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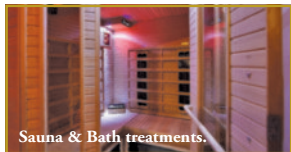
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LETTERS

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.

Cringing towards P.B.

I'd like to remind you that its really easy for regular people to check sources and follow events live because of the internet and social media ("San Diego's anti-fascists turn fascist," Cover Stories, February 24). On twitter its very easy to follow events live as their happening when all I have to do is set notifications for different hashtags and both sides are posting live videos in real time.

I feel like the author of this article didn't even spend the time to go through and watch them. This becomes even more obvious when the author of this article chooses to use Andy Ngo as a source. The man has admitted to blatantly being on different conservative organizations' payrolls and has admitted to peddling inaccurate information to push an agenda because its what he is paid to do.

One of the people you named wasn't even at the event at the time of the incident and this could very well have an effect on their livelihood.

I felt pretty embarrassed for the publication just reading the amount of obviously wrong information as a publication. It was cringey honestly. I don't even usually get that involved in things like this but I do try to pay attention to what is happening in my community and this was just blatantly off the mark and it completely felt like it was done on purpose with how not just incorrect the easily attainable information was but how one sided it was as well. It genuinely felt like you didn't even try to scratch the surface of what you were looking into but instead chose to push a narrative. I'd gently

like to encourage you to do better next time.

Name withheld

Editor's note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly identified one of the mob who harassed Jill Barto as being South Bay Union School District trustee, Marco Amaral. We regret the error.

Journalistic Juice

I would like to commend SD Reader and Eric Bartl in particular on producing excellent articles of actual journalism. I have been reading the various articles of all sections for quite a while (including the restaurant reviews), and I am genuinely impressed and thankful for the real, in-depth, investigative articles produced for both digital and print. You truly deserve a broader readership than that other local paper with LA writers. Please keep it up, and I will keep recommending your product to anyone and everyone.

Martin Eichelman

Not present as charged

I wanted to reach out and make you aware that your recent article claimed that Marco Amaral was present at the Counter Protest in Pacific Beach & stood by while a man who was attempting to attack a counter protester with his dog was sprayed.

This is false & very damaging to Mr. Marco Amaral. He was not even present that day & the person photographed was in fact, another person entirely. He is my friend who wishes to remain nameless however I truly hope that you remove or update your article to reflect this now that you have the truth.

I do not believe that this mistake was intentional but it is very important to change it to reflect true journalism. To leave it would not only reflect poorly on yourself but on the *San Diego Reader* magazine as a whole. I hope you can make these changes in a timely manner in order to repair any damage this mistake has caused for Mr. Amaral. Thank you in advance!

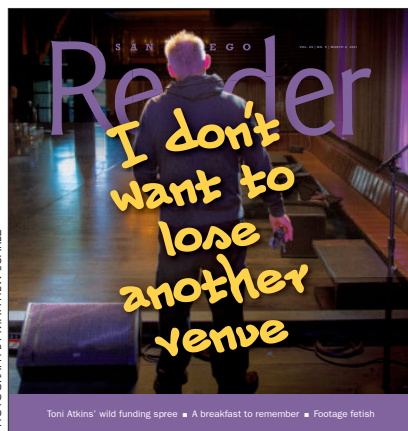
Amanda Flo
San Diego

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San Diego Reader

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March 4, 2021



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

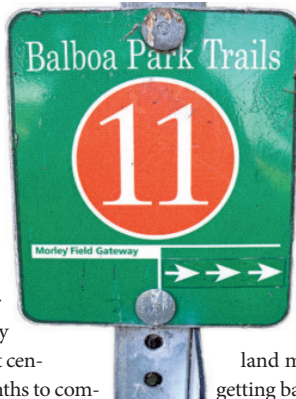
By Reader stringers

ON FOOT

Parks and wreck Covid crowds trash trails

Late last April, City of San Diego parks that had been closed since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic began to re-open. As gyms stayed shut and tennis and basketball courts remained off-limits, people began to flock to the open-space areas in order to stay in shape. The grassy lawns of Morley Field just off Upas Street were suddenly packed with fitness classes attempting to endure without their typical indoor locales. Seeing a couple of ripped bodybuilders with their weight bench set up next to a sidewalk in the park didn't seem nearly as weird as it should have — everybody seemed to be turning the space into their new gym.

The trails at Morley Field filled up too. There were more hikers, runners, and bikers packed into the Florida Canyon trails than I have ever seen. As a result of the increased presence, the trails took on additional wear and tear. But repairs will apparently have to wait. The San Diego Mountain Biking Association completed maintenance on the trails in Florida Canyon in 2019 and (pre-pandemic) 2020. According to Ben Stone, the trails coordinator for the biking group, they typically have a five-month window that centers on San Diego's winter months to complete this work. The key is the rain adding



moisture to the soil. You can bring in your own water and work in the dryer months, but according to Stone, that “takes about twice the time it does to do the same thing when you have moisture in the soil.”

Stone is hoping that the rainy season stretches into April this year, and that the city of San Diego gives the green light to allow the mountain bikers to complete more of these trail maintenance projects before everything dries up. “Nearly every

land manager in San Diego let us start getting back to the volunteer activities this winter, with the exception of the city of San



Park promenades have become rocky roads since the pandemic hit.

Diego,” Stone explained. “We even had a phone call with the head of parks and recreation, Andrew Field, and asked him to consider it. His response was that at this time, the city is still not allowing it. As of right now, the biggest recipient, generally, of our volunteer labor and our paid staff labor is the city of San Diego.”

packed, but they're filled with humans eager to avoid contact with one another. “There's more volume of people literally on the trail, which is causing them to not want to get too close to people in a narrow trail,” Stone explained. “They're walking off-trail to avoid other people. So, they're widening our trails because they

“They're walking off-trail to avoid other people. So, they're widening our trails because they don't want to get close to each other.”

Last winter, Stone and his crew of 12-15 volunteers worked six four-hour events at Florida Canyon. Their work is still evident in the “rolling grade dips” that are present on the trails they repaired. On the trails, these come across as occasional angled bumps, but they're actually drains. “You install drains at intervals based on how steep the trail is,” Stone explained. The drains allow the water to flow off the trail downslope instead of following the actual path of the trail and forming large ruts. “The worst thing that happens is that if you develop a rut in the middle of the trail, people start using the trail on either side of the rut,” Stone said. “What happens is that the trail, unfortunately, widens as people just make a path walking on it. You want to help the water kind of choose a side so that you can keep the trail as a narrow trail and not expand it to five or ten feet in some areas.”

Another element playing into the widening of the trails is pandemic behavior. The trails are

don't want to get close to each other.”

Many of the trails in the Morley Field and other city-owned parks are what Stone refers to as “legacy trails.” These are trails that were present when the city purchased the open-space properties which turned into these city parks. Often, they were created via unplanned access routes that, over time, became the primary trail systems in these areas. “The ownership comes into the city and the city goes, ‘Well, just from an environmental standpoint, it's easier to just take the trails we already have than try to create new ones.’ Then we end up with these legacy trails that never should have really existed in the beginning,” Stone said. Besides Morley Field/Balboa Park, Stone cites other areas such as Tecolote Canyon, Rose Canyon, Mission Trails, and Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve as city parks that have “a lot of legacy trails that are in really rough condition.”

As for the issues that need to be repaired at

continued on page 6



Damaged bridge on west side of Florida Canyon.

Senturia's caesura

This is one Blackbird that isn't singing

A so-called data mining outfit with a specialty of busting short-term vacation rentals has retained ex-San Diego Republican city councilman Jim Madaffer to lobby the city for a contract to use its services, per a February 16 disclosure filing. Madaffer's new client, Deckard Technologies, Inc., of San Diego, offers what its website calls a "complete short-term rental platform for local governments that identifies, tracks and reports [Short Term Rental] registrations, booking activities, licenses, property details, and transient occupancy tax payments." But Madaffer isn't the only former tie to city hall enjoyed by the data provider. According to her leaving office financial disclosure statement of January 4, ex-city councilwoman, Democratic mayoral hopeful, and short-term rental foe Barbara Bry has been a consultant for the company, getting paid between \$10,000 and \$100,000 each year from 2018 through 2020. Bry's annual disclosure for 2018, dated March 19, 2019, says her husband, La Jolla-based investor and entrepreneur Neil Senturia, acquired an interest in Deckard, valued between \$10,000 and \$100,000, on June 30, 2018. The councilwoman's leaving office disclosure statement, dated January 4 of this year, says Senturia sold his interest in Deckard on November 2, 2020. According to that document, by then the firm's value had grown to between \$100,000 and \$1 million.

