Road, the turnoff to get to the Poway Equestrian Center where the “the mules had been invited to stay. Then two cruisers showed up. I guess it was from the county sheriff's [department]. They stopped us and told us flat out we could

cruiser, talked to somebody for a while, then he escorted us off Poway Road to the 67, where they intersect.”

A couple of days later, and about 17 miles south of Poway, Julie spotted the three outside her flower shop by Mission Valley. “I rushed out to greet them and brought red carnations with me, which John immediately put on his mules' ears,” she posted on the *3Mules.com* website on



“The mules get plenty of rest, and they are by no means traveling day in and day out.”

February 4. “[It was an] awesome, pure nature and heart-warming experience. If you see them, please take a moment to stop and chat with John and enjoy his beautiful mules. They live a nomadic life and are at peace with this earth and lifestyle — carefree and spreading joy to others without even knowing it. God is good, and I am blessed to have met John and his precious mules.”

When Sears and I spoke on the phone, he said I could refer to him as “Monk or Mule.” His website, *3Mules.com*, and linked Facebook account and Instagram account with the same name, journals his almost-daily adventures with Little Ethel and Little Girl. (While Sears corresponds directly with many of his 53,000 Facebook followers and 5400 plus Instagram followers, he admitted that he and the mules have an undisclosed “magical” woman who has helped with the site's blogs and social media posts since 2014.)

On February 5, the three made their way to City Heights, where people photographed them strolling on a 54th Street and El Cajon Boulevard sidewalk. A fan commented underneath the photographs, “Will you take a break from walking at this point, or do you never take a break?” Sears responded: “Yes, people offer their property from time to time for the mules to stop and rest for a couple of days. The mules get plenty of rest, and they are by no means traveling day in and day out.” While most commenters on the *3 Mules'* social media accounts are supportive of the lifestyle the three have “been living for the past 35 years,” there are those who

disagree. “If we all packed the streets with mules, it would be a mess,” opined a Central Valley dweller. “Come on, man, time to retire and enjoy life. Mules are soulless animals put under human dominion. Treat them well is the best you can do for them, and then they die.” Sears was quick to respond: “The ‘megatropolis’ has packed the world with machines, and it is a horrible mess [with] anger, depression, confusion, and a deteriorating world all around us.”

Before Sears and I spoke, he messaged me a link on their site with a video titled “CHP Dashcam Video of 3 Mules Arrest January 23, 2020.” The video depicts California Highway Patrol officers arresting Sears near San Luis Obispo, 300 miles north of San Diego. “I went to jail for about 24 hours; they stripped me down to my shorts and a t-shirt and put me in an ice-cold cell.” The mules were “hauled off to an animal shelter that was about a quarter of a mile away from the jail. So I just walked down the road, and I had to pay \$266 to get them out.”

As we spoke, I could hear traffic passing Sears and the mules as they walked



“Yes, people offer their property from time to time for the mules to stop and rest for a couple of days.”

down Beyer Boulevard between Chula Vista and Imperial Beach. Sears messaged me another link to the site, headlined, “The Mules sue the California Highway Patrol over their right to travel on the public thoroughfare.” He explained, “We submitted the complaint on January 21, and I believe Todd Cardiff is in the process of suing the arresting officer, and what comes after that, I don't know.” Sears added that Cardiff, a San Diego-based attorney, is handling the case “pro bono.”

“Assuming this case goes to trial,” how long will it take you and the mules to walk back up to San Luis Obispo?” I asked.

“We'd average about 15 miles a day, and the quickest way to go up there is through the 101 corridor.”

That's about a 20-day trek for the monk and his mules.

MIKE MADRIAGA

continued on page 8

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TIJUANA

Real estate collapse Saturation spurs serious slide

On January 30, a landslide took place in Tijuana. This time, the working-class neighborhood 3 de Octubre, 18 miles southeast of downtown TJ, was affected. Marta Cardenas and her family built up their home here 30 years ago. She explained that she had worked with her own hands on this life project. But on that day, her property and 40 others sank down nine feet into the ground, the moving earth ripping down houses, trapping cars, and driving 50 families out of their homes. Some 23 more houses still stand but aren't safe for their owners to live in, according to the Municipal Civil Protection Department.

Cardenas said that the ground started cracking at 6 am that Saturday; from that moment, the neighbors had only a couple of hours to take their belongings out of their homes — while they were falling down around them. “At noon everything sank down,” she recalled, “but we were able to take the car out of the property at the last minute. Neighbors were carrying out their stoves and other stuff

on their backs. If I were younger, I would be able to start up again and build another house, but how can I do it now?” She said her daughter realized the street pavement was cracking up right away, but she never took her seriously. Her daughter and other neighbors called to report the cracks, and also the clean water leaking out of the ground. “That water filtering from a Tijuana State Public Services Commission pipe was reported last year. And because all the land got soaked, the pavement began breaking down in pieces,” she added.

Jorge Delgado is another affected resident; he agreed with Marta's daughter's statement, “For me, the public services have a lot of responsibility here,” the 52-year-old said. “They never fixed that leaking well. My house is still up but has cracks everywhere. Now I need to save what I can, but for now, I'm homeless. My brother offered me a place to stay with my wife, but it's just temporary.”

According to the Civil Protection director Marco Antonio Sanchez, this area has been categorized as a risky zone since 2019, but the first settlements in this neighborhood



An already unstable living situation just got worse in 3 de Octubre.

date from the early '90s. He added that the event was mainly caused by the heavy rains last week. The public services commission has stated that they will lead an investigation to clarify their responsibilities. For now, the affected home dwellers are being sheltered

with relatives or neighbors, but the locals are uncertain if the municipal government will re-locate the families, or, since the settlement was illegal, limit their involvement by giving groceries, blankets, and medicines.

IVÁN MOLINA

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Justin Martin with fellow crew, off Alaska

Battle fishing

“This night, we were stuck on a sand bar,” says Justin. “There’s weather out there, and strong current. There’s the potential for the boat to just get knocked over. The tide comes in very fast. It can bury you. Twenty-foot tides sometimes. They come in like floods.”

You’d never pick Justin Martin for a storm-grizzled Ancient Mariner. He looks too young, too preppy to have been out risking all in the storms of the Bering Sea. But he’s been fishing in those lethal waters between Alaska and the Aleutians for twenty years already. And right now, he’s already got me hooked with his story.

“The waves were smashing into the boat. The tide was coming in, and the boat was starting to tip. This was late in the season, and we couldn’t see anybody around. Our radios were broken, so we couldn’t call for help, and our greenhorn captain was having a complete mental breakdown. He was an emotionally unstable guy anyway. He was up on the fly bridge of the boat, ripping components out and throwing them overboard, including things that worked. Myself and the other deckhand, Erik - there were only three of us on the boat - we were looking at each other: ‘What do we do? Do we need to get our survival suits on? Like, what’s happening here? Are we going to die?’”

I had spotted Justin standing in his Hillcrest Farmers Market stall, beside his sign. “Maqi Seafoods. Wild, Fresh. Sustainable. Vista, California.”

Last time I wrote about fish was two weeks

ago, actually about futurefish. Or bits of fish grown in a kind of vitamin soup from fish cells. Some people say we won’t need to actually go out and catch fish any more, once we perfect the growing of their cells. So it’s funny I should bump into Justin, who goes to the roughest seas in the coldest latitudes in the most dangerous circumstances possible. (And deaths



Martin’s symbol for his Maqi Seafoods business

in the fishing industry are 16 times higher than among US firefighters or police, and 40 times the national average, according to the UN’s International Labor Office, although these are 1996 figures. More recently, between 2000 and 2015, 725 fishermen have lost their lives fishing in US waters).

“Why do you do it?” I ask.

“Blame my brother,” he says. “He got a job up in Dillingham, Alaska. He was working as a chef for a cannery up there. And he gave me a call, in the spring of the year 2000, and asked me if I’d be interested in coming up to Alaska to do some seasonal work. Lots of

work, long hours, not much to spend money on, I could make a good chunk of change. And I thought that could really help. I was 19, at college, studying biology at Southern Oregon University, and pulling out school loans. So I jumped on that opportunity. My first gig in Dillingham was in a boatyard. But I soon realized that if I could get on the right crew, there was the potential to make a lot more money out on a fishing boat.”

He has been going up there every year since.

does miss Dillingham. Maybe because fishing is like the hunt: addictive, one of the last wild things we do.

“I love the life, the people, the Athabaskan, Aleut culture, the strong sense of community, the sense of humor, the way everybody hunts their allotment of moose, caribou every year. And the salmon! Those watersheds around Dillingham are pristine. It’s the largest wild salmon run left in America. I love eagles soaring, hearing the loons on the lake, seeing the

“I love eagles soaring, hearing the loons on the lake, seeing the salmon in their spawning grounds.”

“I am on a fantastic boat now,” he says. “We have had the same crew for the last six years. We’re like a well-oiled machine. We don’t have to say much, which speaks for the captain’s discretion. He can handle situations. And there are always situations. When there’s a [salmon] run, all the boats want in, trying to get in the right spot. We call it ‘battle fishing.’ You’re close to others. Equipment can get tangled between boats. Or, worse, it can foul the propellers. Things get very crazy. But that’s the thing about our crew. We never freak out and we never stop working. We push each other. That’s why we’re

salmon in their spawning grounds.”

And he also loves how, at the end of each fishing trip, the one thing everybody does is jump into somebody’s Maqi (pronounced “maa-gu’ey” in Yupik language), which is the sauna everybody has. “That’s where you thaw out. You have the steam temperature as hot as you can. You have a beer, you talk story. Lots of yucks and chucks. That’s why I chose ‘Maqi’ for my company name.”

So what happened that night they were stuck on the sand bar?

“Well, finally the tide came in and we didn’t



Martin with two of his catch off Alaska

the highliner, the top-ranking boat.”

Yes, he’d like to captain his own boat some day. And maybe soon: partly because of covid, people are expecting a downswing in catching and consuming salmon. That could mean boats going out of business, prices for boats dropping. Justin is playing a waiting game.

Meantime he is here, with the salmon fillets he has been freezing and smoking and bringing down to sell at Southern California markets without having to pay middlemen commission. He loves being with his wife (they met when he was completing his degree at the University of Hawaii) and two kids, but he

get knocked over, thankfully. The boat started floating. We had lost one of our engines as well, but the other screw was still working. Except, the captain said he was going to go to sleep. He couldn’t be awake any longer. We were all exhausted. He asked me to drive us back to Dillingham. I was brand new. That’s a six-hour [boat trip], in pretty treacherous water. I knew nothing. I got up on the fly bridge, out in the wind and rain and cold, all night long, while the other guys were sleeping. That was my introduction to Alaska. But I always come back. I’ve known since I first went up: I’m a lifer.” ■

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3
disinfect the ship.”

The Navy accepted recommendations made by the Pentagon's auditors regarding beefed-up pandemic planning and the two warships' experiences, the document said. "Lessons learned from the USS Kidd and USS Theodore Roosevelt have been incorporated into the current Standardized Operating Guidance for the fleet."

Matt Potter

Sharpton's sharp words

Race enters race for ambulance contract

A national political figure has parachuted into San Diego's decades-long big-money war over which paramedic provider should get the city's exclusive contract, virtually guaranteeing another heated round of racially charged wheeling and dealing. "San Diego has a place in my heart, and I have been supportive of the grassroots work being done by local leaders," wrote the Rev. Al Sharpton, known as one of New York City's most influential political players, in a February 5 *Union-Tribune* opinion piece. "However, San Diego's leaders appear to be careening toward a massive debacle with their controversial selection of a new 911 emergency ambulance provider, Falck. The Denmark-based company has been accused of inequitable service and unjust practices in the United States, and there is great concern that the move could undermine San Diego's commitment to racial equality."

Calling on Democratic mayor Todd Gloria and the new city council majority to repudiate a pending deal with Denmark-based Falck U.S.A., Sharpton said Alameda County fined the company "hundreds of thousands



I spy with my little eye...systemic racism!

of dollars for not meeting ambulance response time requirements. And sadly, its slowest response times have been in communities of color. Of equal concern, Falck was also the emergency medical services provider that supplied ketamine in Aurora, Colorado, which was used to sedate Elijah McClain when he was unjustly arrested and died in 2019." In September 2020, the Aurora city council banned the use of ketamine by paramedics as a result of the McClain incident. He was sedated with the drug after police used a carotid hold that rendered him unconscious, according to a December 2020 account by the website *E.M.S. World*. "McClain then went into cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital and died a few days later. He was not armed or suspected of a crime."

Sharpton attacked the San Diego selection committee that picked Falck, echoing the county medical society's previous concerns. "The committee was composed mostly of fire personnel — all White males, incidentally — who lack the diverse experience needed to thoroughly evaluate the bids on behalf of San Diegans. Addressing racial justice and equity must be a priority in health care and public safety decisions that should be non-negotiable. I find it unacceptable that a woman or a person of

color was not included in this important decision — this is systemic racism."

A companion *U-T* op-ed on Falck's behalf, authored by Nancy Maldonado, Chicano Federation C.E.O.; Francine Maxwell, the president of N.A.A.C.P.'s San Diego branch; and C.E.O. of the Asian Business Association Jason Paguio, didn't directly address Sharpton's charges. Instead, the trio said that Falck "has taken neglected and understaffed emergency response systems and turned them around to ensure that communities are getting reliable and attentive medical care." And the history of the contract with current provider American Medical Response, the opinion piece said, "has been dotted with complaints, response time compliance fines and demands from the city for improved service levels. We have an opportunity to turn this around and receive enhanced levels of service with a new contract. More importantly, our community will have resolution and certainty." Of Falck, the piece said, "They've contributed to the health and safety of San Diegans before and during the ongoing pandemic by partnering and providing financial support to community organizations like ours," without detailing who got the money.

Sharpton and his
continued on page 15



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Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Biden's Border Backtrack

In light of ongoing border-busting sewage spill, President adds Mexico to Trump's list of "shithole" countries

Already under fire for his failure alleviate a situation in which, as White House press secretary Jen Psaki told report-

Tijuana River Valley into the United States and its waters a public health crisis. (The flow has been polluting America

for ages, but has grown worse in recent years thanks to a series of major spills from ruptured Mexican pipes, leading to increasingly frequent beach closures in places like Coronado, where people pay good money not to have to deal with such things.) The declaration was a difficult one for the Board, which only two weeks ago declared that systemic racism was a public health crisis. "And if there's one thing we can learn from Adolf Hitler," says Super Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, "it's that you run into trouble when you try



"Trust me, I wouldn't have made such a concession if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. I mean, it's literally shit...coming out of a hole...slipping and slurping its way across our border illegally. Gotta hand it to ol' Donny on this one."

ers last week, "the vast majority" of individuals seeking to enter the United States from Mexico "have been turned away," and further, for his decision to re-open a privately run juvenile detention center for unaccompanied teen migrants, President Biden seems to have stepped in it yet again when it comes to immigration reform, formally adding Mexico to the list of "shithole" countries from which former President Donald Trump said the United States did not want immigrants.

A bit of background: last week, the San Diego Board of Supervisors' decided to declare the flow of sewage from the

to fight wars on two fronts. Our county's progressives are committed to creating social equity. But we are also committed to environmental protection. And the sad fact is that there is only so much progress to go around in San Diego. So we called in the feds."

"Unfortunately," said Biden in a statement following his emergency visit to the scene, "the United States cannot let this shit pass. We are going to have to call Mexico out on their shit, and until they get their shit together, declare that they ain't shit to us. Or rather, that they're a shithole."



God: "Seriously, California, dare me to drop you into the lake of fire. Just dare me. Holy Spirit bird's gonna eat that bear for breakfast."

Two weeks ago, the Supreme Court ruled that California could no longer ban indoor worship service, thanks in no small part to the lawsuit filed against the state by Chula Vista's South Bay United Pentecostal Church. But yesterday, God indicated that while he was now once again able to hear the prayers

Too Little, Too Late

God declares Himself unimpressed with Chula Vista Church's role in Supreme Court decision to re-open churches for indoor worship.

"I'm sure there were some decent folks in Sodom and Gomorrah, too." of believing Californians, he had no intention of answering them, or even paying attention to their contents. "Big whoop; California has still blessed just about every abomination I ever condemned," explained the Almighty. "Closing the churches because Caesar told them too was just the last straw. Back in the day, I had my chosen people put my enemies to the sword. And after I sent my Son to die for sinful humanity, I had him ask his followers to be ready to lay down their lives for the sake of the Gospel. But have California Christians fought back against those who flout my will? Have they suffered for their steadfast refusal to call evil good? Or have they gone along to get along in the name of so-called Christian charity? Indoors or out, I'm done with 'em. Like it says in the good book, 'God is not mocked.'"

Retali-hate

Hillcrest vandalism being investigated as rare gay-on-black hate crime

"Prop 8? More like Prop HATE."

On January 25, worshippers at the University Christian Church in Hillcrest discovered that the night previous, someone had spattered paint on the Black Lives Matter sign adorning their building, as well as two of the rainbow-colored doors that normally stand at the church entrance to indicate the church's open and affirming stance toward the LGBTQ community. (The other doors vanished, and have yet to be located.) Mayor Todd Gloria was quick to tweet about the matter, writing, "This

is more than vandalism. This is hate." The San Diego Police Department later announced that it was investigating the incident as a hate crime.

But according to Hillcrest resident Bill Bearbait, there is hate and then there is justice. "I didn't do the painting, but I get why it was done," says Bearbait. "In 2008, California's Black population voted 70-30 in favor of Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that amended the California constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. A community that had been through so many hardships in



Who's gonna run this town?

its struggle for civil rights turned around and shut the door on a community that was undergoing the same struggle. And we're just supposed to forget that and get all excited for them now that they're struggling again? We're supposed to put up banners honoring the community that gave us the hateful repetition of No Homo in their music? I don't think so. The enemy of my enemy is definitely not always my friend."

Home School/School Home

Mayor Gloria opens vacant schools to local homeless community

Wealthy rejoice at opportunity to help "It's no secret that San Diego is facing a serious financial shortfall," says San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria. "With tourism reduced to almost nothing thanks to covid, we're just not getting the tax revenue we need to do everything we need to do. So we're going to have to improvise. My predecessor left me with a serious homeless problem, and not a lot of money to do anything about it as far as providing permanent

housing. But every pandemic has a silver lining: covid has also left us with dozens of empty school buildings, equipped with shower facilities, commercial kitchens, and hundreds of empty bedrooms, er, classrooms. Plus, this gives the good people who elected me a chance to show that they're serious about helping me enact my compassionate agenda. After all, their property tax dollars help pay for these places!"