Madaffer's filing says he will be lobbying city officials on behalf of Deckard regarding "procurement of real estate data analytics for regulatory compliance, public safety, and community equity." The outcome sought: "Approval of vendor services by City of San Diego." A September 2019 write-up of Deckard by *Government Technology* said the company was set up to "help local governments identify unpaid taxes from unassessed property improvements and rental income. Deckard's co-founder and CEO Neil Senturia, a former real estate developer who has founded or sat on the boards of several software and technology companies, said he started the company in July 2018 to answer a specific question: What percentage of residential improvements over \$20,000 in the state of California are done without proper permits?"

Deckard COO Nick Del Pego told Gov-Tech that another company offering, dubbed Rentalscape, "is intended to help



Neil Senturia — uninterested in discussing his wife Barbara Bry's affairs.

city governments keep up with the impact of online services like Airbnb that help citizens commoditize their properties in new ways, sometimes under the radar. He said revenue booked through online rental providers like Airbnb and VRBO in the United States in 2018 was close to \$20 billion, according to *AllTheRooms.com*, with which Deckard has a professional relationship. Given an average transient-occupancy tax over 10 percent nationwide, that should have meant about \$2 billion in local taxes."

In a news release last week, Deckard announced an investment of \$500,000 led by Loeb Enterprises, bringing its fundraising total to \$4 million and enabling it to formally launch two data-as-a-service offerings. According to an August 26 2020 account by the *Desert Sun*, Deckard has a contract with Cathedral City "that scours the internet for unlicensed properties that are being advertised." "City staff on Wednesday were directed to come up with plans for creating non-sworn personnel positions under the Cathedral City Police Department who would be charged with handling complaints about short-term rental properties."

Following her November defeat by Gloria, Bry has been active in a recall effort against her former council colleague and fellow Democrat Jen Campbell, whom Bry has alleged reneged on promises "to better control the explosion in short-term rentals in her district. The Campbell recall is a grass-roots effort to right those wrongs," Bry added.

An assistant who answered the phone at the couple's investment business Blackbird Ventures declined to provide a way to contact Bry and instead turned the call over to Senturia, who maintained that Bry had owned stock in Deckard but was never a consultant to the firm, as she reported on her economic interest disclosure filings from 2019 to 2021. Asked about Bry's filed forms, signed under penalty of perjury, he said the call was over and hung up the phone.

Matt Potter

UNDER THE RADAR

Toni's wild funding spree Shirley Weber, the San Diego Democrat and former Assemblywoman, named California Secretary of State by Gov. Gavin Newsom to replace Alex Padilla, continues to collect big cash for next year's campaign. Latest to kick in is state Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins, whose 2020 reelection fund gave \$8100 on February 22. The Atkins move makes more likely a nasty catfight between Weber and Assembly Democrat Lorena Gonzalez unless Gonzalez, who has long coveted the job, backs off in the face of Weber's growing cash might. According to disclosures, the Atkins senate campaign kitty, which finished 2020 with a daunting \$1.7 million in the bank, has been dribbling its largesse out to various recipients in the new year.

In addition to the Weber money, the California Democratic Party got \$40,500 on January 27, and Protecting Choice in California, a Project of Planned Parenthood Affiliates in California, picked up \$10,000 on January 5. Pre-election recipients of the Atkins committee money included Lateefah Simon, running for reelection to the board of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, known as BART, with \$2000 on October 20. Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in an August 18, 2020 account as a "staunch police reform advocate," Simon was pitted against Sharon Kidd of Berkeley, whom Simon had refused to reappoint to BART's Police Citizen Review Board. "Many people that know my affiliation with BART, when we talk, they want to see more officers," Kidd told the newspaper. "But we can't get more officers... because of the media degrading police." Simon won the electoral battle.

Another Atkins fund, California Works: Senator Toni Atkins Ballot Measure Committee, didn't make any late-year contributions, per a disclosure report covering October 18 through the end of last year. But the committee was busy fundraising, nonetheless, getting \$2500 on October 28 from Tesla, Inc., the Fremont automaker run by Elon Musk, who Gonzalez attacked with an unfriendly expletive on Twitter last May.

More significant donations included \$10,000 from Anheuser Busch on October 28 and \$15,000 from fuel cell-maker Bloom Energy of San Jose on October 22. In 2018 and 2019, according to a February 21 account by *CapRadio.org*, Bloom came up with a total of 56,000 for Newsom's reelection fund. In March of last year, the state gave Bloom a \$1 million (later increased to \$2 million) no-bid contract to refurbish ventilators used by Covid-19 patients.

Cell phones on the lam San Diego County's Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board,

charged with keeping the local Sheriff's Department on the straight and narrow, has itself been criticized for playing dangerously fast and loose with its cell phones in a January 19 report by county Chief of Audits Juan Perez. "According to [the review board], the individual managing the mobile devices is on an extended leave of absence and no one else in the office has access to the systems or records used to track the mobile devices," the findings say. Notes the auditor: "Improper management of the mobile devices increases the risk of theft, loss, unnecessary service charges, and/or misappropriation of County property. Also, unauthorized individuals may gain access to County information stored on the device." Replied executive officer Paul Parker: "A document was created to track [the boards] mobile devices. The document (attached) contains the name of the person to whom devices are assigned along with the devices' brands, model numbers, serial numbers, costs, and locations." In addition, "We will discontinue mobile phone service when users transfer or terminate employment with the County, and it will not be reassigned within a reasonable amount of time. 'County of San Diego' decals have been disseminated to all employees assigned a mobile device with instructions to affix them to the rear of the mobile device."



Toni Atkins has money to burn.

101 Ash contracts to ashes The costly contretemps over ex-mayor Kevin Faulconer's acquisition of 101 Ash Street has become a make-work magnet for the usual suspects. Shady wheeling and dealings over the ex-San Diego Gas & Electric high-rise headquarters have spawned rounds of investigations and lawsuits, requiring the services of lawyers and lobbyists galore. Now even the lawyers involved are lobbying up. The latest to enter the fray is Southwest Strategies, the influence-peddling shop well known for its principals' political beneficence. Since 2007 company employees have come up with over \$217,974 for an array of candidates and causes of both parties, including \$12,795 for Mayor Todd Gloria, \$11,350 for City Attorney Mara Elliott, and \$2200 for council president Jen Campbell, all Democrats. Now the firm has gone to work for LexTerra, LLC, described in a February 18 lobbying client disclosure by Southwest Strategies as a "development company specializing in high-rise urban mixed-use projects." The client is seeking a "resolution of litigation regarding 101 Ash building."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)



County auditor Juan Perez is not happy about "improper management" of county-owned mobile devices.

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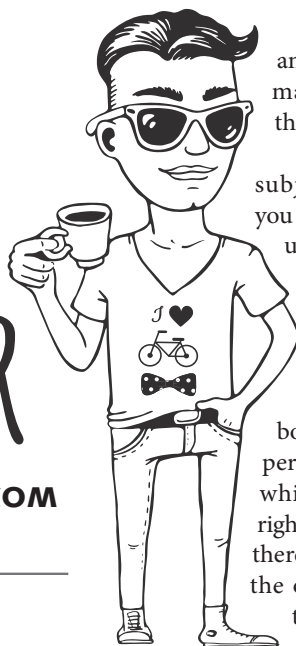
So, my news feed has been blowing me up all day with stories and tweets etc. about how Generation Z (mostly a bunch of teenagers and people in their very early twenties) has been at war with Millennials (mostly a bunch of 20 and 30 somethings) over skinny jeans, side parts, and how Millennials aren't cool anymore. I'm pretty sure I could summon up the energy to have an opinion on this clearly super important issue, but, then again, I kind of want to know, as a threshold question before I get too involved in caring about this, why should I care? Why should anyone care?