A banner indicates Torrey Pines High School's new status. Gloria: "Some of these facilities are really first rate. And the teachers didn't want to go back to in-person instruction, anyway."

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 13

National Action Network are no strangers to municipal controversy. In July 2019, the *New York Times* reported that Sharpton joined with Manhattan Democratic Party boss Keith L.T. Wright at the behest of tobacco giant Reynolds American to oppose the city's regulation of menthol cigarettes. The proposal subsequently foundered. Sharpton acknowledged to the paper that his group, the National Action Network, had received funding from Reynolds American, as did the company itself, but neither would not say how much. "Ten thousand dollars or \$15,000 would not influence us either way," he said, adding that his convention brings in more than \$1 million from corporate and other sponsors. "This is not about money."

Incumbent contractor American Medical Response has heavily lobbied San Diego's paramedic deal, deploying campaign contributions, personal gifts, and charity donations. Since 2012, according to campaign finance disclosure records, A.M.R. employees have given almost \$40,000 to municipal campaigns. The lineup of high-dollar lobbyists on both sides is formidable. City records show that Falck U.S.A. has signed up Public Policy Partners, run by Nancy Chase, to lobby for its selection as E.M.S. provider. Southwest Strategies, another well-connected San Diego influence peddler, has also been retained by Falck, the filings show. Southwest has represented Falck on the matter since the Fourth Quarter of 2019.

Like Falck, A.M.R. uses two lobbying firms,

including Miller Public Affairs, run by Kimberly Miller. Her previous partner on the A.M.R. account, ex-GOP aide Phil Rath, was slapped with hefty fines in 2018 by the San Diego city ethics commission and California's Fair Political Practices following a conflict of interest scandal arising from Rath's votes as a Faulconer appointee to the board of Civic San Diego. In addition to Miller, A.M.R. employs Presidio Public Affairs Group, per the disclosures. That lobbying shop was founded in 2014 by Faulconer's political strategist Jason Roe. A year later, Roe left the operation after engaging in a nasty public spat with Chargers' special counsel Mark Fabiani, who questioned his role as a lobbyist for stadium food service contractor Delaware North.

Matt Potter

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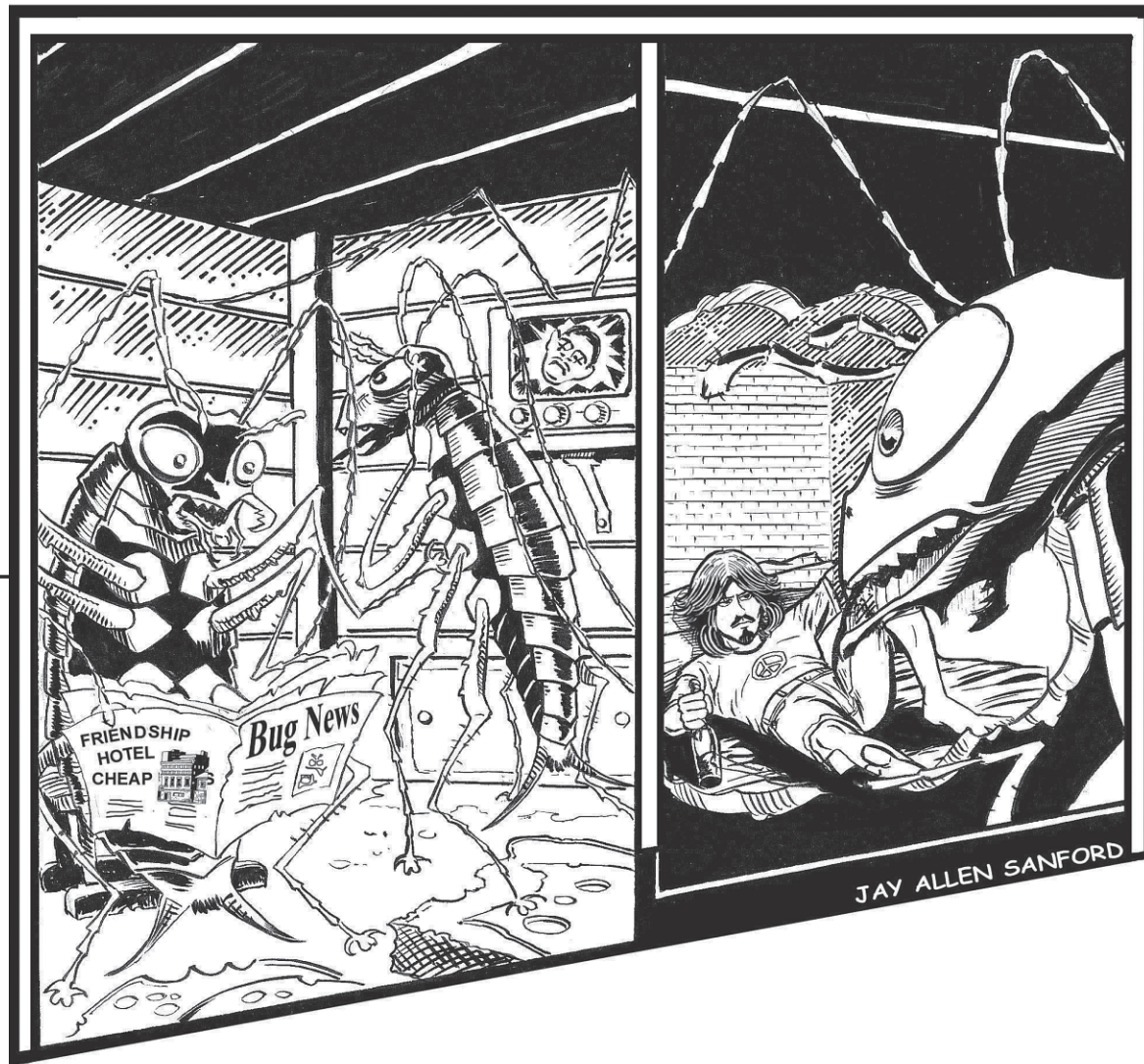
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Nothing friendly *about the* Friendship Hotel

The untold stories about Hillcrest's Friendship Hotel would probably read like William Burroughs' dream journal. Once a nurse's dorm for the nearby hospital, by the turn of the 21st century the two buildings across the street from each other on 8th Avenue had devolved into the most fleabitten of fleabag hotels. For most residents, whether passing through or permanent, it was a last potential offramp on the road to oblivion. Twenty bucks a day, plus an equal and unadvertised room deposit (and ten more bucks

for the key deposit, if the operator found you shiftily) got you the most minimally outfitted room. The entire floor shared one (frequently unspeakable) bathroom.

A while back, I posted an autobiographical article called Chuck Norris vs. Wyatt Earp, about living in the late '70s at the storied Palms Hotel, a palace-turned-flophouse sprawling across half a block at 12th and Island downtown. As it turned out, exactly 20 years later, I found myself once again homeless and hotel shopping, though still with a modest income from publishing assets, freelance writing, and drawing the weekly

Overheard in San Diego comic strips. When I noticed the Friendship Hotel was practically next door to a Kinko's where I was already renting computer time and using photocopiers to complete my paying work, I walked into the Hotel cold and requested a room.

I should be upfront here and tell you that I was strung out. In full addiction mode and frankly, looking forward to getting into my room and feeding that addiction. I dare say one could tell from looking at me, a guy with sunken Uncle Fester eyes wearing long unwashed duds, and whose only luggage was a backpack.

Notwithstanding the fact that I looked like Sid Vicious checking into the Chelsea Hotel just before Nancy arrived with a big-ass knife in her purse, the operator, a big gruff guy (who got angrier and angrier over the next few weeks, like some kind of slow-mo werewolf transformation) took me right to my room, across the street from the main building and on the second floor. Minus that extra ten dollar key deposit.

It took me only a few moments alone in my room to do my drug of choice, and then I was bouncing back out my new door to go put my few remaining dollars toward more drugs. I noticed that my door had a huge gap between it and the frame, big enough to nearly wiggle fingers through, and I made a mental note to drape a blanket over the door from the inside when I got back.

The first person I came across was standing just outside the building, a very pretty young woman, probably in her early 20s. She was on the steps and said hi, so I said hi and noticed she seemed to want to say more. I figured this might be worth holding off on the drugs, at least for a moment.

She looked around awkwardly and then back at me. "Look, I just got here and I don't know anybody, so let me just come out and ask you. Do you know where, uh, working girls go around here? Like, is there a track where guys go to find a date?"

I told my new neighbor about how nearby El Cajon Boulevard transformed at night into a hooker parade, all the way up to Mad Jack's.

And then we took off in opposite directions, though we did cross paths later that night on the Boulevard. She thanked me and said she was going to be able to afford a much better hotel now. I wasn't so lucky. She was out there earning, I was out there spending.

The next time I left my room was the next day, moments after my drugs were again used up.

Once a nurse's dorm for the nearby hospital, by the turn of the 21st century it had devolved into the most fleabitten of fleabag hotels.

As soon as I opened the door, there was the big gruff guy who'd rented me the room, standing almost in the door jamb. The door jamb I'd covered from inside with a sheet. I was startled. "What's up, is there a problem?"

He looked guilty. "Uh, I'm just keeping an eye on a tenant. I think he's up to something, and I want to find out what it is."

He was standing in

my doorway while saying this, so I assumed that the suspicious tenant was me. I was indeed suspicious, but that I'd just used up all my drugs, and that there wasn't so much as a piece of paraphernalia left in my room. So I just chirped, "Well, good luck with that then, hope you catch the guy," and walked downstairs and out the door.

When I got to the

Jack in the Box parking lot next door, I looked up at the Hotel window closest to my room on the second floor. There was the Hotel operator, opening my room door and walking in. As I got to know other residents, both semi-permanent and occasional like myself, they often told me the guy had keys to every room, and wasn't at all shy about walking into anyone's hidey-hole.

Some people lived

there full time, but they still had to leave for one night every month, to avoid local occupancy laws or something. There was a lady who walked her cat on a leash who said she'd been there four years, and who had only good things to say about hotel management. A family on the first floor was said to have been there for even more years, and they too seemed happy, although they avoided interaction with almost everyone who hadn't been there as long. In fact, once the sun went down, the family was locked in as tight as the peasants of Dracula's village. I never once saw them emerge after dark.

The operator's lover (who I never talked to but who is best described physically as what *Poseidon Adventure*-era Ernest Borgnine might see in the mirror after a week without sleep), seemed to have free reign of any unoccupied room he wanted to use for open door hotel parties.

More than once, he and others tried to lure me into those parties

as I walked by, promising me everything from sex to drugs to things I couldn't comprehend then or now. He and his fellow partiers were using code words that greatly amused them, but com-

Wearing nothing but a cropped T-shirt and kind of a thong.

The guy was so shocked when I opened the door that he leapt backwards and shouted out loud, "Oh my!" I felt

The guy had keys to every room, and wasn't at all shy about walking into anyone's hidey-hole.

pletely baffled me.

One night, I had a female overnight guest who didn't know about my drug use. So, after she fell asleep, I got high in the dark, in the corner of my room, very quietly and very furtively. When I silently stood and opened the door to go out for the bathroom, the door hit a guy standing right there in the hallway, bent over like a cartoon kid peering into a key-shaped peephole.

like I'd fallen into an outtake from *The Birdcage*.

The guy apologized with a bunch of babble about "I thought this was someone else's room," but it was obvious he'd been peeking through that huge door crack. That was when I started calling it the Looky-Loo Hotel. When I said that to another resident, he told me "Man, you don't know how right you are!"

According to this guy, who'd been living

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there off and on — we'll call him "Max" — there were peep holes in the ceilings of every room on the second floor of the secondary building. Sure enough, I soon spotted the operator going up a weird set of stairs into an attic looking room, and then hearing his footsteps up there, going back and forth. According to Max, that's where the peep-holes were.

One day, the operator was coming down from the "attic" just as I walked by, and I took the opportunity to ask "Hey, what's up there? You don't have any artist lofts with a view to rent, do you?"

The guy looked at me strange and grunted "nothing but storage up there." Why a semi-residential hotel operator needed to go climb

into an attic storage room multiple times each day — never carting anything in or out of that storage room that looked related to storage — went (and remains) unaddressed.

I mentioned this to Max, and he took me into the communal kitchen and showed me something *really* strange. A big plywood sheet was

thing. The hole behind the plywood was just big enough to bend over and walk into.

Looking into the hole, you could see a sort of hallway that seemed to wend all the way down the length of the building, situated just behind what would have been the back wall of the rental rooms. Max said the hole had just appeared,

I looked like Sid Vicious checking into the Chelsea Hotel, just before Nancy arrived with a big-ass knife in her purse.

placed over what looked like a hole in one wall, mostly hidden behind appliances. If you moved the fridge a bit, you could see that the fridge was the only thing holding the plywood in place. It wasn't nailed or any-

and that he hadn't seen any workmen or heard about any wiring or plumbing problems. He then theorized that somebody was drilling holes looking into all those rooms, this time from eye level instead of

overhead. I never entered the "secret" hall behind the plywood, it was too creepy and closed-in and looked way too spider-y, and I never saw anything that looked like peep-holes drilled back there.

However, the next day, there was a brand new wall completely plastered over where the hole had been the day before. You would never have guessed the hole had been there if you hadn't seen it.

Around the same time, I walked around another corner just in time to hear the operator talking to a guy who was wearing some kind of worker coveralls and saying "You can't put cameras there or someone will see it." They stopped talking immediately, completely, upon catching sight of me. This got me wondering, so, when I next saw the operator, I said "Glad to hear you're installing surveillance cameras, everyone will feel a lot safer."

The guy looked at me like I'd just described his mother's vagina. "I don't know what the hell you're talking about, we ain't putting in no cameras."

That was actually

a friendly chat for the operator of the Friendship Hotel. The guy yelled almost everything he ever said. He seemed particularly eager charge his bully batteries by yelling at anyone

rock though the car window. He yelled so loudly at my buddy that it was incomprehensible, more howl than human, at least to my admittedly strung out ears.

After a few months

According to Max, there were peep holes in the ceilings of every room on the second floor.

invading the handful of available — and expensive — parking spots in the Hotel lot. And heaven forbid you park at Jack in the Box next door, even just to go knock on someone's room door and take them away. He'd pounce right onto parking violators like a starving werewolf spotting a fat guy with a limp.

One time, my friend didn't even get out of the car. He just pulled into a Jack in the Box slot before I saw him from upstairs, ran down, and jumped into the passenger seat.

Suddenly, the Hotel operator was there and rapping on my friend's car window so hard with his giant ring on his giant finger that my friend said he thought the guy tried to smash a

of on-and-off again residency at the Friendship Hotel, I spent my last night there sometime around summer 2002, just before I finally got myself clean and back into an actual home again.

A guy on the same floor was stabbed that night and almost died. The paper later said it was a fight over liquor. I didn't know him and didn't even know it had happened until told by Max, just before I checked out for good. I'd been on the Boulevard scoring drugs when it all went down. But I wasn't surprised to hear about it. It's not like anything friendly had ever happened during my time at the Friendship Hotel.

—Jay Allen Sanford

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



MARK GREANEY

Thursday | 18

WARWICK'S AUTHOR LIVESTREAM: MARK GREANEY

Mark Greaney discusses his new book, *Relentless (Gray Man #10)*. Intelligence operatives around the world are disappearing. When a missing American agent reappears in Venezuela, Court Gentry, "the Gray Man," is dispatched to bring him in. But a team of assassins has other ideas. Meanwhile, CIA agent Zoya Zakharova is in Berlin. Her mission: to infiltrate a private intelligence firm with some alarming connections.

WHEN: Thursday, February 18, 4 pm to 5 pm

WHERE: warwicks.com

Friday | 19

SPEAKEASY SOIRÉE

Don your "glad rags" and join a virtual speakeasy hosted by the Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House.



Tour buildings in the historic Gaslamp that were significant during the roaring '20s. Learn history while mixing up some cocktails (or mocktails) that were popular during Prohibition era. There will be a drink-mixing demonstration (ingredient list provided beforehand), a presentation on what to wear and what foods to serve, a musical playlist suggestion, a question-and-answer, and trivia challenges.

WHEN: Friday, February 19, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: gaslampfoundation.org

Saturday | 20



FILM STILL FROM TOPRAK; PART OF THE OCEANSIDE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OCEANSIDE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Oceanside Film Festival Ten Year Reprise will take place via Eventive (a virtual film festival platform), and will run for 48 hours. The event is a tribute to films, filmmakers, stars, winners, music and events from the last decade. Enjoy over 15 film blocks, plus features, shorts, interviews, and look-backs at highlights from past years of the Film Festival.

WHEN: Saturday, February 20, 12 pm

WHERE: osidefilm.org



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20: DEAD MEADOW LIVE FROM THE PILLARS OF GOD

DEAD MEADOW: LIVE FROM THE PILLARS OF GOD

Dead Meadow emerged in Washington, D.C. in the late '90s. In Autumn

Sunday | 21

BELLY UP LIVESTREAM: THE WHITE BUFFALO

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, and teller of stories, The White Buffalo – aka Emmy nominee Jake Smith – will livestream his first performance since November. For the first time, Smith will perform a setlist tailored around the songs from his catalogue written for the television program *Sons of Anarchy*. "It's been over a year since our last live show," says Smith, "but we are excited to announce another livestream partnership with the legendary Belly Up."

WHEN: Sunday, February 21, 5 pm

WHERE: bellyuplive.com

2020, the band convened at Camp Mozumdar, in the mountains above Los Angeles, to record their *Levitation Session* at The Pillars of God. This film captures a full performance showing all three of the trio's original members performing tracks across their discography, in front of the sprawling complex built by A.K. Mozumdar and his followers in the mid-20th century, as a place of worship for people of all faiths. The *Levitation Session* gathers tracks from over 20 years of the band's work, distilled into a 70-minute performance.

WHEN: Saturday, February 20, 6 pm

WHERE: levitation-austin.com



JAKE SMITH OF WHITE BUFFALO

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

St. Anthony the Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

Contact: 2825 Merton Ave, San Diego 858-268-4100

www.st-anthony.org

Membership: 520 (200 families)

Neighborhood: Linda Vista

Pastor: Father John Kent Reimann

Age: 63

Born: Downey, ID

Formation: University of California-Los Angeles; Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston, MA

Years Ordained: 25

San Diego Reader: What is the mission of your church?