—KELLE, GENERATION X, NORMAL HEIGHTS

May I observe how that's so Gen X of you: wanting to care, but not being able to bring yourself to care unless there's a really good reason for it. I bet if you could somehow siphon off a tiny fraction

of the cynicism from an average Gen X'er and funnel it into the minds of the average Gen Z teenager you would render this entire inquiry moot. Too bad it doesn't work like that, eh?

In any event, you shouldn't waste your brain space caring what one group of people thinks about another group of people, at least when the ostensible feud amounts to little more than harmless taunts that we'll all forget about in a week. Save the energy for something that might matter. If Gen Z starts sounding suspiciously patricidal (or



any kind of -cidal), then maybe we've got something to worry about.

While we're on the subject of feuds, and if you want something more useful for your mind, I have always wondered why the word 'feud' wasn't spelled 'fued.' If you think about it, 'feud' rhymes with both 'hue' and, even more pertinently, 'fuel,' both of which place the 'u' in its rightful spot before the 'e,' so there's no reason to reverse the order of the vowels. I think we can all agree the word ought to be spelled otherwise, but

there you have it.

Now, you are probably thinking about how you didn't come here for a grammar lesson, but stay with me. If my plan worked, you have now begun to obsess over the needless transposition of the vowels in the word 'feud.' Because I will never get back the minutes of my life that have been spent pondering this exact question, I have chosen to drag you along with me for this meaningless diversion that yields no answers. It eases my existential angst to know that I am not alone here. However, because this is an absolutely

pointless exercise in mental gymnastics, my motivations can only be perceived as selfish and solipsistic in the extreme.

Such is the nature of a feud between Gen Z and Millennials, and any attention you shouldn't

pay to it. Two separate cohorts, each trying to show the other how much they don't care about each other's norms; while onlookers from other cohorts want to position themselves as removed from, and therefore superior to, the whole stupid thing. It's nothing more than passing existential angst back and forth like the last wine cooler at a Fourth of July party on the fast track to its nadir... and I wonder if you even noticed how I put that final 'u' and 'e' in their proper places.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

continued from page 1

Innuendo buster

I just wanted to tell you what a fine job a reporter did. Eric - I don't remember his last name - he just did the article on the PB incident. He is a dynamic reporter and I wanted to let you guys know that he did an amazing job. I'm getting the truth out there about what really happened versus innuendos and lies and I'm blessed that he's part of your publication.

Denise

Untasty digits

I think the decision to feature the story written by Eric Bartl regarding the clash in Pacific Beach was in poor taste. Bartl's article reeks of political bias and should not be given a platform as far-reaching as the *San Diego Reader*. Please be more careful in the future about which members of the community you lend a digital voice to. Nazism and Fascism have no place in our American society, and to overlook this truth in the name of "freedom of speech" is blatantly pathetic. Be better.

Name withheld

Best read Bartl

I really just wanted to say thank you to Eric Bartl. He did a story on local anti-fascists turned fascists, and it's one of the best articles that I read in such a unbiased report. So good for you. Thank you. We saw all the videos and what the *Union-Tribune* was reporting was patently false and I never thought that any of the local media would pick it up and actually cover what happened and and you guys did. I just really appreciated that you guys wrote such a good article. Have a great day.

Carolyn Smith
Lakeside

Counter-protester protest

I'm seriously disgusted with how the *Reader* is putting out articles calling anti-fascists fascists, when the group of people who showed up there actually were there to pro-

test a neo-Nazi rally. You had someone walking down the street giving Sieg Heil signs, someone validating genocide of millions of people, and yet you guys decided to write about the counter-protesters? Wow, great work, *Reader*, great work. It's really nice to know where you stand on these kinds of things, really nice to know that you're supporting people who validate genocide, people who walk down the street giving Sieg Heils. Wow.

There was no mention of that in the article, no, no, none at all. It's very interesting. Nor of any of the people who attended there. Maybe you should look into why those people got maced in the face. Maybe you should do a little bit of journalism and figure out where those people are from. What groups they're from. Oh, nice job falsely doxing somebody who wasn't even there. Really great journalism, really great.

I could really tell that you guys crossed all your "t"s and dotted your "i"s. That was bullshit. That was the fakest news I've ever seen in my life. None of it was credible, none of it was validated. So much information was left out.

No mention of a Nazi salute going down PB boardwalk. No mention of drunken Proud Boys having conflicts with passers-by on the street. No mention of someone getting beaten up in an ally wearing a George Floyd shirt, his nose got bloodied. It's pretty easy to find. Well, okay, you guys keep making articles and keep exposing the truth. Terrible job. Very terrible job. Very sloppy. Not good journalism, check your facts before you start writing articles. Double check your facts. Reach out to people. Okay? Like I get it that it's political times, and I get it that things are polarizing. But dude, if you're going to write an article, swaying the opinion one way or another, look into what you're saying. But it's good to know where you guys stand on things.

Anonymous

continued on page 13

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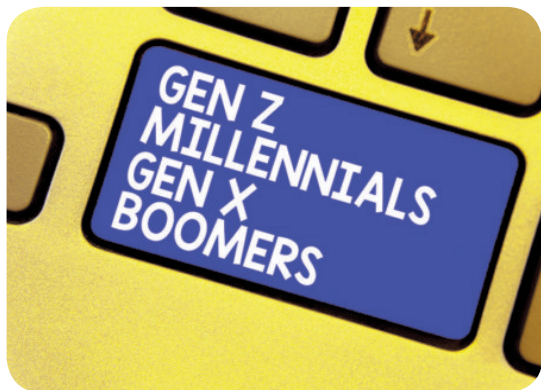
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the Morley Field trails, Stone summed it up by saying, “There are so many bridges out. Creek crossings that don’t have a bridge. Staircases that don’t exist in their entirety anymore. The whole canyon is kind of one giant hazard. At this point, no one really does this work. The city of San Diego doesn’t have any dedicated trail workers per se. I don’t think they have for a long time. Rangers maybe used to do some of this work in the past, but they’re completely overwhelmed by the volume of use, the trash, the parking issues, and the vandalism that just come with a higher volume of people. There are more people getting lost calling for help. There are more people getting injured out on trails or not bringing enough water because they’re unprepared and sort of new to trails. The rangers have no capacity to take on this regular maintenance, and there are some other organizations who do some minor trail work, but they’re basically in the same situation that we are.”

DRYW KELTZ

We all look at each other and smile.” Chris C. responded, “At an intersection, the driver to the right has the right of way. And in a traffic circle, the first to approach has the right to enter. The bike probably stopped because drivers don’t look for bikes, but if he approached the circle before the car, then he had the right to enter.”

Some local cyclists say they seek alternative routes avoiding roundabouts like that newly installed one on Elm, less than a mile east of IB’s pier. “Drivers hardly see us cyclists on straightaways,” opined John Suarez, a small business owner from south San Diego, “much less at confusing roundabouts. I don’t like those roundabouts and traffic circles.” Dave Chesavaeg, who rides his bike about ten miles north to La Jolla from his home in Ocean Beach, added, “I’ve driven through those roundabouts in La Jolla, but honestly, there is no reason to bike La Jolla Boulevard. You’ve got the bike path at the north end and Chelsea Avenue [two



Bird Rock roundabout. “People don’t know how to use it. There’s a lot of honking and upraised arms.”

road. Now we just have fender-benders and near misses.” (Also according to the county website: converting intersections from signals to roundabouts, “reduces injury crashes by 80 percent and all crashes by 50 percent. Severe injuries are rare — a study of 23 conversions found an 89 percent reduction in fatalities.”)