Father John Kent Reimann: To glorify God first and foremost, and to be sanctified and

saved, and in that process, hopefully to help save those around us. Whoever wants to can join us on this pilgrimage and journey. The goal of this church is to take in sick people — those afflicted with the sickness, brokenness and woundedness of sin — and bring them healing. It is also a part of our mission to reach out to the world around us. As we are healed, we bring that healing to others; as we take the Eucharist in the church, we become the Eucharist to the world around us. We become changed and transformed; we become sanctified. Our goal is to make living saints out of our people who in turn will sanctify a world that desperately needs to see that holy presence in this

day and age.

SDR: *What work of literature has had the greatest impact on your ministry?*

FR: Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*. Some people say that in Russia, aside from the scriptures, no other text has brought more people to the Orthodox Church. Dostoevsky tells the story of three brothers — Dmitri, Ivan and Alyosha — and their father Fyodor. The brothers' upbringing has been just terrible, but the novel turns on how each brother responds. Can they be held captive by the abuse or neglect that happened in their upbringing, or are they going to reach out for something greater than themselves to help heal and sustain them to give them the strength? You

see this in Alyosha, the youngest brother. He chooses to follow the Christian way, while the eldest brother, Ivan, is very bitter against God, and that is represented by some people's view of the world. It is remarkable that Alyosha doesn't have to be held captive to the past, but allows his relationship with Jesus Christ, through the sacraments and the example of holy people, to help touch him and heal his heart. In this way, he chooses a better way in following Christ and bringing himself into conformity with Christ in his church. It's a long book, but it's well worth reading.

SDR: *Where do you when you die?*

FR: The Orthodox understanding is to be preparing now



Fr. John Kent Reimann

for heaven, and that's why our worship is trying to orient us to how the heavenly worship is going to be. We also are trying to bring our lives into conformity to Christ so that when we leave this life, we understand that we'll be in the presence of Christ, and that his angels will also help accompany us to that presence... Christ at the judg-

ment in the Second Coming will be the one who determines whether we're put among the sheep or the goats. Because he is fully God, he knows everything about us. There's nothing secret or hidden. He knows all we've done, but he is also the one person of the Godhead who has become man for us and our salvation. He knows what it's like to be tempted, to walk in our shoes. But by the choices we make in this life, we set ourselves on our course — we determine it. That's why we're constantly being called to repent.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Animal Care Camp Kids in San Diego will get to experience what it's like to have an awesome career with animals! This one-day camp involves unique hands-on activities from our professional animal care staff to give campers experiences with the different aspects of animal husbandry. Campers will be encouraged to follow their passion and explore their skills with animals of all kinds. Spots are extremely limited, so register today! Saturday, February 20, 9am; \$200. 9 and up. Helen Woodward Animal

Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

February Critter Camp No school? No problem, because we have a camp for that! Kids in San Diego can spend ski week/Presidents' week with amazing animals in a safe environment. Campers will interact with a variety of species each day as well as create crafts, play games and participate in awesome activities. Sign up for multiple days or come to just one, either way your kids are sure to have fun! Preschool (must be at least 4 years old): 9am-1pm Kindergarten through 6th Grade: 9am-3pm. February 18-19, 9am; \$65-\$85. 5 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

Art of Elan: Abstraction & Allegory Tied to the thoughtful works of photographic art in The Garner Collection, this special 15 minute pop-up performance takes a closer look at the power of trans-

formation, featuring "Advice from a Caterpillar" for bass clarinet by South Korean composer Unsuk Chin. Free with Museum admission. Friday, February 19, 7pm; **free**. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Virtual Art Show: Icelandic Painter Frida Frejya Widely revered for her ability to convey light and magic, Frida transforms oil and canvas into literal downloads of cosmic intelligence. To stand before one of Frida's paintings is to be lifted into a state of high frequency. This is a free event. Zoom login details are included on the confirmation email Wednesday, February 24, 7pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/2ZjAnPT>. (ONLINE)

Watercolor Magic: 4-Week Beginner Class In this class, students will start at the very beginning and understand the basics of watercolor paints, color mixing and how to use them effectively. Thursday, February 18, 10am; \$49-\$59. ljcommunitycenter.org/series. (ONLINE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream: Alisha Rai Warwick's will host Alisha Rai as she discusses her new book, *First Comes Like*, in conversation with Sally Thorne. Tuesday, February 23, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/rai-and-thorne-2021. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Margarita Montimore Join a virtual book club event with author Margarita Montimore for the paperback release of *Oona Out of Order*, a national bestseller and Good Morning America Book Club pick. Join book club members across the country and tune in to hear a discussion with fellow Macmillan author Natalie Jenner and participate in the live Q&A. Thursday, February 18, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/montimore-2021. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Mark Greaney Warwick's will host Mark Greaney as he discusses his new book, *Relentless* (Gray Man #10), in conversation with Tom Colgan. Thursday, February 20, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/greaney-2021. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Beginning Cold Process Soapmaking Class Soapmaking 101 is a beginning-level soapmaking class designed to teach students to make soap by hand at home. The main focus of this class is the "cold process" soapmaking method although the class does briefly describe "melt and pour" soap crafting. Attend in person. Classroom hours: 4.5 hours, includes one 15-minute break. Class

fee: \$89. Materials fee: \$20. Sunday, February 21, 12pm; \$109. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Building Confidence Through Meditation This Dharma Center class is for anyone at any level who'd like to build more confidence in their meditation practice and other aspects of life by tapping into the power of group meditation. Thursday, February 18, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. dharmacenter.com. (ONLINE)

CoTA 2021 STÉ@M Institute 6 experiential sessions exploring the Science Practices through visual art, theatre, and creative movement 13.5 hours professional development collaborative learning environment come away with lessons you can use remotely and in the classroom. Saturday, February 20, 9am; **free**. 18 and up. cotaprogram.org/. (ONLINE)

Jamming Through the Ages Over the years, what began as a preservation method has evolved into a mealtime staple, enjoyed for its many unique and delicious flavors even when fresh produce is available. How long have people been making jams? How does the process work? And how difficult is it for home cooks to make jams? Christina Sleeper, a Master Food Preserver and jam maker with decades of experience, will answer these questions and more in a lively presentation. Saturday, February 20, 10:30am; **free**. <https://chsandiego.org/>. (ONLINE)

Money Making for Creatives with Shaun Cassidy Join fellow creatives and Business Growth Strategist Shaun Cassidy, for a powerful conversation about how to make one's art practice both marketable and profitable; maximizing current resources in a post-COVID-19 world. Monday, February 22, 12pm; **free**-\$5. <https://bit.ly/3qxWUEk>. (ONLINE)

Music Appreciation: Camille Saint-Seans La Jolla Community Center: Camille Saint-Seans: Luscious French Perfection A master composer, brilliant arranger, amazing pianist, and organist The hour will highlight his luscious piano concerts, his music for the family, and his Organ Symphony. Tuesday, February 23, 1pm; **free**. ljcommunitycenter.org/series. (ONLINE)

FOR KIDS

KPBS Kids Event: Xavier Riddle San Diego Children's Discovery Museum: Travel back in time with Xavier Riddle to meet some world famous heroes. Be sure to follow our page to be notified when we go live. Tuesday, February 23, 12:30pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3q9bvZ>. (ONLINE)

Wild Saturday Morning: The Emerald Forest On selected Saturdays through April, Keepers will introduce you to animals from the top of the canopy to the floor of our rainforests and learn the important role they play in keeping these critical ecosystems healthy. Each program is via Zoom and will be about 45 minutes long. And after the program, you'll receive a PDF with coloring activities featuring some of the animals in the broadcast. The cost is \$20 per connection. Saturday, February 20, 10am; \$20. wildwonders.org/saturday-morning-at-the-zoo/. (ONLINE)

DANCE

De-Composing Dance A Discourse for dance decomposition and choreographies of breath is an improvised danced lecture,

continued on page 39

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Flavors of East Africa

It's all in the jerk

Teagan (“Think ‘Reagan’” she says) saws away at her violin right by the entrance. She’s playing Arianna Grande’s “34+35.” Sounds really cool. Actually, this whole scene is hard to beat. Saturday morning, sunshine, cool breeze to balance things out, your shadows following you everywhere, so the place looks more crowded than it is. Life is good, even if you do have to join a two-block line to get in. The waiting gives you a chance to pick up all the smells and colors of the Hillcrest Farmers’ Market. Turns out Hillcrest is the oldest of the markets, going since 1997. And the gal letting us in (when her walkie-talk tells her four people have just exited the market at the other end) says they have 10,000 coming every week.

“I’ll call when I am done,” says Annie. She wants to get her supplies solo. “Men just complicate things,” she says. Not a problem. Much better than fighting like two yo-yos on the ends of one string.

And even though they have extra volunteers telling us all to stay apart so we don’t cluster up when we’re supposed to be social distancing, it is such a kick, wandering about, strangers together, not touching the fruit, but sampling the goat cheese, drinking the Ethiopian coffee — so-oo delish! — and knowing that it comes from where these Ethiopian guys’ ancestors invented the whole idea of coffee (from an iffy-looking shrub that shepherds noticed made their goats frisky when they nibbled its red berries).



Customer picks up curried veggies from David at the chafing dishes

Oh boy. I see a couple of Brazilian guys have a stall going that says “Home of the Stuffed Hash Brown.” What a great idea. Only problem is wafts of jerk chicken kept hitting me on the way up here. Man. I could have stopped there and breathed in the jerk for hours. Not only that, but Annie’s talking about wanting some of “that African chicken” before we head off back out into the world. I make a private deal that I will be back for these hash brown guys. There are still lots of temptations on the way down, of course. We pass the House of Bao, which is mainly \$4-5 dumplings and steamed

buns; an avocado toast place (\$8-10); a carrot cake tent; and Lady G’s Canteen, a Filipino food tent.

We know we’re at Jerk Central by the smoke, and the sight of dozens and dozens of chicken thighs and breasts all grilling away on giant flame-heated racks right here in the

**TIN
FORK**
ED BEDFORD



Glorious mess: white rice is coconut flavored. Meat is jerk and smoke-drenched

street. Another clue: the sound of the chop-chop as one of the crew picks up each breast and cleavers it into four parts.

But of course, above everything is the aroma. Oh baby! Spices in the smoke, dripping, blackened meat, carnivore’s heaven.

David, one of the guys keeping this chain of deliciousness going, stands under the shade of the tent, methodically stirring each of the dozen chafing dishes loaded with lentils, eggplant, beef stews, goat curries, different kinds of rice, and *ugali*, a mashed corn meal he says is a popular rice alternative in Africa.

“We have been doing this since 1995,” he says. “We have a restaurant now, but June, the Kenyan guy who started it up, put in sixteen years just cooking at markets like this before he could get his own place.”

So, what to eat? He points to the menus. “But don’t worry,” he says, “you can mix it any way you want.”

And mama, quite a choice. You can start with small dishes like *dengu* (\$5.95), lentils in a curry sauce; or *niyoyo*, a hominy, kidney bean, carrot and potato mix, also \$5.95; or *biringanya* (\$7.95), eggplant in a tomato-based sauce. Or I almost go for goat soup (\$8.50), with a slice of *injera*, the fermented, spongy Ethiopian bread (\$1, or \$2.95 for a whole round).

But then there are the big plates. Like, seven *sambusas* (\$13.50. Or \$2 each), stuffed with fillers such as spicy beef, chicken, spinach, potato, shrimp, cream cheese, pineapple, and spicy lentil.



Chicken: expecting plenty of customers

Or African jerk chicken in a sweet or a spicy sauce, with veggies and rice or *ugali*

(\$15.95). Or *nyama choma* (“African roast beef steak”), \$19.95. But I end up with an awesome deal: a medium chicken combo plate for \$12. And David is good to his word. “Can I have half spicy jerk chicken and half sweet jerk chicken?” I whine. “Not a problem,” he says. Then he slops my *biringanya*, eggplant, and *dengu* into spare spaces. “Can I have half coconut rice and half saffron?” I say now. “Not a problem,” David says. Guy’s a saint.

And I swear, when Annie and I get to a

table (outside the market, natch), it is a festival of flavors, a mix of African and Indian. But the outstanding flavor to come through is that smoky, jerky chicken. Sweet option is good, but I like the spicy best.

Honestly, this smoke-jerk-veggie mix is addictive. Even though, come to find out, East Africans, who have always treasured their herds of cattle, have not traditionally been great meat eaters. Animals were wealth. You didn’t eat your assets.

“How could you improve on this meal?” says Annie.

“About the only thing,” I say, “is when we can actually eat the dangd thing there, at tables, in the market, with a beer, and not out here like we’re on the run from the law.”

Annie gives me one of her looks.

“So you’re not?” ■

The Place: *Flavors of East Africa* at the farmers’ market, 3960 Normal Street, Hillcrest, Sundays. (Other days, at 2322 El Cajon Boulevard), 619-955-8778

Hours: At Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9am-2pm Sundays; at 2322 El Cajon Blvd, 11am-9pm daily (till 8pm Thursdays)

Prices: *Dengu* (lentils in a curry sauce), \$5.95; *niyoyo* (hominy, kidney bean, carrot, potatoes) \$5.95; *mandizi* (fried plantains), \$5.95; *jungle fries*, (with jerk chicken, seasoned ground beef, chicken curry, or veggies), \$9.99; *biringanya*, (eggplant), \$7.95; *goat soup*, \$8.50; *slice of injera*, \$1 (\$2.95 for a whole round); seven *sambusas*, \$13.50 (or \$2 each); *curried shrimp*, \$15.95; *African jerk chicken with veggie and rice or ugali*, \$15.95; *nyama choma* (African roast beef steak), \$19.95; *medium chicken combo plate special*, \$12

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Awesome was taken

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Starr Edwards and husband and co-founder L.A. Edwards selling Bitchin' Sauce at a local farmers market.

Bitchin' Sauce is everywhere now

About ten years ago, young mom and aspiring personal chef Starr Edwards started bringing her food samples to farmers markets in Leucadia and San Marcos, hoping to drum up business.

Among her samples was a creamy, almond-based sauce she'd come up with as a 16-year-old trying to make her vegan diet more appealing. She blended raw almonds with garlic, lemon, tamari, grapeseed oil, and nutritional yeast. At home, she liked to cook with it, use it as a salad dressing, or to spruce up a bowl of beans and rice. But the easiest way to share with farmers market customers was to serve it with tortilla chips. "When we went to the farmers market, that was the first time it was used as a dip," Edwards recalls.

She didn't get any work as a personal chef, but she got a lot of people clamoring for that dip. Within six months, she was selling it at 25 farmers markets around Southern California. By the end of that first year, she'd sold about 100,000 tubs of the addictive almond dip she began to market as Bitchin' Sauce.

And this year, the company she built around Bitchin' Sauce expects to sell somewhere in the range of nine million tubs. Not just in San Diego, but in nearly 7500 stores nationwide. Not just natural food stores, but large chains including Whole Foods, Costco, Albertsons, Vons, Safeway, 7/11, Target, and as of this month, Sprouts.



Several flavors of Bitchin' Sauce, made in San Diego, available nationwide.

Meanwhile, food bloggers around the country have spent hours developing copycat recipes to share with their readers.

For most of the 20-teens, Bitchin' Sauce was a weekly fixture of San Diego farmers markets, emerging as one of the community's greatest success stories.

Though it bears a passing resemblance to hummus, the less pasty, almond-based sauce doesn't really belong to any existing condiment tradition. So Edwards had to give it a name. She wanted to convey wholesome branding, that also reflected her beachy, SoCal roots.

"I was trying to find a word that could com-

municate that," she tells me. "I googled *awesome sauce*, but it was taken."

Instead, the Bitchin' name took off, and though Edwards allows the SoCal slang probably bemuses a few folks around the East Coast and Midwest, it doesn't seem to have hindered sales.

The original, addictive, savory flavor has expanded to an entire product line, including sweet and savory options ranging from chipotle, pesto, and cilantro chili to chocolate and salted caramel. A line made with organic almonds includes spinach artichoke and Buffalo sauce. A "Snacker" line packages the stuff with tortilla chips or carrots for single serve dipping.

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A tri-tip taco and al pastor taco, on thick, handmade tortillas, from Crack Taco Shop in Mission Valley.

A lot of the people who buy Bitchin Sauce probably don't care that it's vegan, gluten-free, non-GMO, and kosher. And they probably don't give much notice that it's made in Carlsbad. But around here, we can appreciate the home-grown business, launched by a 21-year-old, which now operates with 77 employees, on-site child care ("Bitchin' Kids"), and the potential to make Bitchin' Sauce a household name along the lines of A1 Sauce or Ranch Dressing.

"Our end goal," says Edwards, "would be to have a trademark for Bitchin' Sauce, so you just always know" that's that almond dip from Southern California!"

by Ian Anderson

DoorDash answers mayor Gloria with a "regulatory response fee"

A couple weeks ago, I got a headline wrong. After mayor Todd Gloria limited the fees delivery apps can charge restaurants, I wrote: "Delivery fees are capped, but don't expect to pay less."

Problem is, I wasn't cynical enough. The headline should have read: "Delivery fees are capped, so expect to pay more."

This week, DoorDash introduced a new fee to its collection. The "Regulatory response fee" attempts to recoup any losses resulting from Gloria's

18 percent cap. As a pop-up bubble on the DoorDash site explains, the two-dollar fee is added to the subtotal because:

"A local regulation has temporarily capped the fees that we may charge local restaurants. To continue to offer you convenient delivery while ensuring that Dashers are active and earning, you will now see an additional fee that we are charging for local orders in the area."

It's a statement that does three things to convince the customer that a third fee, on top of delivery and service fees, isn't merely justified, but justice in action.

First, it invokes the specter of "regulation," a dog-whistle to those against government overreach. Second, it reinforces the notion DoorDash is only out to offer us convenience, the universal salve to our existential pain. Finally, it implies the added fee isn't about maintaining profit, but creating jobs for its drivers. Never mind the fact its drivers are independent contractors who rely on tips to get their take-home pay above minimum wage.

On the last point, DoorDash does nominally advocate for its drivers. When I placed an order for delivery from Crack Taco Shop to witness the new fee in action, the DoorDash software autofilled a \$7 tip for \$30 worth of tri-tip tacos and burritos. I suppose if we customers aren't willing to pay 24 percent tips on

our deliveries, the low pay of delivery drivers is on us.

I'm not so naïve to think DoorDash is evil for trying to maintain profits, and I do believe they provide a valuable service to restaurants and customers. I even think online ordering and delivery have only become more valuable during the covid era. I just don't think they are worth what DoorDash was already charging before the pandemic began.

When I reached out to DoorDash for further explanation of the new fee, it replied "We realize this isn't ideal..." and then mostly included language similar to the "regulatory response fee" description above. It pointed out, "Operating our platform, paying and insuring Dashers, and ensuring high-quality service can be expensive," but that doing so provides "valuable services that help drive orders for merchants."

Fair points, all of them. However, DoorDash declined

to answer how much commission caps impact its profitability, nor how the two-dollar charge replaces any losses. The problem seems to be that this business wants to convince restaurants and customers to absorb the costs of doing business, while hoping we ignore the idea its profit margins are sacrosanct.

With the commission cap in effect, my \$29.35 taco delivery wound up costing me \$45.01. Out of that, \$9.39 went to DoorDash fees, while Crack Taco Shop presumably forked over an additional 18 percent to the app (\$5.28). So far, I haven't seen either UberEats, GrubHub, or Postmates follow suit with a regulatory response fee, but I won't be surprised if it happens. A delivery app is always going to get its cut. It reminds me of casino gambling: the people making bets take all the risks, but the house always wins.

by Ian Anderson



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DoorDash provides this explanation for a regulatory response fee.

FOOD & DRINK

Gelson's Far Niente Wine Tasting Event with Far Niente featuring President Bruce Mooers and Vice President of Winemaking Andrew Delos. This virtual event will feature two wines available to buy in-store including the Post & Beam Chardonnay (\$34.99) and Post & Beam Cabernet Sauvignon (\$46.99). The last day to make a reservation is February 23. Wednesday, February 24, 6pm; \$23-\$105. 21 and up.

gelsons.com/farniente. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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)



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

CORONADO

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

Nicky Rottens: Monday, 3-6pm: \$8 select mules all night. Tuesday, 3-6pm: \$4 any canned beer.

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

Gaslamp Fish House: Daily, 3:30-6:00pm: \$4 Fireball shot, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap, vodka soda, select wine by the glass, \$7 skinny margarita, select signature cocktails.

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

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Ballast Point creates a diversity scholarship for UCSD's brewing extension

Bearded white dudes. That's the impression most have about who works within the craft beer business, and it's often accurate. Both within San Diego and the industry at large. Statistics offered by the Brewers Association estimate some 92 percent of brewers are male, while 89 percent of brewers and 88 percent of brewery owners identify as white.

A new scholarship created by **Ballast Point Brewing** seeks to put a dent in at least some of those figures. The newly announced **Brewing for Diversity Scholarship** will cover the roughly \$6200 costs of completing UC San Diego Extension's **Brewing Program**. Over 12-18 months of night and weekend instruction, students of

the program learn both the science behind brewing quality beer and the best practices of the pro brewers who've mastered the craft.

A few of those same pro brewers make up much of the faculty of the program, including Ballast Point's former brewmaster, Yuseff Cherney, who was instrumental in developing the program when it started in 2013, and remains its lead instructor. In fact, despite two highly publicized changes in ownership, Ballast Point has been closely involved with the program from its outset, bringing in students for brewery tours and internships, and occasionally offering jobs. Kyle Wiskerchen, who oversees the extension program, says that the idea for Ballast Point to create a scholarship first came up a couple of years ago, while the brewery was still owned by multinational **Constellation Brands**. However, the idea ultimately fizzled out until after the beer company was purchased by Chicago area microbrewery **Kings & Convicts Brewing Co.**, in late 2019.

The concept resurfaced late last spring, Wiskerchen says, when it was introduced by Ballast Point employees. And they were intent that it should be a diversity scholarship, partly in response to the social justice protests then taking place across the U.S.

"They definitely were persistent about reconnecting with the community," says Wiskerchen, adding that the employee's approach to building

diversity within the brewing industry was, "We need to do something, not just talk about it."

Spearheading the action was a part time bartender, Misha Collins, who has since been



Ballast Point's Community Engagement Manager, Misha Collins, appears in a video promoting the new **Brewing for Diversity Scholarship**

appointed the company's full time Community Engagement Manager. "I felt compelled to do something," says Collins, who approached Kings and Convicts cofounder and Ballast Point chief executive Brendon Watters. "As a woman of color, my conversation with Brendan delved deeper into the topic of how to make an impact in the areas of diversity and inclusion," she continues. "We talked honestly about the racial tension the world was

experiencing in that moment and how Ballast Point could help."

Wiskerchen notes that the majority of the UC brewing program graduates have been hired by breweries, or gone on to found their own. While the extension program has, like the industry it supports, been mostly white and male, it's gradually become more popular among women, commuters from Mexico, and vets attending on a G.I. bill.

The new scholarship, offered annually, will be awarded in May to a person chosen by a committee composed of "members of Ballast Point, UC San Diego Extension Program, and the Inclusion Committee of the San Diego Brewers Guild."

The selection will primarily be decided by a personal essay, and though diversity within the brewing community is the end goal, what diversity specifically means will remain, to some degree, subjective. Technically," says Wiskerchen, "anyone can apply who is going to champion diversity in their community."

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.

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.

LITTLE ITALY

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

King and Queen Cantina: Daily, Noon-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$4 beer bottles, \$7 well drinks, wine, sangria, \$8 margaritas. Appetizers \$5 to \$9.

MISSION BEACH

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

MISSION HILLS

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

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.

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

PACIFIC BEACH

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

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blurt the inside track

“It was pretty ironic, losing our home during a stay-at-home order,” says Valentine Byrne, who was recording an EP last April when disaster piled on top of pandemic. “I’ll never forget receiving that phone call from the fire chief inform-

sister’s belongings. Luckily, “My favorite guitar, a custom Tisdale my dad got for me that has a lot of sentimental value, and my external hard drives with most of my music backed up were miraculously unharmed.”

Byrne studied classical piano for over 20 years, earning a B.A.



Valentine Byrne: “The voices at the very end of this track are me and my sister laughing in the house that burned down.”

ing me there was a fire at my house. He couldn’t tell me how severe it was, so the drive home was pretty surreal. I didn’t know if we had lost everything, or if it was just a small fire. It ended up kind of being somewhere in the middle. The house wasn’t completely lost, my landlords had homeowner’s insurance and recently finished rebuilding it, but it was completely unlivable with the heat and smoke damage. Soot was everywhere, and our stuff still smells like a campfire. That night, we moved in with my mom in La Jolla, and I found my own spot in the area shortly after.”

The cause of the fire remains undetermined. “All they know is it most likely started in the walls of my [17-year-old] little sister’s room. Luckily, both of us weren’t home when the fire started around 2 am.” Byrne didn’t have renter’s insurance to cover the loss of music recording gear including microphones, cables, four guitars, and a keytar (“That thing was awesome!”), as well as clothes, old photos, and much of her

in music theory and composition from New York University. She’s ghostwritten songs for several artists and collaborated with Pool Cosby on the *Blind Gold* album track “Lookin’ Up,” which reached #12 on Spotify’s Top 50 Viral in the United States. She composed, arranged, produced, and mixed her debut solo EP *Baby On a Wall*, due March 23 with a single for “Sleep Like You Mean It” now available. The track “Don’t You Say You Love Me” features San Diego rapper Real J. Wallace.

“I was about half-way through recording the EP when the fire happened. I ended up layering field recordings I had taken of a campfire from a trip to Joshua Tree under the intro track ‘Instead,’ kind of as a little inside joke to myself. The voices at the very end of this track are me and my sister laughing in the house that burned down. I wanted her to help me sing the background ‘hmm’s’ of that song so her presence would be on the EP, and I thought it would be cool to include that recording, because of where I captured it.”

Byrne performed all the instruments heard on the EP

(guitar, piano, drums, bass, synths), and contributed homemade field recordings and voicemails that she gathered over the years, to give texture under the tracks. “I also layered recordings of a field of cows with cowbells and some wind chimes in San Diego under ‘Sleep Like You Mean It,’ and even some recordings of local birds in the background of ‘I Can’t Help Myself. I’ve always really enjoyed collecting field recordings, and I feel like it sets more of a scene and provides context to the music.”

Baby On a

Wall was mastered by Elliot James Mulhern (Ramoness, Maroon 5, Ne-Yo) of Blossöm Records and Grammy-nominated engineer Nacor Zuluaga Morelo (Enrique Iglesias, 50 Cent, Talib Kweli). As for the EP title, “It actually goes back to this thing my dad used to do when my little sister and I were young. My dad is a full-time artist, so he

would lift us up against the wall and say ‘Baby On a Wall, my best artwork yet,’ like it was the title of one of his paintings. It’s kind of always been this thing we refer to in our family and, when it was time to name my EP, those memories came to me. References to my family are sprinkled throughout the entire EP, and the end of the last track has an old voicemail my little sister sent me when she was 10 that has always been special to me.”

Byrne cites influences such as Billie Eilish, Bjork, Portishead, Karen O, and Angel Olsen. However, “As a ghostwriter, it’s easy to get distracted writing what you think others want to hear, or what might get the most streams. But for this project I really tried to steer away from that mentality and focus on what it is that I like to listen to. Some of my favorite artists include Sevdaliza, FKA Twigs, and Bjork, who all have incredibly unique and distinguishable styles. I made some decisions that might make the EP a bit less accessible, but I have made my peace with that. The album starts off with

an instrumental track, which I was told should have featured a vocal melody.

“But for me, a neo-classical introduction was the only way to go, since my first experiences with music were learning classical piano.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

The San Diego Jewish Men’s Choir

managed to release their third album in December of 2020. Quite an achievement, one would think, given the circumstances of covid-19. But, says conductor Ruth Webber, “Had it not been for the pandemic, I actually don’t think we would have released the album at this time! We most likely would have collected a few more songs. When the pandemic started, we began holding virtual rehearsals on Zoom. Those were very frustrating since the technology causes a time lag and an inability for the singers to hear each other clearly. Since we had to cancel our entire concert season, the choir decided it would be the best use of our energies and funds to finish our album at this

from musicians from all over the U.S. that we added to our vocal tracks.”

The Billboard-charting choir has been operating for more than 20 years, and the group bills itself as “25 good looking guys who can also sing and dance,” according to a promotional flyer. Webber came on board nine years ago. Choir members range in age from early 20s to late 80s and they hail from several different countries. The mission statement is to preserve and promote the rich heritage of historically relevant Jewish music, and they sing in a variety of languages including Yiddish, Ladino (also known as Judeo-Spanish,) Hebrew, and English. They began recording tracks for the new album *Legacy* five years ago, and they used the large room at Studio West in Rancho Bernardo.

I wondered about the logistical challenge of managing a group of 25-30 male egos.

“Haha, yes! That was my big fear when I accepted this position. I thought no one would actually listen to what I had to say since I was the only woman in the group,” says

men do seem to like performing a variety of different styles of music and they take stage direction really well. They like doing the dance moves and adding schmaltz to the show.”

How does the group get together now? Some sort of massive Zoom conference?

“We are on a brief hiatus now,” says Webber. “And we are concentrating on promoting our album to radio stations, newspapers etc. We are investigating some new ways of rehearsing together safely. For example, there is a unique way some choirs have been trying where each member sings into a mic in their car. All the mics are linked to an empty FM frequency so that everyone can hear each other. We hope to try this out soon. In the meantime, many of our members are getting their vaccines, so we hope that maybe by the summer things will be looking up for some outdoor rehearsals with masks on or something like that.”

How has the recording experience evolved for the choir?

“We’ve come a long way. We did our first album at a home studio in Escondido. The studio’s room was not big enough



Ruth Webber, conductor of the San Diego Jewish Men’s Choir: “They like doing the dance moves and adding schmaltz to the show.”

time. We wanted to finish it in time for Chanukah so we could have a new product for our families and fans to enjoy the holiday season. The upside of the pandemic was that we were able to find top-level musicians who were available at reasonable rates to record on our album remotely. We have tracks

Weber. “Actually though they are so supportive and they really try their best to make the group a high level choir... our group uses “choral-ography” in their performances and many of our numbers are semi-staged. The guys had never done this with their previous director, because originally the group performed mostly liturgical music. The

to hold all the members, so we went in one section at a time to record. The air-conditioning didn’t work so well so the other members waited outside by the chicken coop!”

— 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

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



DREAM DEMON

Scott Mercado (aka Manuok) is a vet of local bands such as Via Satellite, which he cofounded, as well as touring or recording with the Black Heart Procession, Mr. Tube & the Flying Objects, the Album Leaf, Tristeza, Ilya, and Lost Pets. Mercado has also produced acts from outside the local talent pool, including French folk-rock group Grimoon, who he met during the Black Heart Procession's 2005 European tour. Mercado's newest project Dream Demon pairs him with musicians from all over the left coast: Ben Heywood from L.A.'s Summer Darling, Mike Sparks and John O'Connell from Seattle's He Whose Ox Is Gored, and

Robert Cheek from By Sunlight (another Seattle group which has also featured Sparks and O'Connell). Their debut single "Hell" came out last year. "We're releasing four EPs that'll make up a double vinyl," says Mercado. "Overall, the album will be mixed with ambient to hard rock music, ranging from The For Carnation to Can, to Tortoise, to Sunny Day Real Estate, to Hum. But really, it's a mix of By Sunlight, Summer Darling, and Manuok." The Dream Demon 2 EP drops February 26 and, according to Mercado, "It starts with one of the best songs I've done, Salton Sea."



ALMOST MONDAY

Alt-pop trio almost monday features teen surfing pals Dawson Daugherty (vocals, bass) and Luke Fabry (guitar), later joined by Cole Clisby (guitar). Citing influences such as Oasis, Green Day, the 1975, Coldplay, blink-182, and Sum 42, early recordings were done with producer-engineer Mark Needham (the Killers, Imagine Dragons) and producer Simon Oscroft, of the band Frills. One song produced by Oscroft, "Broken People," hit the Top 10 on Sirius XM's Alt 18 Countdown, was featured on Amazon Music's Best of 2020: Alternative playlist, and the tune was covered on a summer 2020 single from Sofi Tukker. Almost monday's

debut EP *Don't Say You're Ordinary* has generated more than 23 million total streams. The band recently dropped the video for their single "live forever," which they describe as a "Beastie Boys-inspired visual [that] showcases the track's message of not taking moments for granted and living boldly." They were also recently profiled in GQ Australia's 21 Breakout Musicians to Know in 2021, Amazon Music's 2021 Artists To Watch playlist, and Apple Music's Shazam Predictions 2021 playlist, which features 50 emerging artists "who are poised to have a breakthrough year."



WARISH

Horror punk rock band Warish is fronted by singer-guitarist Riley Hawk, formerly of Petyr and perpetually the son of skateboard star Tony Hawk. Since their debut self-titled EP dropped in early 2019 on RidingEasy Records, they've gone on to release several singles and videos, as well as touring with San Francisco stoner rockers Acid King, who helped introduce them to the outdoor party circuit with events like Portland's Hesh Fest and Austin's Levitation Fest. In advance of their upcoming 13-song album *Next To Pay* (due April 30 via RidingEasy), a new Warish video

is streaming online for its first single, "Say To Please." According to Hawk, "*Next To Pay* is about a sense of imminent doom, everyone is going to die. It's not the happiest record, I guess. This album is more of an evolution, it's a little more punk-heavy." Original drummer Nick (Broose) McDonnell plays on about half of the album, while new drummer Justin de la Vega appears on the more recent tracks. The record also features new bassist Alex Bassaj, who joined after the debut album, and includes a cover of Gray Matter's punk anthem "Burn No Bridges."



SARA PETITE

"My sound is like a modern day June Carter," says folk bluegrass singer-songwriter Sara Petite, who was born and raised in the countryside of Sumner, Washington, before relocating to San Diego. She won Best Americana or Country Artist at the 2009 San Diego Music Awards and Best Americana at the 2012 SDMAS, a trophy she won again in 2013. Her album *Doghhouse Rose* debuted at number 33 on the Top 40 Americana Album Chart. A new country rock full-length, *Rare Bird*, will be released February 26 on JTM Music, preceded so far by a music video for its first single "The Misfits." The album was recorded

with collaborators like fiddle legend Bobby Furgo (Leonard Cohen, Nancy Sinatra) and guitarist Mike Butler (Billy Bob Thornton's *Boxmasters*). *Rare Bird* also marks the final work from Grammy-winning producer David Bianco (Tom Petty, Lucinda Williams, Bob Dylan), who began recording with Petite before passing away during the early stages. Petite teamed up with local co-producer and engineer Ben Moore to finish the record, taking a principal role in the songs' creation and their arrangements. A Belly Up virtual release party is planned for February 26, and the album has been added to the Sirius XM Outlaw Radio playlist.



CHUCK SCHIELE

Born in San Jose and raised in New York, Chuck Schiele arrived in San Diego at the end of the 1970s to take art classes at SDSU. He came to local attention as guitarist/singer/songwriter for the Grams, who won a 2006 San Diego Music Award as Best Americana Group and a 2007 trophy for Best Americana or Country. The guitarist for Gandhi Method and Bad Science Fiction has also been an integral part of bands such as Modern Peasants and Chuck Schiele & the Mysterious Ways. He runs Studio B, a full-service recording facility, and has produced projects

including Podunk Nowhere and Johnny Different. Schiele has a new solo EP *Love Letters*, with a music video streaming online for its first single "Justice." According to Schiele, "I'm tired of the perpetuation of things and ideas that are anti-love. It really bothers me that our supposedly superior species keeps encouraging ideas of hate and violence. This four-song EP is basically four letters that acknowledge the situation of today, offer ideas, a lot of hope, and a practical first step plan. Tough love."

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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, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 5pm — Billy Strings: The Déjà Vu Experiment.

Thursday, 5pm — Brett Dennen's 4th Annual Lift Series. \$15-\$180. Thursday, 1:30pm — Chris Barron: Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour. Free.

Thursday, 6pm — Trampled By Turtles Live From First Avenue. \$15-\$220.

Friday, 6pm — 3 Doors Down 3XLive.

Friday, 5pm — 311: Streamsystem Live From the Hive. \$20.

Friday, 7pm — Belly Up Livestream: Steve Poltz Birthday Bash.