Cyclist Suarez was still skeptical, asking, “What if the vehicles don’t yield for us?” A mini-roundabout “on Poinsettia Drive,” by Point Loma was monitored by ABC 10 News in 2018. The outlet took to its Facebook and posted a video clip titled, “What do you think of roundabouts?” Motorists were depicted barreling through and skirting around the mini-roundabout — also referred to as a traffic circle — barely missing the yellow Botts’ dots on the pavement. Like Suarez, many that commented underneath the video disliked the roundabout. Suarez, now in his 50s, used to ride his bike from Imperial Beach to Point Loma. “I did that before I was hit. About three years ago, where that roundabout is in Imperial Beach, I had a run-in with a van. The driver cut me off and turned right in front with no yielding. I went under the van; thank goodness he stopped as I crashed. I had a sprained ankle and noticeable scratches on my bike paint’s finish from being under the van and dragged on the asphalt. As I said, drivers tend to not see bikes, especially in a blind spot on any style of road.”

Suarez has since added a bevy of bright-colored stickers and eight different light setups to his bike; next week, he’s riding with Sandieglow, a group of cyclists that deck their bicycles with elaborate and sometimes over-the-top lighting schemes. “If we approached a roundabout with a group of cyclists, we would treat it like we do traffic lights,” explained Stacy from Sandieglow. “On our turn, we would post a rider at the right and left of the group in the intersection to direct our group safely through, continued Sean, Stacy’s friend. “This is for making sure the vehicles see us

and making eye and hand signal contact to ensure the safety of the group until all have made it through.”

The DMV states: “A roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a counter-clockwise direction. Roundabouts do not have bicycle lanes, so traffic must share the road. Vehicles or bicycles entering or exiting the roundabout must yield to all traffic, including pedestrians.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

TIJUANA

Libertad losing library? Will books be moved to make way for education?

Through an executive order justified by a survey taken through his Facebook’s live-streamed daily conferences, Baja California’s governor Jaime Bonilla has given away the Benito Juarez public library facilities, the Baja California’s Cultural Institute building,



“No to the re-location of the Benito Juarez Library”

and the offices of the state government in Tijuana to the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC). The survey read: “Every year 3500 applicants are rejected from UABC’s medical career. The state government has decided to donate its offices in

continued on page 8



CREDIT: SAN DIEGLOW

Sandieglow shines a light on bicycle safety.

ON TWO WHEELS

Roundabout doubts Cyclists circumventing circles

Word on the streets is there’s an uptick in confusion among cyclists and motorists in San Diego. The disorder is partly because of the newly developed roundabouts and traffic circles throughout the county, and partly

blocks to the west]. La Jolla Boulevard is too narrow, and traffic is too fast to bike safely.”

According to the county website, “On La Jolla Boulevard, five roundabouts allowed the city of San Diego to shrink the street and widen the sidewalks, providing outdoor dining and meeting places while continuing to provide for traffic flow. Since most congestion

“So now I’m stopped, the cyclist is stopped, and the driver on 8th is stopped. We all look at each other and smile.”

because, according to SANDAG, there has been a 42 percent increase in local bicycle ridership in September. “Who goes first when driving east on Elm [Avenue]?” Gloria M. asked her Imperial Beach neighbors online. “I now have to go around the circle-roundabout, but there is a cyclist in the bike lane. On 8th, there is a car stopped waiting to turn right on Elm. So now I’m stopped, the cyclist is stopped, and the driver on 8th is stopped.

is caused by intersections, reducing the number of stops can improve traffic flow. Unlike signals, roundabouts keep traffic moving.” An employee at Bird Rock Surf Shop, which is located at the La Jolla Boulevard and Midway Street roundabout, said the installation provides “pretty good entertainment” in a 2019 *La Jolla Light* article. “People don’t know how to use it. There’s a lot of honking and upraised arms. But people used to die on this

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Tijuana, in order to increase the students' enrollment capacity. What's your opinion?" Only 253 viewers replied, "I agree;" the other 893 replied, "I do not agree."

Lourdes Lizardi, from *La Libertad* neighborhood and independent cultural promoter, said that the donation of the library is a whim of the governor. "We're upset they don't consider our community. Even when they know they can't give away these buildings and their lot, because they were given by Lopez Portillo through a presidential order for public-specific uses and services in 1978." The public library, 39 years in place, is the oldest and

old documents. It's full of moisture."

The governor made his decision back in October of last year, but the old post office, located on 11th Street in downtown Tijuana, is still used for the mail headquarters, and no money has been invested to improve the building. Protesters said that this is a proof of the governor's whim to give away these facilities. "We will keep raising our voices," said Lourdes, "because they are affecting directly five neighborhoods around. The Cultural Institute had summer workshops for our kids and grandsons, photo exhibits, concerts, English classes, and book conferences. They are just taking that away from the neighborhood." For the moment, the protesters have interposed an *amparo* (legal protection in the Mexican constitution) against the governor,



"We will keep raising our voices."

biggest in Tijuana. According to librarian Jose, it houses 13,000 books (5638 for kids), and contains a newspaper library with the first published papers in Tijuana, from 1938 to 2002. Jose says that more than 20,000 users visit the library every year. He explained that he was surprised, because he never received any official document on the re-location of the library. "I feel powerless, it's unfair. I have been working here for 30 years; there is no other place like this in the whole state."

Nobody thought the giveaway had happened until last Friday, February 19, when people showed up to start the re-location of the state government offices, the library, and the Baja California's Cultural Institute. A couple of days later, the governor announced that the library would be settled in the public's mail offices. On Monday, February 22, librarians, neighbors, and cultural promoters held a protest against re-locating the library to an old post office. "We are not against the growing [of UABC], but we have concerns about the culture," said Lourdes. "Because this a tool to keep youngsters out of crime and drugs. Now they're saying that the library would be re-located to the building of the public post offices, but that building needs investment because it's not in good condition to conserve

using Lopez Portillo's presidential order to make the governor stop the relocation of the library. This has helped them to pause the relocation until a judge dictates a resolution.

IVÁN MOLINA

BAJA Nothing in the kitty Empty cat/cash box bodes ill for missing expat

Mary Ann Humfreville, a 74-year-old American woman who lived full-time in her home in Bahia de los Angeles in Baja, has been missing for two months. The California Attorney General has created a missing person page for the widow and mother of two, who is described as being 5 feet 4 inches tall with short gray hair. Her red 1998 Ford F-150 pickup truck, which has California plates reading 7A92402, is also missing. She apparently spoke no Spanish; Bahia de los Angeles is a popular spot for retired Ameri-



Who needs a library when you can just keep the books in the post office?

cans, and is part of the town of San Quintin.

Her absence was discovered after she failed to appear at a breakfast meeting with a group of friends on December 17. One of her sons reported that he had last spoken on the phone with her the afternoon before, about 3:30 pm December 16. And a friend said they messaged each other about 4 pm that same day. Concerned friends are spreading the word as best they can. One post on the online source BajaNomad reads: "(Mary Ann had) no health issues that I have heard about, not much of a desert explorer, very much a homebody. She goes to train on Tuesdays, lunch or cards with friends and Saturday, breakfast at Alejandrinas. She would not leave without letting someone know and would not leave for long without her loyal pets."

Her son Kevin agreed, writing: "I'm Kevin Humfreville, son of Mike and Mary Ann, ... I just found out this morning that my mom has been missing from the Baja house for 2 days now. Her and her car are gone, but

looking for anything."

A source told me, "We were told that the bad guys did not get her wallet that had some money in it. But the cat box was apparently where she hid her cash. And it was out on her bed with nothing in it. We all have the same problem with having to have cash on hand since there are no banks or ATMs. She was an easy target. The door she usually went in and out of was secured from the inside. The bad guys came in through a side door. Her generator and a small Honda outboard are missing, as well as her truck."

One long-time neighbor, Eddie, wrote: "Mary Ann Humfreville was our neighbor, she has been a good friend for about 15 years. This is a real shock to all of us." He said, "Mary Ann was left pretty much impoverished when her husband died a few years back." Eddie said he helped carry Mike to the ambulance when Mike had a heart attack. (Mike had written a book about the family's adventures in Baja, *In the Shadow of the*

Volcano.) Eddie remembered, "They bought the house but did not own the land. They were in the process of buying the land when Mike died. Mary Ann finally got the land ownership but found out that it was on the lot next door. She spent several more years trying to get that straightened out and still had not done it. She did not have the resources to hire a good Mexican attorney to help straighten it out.