Friday, 4pm — New Faces of Country Music. \$49.

Friday, 2pm — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, 7pm — Symba: Streaming Live from Los Angeles. \$12-\$40. Saturday, 12pm — Chase Atlantic Throwback Livestream. \$4.

Saturday, 6pm — Dead Meadow Live From the Pillars of God.

Saturday, 2pm — Funk Cancer Live From Ardmore Music Hall. Free.

Saturday, 5pm — La Jolla Music Society: Wynton Marsalis.

Sunday, 1pm — Because We Can't Do It In Person Fest. Free. Sunday, 5pm — Belly Up Livestream: The White Buffalo. \$10.

Sunday, 12pm — Grandson: XXwhy Livestream. Free.

Sunday, 5pm — Steve Wynn & Linda Pitmon Impossible Tour. \$5.

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

Monday, 5:30pm — Eric McFadden & Kate Vargas: Live from The Red Couch. Free.

Monday, 8am — Poway OnStage: Jazzy Ash. Free.

Monday & Tuesday, 5pm — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Monday, 2pm — Trevor Finlay: Monday Funday. Free.

Tuesday, 3pm — Creekside Music Hall Show with Scott

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

The best second-best symphonies

I've had dozens of conversations regarding the greatest symphonies of all time. I've read dozens of articles on the same topic. The usual suspects are all there, Beethoven's *Ninth*, Mahler's *Ninth*, Bruckner's *Eighth*, Brahms' *Fourth*, Shostakovich's *Seventh*. But what about the best second-best symphonies of all time? Who wrote the best second-best symphony? Allow me to explain. Tchaikovsky's greatest symphony is his *Sixth*. In my opinion, his second-best symphony is his *Fifth*. How does Tchaikovsky's *Fifth* stack up against the second-best symphony Sibelius wrote, which would also be his *Fifth*?

Of course, it isn't always clear which symphony is a composer's greatest. In the case of Mozart, his *Symphony No. 41* is usually considered to be his greatest, but nearly as many

symphonic partisans could consider his *Symphony No. 40* to be his greatest.

With Beethoven, it becomes even more difficult. If you Google "greatest symphonies of all time," you might be surprised at how often Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3* comes out on top. Where does that leave us with his second-best? Is it the *Ninth*? The *Fifth*, *Seventh*, or even the *Sixth*?

There is also the distinction between "greatest" and "most popular." Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* is not his greatest symphony, but it is clearly his most popular. The same can be said for Bruckner's *Symphony No. 4*, and Mahler's *Symphony No. 5*.

Making these calls is a daunting task, but I think it could be fun, so let's take a listen to the top nine second-best symphonies ever written.

Number nine is Dvorak's

Symphony No. 7. I'm calling Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* his greatest and most enduring symphonic contribution. It was a close race between Dvorak's *Seventh* and *Eighth*, but I prefer the more dramatic *Seventh* to the more lyrical *Eighth*.

Number eight is the aforementioned Tchaikovsky *No. 5*. As in the Dvorak *Seventh* and *Eighth*, the margin was slight between Tchaikovsky's *Fourth* and *Fifth*.

Number seven is Brahms' *Symphony No. 1*. This piece easily has the most ominous opening measures of any second-best symphony.

Number six is Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10*. Again, his *Fifth* is his most popular and my personal favorite, but we're talking about greatness.

Number five is Sibelius's *Symphony No. 5*. His *Seventh* is generally considered his greatest



There is a distinction between "greatest" and "most popular."

with his *Second* being the most popular, but the Sibelius *Fifth* is special, even amongst other great fifths such as those of Mahler, Shostakovich, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky.

Number four is Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*. I know there are many who would argue for Mahler's *Fifth* or *Third* at this point, but hearing Mahler's *Second* as a college student was an epiphanous event for me. Afterward, I began proselytizing the uninitiated within my college dorm.

Number three is Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*. I'm

a Bruckner fan, so this is probably a higher rating than most would give his *Seventh*. Once I grew out of my 20s, Bruckner became preeminent over Mahler, which is why he has edged out his venerable student here. Middle-aged Mahler fan boys are suffering from symphonic arrested development, in my facetious opinion.

Number two is Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*. No arguing with Mozart.

The gold medal for the silver medal symphonies goes to any Beethoven symphony that isn't his *Third*. I'd say it's probably his *Ninth*.

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Guberman. Free.

Tuesday, 6pm — Shakey Graves Livestream. \$20-\$50.

Wednesday, 5pm — Blueteach: Holotropic Happy Hour. Free.

Wednesday, 7pm — Felix Cartal: Wavy Wednesday. Free.

Wednesday, 5pm — Island Time Music Festival. Free.

Wednesday, 5pm — Plain White T's: The Wednesday Club. Free.

Wednesday, 3pm — Travis Shallow: Shallow Chateau. Free.

15 minute pop-up performance takes a closer look at the power of transformation, featuring "Advice from a Caterpillar" for bass clarinet by South Korean composer Unsuk Chin. Free with Museum admission. Friday, February 19, 7pm; free. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado.

Art of Elan: Abstraction & Allegory Video Premiere

As 2021 kicks off, Art of Elan and the San Diego Museum of Art continue their creative partnership and commitment to presenting musical interpretation of works in the Museum collection. Originally conceived as live "pop-up" concerts, both organizations worked to re-frame the presentations as part of the Museum's growing Virtual SDMA+ programming. The Virtual SDMA+ Art of Elan Abstraction & Allegory Video Premiere will be shared on the San Diego Museum of Art YouTube channel and is available for free streaming thereafter. Friday, February 19, 7pm; Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

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 virtual livestream tour through all nine of his studio albums. The tour will see the albums performed in chronological order

with one album side performed for each date. Friday, February 19, 2pm; \$20-\$25. Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Sunday, Mar. 7 — Monophonic and Alanna Royale.

Tuesday, Mar. 23 — Keb' Mo'.

Wednesday, Mar. 24 — Keb' Mo'.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Island Time Music Festival. Free.

Casbah:

Tuesday, Mar. 9 — The Secret Sisters and Leslie Stevens. \$20-\$25.

Loft:

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

Observatory North Park:

Wednesday, Mar. 24 — The Airborne Toxic Event.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Chris Barron: Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Jesse Malin: The Fine Art of Self Distancing. \$20.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Mimi Naja & Lindsay Lou: The Thursday Thing. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Brett Dennen's 4th Annual Lift Series. \$15-\$180.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Island Time Music Festival. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Trampled By Turtles Live From First Avenue. \$15-\$220.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Emily Barker: A Dark Murmuration of Words. \$15-\$45.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Island Time Music Festival. Free.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Marcus Mosely: Songs of Freedom. \$15.

Friday, Feb. 26 — Belly Up Livestream: Sara Petite Album Release.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Hypno5e: A Distant (Dark) Source Experience. \$13-\$36.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Third Lung Livestream. \$7-\$24.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Emma Beckett Livestream. \$15.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Island Time Music Festival. Free.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — The Mavericks Show: Episode 4. \$19.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Hollow Mellow Livestream. \$5-\$30.

Sunday, Feb. 28 — Grandson: XXwhy Livestream. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 28 — Jeff Mattson Livestream. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 28 — Steve Wynn & Linda Pitmon Impossible Tour. \$5.

Monday, Mar. 1 — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Wednesday, Mar. 3 — Plain White T's: The Wednesday Club. Free.

Wednesday, Mar. 3 — Craig Finn: All These Perfect Crosses.

Thursday, Mar. 4 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Thursday, Mar. 4 — Kygo Live From the Sunnmøre Alps.

Friday, Mar. 5 — 3 Doors Down 3XLive.

Sunday, Mar. 7 — Leonard Patton: A Broadway Cabaret. \$25.

Sunday, Mar. 7 — Belly Up Livestream: Donavon Frankenreiter. \$10.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Saturday, Mar. 13 — We Banjo 3: Live From Ireland.

Tuesday, Mar. 16 — SXSW Online.

Wednesday, Mar. 17 — SXSW Online.

Thursday, Mar. 18 — SXSW Online.

Friday, Mar. 19 — SXSW Online.

Friday, Mar. 19 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.


Friday, Mar. 19 — Billy Strings: The Déjà Vu Experiment.

Saturday, Mar. 20 — SXSW Online.

Saturday, Mar. 20 — Dust Bowl Faeries: Wish You Were Hear.

Saturday, Mar. 20 — Billy Strings: The Déjà Vu Experiment.

Saturday, Mar. 20 — Oates Songfest 7908.

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Mark's map

From the look of things, Mark (Kyle Allen) is definitely a morning person. He impresses both his dad and younger sis by tending to every item on his breakfast menu with the skill and grace of a six-handed juggler. En route to school, he guides his bike in the direction of the car with a coffee cup perched atop the driver's side window. He scoops! He sips! He scores with a perfectly-timed slam dunk into a turning

garbage truck. Mark is so good, his "Bless you!" anticipates a sneeze by seconds. Has he seen *Groundhog Day*, or are these sites of interest on *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things* about to unfold before us? Yes to both!

The team of director Ian Samuels and writer Lev Grossman (adapting his short story for the screen) score points early on for referencing by name Harold Ramis' revered romantic comedy that finds Bill Murray forced to relive the same day. Ditto a mention of Tom Cruise in *Edge of Tomorrow*. (*Before I Fall*, *A Dog's Journey*, and, to a certain degree, *Remember* would also qualify, for those looking for a subject to binge

watch.) Such is Mark's fate: a life of "infinite do-overs" with no end in sight, until that day the beach ball is intercepted. Lonely Mark spends his mornings at a local swimming pool, where each day a runaway inflatable toy careens off Phoebe's (Anna Mikami) head, knocking her into the pool. Everything changes the moment Margaret (Kathryn Newton) interrupts the repetitiveness to lend a hand.

Her amber aviators and frizzy blond hair flowing from beneath a backward-turned baseball cap turn Mark's heart into an exploding bag of microwave popcorn. They are both geeky, but as Margaret so rightly points out, Mark is a flagrant exception to the rule: he's a nerd who sucks at math. Still, she takes special interest in Mark's drawing, the one that gives the film its title. It's a compendium of all those privileged moments that make up his day, where they took place, and when. Margaret brings her own brand of magic to the proceedings: her tiny perfect *moment du jour* is that split second the eagle swoops down on the pond and flies off with that night's dinner wriggling in its talons. She

MOVIES

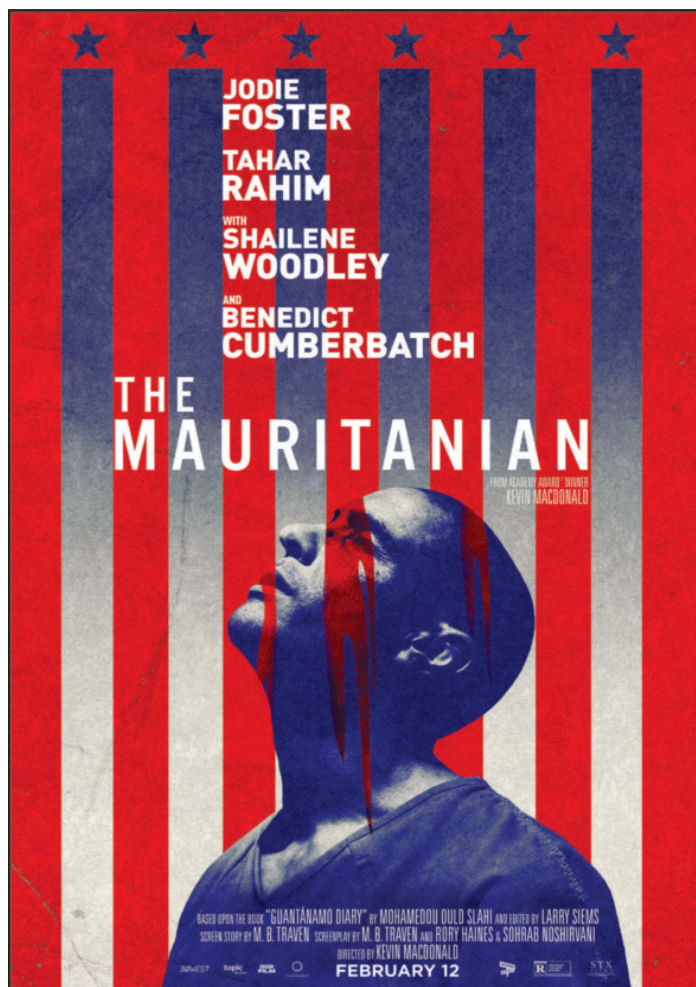


The Map of Tiny Perfect Things: Kathryn Newton as both angel and catch of the day.

confesses to feeling more of an affinity for the fish than the bird of prey, a moment that's brilliantly highlighted later on by the meticulously-timed arrival, in frame, of a moving van that traps her between outstretched wings. When Mark does at last summon the courage to move in for a kiss, Margaret responds with a flinch. Poor schmuck. The one day he's doomed to repeat and still he can't find a girl who wants to be more than friends.

Mark familiarizes himself with every inch of the map — Margaret is convinced that one more perfect thing is all that's needed to get unstuck in time — but there's one moment so spectacular it warrants a few rewinds (and raised the question, "How many takes?"). Looking to gain after hours access to the school, Mark waits for the last person to leave for the day. I Googled "temporal anomaly definition" to find: "a disruption in the spacetime

continuum which can take many forms and have many different effects." Kudos to Samuels and company for finding the perfect visual corollary: Mark looks on from behind a pole some 20 feet away from the door. Before it has a chance to slam shut, a well-rehearsed Mark lobbs a water bottle that lands in the door jamb at the precise moment to prevent the automatic closer from doing its job. I wouldn't exactly call it movie magic, but it did take a certain persistence of vision



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on the part of the patient filmmakers to pull it off.

The ground covered is not exactly fresh, but what's a genre film if not new characters inhabiting familiar surroundings? The leads lend warmth and credibility to their quest to find a pattern to Mark's map. What they do eventually find may have less to do with being stalled and more to do with an unwillingness to confront change. And that's just one of the perfect things on display that make this film worth a look. ★★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup

Barb & Starr Go To Vista Del Mar

— In their heyday, studios employed dozens of comics, screenwriters, and animators, whose job it was to take an active interest in cranking out absurdist comedy. Most of them did so without overstepping the characters they worked so hard to create. Television had long ago reached the point where crazy comedy existed only in the time it took for one commercial break to end and another to begin. In this case, all that's missing is a laugh track. Barb (Annie Mumolo) and Star (Mumolo's co-*Bridesmaids* scribe, Kristen Wiig) deserve an entire wing in the Hall of Guff named in their honor. There hasn't been a less mirthsome comic duo since Ferrell and Kattan tricked viewers into spending *A Night at the Roxbury*. Imagine Chip 'n Dale (or is it the Goofy Gophers?) being scooped into a blender filled with rainbow sherbet and set on low, and you'll have some idea what you're about to be dragged through. Even in the most absurdist terms, their whimsy makes no sense. The choreographed exchanges in which the stars carefully avoid stepping on each other might be tolerable if what they were saying made the remotest bit of sense. The majority of their dialogue flows up river like a non-sequitur stream of consciousness, fallacies of logic where replies bear no relevance whatsoever to the remarks that precede them. A negligible sci-fi subplot can be traced back to *Austin Powers*, with Wiig, as if proving to the world that she can stretch, taking on the second role of Dr. Evil replica Sharon Gordon Fisherman a mad scientist whose plan is to release a swarm of killer mosquitoes on the titular resort town where Barb and Star vacation. The ending couldn't have come any sooner. Josh Greenbaum receives credit, when in truth, this thing directed itself. 2021 — S.M. ●

Palmer — It would be one thing if Palmer (Justin Timbelake) were the type to drop Sam (Lance Nichols) at the nearest precinct house and let the



When people point up gaping holes in my film viewing history, I generally counter with, "I have to save something for my deathbed." Seeing how I'm closer to the end than I am to the beginning, it's time I watched a film starring Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney.

— Scott Marks

BABES IN ARMS (1939)

Babes in Arms was in many ways a film of great significance for all parties concerned: M-G-M's contract wunderkind Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland's first musical together kicked off a profitable series of four tune-filled vehicles directed by Busby Berkeley. The two star as the talented offspring of vaudeville artists — performers whose popularity is dying off faster than the once dominant variety show format. To help prop up his parent's financial situation — and prove to the world that the youth of America is just as capable of putting on a show as the former generation — Mickey brings together his schoolmates in the name of charity to turn a barn into a music hall gala. Gee willikers, kids! Do you think there'll be a big-shot producer in the crowd clamoring to take the show all the way to Broadway? Long before anamorphic filmmaking made CinemaScope a household name, Berkeley was working hard

at Warner Bros. using different optical apparatus to choreograph his musical numbers: gyroscopes and kaleidoscopes. And it was Berkeley's brilliant idea to position his camera on high and aim it directly down at the decorative human geometric designs into which he was wont to mold his chorines. Berkeley very much wanted to prove himself to be more than just a purveyor of novelty numbers in this,



Babes in Arms: Mickey and Judy put on a show!

his first entirely solo effort since making the leap from Warners to Metro. The intimate, comparatively low-key numbers — one set inside an apartment, another in the audience of a legitimate theatre — find Berkeley more than capable of working in confined spaces. Still, for all the subtlety, the most memorable production number in the piece is the titular tune, shot from overhead, as we follow our leads and Douglas McPhail (who at 25 is far too old to be playing an ingenue), marching as if en route to a Bund rally, toting burnable items though the backlot to build a giant bonfire. This was the maiden production of MGM's illustrious

Arthur Freed Unit, the studio detachment that went on to set one musical benchmark after another (*The Pirate*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Band Wagon*). Freed would later be more generous to his leading ladies, but in spite of their work together on *The Wizard of Oz* (Freed didn't receive credit), Judy always took a back seat to the multifaceted Mick. (It didn't help that she and Berkeley reportedly did not get

along.) They appeared in ten films together; Judy received top billing once, on their debut pairing, *Thoroughbreds Don't Cry*. Author Charles Wolfe observed that Berkeley "seems more comfortable with the cocky, energetic Rooney, who plays an adolescent version of Cagney's role in *Footlight Parade*, than with Garland." In this company, Judy becomes little more than a prop. When prolific songwriter Mickey needs someone to perform "Good Morning," Judy's there on cue. When Mickey needs a shoulder to cry on, it's Judy's ball-and-socket joint absorbing much of the moisture. The film's most understated highlight is June Preisser's Baby Rosalie, so much so that one rather wished that Mick would have slighted Judy in favor of her rival babe in arms. The once-popular child star whose career got stalled in puberty is a direct dig at Shirley Temple. If something can be both bland and tasty, this is it.

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police sort things out until wayward mother Shelly (Juno Temple) turned up. (Her Jean Kasem braid pulled tighter than a ship's anchor, Shelly conveniently disappears on a drug-fueled bender for the first half of the picture.) But even the 12-year stretch in the pen that he just finished serving couldn't harden Palmer's heart to that degree. Sam is non-binary. For those not up to speed on current terms of respectfulness, one of the locals sums

him up with, "There's something seriously wrong with that kid." Palmer goes directly from his cell to grandma Vivian's (June Squibb) house, where Sam and his mother live in the trailer out back. He spends his first night of freedom in Shelly's bed, which may contribute to his willingness to look after Sam when Vivian dies in her sleep. Director Fisher Stevens (*Stand Up Guys*) and novice screenwriter Cheryl Guerriero put their creative

talents to best use when pointing out the finer details of an ex-con returning to life's daily rigor — like the moment when a con realizes he may once again leave his towel and toothbrush in the bathroom. Sam becomes so loyal to Palmer that he eagerly starts the day by bringing his new friend a morning beer. And it will be some time before I forget Sam's scornful reply of "Football?" when asked if he's ever attended a game. (Alas, Cuteness began to set

in around the time Sam was forced to accompany Palmer on a visit to the parole officer.) All hell breaks loose when Shelly returns to find Palmer petitioning for custody of her child. Shelly moves like a rusty weathervane. You really can't blame the generally dependable Temple for the quality of her performance. She's only as awful as the script allows her to be. Palmer kidnaps Sam and the penny serenade he sings to the judge is effective, but nothing short of an overhaul could salvage the film's unrepentantly hackneyed final third. 2021 — S.M. ★

The Queen of Black Magic

— Rather than a wedding, the departure point for this remake of Liliiek Sudjio's same-named 1981 Indonesian cult horror item is a reunion of sorts at an orphanage. Mr. Bandi (Yayu A.W. Unru) will any day now breathe his last, and a trio of acquiescent repatriates are coming to pay their respects to the man who raised them. Haqi (Muzakki Ramdhan), the young son of former orphan Hanif (Ario Bayu) and wife Nadya (Hannah Al Rashid), bears the brunt of much of the film's introductory exposition: as a current resident tells him, 20 years ago Ms. Mirah (Ruth Marini) returned alone after an outing with orphan Murni (Putri Ayudya) and alleged that the young girl was abducted by a demon. Her rantings led to banishment behind the mysterious green door, currently situated just down the hall from the children's wing. Some say her ghost spent the ensuing decades locked in the room. As for Murni, she was never seen again. Not only does Haqi discover the door, the inquisitive tyke also finds, buried beneath a safe, a photo album containing a faded photo of — you guessed it — Mirah and Murni! In the original, Murni's main concern was to work her hoodoo only on those who participated in chucking her over a cliff. The 2019 transmogrification allowed nothing to get in the way of Murni's supernatural spree killing. That includes an anorexic guest who, after slitting her throat and abdomen, lives to feast on fuzzy caterpillars, and a busload of foundlings sent to their death. In each case, the resultant black magic instills within its victims a propensity for smashing their heads into any flat surfaces they near: doors, walls, windshields, etc. One question became a matter of extreme importance: our three sons knew of the horrors that went on behind these walls. Why bring their families to the reunion? There was an innocence to the Ed Wood-ish awfulness that flavored the original. What goes on here is calculated repugnance. 2019. — S.M. ●

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185/65R14.....	\$40.00
195/70R14.....	\$50.00
185/75R14.....	\$45.00
195/75R14.....	\$48.00
195/60R15.....	\$46.00
195/65R15.....	\$46.00
235/75R15.....	\$85.00
215/70R15.....	\$55.00
225/70R15.....	\$65.00
205/60R16.....	\$60.00
215/60R16.....	\$60.00
225/60R16.....	\$60.00
235/70R16.....	\$85.00
255/70R16.....	\$105.00
205/55R16.....	\$50.00
215/55R17.....	\$60.00
215/45R17.....	\$60.00
225/45R17.....	\$65.00
245/70R17.....	\$94.00



205/60R16..... \$140.00



235/75R15..... \$94.00



205/60R16..... \$88.00

Disposal Fee \$3 per tire

235/75R15. Price is \$55 total, (619) 576-8196.

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

PHONE SALES Now hiring FT/PT, entry level & experienced. Hourly + high commissions. Paid training. Bi-weekly pay. Opportunity for fast advancement. Start tomorrow. Call to schedule an interview. (866) 351-0005 Ext 809 / jason@biggamepromotions.com

ASSAY DEVELOPER Inhibrx Inc. in La Jolla, CA seeks Assay Developer - Assist biological & medical scientists with research phase & preclinical pharmacokinetics ("PK") & immunogenicity assay ("ADA") development. Req's Bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, or closely related field, & 2 yrs exp performing research & development, which may be gained concurrently & during deg program. To apply, send resume to info@inhibrx.com & ref job title & job code "AD2020" in subject line.

ASSET ACQUISITION RESEARCH ANALYST APWireless seeks Asset Acquisition Research Analyst in San Diego, CA for risk assessment, financial analysis, & more. Resume: 9276 Scramton Rd. Ste. 600 San Diego, CA 92121.

BIOVIA QA ENGINEER, Dassault Systemes Americas Corp., San Diego, CA- Drive QA initiatives incl. mentoring jr. QA engineers & contributing to the testing effort. Req. Bachelor's in CS, Comp. Engg. SW Engg., Info. Tech., or rel'd field +2yrs. exp. w/ test planning, creation & execution of sw apps. Send resumes to: NAM. Recruitment@3ds.com. Req.# 2108296

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYSTS II / San Diego, CA: Work on Service Now tool to handle production tickets,

enhancements, releases & defects related to SAP. Work with HP ALM tool for core project lifecycle management from design through readiness for delivery to operations, requirement management, test planning, functional testing & defect management. Travel/reloc to various unanticipated locations. Send res to: SoftHQ 6494 Weathers Place, Ste 200 San Diego, CA 92121

LOGISTICS ANALYST Avanty, LLC seeks Global Logistics Analyst in San Diego, CA to research textbook markets, work w/ logistic carriers, & more. Resume: 8245 Via Mallorca, La Jolla, CA 92037.

OPENING SOON! ROGUE SALON in La Mesa is looking for beauty industry professionals, offering suites, stations & flexible schedules. (619) 439-2040

REGISTERED IHSS CAREGIVER NEEDED for lady, 60. In Mission Valley. Must have car and internet, be organized and take notes daily. Cooking, shopping and cleaning, 105 hours per month, 26 hours per week. M-F 8am-1pm. Please leave a message (619) 269-3434

SR. BUSINESS PROCESS VALUE STREAM LEADER (Req# IIC1331) Dvlp compliant direct procurement purchasing policies & supplier controls procedures to support on market & new projects. MS+2yrs rld exp or BS followed by 5yrs prog rld exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

SR. DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL PROGRAM at Amkor Technology, Inc. (San Diego, CA): Plan, dir, or coord activities or rsrcr & dev in the eng field. Req. BS in Elec Eng. or Fgn Eq or cls rel. & 8 years exp. Add'l duties, reqmts, travel req avail upon request. Send resume and apply at: amkor.com/careers/, ref Job#SK01.

SR. FINANCE ANALYST (Req# IIC1332) Financial planning & Analysis (FP&A) incl financial analysis, fin support, quarterly forecasting, budgeting & model bldg. Reqs MS+3. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

STAFF BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST (Req# IIC1330) Map & GAP analysis for SAP PP module, define integration after mapping, gap analysis and configuration. BS+5yrs rld exp. Will accept BS equiv based on combo ed&exp. Send resumes to Illumina, Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.



COOK, DISHWASHER - APPLY TODAY Now hiring line cook - prep cook - dishwasher. The Cheesecake Factory, 200 E. Via Rancho Parkway Ste 370, Escondido, CA 92025. Apply today - CakeCareers.com

DISHWASHER AND CLEANING PERSON WANTED El Agave Mexican Restaurant. Horario Flexible (flexible schedule). Para empezar de inmediato (to start ASAP). Aplicar in persona (apply in person - do not send resumes).



MARISCOS TRUCK NEEDS HELP Looking to hire a person who wants to work and is responsible. Send us a message if interested. (619) 274-5924

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

LIVE IN CAREGIVER NEEDED Trade rent (spare bedroom) for part-time caregiver/health aid. Male, in my 80s, and need extra assistance due to health challenges related to a spinal cord injury. 5 hours/day at \$14.50 per hour. Basic housekeeping/health aid duties. (619) 307-0544

ENTRY LEVEL SALES Big Game Promotions is the leading producer of fundraising & branding for high school sports

with over \$20 million raised. We are currently expanding our sales team here in San Diego and are seeking entry level and experienced sales representatives. (866) 351-0005 / jobs@biggamepromotions.com

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

STOP COCAINE Would you like to call it quits? Maybe we can help... You may be eligible to participate in our confidential 18-week research trial. This confidential study involves: bi-weekly visits to our medical office, taking a study medication, meeting with a counselor. Qualified participants will be: 18-65 years old and have a desire to seek treatment for your cocaine use. Qualified participants will be compensated. Pacific Treatment and Research Center, (858) 246-4673. www.pac-tarc.org.

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 agaricj14@sbcbglobal.net or leave message at (619) 596-9343.

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOBS WANTED

HOUSE CLEANING/ CAREGIVER Looking for a job as a caregiver or a house cleaning job: (858) 505-0685

RETIRED BARTENDER/ARTIST WILL WORK FOR CASH Painting, organizing, odd jobs. Downtown area. Do not drive. Clean with exemplary manners. Flexible and negotiable. (619) 665-3709

GARDENING BY DAVID Hi, I am doing light gardening work, raking, mowing and trimming. 3 hrs. max per day. I have no set rate, so make me an offer. Cash or card. Text or call. Thank you, David (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

P/T F/T PREP-COOK/ DISHWASHER Hi, I gave about 20 years exp. in kitchen work. Mostly temping GB but I'm good. Interested in p/t or f/t work. I live in the mid-city area so something not too far would be ideal. Please text or call. Thank you, Kevin (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

DO YOU NEED A CARE GIVER? In home- companion aide? Will work pt. time. M, TH, F. Prefer to work in La Mesa-San Carlos areas. For details ask for Lisa (619) 246-8219.

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will shop for groceries, prepare meals, light housekeeping, drive to doctors/hospital appointments, companionship. Call Carol @ (858) 525-1154.

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

WANTED / TRADE

WANT ANY LEADS for a mustang 64 to 70. No parts, car or fully restored but do want straight body and frame please text (619) 631-9258.

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

CASH FOR OLD BASEBALL CARDS Looking to buy your old pre 1980 baseball cards (football, basketball, hockey, all sports and non sports too). Also newer value cards in all sports. Garbage Pail, comic books, autographed items. All sports collectibles. San Diego local. (832) 651-8302 / ashscot@aol.com

3-WHEEL BIKE wanted three wheel bike, under \$100. (619) 938-4249

LOOKING FOR A USED COMPUTER or tablet. A senior who needs to talk to family. Call Bruce (760) 231-5755.

SENIOR CITIZEN WOMAN in Mission valley, my husband served our country in the Korean war, I lost him due to covid-19. I am asking for any donations, call for more information. (619) 488-0822, please no texting.

I BUY 1980S JUNK Do you have stuff laying around from the 1980s? I buy records, tapes, toys, clothing, yearbooks, radios and comics. Send me photos or a list. the1pjoh@yahoo.com

I BUY OLD 1980S-1990S TOYS I buy 1980s-1990s toy collections. Email me photos of your toy collection for a fast quote. the1pjoh@yahoo.com

SEEKING MR. T'S A-TEAM VAN We have the old-school A-Team race set from the 1980s, but are in need of the van that was included. Do you have one to sell? Message us if you do. djntform@gmail.com

I BUY OLD PIONEER AND SANSUI STEREO'S Working or not ok. Call me. (619) 279-7834

I BUY ROLEX WATCHES (619) 280-2075

AUTOMOTIVE

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49 Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks. \$2175* + \$8.25 cert

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

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41.75 + \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

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

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (both locations)
FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE (Cliff Brown location)

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN \$69.95 Most vehicles. With add. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from \$179.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles. Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up • Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change • Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning • Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE Parts & Labor from **\$159.95**

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

STAR SAN DIEGO SMOG & AUTO REPAIR CENTER We Repair & Certify Gross Polluters
4664 Park Blvd. (at Adams Ave.)
619-543-4828 • Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 8 am-3:30 pm
www.sdsmogandrepair.com

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

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

Window Tint \$98 Tint removal from \$29. Any shade, up to 5 rear windows.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION Pads & Labor From \$78

A/C SYSTEM RECHARGE \$39 includes 16oz freon and labor

ELECTRICAL REPAIR Power windows, door locks, automotive control modules: BCM, ECM, PCM, TCM.

FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic



Qwik Auto Center

2707 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach 92109

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm *Must present ad prior to purchase. Installation required

Pictures are for illustration only. Some cars require extra parts and labor at additional cost. Must present coupon at participating locations. Most cars, Prices subject to change without notice.

858-256-7977
QuickAutoCenter.com

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.

TRADE TWO ELECTROLUX tank style vacuums from early 50's, for wall clock the sunburst style or old lighted gas station style. Text (619) 631-9258.

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

WANT FREE RUNNING MOPED looking for quick trip to store, so does not need to be perfect. As long it runs. Would prefer one that has permanent plate, so do not have to license. Nothing fancy. 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 BAND INSTRUMENTS working or not, ok. (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

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

I BUY VINYL RECORDS All types of music, great prices paid. Call (619) 250-3088.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GARAGE SALES



FALLBROOK ESTATE SALE Call (760) 728-5254 to make an appointment.



RESTAURANT CLOSING Fully equipped restaurant closing in operation since 1957. Everything must go! (858) 900-5160



HOME DEPOT HARDWARE AND TOOLS These are returns and overstock from Home Depot. \$11,500 F.O.B CA. 26 Pallets. Supreme Liquidator Inc. 15020 Proctor Ave. City Of Industry Ca, 91746. (626) 333-1221

RAMONA MOVING SALE Tons of women's clothing medium and large with Lucky Brand and Free People. Household items, kitchen, Christmas, garden, office, games, furniture, and lots more. (760) 821-9061

WAREHOUSE LIQUIDATION Miramar based event company warehouse liquidation sale. (858) 689-1441

I BUY GARAGE SALE LEFTOVERS and estate sale leftovers looking for rock and roll t-shirts Antiques Collectibles antique toys Hot Wheels Rock Records vintage clothing jewelry gold silver CDs music equipment and Tiki mugs please no large items like furniture pay \$20 and more cash paid I have a 5-star rating on Yelp give me a call at (619) 301-6616 text or call Cobain.

FOR SALE

5 METAL SHELVES good condition, best offer. Todd (619) 313-0705

DO YOU NEED A BALLET HANGER? To hang up your ballet outfit? Have six left, or could donate. (858) 505-0685

PAIR OF WALNUT CHINA CABINET 6.2 feet high 22" width 19" depth \$85. Call or text (619) 200-1254.

PLANTS BY BLANCA Echeveria, Gasteria, Kalanchoe and more. Succulents in ornamental pots to decorate your environment. (760) 997-0353... call or text.



EVERYDAY CALIFORNIA Everyday California is a La Jolla-based ocean adventure and lifestyle brand— from eco-friendly excursions on one of the best coastlines in the world, to California-inspired apparel and accessories. (858) 454-6195 / info@everydaycalifornia.com



NEC HDMI MOVIE TV PROJECTOR \$195. You can hook up the projector to xbox, ps5, laptops, cable box, and/or chromecast. Call or text me to pick up today. (757) 605-8308 / jwing003@odu.edu



NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF - 1200SF 12x100-foot roll, brand new, free delivery. \$1548. Call me today before it sells. Ask for Justin. We can deliver to San Diego, El Cajon, Santee, Pacific Beach, and Fallbrook. (757) 605-8308 / jwing003@odu.edu



ARTISTIC MARISCOS Good morning my beautiful people. We have tables and chairs to eat on here at 6062 University Ave. San Diego, 92115. We have Uber eats (Mariscos el Valedor) and you can also stop by to pick up (619) 787-4276.

ATTENTION GOLD DIGGERS I have new metal detectors with high sensitivity and waterproof. Detects coins, gold, bronze, silver, and all-metal, including iron, aluminum, and aluminum products. \$99 each (858) 245-5183



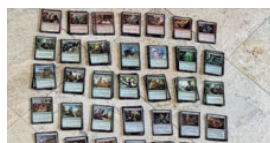
COMIC BOOK AUCTION www.savacoolandsons.com for more details. (760) 533-0090



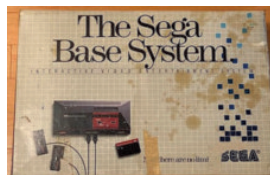
ECUATORIAL GUINEA FACEMASKS These are lined, washable and cotton fabrics, all imported from Ecuatorial Guinea. Selling backpacks, hand-purses, small change-wallets, and facemasks. www.instagram.com/montsengomobride/ (702) 812-9882/Items for sale boogie board, \$25. Long board skate board, \$25. Small lamp, brown base with a black shade, \$15. (858) 505-0685

MISC FOR SALE 18 foot extension ladder, \$40. Large Webber grill, \$40. Wooden kayak/canoe paddle, floats, \$20. Call (619) 348-1095. See in Chula Vista

MISC FOR SALE Eight piece easy pour cookware, \$40. Memorex paper shredder, \$35. Gevalia 12 cup automatic coffee maker, \$40. Two pack Puma performance sports bra size small, \$18. All new, still in boxes, (619) 981-2300.



MAGIC THE GATHERING 786 Magic the Gathering Deck cards. Please call/text if interested (949) 357-2543.



OLD SCHOOL SEGA FOR SALE Selling Sega Master System complete in box. Includes console, 2 controllers,

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

SMOG CHECK \$11.75 Sedan only, NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only, SUV and Trucks extra. + \$8+ cert + \$1+ DMV transfer fee

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

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

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

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

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

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT 96 and up.