Humfreville and husband Mike in 2000. Friends say she never would have left her pets.

her cat and dog are still at the house. Not something that she would do." He had been informed that local police were notified and a report had been made, and added, "We're

She did not or could not afford a home in California so she was in the bay because it was all she had."

EVA KNOTT



With much emptier buses, and open windows, the problem is solving itself



MTS's Rob Schupp: It's a request, not so much an order

More flies with honey

There are four of us on the bus, including the driver. Everyone has masks on. The younger lady sits on the side seat behind the driver, with carefully braided strings of hair, gold glinting out from some of the strands. She's talking into a cell phone.

The older lady sits reading what look like illustrated stories for younger kids.

The bus takes off from Twelfth and Imperial and heads down National towards the bridge.



Long-time driver Olivia says most people are good, but the problem is always there

"You need to put your mask on properly," says the younger lady.

The older lady just keeps on reading. Now I look, I see her mask stops beneath her nostrils. The driver activates the public address system. "...to cover mouth and nose..."

No response from the older woman. "Lady!" yells the younger woman. "We don't want to catch your covid! Put your mask on your nose."

The older woman ignores her for several blocks. "Driver! Somebody's got to make this lady understand. It's the rules!"

The driver pulls into the next stop. He takes off his belt, swings open the Perspex shielding door beside him, and comes out. The old lady continues reading. "Tell her! Tell her!"

The driver leans over. "Ma'am. I don't want to have to put you off the bus. Please just raise

your mask the top inch and cover your nose."

He's looking directly down at her. She looks slowly up, raises her face scarf, and goes back to reading.

"Maybe she's deaf," says the younger woman.

"This face mask business happens all the time," says the driver. "We have enough to do without this."

"We do everything we can to encourage people to wear face masks," Rob Schupp tells me later. He's MTS's spokesperson. "We've

got signs up all over the place, our ambassadors [at special events] have face coverings to hand out to people who don't have them. Our security officers do as well. We've got 800 buses out there, 150 trolleys. That's a lot of vehicles to make sure everybody's complying. When somebody has no face mask when they're getting on the bus, they are told the rules. But we've got other passengers on board who are dependent on us to get to their destination. So we rarely will refuse service, though we will call in that incident and have security

meet somebody at the end of the line if they're still on board. As the FTA (Federal Transit Administration) says, 'We're trying to encourage compliance, not enforce it.' Enforcement is a tough thing to do."

And employees, Schupp says, are more at risk than most. "There's about 2700 of us in MTS, and over the 9-12 months of covid, we've had somewhere over 300 cases. But there has only been one case that has been traced back to the work, and it wasn't on board a bus. Also, there's no evidence that there's a greater risk when you're riding transit than you are anywhere else."

Back on the bus, the older lady is finally getting off. She doesn't look at her nemesis. But she does mutter something to the driver. I swear she says, "If she had just been more polite."

Balifornia

What does Gene Miller love most about life in Bali? "No one here gives a shit about what's going on in America."

The San Diegan's speaking over FaceTime from Bali, Indonesia. On the little screen, you can see the dark woods of his son Mark's leased house there, tropical leaves, intricate ceramics in the background, and Gene's wife Jeannette in an orange swimsuit in the blue waters of

was going to go. Soon we got to her saying, 'You don't need that mask. It's all a hoax.' I couldn't take any more, especially in this beautiful, spiritual, green, harmonious place, with its rice terraces and temples. I walked away. We came here to welcome our new grandson, not to re-fight the election."

He's not worried about getting back to San Diego, even though family members here are fretting about them. They intend to leave in a

"I was so upset over how things were going here, it was disturbing to my psyche."

the house pool.

Gene and Jeannette got the chance when their son, Mark, who made his fortune importing surfboards to the U.S., arrived in Bali on his cruising catamaran, which he had sailed from Australia. "He said come over any time," says Gene. "And I was so upset over how things were going here, it was disturbing to my psyche. I stopped reading anything political. Now after two-three months over here, the continued divisiveness back home is tempting me to stay."

Besides, he says, life in Bali is good for people like him and Jeannette. "No Americans to argue the last election with," says Gene. "Only some Europeans, Australians, and a colony of Russians. But it is so civilized and cheap, people don't want to leave."

But *can* he leave? It has become more complicated, thanks to covid restrictions. "We arrived on JAL on January 1st, and as soon as we got here, they shut the airport," says Gene.

He says Bali is semi-deserted, but in a way, perfect. "Everything is open. No long lines. We play golf and tennis nearly every day. Shopping is so cheap. The Grand Hyatt hotel, where all the expats meet, has everything: pools, massages, great food, and is relatively cheap."

But why fly to Bali at the height of covid-19? It was the birth of their grandson in Bali to Mark and his wife Masha. But they are risking much.

Recently, CDC put out a "Very High Level of Covid-19" notice for Indonesia. Gene says people are wearing masks. Well, most. "The other day, I was wearing mine. This expat lady who wasn't, said, 'Isn't that uncomfortable?' And I knew immediately where this discussion

couple of weeks. "We'll have to be tested. But [son] Mark knows the ins and outs of navigating the system. I mean, we love it here. My shirts are perfectly laundered and ironed, every day except Sunday. But honestly, I don't like having servants. Besides, I'm just basically looking forward to California weather. Here, starting January, we've had the monsoons, raining every night. I tell you man, there is no weather like California weather. It's the best in the world. By far. Covid or no covid?" ■



Are we having fun? Jeannette and Gene accept Covid risk in high-incidence Bali to see grandson



FaceTime photo of Jeannette Miller, poolside in Bali. Official CDC Covid figures for Indonesia are high, but actual tourist numbers on the island of Bali are low, so the Millers figure the risk is worth it to see their new grandson.

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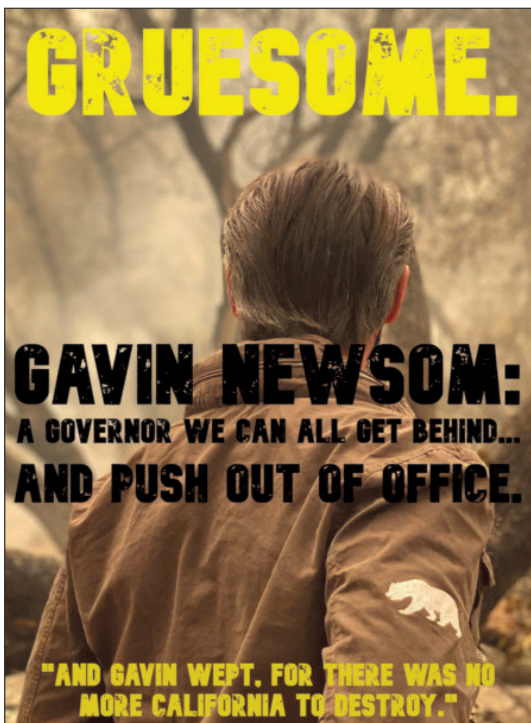


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Today, Former San Diego Mayor and would-be replacement governor Kevin Faulconer unveiled his first campaign poster, an attack ad on beleaguered governor Gavin Newsom that doesn't even mention Faulconer's name. "I have a lot of strengths," said Faulconer at the unveiling, "but really, they aren't nearly as important as Newsom's weaknesses. Hate and fear are much stronger motivating forces than love and courage, which is why nothing brings people together like a common enemy. And in this case, there are so many people with so many reasons to want Gavin gone. Whether you're a rich white liberal who's suspicious of vaccines and also sick of being stuck at home with your rotten kids, or a poor white conservative who hates the way he's driving businesses out of the state and also his curtailing of freedom through on-again, off-again lockdowns, or just a struggling apolitical minority who's sick of watching the elite flaunt the rules they lay down for the rest of us, dining maskless at the French Laundry while your neighborhood taqueria goes out of business, you know he must go. And when he does, well, I'll be around. See you on election day!"

A Dream Deferred

Fernando Tatis, Jr. puts aside "childish things" like World Series rings, signs lucrative 14-year contract with Padres

"It's not whether you win or lose that counts, it's how much you get paid."

Recently, Padres superstar Fernando Tatis, Jr. signed a 14-year, \$340 million contract with the San Diego Padres. It was the longest contract ever signed in baseball, as well as the third-richest, and the most certain to keep him from ever winning the World Series. "I mean, I'm 22 now," said Tatis, Jr. after the signing, "so that means I'll be 36 when I've finished serving my time here. If I stay healthy, then technically, I guess it's possible that some World Series contender will pick me up for use in certain situations, or as a backup for

regulars when they go on the DL. So who knows? I might still win the Big One some day. But it's unlikely — though still not as unlikely as winning it here in San Diego. I admit it's a little dispiriting to think of — I didn't start playing baseball just to get rich, you know? I always wanted to win. But as I often do in difficult times, I turned to my bible, and found a comforting passage in Paul. "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things." It's like it says in that



Tatis, Jr. said that if he had a chance to talk to his childhood self (pictured above), he would explain that winning a World Series sure would be exciting, but it wouldn't pay the bills, and that when he was a grown-up, he would understand. Besides, he noted, "it's possible to have more than one childhood dream. I also hoped that I would play my whole career with the Padres, just like my hero Tony Gwynn, whose poster you can see up there on the wall. He never won a World Series, either."

song 'Puff the Magic Dragon' - 'Painted wings and Series rings make way for other toys.' Toys

like the custom Padres Lambo I'm having built to celebrate the signing of this contract."

Safety First

Biden orders resumption of "border barrier" construction, "to protect vulnerable immigrants."

One of the first things President Biden did after taking office was to sign an executive order halting construction of the controversial border wall between the United States and Mexico. The wall, which had been a prominent feature of President Trump's campaign in 2016, was seen as representative of the differences between Trump and Biden in 2020 — suspicion vs. compassion, exclusion vs. inclusion, barriers vs. bridges, etc. So it's understandable that some people were surprised by

yesterday's announcement that the Biden administration was re-starting construction on the project. However, said Biden spokesman Jan Spinster, "This should not be seen as backtracking. President Biden is not building a wall to keep immigrants out. He's building a safety net, something to make sure they enter the country in ways that will preserve their health and dignity. Isn't it wonderful that America once again has a president who cares?"



A giant-sized Biden animatronic stationed on the Mexican side of the border well plays a recorded message that welcomes "brave men and women seeking a better life," before explaining that the newly installed concertina wire is there to protect them from "the dangers involved in unprotected travel through the desert," as well as "the threat posed by predatory human traffickers." The Bidenbot then instructs the "pilgrim travelers" to visit the "safe, legal, and soon-to-be-functional" immigration centers in Tijuana before thanking them for their interest in the United States, assuring them that they are exactly the sort of people that the country wants and needs right now, and playing a recording of "Despacito."

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Fascist fashionista

The only difference between Fascisti and any antifascist is that one couldn't afford matching pants.

Brian D Hoag
Spring Valley

View from the cleanup crew

I used to love teachers. I used to love working in the school district, but just in the last year, I have come to feel disappointment when talking about the future of education ("San Diego Unified revokes then reinstates benefits for Gompers Prep founders," Neighborhood News, January 18).

I have been a custodian working for educational institutions for 20 years now. It has not always been as easy as that sounds. Laborers are understaffed and underpaid routinely in multiple school districts. Most of us keep punching the clock today for the same reasons we always have been: we are here to support the kids. Everyone is on that side, correct? That's what I thought. However, it seems that the converse is more a reality now than ever.

I do not want anyone to get the idea that I have been in some way slighted or hurt by my custodial position in the San Diego Unified School District. Quite the opposite. For someone that grew up, as I did, in poverty, the job I have now has afforded me the ability to travel (before Covid) and helps pay rent to keep a roof over my wife and I's head. For my job, I am very much thankful.

I cannot help but feel as though the teachers and the administration for the district have launched into battle against each other for returning in any manner, fought against their mutual positions on the vaccine phases, and fought the notion that online learning, although safe, is barely functional.

Let me take you back in time to last year, the setting is 1st semester of the 2020-21 school year, and all of us

classified workers have been on-site the whole time, cleaning, prepping meals for the communities and checking textbooks and laptops in and out to help facilitate the online roll-out. We were all waiting for that first day when our co-workers, the teachers, would come back and teach from their rooms for online classes.

No kids, just teachers teaching from their regular rooms. Boy! We had big plans! Since vaccines were not approved yet we developed a system by which kids needing additional help could get a test for Covid-19 and upon confirmation of a negative, come into the classroom for one-on-one instruction in a clean, barrier-laden, sanitized, and well-ventilated area. That way the kids could still learn, access their teachers for assistance, and leave with some masks and some food for home (my site does weekly groceries for the families in our area).

The teachers rejected that idea with the help of the district administration because there were no vaccines at the time.

I, as a lead, and the leads in the cafeteria all test weekly and for an entire year have tested negative. The teachers rejecting this idea when they are clearly only sharing the campus (not even the same rooms) with us, common laborers. We get the message. The teachers are scared that we, their lunch ladies, and landscapers were potential sources of this virus. We are not.

And in fact, the passive suggestion that we are speake volumes to a problem I have seen developing for years between certificated (teachers, administration) and classified (Food Service, Custodial, Maintenance) job positions. A tale as old as time never invited to teacher gatherings or end-of-the-year parties, we, the classified workers, can see you separating yourself from us. Taking credit for working in an infrastructure we create and maintain. Demanding the nation bend to teaching needs while only showing an inflexibility to any idea involving a return to campus.

Today I am waiting for a

substitute teacher to show up to support 7 students in a controlled, ventilated, sanitized room with barriers. Just as I waited yesterday and the day before for the job to be "picked up" by a willing credentialed participant. The room stands open, empty, and dark. Ready to go safely, but unused over stigma and union pressure. Students showed, but no teacher was available or willing to teach them.

I really cannot understand, as I have an exceptional teacher that after he teaches on-line from his home he commutes here to the site to assist those students struggling with his lessons, or any other discipline. He does it safely and has for the last 2 months. If he can do it, why cannot his peers, the teachers of this district? I excuse those with pre-existing health conditions. I understand why those have to stay at home. Family is first, and always should be. But after spending more than half my life inside of classrooms either learning or working I have come to expand my idea of family to those I work with and the students that I support. I care about all of them and I want all of them to succeed.

People like me that do these dirty district jobs care so much we have, like grocery workers (god bless all of them, too) have been clocking in to keep the supply chains running and clean. There are people taking care of campuses all over the district. Running the distribution of supplies, eye exams, counseling appointments, technology issues with students, feeding kids that are no longer on the campus.

Those people make just under \$40,000 a year, while principals, working from home, maybe visiting their campus once a month, get paid upwards of \$100,000 a year to maintain the same campus they no longer have to even show up at. And those Admin get all the praise, too, for the efforts made by the families and staff they have abandoned since this pandemic began.

If you believe the press releases from the school dis-

trict, everything is working great! So much innovation! So many needed changes! So much hope for a return! It's BS. 70% of our students at my site are failing one or more classes. There is no idea for a return because the teacher's unions and the administration unions are fighting with each other over "safe" return protocol. It doesn't exist in a functional form because the idea factory creating it has never gotten their hands dirty on the ground level before Covid frightened them all into their homes.

They ignore the reality that has been present since, before this pandemic, more custodians and maintenance people need to be hired. If hospitals can keep outbreaks from happening because they have proper maintenance and custodial laborers working around the clock, then we can make the schools just as safe.

If you ask my crew that is exactly what our supervisors in the administrative positions are afraid of. An approach from that angle would eliminate their ability

to have a cushy, calm, and conflict-less job to support multiple infrastructure positions that are needed and by definition essential. Although this injection of funds for education to bolster its infrastructure will never happen.