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

AC and video cable, and one game. Contact via text (619) 742-8598

STRONG COFFEE Are you looking for the next best craft coffee in San Diego? Try Daily Grinds Coffee Roasters! We are a small local business looking to jump start our community with great tasting coffee. (619) 507-8195 / dmrenaud@dailygrindscoffee.com

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks, good condition suitcase fancy candle holder folding laundry basket. ALL these items YOU MUST buy for 40.00 obo. any and all very much interested candidate ask for james @ 1 (619) 450-7914 / j.fifield31@gmail.com



BF GOODRICH ADVANTAGE TIRES (4) BF Goodrich tires for sale size:235/55 R17. never used purchased from Walmart for \$116 each. Asking \$80 each @ \$330. If purchased save \$144. (619) 665-5809 / mrbobbybrownjr@gmail.com

7-FOOT RAMP 7-foot folding metal ramp. Can be used for wheelchair or motorized scooter. Very good condition. \$75.00 ddperry3@cox.net.

20 ORIGINAL SATURDAY EVENING POST covers by J.C.

Leyendecker in plastic sleeves. Very good to excellent condition, \$250 each. (619) 295-4208

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

ALLUADIA PROCERA 7'-10' tall to make an otherworldly exotic landscape. Also Beaucaerna recurvata and Euphorbia Variegated Ammak at wholesale prices. (760) 945-7892 for appointment with Mr Jimmy.

BAMBOO POLES for sale 1 inch thick poles by 4 ft tall in bags of 25 \$20 a bag 3760 Hancock Street number e San Diego California 92110 (619) 301-6616 Cobain.

BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS \$30 NEW Speakers Bluetooth super great Bass (619) 850-3264 \$30 each (619) 850-3264.

BUNK BED SET like new, two drawers underneath, \$450. (619) 616-3567

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

DRONES ALL TYPE \$11 on up to \$60 drones with cameras all types video (619) 850-3264.

GAS LAWNMOWER Briggs and Stratton. Newer model 2014. Adjustable height wheels, lightweight, excellent condition, 20" blade, only \$60.00. (619) 464-6255

A U T O M O T I V E

GOOD PRICE IN TOWN!

OIL CHANGE \$15
4-cyl., most cars.
Up to 5 qts. 10w 30

USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION \$599*
+ From Labor Most 4 cyl. cars

Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat

SMOG CHECK \$16.75*
Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a star station. From 2000 & up

TIRES ON SALE!

BRAKES from \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor

4 Wheel Alignment \$50
most 4 cyl cars

HEAD GASKET \$499
4-cyl. & most cars & machine extra.

AC SERVICE \$75
Most cars.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE '96 & up. Most cars.

REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER from \$195
each. Most cars.

30K SERVICE \$75
4-cyl., most cars.

TIMING BELT \$95
4-cyl., most cars.

AXLE SHAFT \$99
4-cyl., most cars. plus labor each



SAVE AUTO

9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126

(By 1-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn)

858-586-6666

GLASS WATER PIPE glass water pipe \$20. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

MISC FOR SALE Women's plus size outfits and accessories. Shoes size 10 and 11, starting at \$10. Cat furniture tree, ceiling to floor, tan, different types of beds and scratching posts. Top of the line, excellent condition. \$125 or best offer. Plus misc items, call (619) 269-3434 please no texting.

MISC ITEMS misc items all new in the box. electric alarm clock \$5, radio shack amplifier/speaker \$5, portable cd player \$40. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

MOTORIZED BICYCLE I have two motorized bikes \$500 each (619) 850-3264 brand new 150 miles per gallon great transportation pedal or used engine (619) 850-3264.

NEW ZEALAND MEAT PIES Aunty Devi's Meat Pies serves up an unforgettable tasty savory pie for both the adventurous foodie, and for those nostalgic memories of your grandmothers freshly baked goods.

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

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12 For cabinetmakers, used to bend laminates for countertops, purchased new for \$5,000., it was only used one time, like new condition, \$2,900., (760) 746-7209

SEWING MACHINE SERGER \$100 Singer sewing machine serger (619) 850-3264.

STUN GUN FLASHLIGHT COMBO Get protected bodyguard. we have \$20 and \$30 models available (619) 850-3264.

SURFBOARD \$100 Surfboard \$100 (619) 850-3264.

TV SMART BOX EVERY CHANNEL TV Smart Box every channel all sports all local channels TV shows movies everything in one package no cable bills nothing blocked all you need is internet guaranteed satisfaction pay-per-view as well (619) 850-3264.

WATER COOLER Excellent condition top loading water cooler with cold and room temperature options. Beige. \$25. (707) 318-9975.

ART WORK 50" x 63" originals and prints. May also barter. Call Mike for more info. 619 599-3000 (619) 599-3000

NATURAL GAS WATER HEATER Natural gas water heater \$50. Used, good condition. (619) 259-1160 / jr4menu@gmail.com

SOLID WOOD DINING ROOM SET Dining table has built-in leaf for making extra room at the table for occasions. Folds into table for easy storage. 4 chairs. Excellent condition. Very sturdy. \$75 Call or text (619) 633-0260 / Kellylidner@gmail.com

WHEELCHAIR Wheelchair for sale. Good condition. Brand: Drive. Has wide seat. Will deliver for additional fee. Located in San Carlos, near Cowles Mountain. \$75 or best offer. (619) 698-4083 / jschwartzsandiego@yahoo.com

1977 STAR WARS VINYL LP original with poster (619) 874-9982.

CUSTOM BUILT SKATEBOARD RAMPS Hand-crafted, fully customizable Skateboard Ramps. From Quarter Pipes to bowls and anything in between, no job too big or too small! Visit JimBellSkateboardRamps.com to fill out a quote request today. (619) 723-8869 / Hannah@jimbellskateboardramps.com

MILLER AC/DC WELDER Econo Twin HF, 150 amp, for stick or tig welding, with cart, leads, hood, & extras. \$300 (619) 201-3547.

MISC FOR SALE grey boogie board with a serpent on it: \$30, long board skate board: \$30, small white baby bathtub: \$10, one small lamp w/ brown base & black shade: \$15. (858) 505-0685

ORIGINAL 1980'S GO BOTS TRANSFORMER sealed. \$60 (619) 874-9982.

TWO KING SIZE COMFORTERS A green and gold and a white comforter \$10 each In good condition. (760) 845-0105 / sunflowerbeach@gmail.com

1978 CIEN PESOS SILVER COIN Great shape and details. (619) 874-9982

BOOTY SHAPE-WEAR Beautiful Colombian clothing at super discounts of 40 percent off. Discounts on bodysuits and Colombian shaping girdles for the best buttocks lifter. (619) 919-8850. colombianbootyshapewear.com

CAULIFLOWER CEVICHE If you haven't tried a cauliflower

ceviche, today is the day. Discover a new flavor for your senses, you are going to love it! <http://lafresheria.com/index.html>. (858) 551-8786 / la.fresheria@gmail.com

DISCOUNT ROSES FOR SALE Valentine's Day colored rose packages with 25 stems for \$24.99. Call @ (619) 424-8337. 2256 Main St. Chula Vista, 91911 Ste. 12 behind Tamales Ancira

FASHIONISTAS' WHOLESALE PURSES Selling purses for wholesale prices. WhatsApp (619) 788-2109 for more deets on our purses and wallets.

FRESH TORTILLAS Freshly made warm white or yellow corn tortillas at Colectivo Rincon Mexicano. Make your orders 1 kilo for \$3.50. (617) 233-1965

HOT WHEELS original vintage \$35 ea. Or \$75 for all three. (619) 874-9982

RMS TITANIC MOTOR DRIVEN MODEL This listing is for the 1/720 RMS Titanic motor driven model kit in new, still sealed condition. Call 1-(760) 746-5422 for more information. \$20

DINING ROOM SET All wood dining set with 4 chairs. Hunter green color. Table has built in leaf to extend for more table space. Tiles are on top of table. A must see, wont last long. Call or text \$150 (619) 633-0260 / Kellylidner@gmail.com

PEBBLE ROCKS FOR LANDSCAPERS Pallet of pebble rock stones for sale. First \$400 can pick it up! We will load it with the forklift in the back of your truck. www.facebook.com/AbandonStuff. (951) 314-3482

SPICY CANDIES AND CUPCAKES We have so many treats available. There is bound to be something for everyone. Located in South Bay and now taking Valentine's Day orders! Check our Instagram: @sweet.spicytreats__

DOG BEDS \$50 WASHABLE Stuffed with polyfill cedar chips washable with zipper dogs love the smell repels fleas (619) 850-3264.

VINTAGE SEWING MACHINE I have a vintage early 1900s single treadle sewing machine. In great working condition. The cabinet needs a little work. Needs a new home. (619) 462-8126

TURQUOISE WOMEN'S RING Set in sterling silver. Large inlaid stone. Very nice. \$100, Text (619) 438-4567.

55 INCH VIZIO TV one year old, works perfect. We won a 65" at the casino. Pick up in San Marcos. \$250 firm. (760) 420-3641

MEN'S SKI CLOTHING turtle necks, large \$2. Descente 1 piece ski suits, XL/L \$100-\$150. Multi colored sweaters medium to large, \$25. Hats and socks \$2-\$5. (619) 218-4031.

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

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

ANTIQUE SAFE 3 ft tall, 2 ft wide, 2 ft deep, four wheel rolling, 150 pounds. Survived 1906 earthquake

in San Francisco. Has burn marks, perfect condition, (760) 420-3641. \$1,000 cash firm.

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

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

ANSWERING MACHINE for phone, digital, used a few times only, good condition, \$10. Penasquitos area of San Diego. Telephone 1-(858) 484-4483

PORTABLE ROOF RACK new in box, never used. Carries all kinds of things, will work on all cars, \$34.95. carryme123.com

DOOR KNOBS IN BRASS eight all together, two sided with center turn button. Good condition, no dents or scratches. \$6 each. Telephone 1-(858) 484-4483

SERVICES

GOT ECHINOFOSSULOCACTUS? Exotic plants for sale from Lalo Of Vista Energizes! Have the sharpest landscape on your block. Remember, plants EAT carbon dioxide. (760) 945-7892 for appointment.

SENIOR CARE Non-medical help/support for seniors. Chores, errands, transportation, cleaning, organizing, etc. Rob

AUTOMOTIVE

SMOG CHECK \$19⁹⁵

Year 2000 and newer. Plus \$8.25 certificate. By appt only.
Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.

OIL CHANGE

up to 4 quarts & oil filter
Most 4 cylinder cars,
Trucks extra.

\$16⁹⁵
+tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
- Parts & Labor
- Turn Rotors / Drums
- Premium Pads
- Most 4 cylinder Cars + tax

\$129
Free Inspection

NEW TIRES

From
\$59



30K/60K/90K/120K mile SERVICE SPECIAL

Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

\$149

Plus tax & hazardous waste fee. 4 cylinder, most cars, regularly \$200 prices may vary depending on make & model.

TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE

- Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
- New oil filter
- New spark plugs
- Visual inspection
- 4-cyl. Most cars

\$54⁹⁵

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
Prices may vary depending on make & model.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Most cars



\$34⁹⁵

ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

\$39

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS?

We can diagnose and repair any electrical issue.

GENERAL AUTO REPAIR

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Just off the 905 freeway • Se habla español
Must present ad prior to service. Expires 3-22-21



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WORM HUMUS Get your Worm Humus farmed locally in San Diego for \$1/lb for your plants! Most sustainable fertilizer in the world. Text (857) 236-7794 for info

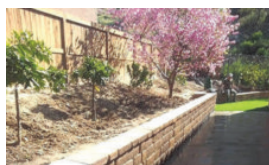
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BOAT UPHOLSTERY SERVICES Offering upholstery services for boat headliners, seats, panels, carpet, chairs, and more. Please call or text for a quote and info at (619) 721-5331.

CAKES FOR GAMERS We make custom cakes for video gamers! Based in Tijuana. The price is 300 pesos per custom cake. Order by WhatsApp (664) 167-3204

COMPUTER REPAIR & SALES Sales, repair, Windows PC & Mac; servers, cabling, security camera. Honest and with references. (619) 770-0011 / luislednick@gmail.com



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DOUBLE NATIONALITY If you were born in the United States and your parents are Mexican, you have the right to Mexican nationality. We can provide the double nationality process for you. 664-773-92-64 (664) 773-9264

TAX PREPARER providing honest and reliable service for all of San Diego County. Licensed and Register ed with California Tax Council. Affordable fees. (760) 791-9496

WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICES Protect your home from the threat of wildfire with a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment. Residential wildfire service at: www.wildfiremitigationservices.com (760) 505-1498 / wildfiremitigationservices@gmail.com



MAKE CAR INTERIOR LOOK NEW Interior detail: carpets, seats, door panels, floor mats shampooed, dash, console, vinyl, leather and plastic cleaned and dressed. (619) 617-2348

MALE CAREGIVER 10 years experience with one family, day and night shifts, dementia, diabetes experience. Excellent cook, educated in French and Spanish. References text only (619) 887-6450.

TAROT CARD READER (619) 622-1830

UP TO \$250K BUSINESS FUNDING (startups ok). We have some great funding options right now for startups and small business owners. Visit: <http://www.myfundingpartners.com>

\$99 VIRUS AND SPYWARE REMOVAL We will repair your PC remotely over the Internet. No need to visit your home or office. We also offer affordable computer backup services to the cloud. (619) 865-3977 / remotetoyourpcnow@gmail.com

4 NEW 16" TIRES 4 new tires, 205-55-16 for \$270 and comes w/free installation and balance at 471 Broadway in Chula Vista, 91910 (844) 215-8674

AUTO UPHOLSTERY IN TJ We repair headliners and reupholster seats for great prices. Our shop is right across the border. (664) 222-8976

TOOTH GEMS' SPECIAL We are having Valentine's Day special Deals on a limited time offer! Book your appointment at @FaceProtection or call us at (760) 688-6571

CERTIFIED MESSAGE BY KEVIN Hi, my rates are \$50\$ hr., \$75\$ 90 mins. and \$100\$ for 2 hrs. I offer Swedish, sports and deep-tissue. Cash or card out calls only at this time. Please text or call. Thank you, Kevin (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

COMPUTER REPAIR & SALES Computer Repair & Sales - PC & Mac. Backup (local/cloud); Security Camera; Cabling; Servers. Over 20 years of experience. HONEST with references (619) 770-0001 / luislednick@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER Hi, I have 10 years experience

in caregiving. I cook, clean, laundry you name it. Prefer to work with gentlemen only. Live-in position. Please text or call. Thank you, Kevin (619) 592-0882 / GHF92565@gmail.com

EYEING EYELASH EXTENSIONS? Lash extensions at an affordable price. Book your appointments with on Facebook @beautybossshop thebeautybosscompany@gmail.com

PROJECT PAIN? We offer many design services to help you get your project done, including finish selection, drafting plans, and 3D modeling. We also offer permitting packages and plan check services with the city for building permits. We can help you get it done! [hallo@re-haus.com](mailto:halla@re-haus.com)

READY FOR RAINY SEASON? Protect your vehicle from the upcoming rain season. We wash and wax with quality products to protect your paint for six months. (619) 386-2380

SAN DIEGO TRANSPLANTS Moving today, tomorrow, on holidays, weekends, or even next week? Call for the best prices movinglonking@yahoo.com

VALENTINE'S PICNICS Outdoor activities with picnics, kayaking, and a photo booth with celebration and catering services. Instagram: HappyMoments_PhotoBoothPicnics. We have Valentine's promotions @ (619) 796-0292

WASTE/OLD FURNITURE REMOVAL Junk, demo, yard, waste, old furniture, and scrap metal removal. Garage clean outs and more. Call (619) 548-3410

ALLSTATE INSURANCE Give us a call to see if we can save you money on your insurance services and add value to your policy. ask for Roy. (858) 583-7729 / chuljukil@allstate.com

POWDER COATING sandblasting, painting, metal polish, chrome plating, welding, painting (619) 777-0446.

RYZ GARDENING Cleanups, weekly/monthly weeding, junk hauling, mulch, rock installation, tree service. Free estimates. Pepe, (760) 547-4865.

D.J. sm event \$200+ lg events 300+. 60s-2010 rock, country, disco, hip-hop, holiday, wedding, slow dance/love songs, jazz, ethnic, karaoke. (619) 933-4024.

SAN DIEGO HUNKS - YOU CALL, WE HAUL (619) 507-4172 Junk hauling, demolition, moving services! Lift gate, senior citizen discount, veteran owned business. Got junk? Call a Hunk!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN ADVOCATE TROUBLESHOOTING TRAINING Landscape design, redesign, troubleshooting -Diagnostics on the spot. Solve your problems, improve your design, improve your maintenance, today no guessing! Educated trained and experienced, 6th generation native, 6th generation horticulturalist in San Diego County a hundred fifty years. See my website EdwardsHorticulture.Com for my credentials. No guessing right the first time. On time prepared polite professional. I do what the maintenance contractor and architect don't know how to do. Identify the source of the problem and fix it with several options and price points. No sales no installation, no maintenance, just hardcore information to get your property into better shape today! (619) 402-8670

P.L. WOODEN MOBILE NOTARY Do you need Loan

Signing, Prened Home Going Planning, or Notary services for someone that is Hospitalized, in Senior care or maybe Incarcerated? If so, look no further. Call P.L. Wooden Mobile Notary for all of your Notary Needs At: (619) 867-4441

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CAN EARN \$500 TO \$1000 WEEKLY! Looking For Sales Consultants. Get Paid On Commission. Earn A Extra \$500 To \$1000 Weekly. No Experience Necessary. Online Business. Call (248) 384-8734.

33' TITANIC INFLATABLE Selling a large commercial Inflatable slide set with the Titanic motif in used condition for \$1,500. Call for questions at (704) 550-7022. We also have two other large inflatables.

PUMPKIN OBSTACLE COURSE Selling a large commercial Inflatable obstacle course with the pumpkin patch motif in used condition for \$1,500. Call for questions at (704) 550-7022. We also have two other large inflatables.