Teachers and Admin are more likely to get a raise than schools of this nation will get as clean as hospitals, which is possible, as long as the proper labor numbers in classified positions exist. After 20 years in the business, it's more likely that we get destroyed by a Mecha-Santa-Easter-Bunny-Godzilla than we will spend the money needed to encourage a boom in jobs needed so desperately in this economy, and with that support given to the children that need support, which benefits the teachers, and benefits the administration, and benefits our communities.


I am so disappointed that the district leaders I see on Zoom interviews on the nightly news tell everyone it is safe at schools from the security of their kitchen tables at home. The statement is

correct, however, their visible inaction is a betrayal of that sentiment. Put your money where your mouths are SDUSD. Put your feet into some shoes, brush your teeth, we don't care if you wear your sweatpants, just come back to work in some capacity.

The longer your unions remain inflexible the more the kids suffer and are set back. Find common ground and get these schools running. I am by no means saying that this problematic observation on selfishness during a pandemic is observable in every teacher and every administrator.

I have been privileged to know less than a handful of teachers, admin, and counselors that do home visits. Those people are real heroes. And although they are also as invisible as the rest of us essential workers during this pandemic, we classified staff see them, appreciate them, and look up to the example they set that more teachers should exhibit. Sincerely,

Niki Roth
Logan Heights



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I don't want to lose another venue

“HERE’S A LITTLE HISTORY,” said Paul Smith. “We started up in 2008. It was the Ruby Room up until about 2013, and then switched over to The Merrow. Not necessarily starting over, but building up a little.”

Smith, The Merrow’s owner, continued, “In the last two years prior to 2020, we had finally found our niche with regards to the mix between the daytime crowd, the club nights, and the live music. Things were working. It’s like, ‘Hey, Paul’s paying himself a little. This is kind of cool! Everybody was happy. Everybody was almost too content with the way it was. We finally made it — and

then we fell off a cliff. We started off 2020 with January being a record month for us. It was, ‘Wow. January? What the hell?’ February we were like, ‘Damn, this is one of the best Februaries we’ve had too.’ So, we’re getting ready for March and what we had in the books for March in regard to performances...I could probably put a dollar amount on each day. ‘March is gonna be huge!’ We’re starting off the year and I’m thinking, ‘2020 is gonna be my best year ever.’ Well, I was wrong. It ends up being the single worst year ever. A big part of what I miss is that we felt like we were being successful. We felt like we had achieved

something, and then it was taken away.”

The Music Box was basking in a prime era of their own during the first couple months of 2020. Then Dan Deacon, unexpectedly, became the final artist to play the venue on March 11.

“The next night was supposed to be Digable Planets. They were in the van driving down from Los Angeles and we told them to turn around,” Joe Rinaldi, managing partner of the Music Box, said.

He continued, “We were so, so busy, and then it just stopped on a dime. We were in sort of a seven-night-a-week operating mode at that point, and it just stopped into nothingness right on the 12th. It just stopped and it never came back.”

Perhaps most amazing is the fact that on that same day, March 12, Rinaldi was one of the many nationwide venue owners present on a conference call with the National Independent Venue Association. In late December 2020, the organization would be credited with spearheading the passage of the Save Our Stages Act — a \$15 billion funding package that was part of a \$900 billion stimulus bill related to COVID-19. The grants stemming from the package are specifically designated to help small-stage venues survive the pandemic shutdown.

According to an official statement from the association, “The legislation provides critical help to shuttered businesses by providing a grant equal to 45% of gross revenue from 2019, with a cap of \$10 million per entity. This grant funding will ensure recipients can stay afloat until reopening by helping with expenses like payroll and benefits, rent and mortgage, utilities, insurance, PPE, and other



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Joe Rinaldi, managing partner of the Music Box, was one of the many nationwide venue owners present on the March 12, 2020 conference call with the National Independent Venue Association. In late December 2020, the organization would be credited with spearheading the passage of the Save Our Stages Act — a \$15 billion funding package that was part of a \$900 billion stimulus bill related to COVID-19.

ordinary and necessary business expenses.”

“What they did in March was just revolutionary,” Rinaldi said. “The best evidence is that we were doing a lot of the stuff nine months later successfully with the bill that had gone through Congress. They were that on the ball with what they wanted to do with the basic architecture when it started.”

The association organized small venues nationwide into a single voice that motivated Congress to pass a bipartisan act which will serve as a gigantic safety net for independent venues across the United States. Many of these same venues are now setting their sights on reform at the local and state levels. Our local chapter of Na-

tional Independent Venues Association, SDIVA (pronounced *ess-DEE-va*) is part of this movement.

“San Diego’s pretty sleepy on this stuff,” Rinaldi explained. “We were basically just holding tight trying to get our house in order and paying attention to the national organization. But the guys up in San Francisco had gotten together, as they sort of always do, and got their coalition going. Then they started counting the number of clubs in the whole state, so they got a hold of us. They said, ‘Can you guys get your organizations in line? Can you set up the one in Los Angeles and the one in San Diego and get this mapping together, because we’re bigger and better in the state-

wide stuff.”

In the early days of SDIVA, Rinaldi says, it was just he and Pete McDevitt, the booker at Belly Up, who took on the task of organizing the local venues. They “shepherded all of the clubs and got them to show up for the calls and organize and submit their logos and do the grassroots work,” he said.

The aforementioned “statewide stuff” includes things like EDD unemployment compensation and state grants. The thinking is the same as the national organization. The larger the unified voice, the greater the chance for positive industry results. SDIVA member Tristan Faulk-Webster has prior experience with this on the hyper-local level. He is the former president of the Vista Brewer’s Guild, and a co-owner of the Aztec Brewing Company — the only brewery in the San Diego region recognized by the national association as a venue.

Faulk-Webster views the Vista Brewer’s Guild as being the “beer equivalent” of the organizational work that he is doing with SDIVA.

“In the case of the Vista Brewer’s Guild, we

got to talk to the city as a unit rather than one by one asking for a bunch of different things,” he explained. “This way, we had one voice. So, saying ‘We need help’ is stronger than saying ‘I need help.’ With that we were able to slowly get music going in

Vista. Originally, the city was of the belief that live music caused crime. So, little by little, we had to convince them that ‘No, we can actually do this without any problems.’ At first, they only gave us an acoustic-only license. Then a three-person max



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license and then, finally, full bands.”

Whereas the Brewer’s Guild was pushing for increasing the amount and types of entertainment licenses available for the tasting rooms and breweries, SDIVA’s current local action is focused on exempting music venues from having to pay fees for these types of licenses during the pandemic. “If we’re not able to have entertainment, there’s no real point in having to pay an extra couple of thousand dollars,” Faulk-Webster said. “So, we’ve gotten some relief in small things like that.”

Smith offered further details on the license situation. He said that liquor licenses had no late-fees, and that businesses were given an extra month to pay their renewal fees. “Normally, if you miss it by a day, you’re paying some heinous fee,” he added.

Whereas liquor licenses are controlled by the State, entertainment licenses are handled by the city.

“Your entertainment permit, depending on capacity, is a couple thousand dollars or more,” he explained. “Everyone’s been talking about some sort of negotiation. It sounds like they’re either going to refund it or prorate it and apply it to your next bill. So, when we finally get through all this and entertainment comes back, we will be able to take the period of time that we were down and apply it to the new license. I have no confirmation on that. It did come up as a discussion, I believe with Todd Gloria’s office. They’re doing something with it, but I’m not sure I’ve heard a final resolution as to what they’re going to do.”

One crucial role that SDIVA currently *can’t* serve is that of local fun-

draiser. People can still donate to the national organization, but there is no way to donate directly to SDIVA such that your contributions land directly in the laps of local venues. “We’re working on getting a 501c3 non-profit so that we can have that ability, but for the time being, we’re assembling contact info for everybody so that you can donate to venues directly,” Faulk-Webster said.

Whereas eliminating short-term licensing fees and helping venues to obtain state grants are crucial components of SDIVA’s efforts, Rinaldi’s focus is on a bigger picture issue.