SWIMMING POOL CLEANING ROUTE FOR SALE Be your own boss. Easy, fun and outdoors. \$7000/mo. gross income. Carlsbad-Oceanside areas. Jeff (760) 593-9092

Friars Massage
And Foot Care

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

- 1 hour Body Massage **\$39.99** (reg. \$55)
- 1 Hour Couples Massage **\$75.00**
- 1 hour Foot Massage **\$29.99**

Cash price. Bring in ad for discount. Not valid with other offers. Expires 3/11/21

FREE HOT STONE THERAPY ORGANIC COCONUT OIL

Relax... Ease tension... Unwind...

Walk ins Welcome! or Call for an appointment today!

Hours: 10am to 10:30pm • 7 days a week
10450 Friars Rd, Suite I San Diego. 92120
619-280-3333
Permit No. 2019019556

Postmates

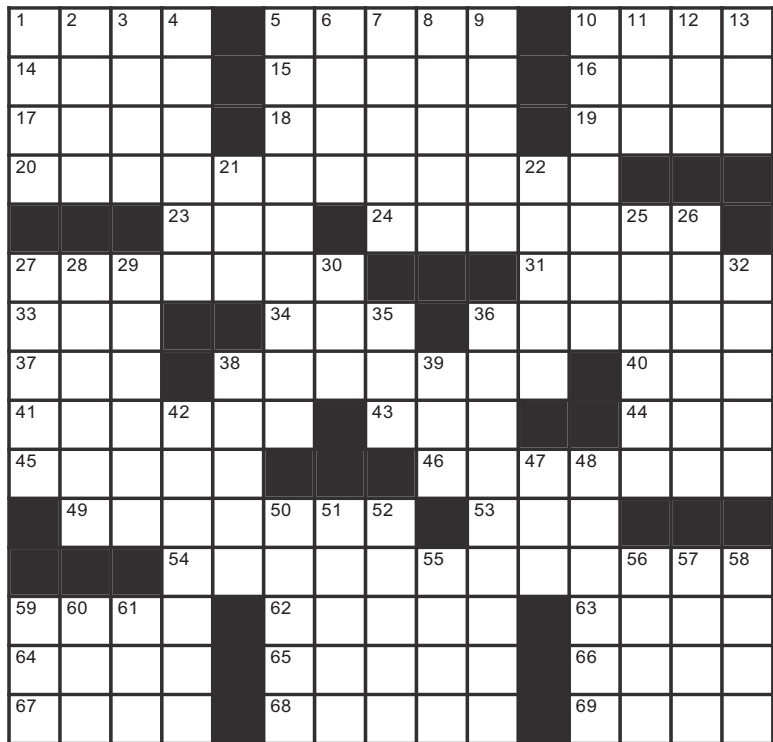
Make up to \$27/hour

SIGN UP CODE: FL-pmbonus537

Earn at least \$1250 in San Diego

for your first 150 completed deliveries, guaranteed.

CROSSWORD



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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

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

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Across

1. Fend (off)
5. ____ Juice (California-based smoothie chain)
10. Booking.com booking
14. Grad
15. Whatsoever
16. Zen garden accessory
17. Male of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
18. Trailer follower
19. Genesis spot
20. *Comics debut of 3/12/51
23. High-____ monitor
24. Writer Gogol
27. *"To Kill a Mockingbird" lawyer
31. *Longtime reality cooking show with a pitchfork in its logo
33. Regret
34. "Peachyl"
36. One blowing off steam?
37. "May ____ excused?"
38. City by the Bay, informally
40. Chart-topper
41. Novelist Whitehead with two Pulitzer Prizes for fiction
43. End of many URLs
44. Brian in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
45. *Q: Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill? A: To get to the bottom," e.g.
46. *Very cheap, as merchandise
49. Dublin's St. ____ Church, dating from 1793

53. "Supposing ..."

54. Feature of Zoom or Google Meet ... or what the answers to each of the asterisked clues all feature
59. Puzzle with a start and a finish
62. Counterpart to digital
63. ____ grease
64. Laughfest
65. Not up ____ (below standard)
66. Ones steeped in tradition in England?
67. Things exchanged between brides and grooms
68. Photo-sharing app, familiarly
69. Four-time Grammy winner for Best New Age Album

Down

1. Caution
2. Jai ____
3. Jamaica exports
4. Composer Shostakovich
5. Film actor whose last name sounds like a film festival
6. Physics 101 subject
7. Connoisseur
8. Thin Russian pancakes
9. Bad thing to spring
10. Sapling
11. "Tubular!"
12. Mike's candy partner

13. Ballpoint ____

21. Cornish game ____
22. "Watch What Happens Live" host Andy
25. 1950s tennis champion Gibson
26. "Fighting" Big Ten team
27. Actor Robert of "Spenser: For Hire"
28. Give a break from the game
29. "Get what I'm talkin' about?"
30. Dearie
32. New Jersey's ____ Hall University
35. Chain with Popcorn Nuggets
36. Noted work in which many different positions are discussed
38. More in need of a massage
39. Director Reiner
42. Raspberry or lemon desserts
47. Snitch (on)
48. Swing one's hips
50. Three more than quadri-
51. Alphabetically first member of the Baseball Hall of Fame
52. Sounds like a broken record
55. Go ____ great length
56. Yoked animals
57. Big name in skin care
58. Arizona city or landform
59. Orthopedist's scan, briefly
60. Assistance
61. Wild place

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ Tom Lorenz, Chula Vista, 1.

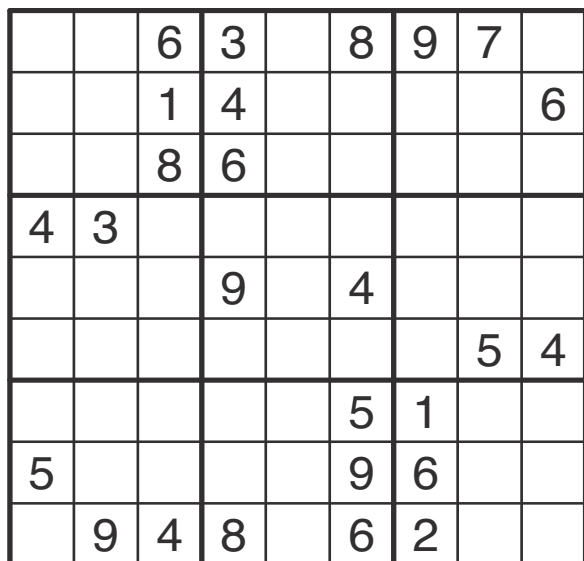
Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone # _____

SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

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 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ Michael Russe, Vista, 14.

Name: _____

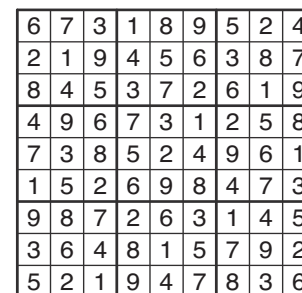
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone # _____

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



continued from page 20
 poem, and song that came out of
 mayfield's experience of becoming
 an anaerobic organism during the
 Covid-19 quarantine in their tiny
 apartment in Brooklyn, New York.
 Thursday, February 18, 12pm; **free**.
<https://bit.ly/3tXQxUf>. (ONLINE)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

A Conversation with Kevin Young

Young is a poet, author and director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. The discussion will be moderated by UC San Diego Foundation Board Trustee and UC San Diego Alumni Board President Kimberley Phillips Boehm and will explore Young's career, including his most recent work, "African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song." Wednesday, February 24, 5:30pm; **free**. library.ucsd.edu/news-events/events/kevin-young/. (ONLINE)

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.

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)

Property Manager Download & Idea Exchange

Join the San Diego Building Owners & Managers Association for the organization's Annual Property Manager Download & Information Exchange on "Preparing for Building Re-entry." The virtual roundtable discussion will cover a variety of topics related to commercial office building re-entry — from hands-free touchless solutions to creative budgeting ideas. Tuesday, February 23, 12pm; **free**. Online Internet Events. All over the world from. (ONLINE)

San Diego Filipino Cinema Virtual Mixer & Open Mic

This Cine Social is San Diego Filipino Cinema's third mixer to date, connecting creatives and film lovers' alike to encourage valuable creative connections and collaborations. Through this mixer, we've been able to connect creatives who are now currently working on film projects and other creative endeavors born out of their Cine Social mixing. Thursday, February 18, 6:30pm; **free**-\$5. <https://bit.ly/2Zi8RSI>. (ONLINE)

Speakeasy Soirée Don your most spiffy "glad rags" or your most colorful comfies and celebrate at a virtual speakeasy

hosted by the Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House. The tour is focused on buildings in the historic Gaslamp that were significant during the roaring 1920s. Friday, February 19, 7pm; \$25-\$30. gaslampfoundation.org/product/virtual-speakeasy-soiree/. (ONLINE)

LECTURES

Jobs in a Green Economy

The San Diego Green New Deal Alliance will be hosting a talk by Carol Zabin of the UC Berkeley Labor Center on her report "Putting California on the High Road: A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030." Tuesday, February 23, 5:30pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/37gEGzJ>. (ONLINE)

Living Room Lecture: Ancient Maya Cave Rituals

The ancient Maya are perhaps best known for their jungle-covered cities with large plazas and grand temples. Archaeological research over the last few decades has come to reveal that caves and cave-like spaces were among the most potent and important places for ritual performances by the ancient Maya. Dr. Jon Spennard will discuss his ongoing cave ritual research in Belize with a particular focus on understanding the relationship between cave rituals and the ancient Maya collapse. This event will be held on Zoom and is limited to 100 attendees. Thursday, February 18, 6:30pm; **free**; sandiegoarchaeology.org/maya/. (ONLINE)

Scientists & Clinicians Advancing Heart Health

AFib, is the most common type of problem with a heartbeat. Even when symptoms aren't obvious, AFib can increase your risk of stroke and related heart problems. The Center for Disease Control estimates that by 2030, more than 12 million people in the United States will have AFib. Join Sanford Burnham Prebys researchers and a top Scripps cardiologist to learn more about the science to protect, mend and regenerate a broken heart. Tuesday, February 23, 1pm; <https://bit.ly/2MXZCVv>. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Tree Heights can be easily measured this week if the sun shines at midday. On or near February 18, at or very near 12 noon, the sun as seen from San Diego County stands at an altitude of 45 degrees above the horizon. Under those conditions, the length of a shadow cast by a vertical tree trunk on a horizontal surface equals the height of the tree trunk. Even if you lack a measuring tape, you can still use your own feet to pace the distance heel-to-toe: the length of an average adult male's shoe sole, for example, is very close to one foot.

Ceanothus, or wild lilac, begins its annual blooming cycle this month — at least in the warmer coastal areas. Assuming sufficient rainfall arrives, by sometime in

March virtually every chaparral-covered canyon and hillside on the coastal strip may exhibit blue or white-flowering specimens. The peak of the ceanothus bloom will work its way eastward, reaching Ramona and Alpine by March or April, and the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains by April or May. Ceanothus growth was rampant in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where the devastating 2003 Cedar wildfire incinerated nearly all of the trees, and opened up opportunities for post-fire, pioneering vegetation such as the ceanothus species.

Very Low Tides this week coincide with optimum times of day for tidepooling: Thursday, February 18 at 6:38 p.m. (-2.13 feet); Friday at 7:07 p.m. (-2.59 feet); Saturday at 9:39 p.m. (-2.89 feet). Very high tides will also occur within that string of days, Thursday at 1:08 a.m. (+4.53 feet); Friday at 2:02 a.m. (+4.46 feet); and Saturday at 3:19 a.m. (+4.53 feet).

Have you ever seen Canopus, the second-brightest star after Sirius? In one of the interesting coincidences known to devoted skywatchers, Canopus lies almost due south of Sirius: by 36°. That's far enough south that it never appears above your horizon unless you're below latitude 37° N (southern Virginia, southern Missouri, central California). And there, you'll need a very flat south horizon. Canopus crosses the south point on the horizon just 21 minutes before Sirius does.

When to look? Canopus is due south when Beta Canis Majoris — Murzim the Announcer, the star about three finger-widths to the right of Sirius — is at its highest due south over your landscape. That's probably sometime between 8 and 9 p.m. now, depending on how far east or west you live in your time zone. Look straight down from Murzim then.

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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. Food, Drinks, Clothing, & Gifts all available with a chican@ twist. 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)

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The Way the World Works

— The Staten Island Zoo is weathering a storm of controversy over the prediction made by its resident groundhog, Staten Island Chuck, on Feb. 2 – an annual event at the zoo. Chuck popped up on a Facebook "livestream" at the designated hour, on the designated day, but something seemed ... off. After hours of accumulating snow in the New York area, the New York Post reported, Chuck was seen to emerge into bright sunlight with no snow on the ground, his handlers wearing sweatshirts. "So there ya have it, folks, we're gonna have an early spring," announced zoo executive director Ken Mitchell. Viewers weren't fooled, one commenting, "Welppp this isn't live." Previous Groundhog Day celebrations at the zoo have also raised a ruckus. In 2014, a stand-in groundhog named Charlotte died after being dropped by Mayor Bill de Blasio, and in 2009 Chuck bit Mayor Mike Bloomberg's finger.

Least Competent Criminals

— Edner Flores, 34, entered a PNC Bank branch in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood on Jan. 27 and allegedly tried to rob it by handing a teller a note stating that he wanted \$10,000, with "no die (sic) packs," and that he was armed, according to a federal criminal complaint. The teller activated a silent alarm and the man to fill out a blue withdrawal slip, which he did, then asked for his ATM card. The helpful Flores instead produced a temporary Illinois state ID card, authorities said. WMAQ-

TV reported police arrived while Flores was still at the window, arrested him and found a knife in his jacket, according to a police report.

Oh, That Old Thing?

— Italian police arrested an unnamed 36-year-old in Naples on Jan. 16 on suspicion of receiving stolen goods and found a 500-year-old copy of Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvatore Mundi*, a painting they returned to the museum it belonged to, surprising museum officials, who had no idea it had been missing. The painting is part of the Doma Museum collection at the San Domenico Maggiore church in Naples, where the room it had hung in "has not been open for three months," Naples prosecutor Giovanni Melillo told *The Guardian*. The copy was made by Giacomo Alibrandi in the early 1500s; da Vinci's original painting sold in 2017 for a record-breaking \$450 million at auction and hasn't been seen in public since.

Misinformed

— Authorities in Essex County, England, received a tip on Jan. 16 and arrived at the Freemasons' Saxon Hall expecting to put an end to the illegal "rave" reported to be happening there, but instead of loud music and wild teenagers, officers found old people lining up to get their COVID-19 vaccines, *Echo News* reported. "Grumpy old men and grumpy old women were in abundance," confirmed Dennis Baum, chairman of the hall, with "wheelchairs, Zimmer frames and walking sticks." Baum said

things got testy when the vaccine was late arriving: "It was absolute chaos ... The car park became chock a block with 80-year-old-plus drivers." Police remained to offer their assistance with the traffic.

Government in Action

— Watertown, Massachusetts, recently installed new parking meters with updated technology to make payment easier, but the city is instead fielding complaints from residents who say the meters are too tall to use. "I'm 5'7," and I have to do a little tip-toe reach," Marianne Iagco told WBZ-TV, which reported Feb. 2 that the meters measure about 5 feet, 6 inches high. Assistant Town Manager Steve Magoon said public works employees will be lowering the meters to 48 inches in the weeks to come. "It's actually sort of refreshing to have a problem of slightly shorter stature than unemployment, COVID-19, no food and no money," commented optimistic resident Ken Pershing.

Mistaken Identity

— A woman in Cajeme, Mexico, identified only as Leonora R., faces charges of domestic violence after repeatedly stabbing her husband when she found photos of him having sex with a younger, thinner woman on his phone, according to police. Local media reported the husband was eventually able to disarm his wife and clarify that it was HER in the photos, which were taken when they were dating. The *New York Daily News* reported on Jan. 26 that police

responding to neighbors' calls for help arrived and arrested her.

Recent Alarming Headlines

— Police in Rome, New York, responding to an animal cruelty complaint on Jan. 13, arrived at a home to find a man cooking a canine on an outdoor grill, police said. The unnamed man cooperated with police, saying the animal was a coyote – which would be legal in New York, as hunting and trapping the canines is allowed with a license, WNBC-TV reported. Animal control officers took the carcass to Cornell University for testing to determine its species.

Oops

— The Monroe Township (Michigan) Fire Department launched a rescue mission on Jan. 26 after receiving a call about a goose or duck possibly injured and in distress on the frozen River Raisin. Firefighters suited up and headed out on the ice, WXYZ-TV reported, but realized upon closer inspection that the bird was just a hunting decoy. "It ended up being a good training session, actually," said Chief Mark Cherney. "In the end, we can sleep well at night. A bird is not suffering."

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

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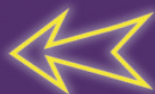
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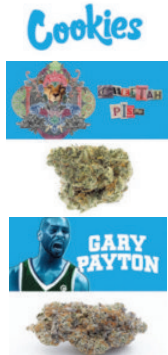
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MOONROCK KIEF **\$15** /G

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

TOP SHELF SHAKE **\$25** /OZ

5 EXCLUSIVE INDOOR PRE-ROLLS **\$25**

CRYSTAL GOLD SHATTER 10G **\$130**

BLACKOUT BROWNIE **\$35**
(1000mg) (reg. \$40!)

CRUMBLE 3G **\$40**

GOLD SHATTER **\$15**

EXOTIC PRE-ROLLS 12 FOR **\$100**

CARTS 6 FOR **\$100**
Mix & Match several options

STIIZY **\$25**

HH Vapes 2 FOR **\$45**

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

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FREE GRAM OF EXCLUSIVE!

First time patients with min. \$20 donation get a FREE gram of our best shelf!

FREE HOUSE PRE-ROLL
with any donation!
Must mention ad

FREE GRAM OF HOUSE WAX
Spend \$120 and get a free gram of house wax!
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\$10 OFF ALL OUNCES!
Valid for all shelves!
Must mention ad.

BLACKOUT PRE-ROLLS 2 FOR \$15

2 CARTS \$40
Valid for HH, Brass Knuckles, and Kingpen Vapes.

Kushy Punch
4 for \$45

WAX SPECIALS
\$20/G • 4G \$70
\$25/G • 4G \$80
\$30/G • 4G \$100

BUY 3 VOLCANIC PRODUCTS, GET 1 FREE!
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FREE EDIBLE OR CART!
Buy 3 Carts or Edibles, Get 1 FREE!
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SmileDesignerSanDiego.com

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619-319-9640
UniversityDentalSanDiego.com

* 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 3-22-21. **No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required. ***Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.



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