“I don’t want to lose another venue,” he said. “When you see things on the news like Winston’s [struggles], those are stories we don’t want to have. We don’t want to have another Martinis Above 4th. We don’t want



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Paul Smith, The Merrow’s owner, says, “We’re starting off the year and I’m thinking, ‘2020 is gonna be my best year ever.’ Well, I was wrong. It ends up being the single worst year ever. A big part of what I miss is that we felt like we were being successful. We felt like we had achieved something, and then it was taken away.”

to have another Bar Pink. Those are very bad for us. So, number one with a bullet, I want to use whatever it is — state, local, national — to prevent that from occurring.”

For now, the good news is that help is on the way via the \$15 billion that will be distributed from the Save Our Stages act — which is now referred to as the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. The bad news is that applications to apply for the grants haven’t even been sent out yet. That also

means that all the venues that are scraping to make ends meet now can expect to remain doing so for another month or longer.

“My best guess is that we’ll get those things out and distributed by May,” Rinaldi explained. “I’m trying to beat that, but I’ve told people conservative-guidance-style that it took all of 90 days for the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan] and [Paycheck Protection Program] to get all the way out there. It was March as an onset, and the EIDL got out in April and

May and the PPP started coming out in May, and most of them were out by June 30th. For both of those programs, that were really complex and messy, most things still got funded in 90 days. There’s obviously outliers and people who got left out, but the majority of them got out in three months or so.”

A tricky wrinkle that arrives with the current stimulus package is that venues can’t receive both a Paycheck Protection loan and a Shuttered Venue

continued on page 34

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



Friday | 5

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS PRESENTS LAURA

In Otto Preminger's 1944 murder mystery *Laura*, Gene Tierney is the independent "dream girl," Clifton Webb is the snide columnist and former-companion, and Dana Andrews is the "crude" police detective in love with a "dead" woman. Cinema Under The Stars is an outdoor movie theater with reclining chairs, cabana love seats for two, and a 20-foot screen.

WHEN: Friday, March 5, 8 pm to 10 pm. Through Sunday, March 7.
WHERE: Cinema Under the Stars, 4040 Goldfinch Street, Mission Hills, topspresents.com



LEONARD PATTON

Saturday | 6

DEL MAR GEM FAIRE

Come peruse fine jewelry, precious and semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold and silver, and minerals at manufacturer's prices. Buy directly from importers and wholesalers. Even get jewelry repair and cleaning while you shop.

WHEN: Friday, March 5, 12 pm to 6 pm; Saturday, March 6, 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday, March 7, 10 am to 5 pm
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. gemfaire.com



SATURDAY, MARCH 6: DEL MAR GEM FAIRE

Sunday | 7

LEONARD PATTON: A BROADWAY CABARET

Bodhi Tree Concerts presents Leonard Patton & Friends in a livestreamed Broadway Cabaret. Jazz vocalist Leonard Patton attended Mesa Community College and studied at Berklee School of Music in Boston. He's performed and recorded with artists Bill Cunliffe, Derek Nievergelt, Duncan Moore, Mitch Manker, Miike Bedard, Ken Dow, and Jetro Da Silva. In summer

2017, the Leonard Patton Group set a Guinness Record for most performances (70) in 24 hours.
WHEN: Sunday, March 7, 4 pm to 5 pm
WHERE: bodhitreeconcerts.org

BELLY UP LIVESTREAM WITH DONAVON FRANKENREITER

Donavon Frankenreiter is an American musician and surfer. He has toured

between Baja California and San Diego has seeths with travelers in both directions: Americans pushing south into Mexico and Mexicans pushing north into the U.S.

What have we all been seeking? What draws us to explore "the other side"? Come hear Judy Goldstein Botello tell of her years wandering through the Baja peninsula. She is the author of three books published by Sunbelt: *The*



DONAVON FRANKENREITER

with Animal Liberation Orchestra, G. Love, and Matt Costa. In 2010, he formed his own label, Liquid Tambourine Records. Now, from his home in Hawaii, Frankenreiter will perform an acoustic set of his best known songs and some new selections.

WHEN: Sunday, March 7, 5 pm
WHERE: nocapshows.com

Other Side: Journeys in Baja California, Adventures with Kids in San Diego, and More Adventures with Kids in San Diego, which she wrote with her adult daughter.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 10, 1 pm
WHERE: sunbeltpublications.com

Wednesday | 10

THE OTHER SIDE: JOURNEYS TO BAJA CALIFORNIA

On any given day, the border



SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

The Foundry Community Church

Contact: 120 N Ash St., Escondido 442-777-2081

www.thefoundryescondido.com

Membership: 60

Neighborhood: Escondido

Pastors: Alexandra and Emmanuel Moon

Age: 33/37

Born: Puerto Rico/Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Formation: Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena;

Universidad Evangelica Boliviana, Santa Cruz

Years Ordained: 5

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

Pastor Emmanuel Moon: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. This is most central to the good news of Jesus Christ. When it comes to why I belong where I belong, it's because of

who Jesus claims to be. He claims to be the truth, and there are no other truths over this truth. He's basically saying, I'm not lying. I am the way to the Father, and I am the life, the one who can give us not just life here on earth but also eternal life in heaven.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

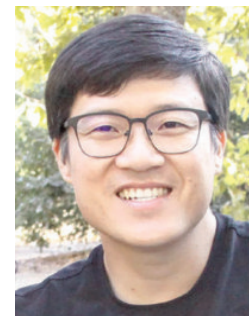
PM: Around age 14, I felt led to give my life in service to God when I heard a missionary give a testimony about what he was doing and the amount of work that was left to be done. That was the starting point of realizing I wanted to serve God in my life, although I didn't know exactly what that looked like.

It eventually led to doing pastoral ministry. Toward the end of my undergraduate studies in theology, I realized I was supposed to be a minister.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PM: A foundry is a place where metal work is done, where you melt metal. Free Methodists come from the line of theology according to John Wesley, founder of Methodism. The place where Wesley started his first church was in an abandoned foundry. Our mission is to reflect Jesus in our community, embrace all people, and make disciples. We have a food pantry where we give out free food to the com-

munity during the week. We also have a recovery ministry, where it is not so much what we're recovering from, but recovering to — that is, to the image of God. Rather than saying that I'm trying to get rid of something — we're all trying to do that — we're trying to be more like God. We also have a free healthcare clinic, which is very basic. We partner with the Southern California Care Community, a non-profit that provides free healthcare services for uninsured people or people with high copays and that kind of thing. They come to our location and they serve our people. This church has been for the longest time



Emmanuel Moon

the First Free Methodist Church of Escondido. As a Free Methodist Church, we've been here for over a hundred years. Around 2013, it became The Foundry Community Church, and we came in 2015.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PM: When I die, I go into

the presence of God and that presence is called heaven. Scripture tells us there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and we'll find out what that looks like when we get there. The Bible also states very clearly that hell is a place where we are outside of God's presence, and there really isn't life there. The most important question is, "What do we need to do in order to be in heaven rather than to avoid hell? How can we be in the presence of God for the rest of our lives?" That's why we must confess Jesus as our lord and savior, and live out that faith.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Paws and Pages Struggling readers can improve their fluency skills by reading to animals! So grab your favorite book and get ready to read to and interact with some super cute animals! March 10, September 22 and November 17: Participants will read to and interact with a reptile. Make sure to bring your own book from home! Wednesday, March 10, 5pm; \$10. 6 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RAN-CHO SANTA FE)

BEER

Trivia Night Sunset Trivia is coming back with the No Leftovers food truck, team sports, and social distancing. Wednesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, April 28, free. 21 and up. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Warwick's Author Livestream: Carol Edgarian Warwick's will host Carol Edgarian as she discusses her new book, *Vera*, in conversation with Lacy Crawford. Carol Edgarian is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Three Stages of Amazement* and the international bestseller *Rise the Euphrates*, winner of the ANC Freedom Prize. Tuesday, March 9, 4am; free. warwicks.com/event/edgarian-2021. (ONLINE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Mid-scale Composting with Windrows Join Solana Center for a 1-hour webinar demonstrating the management of a mid-scale windrow compost for farms and ranches with significant quantities of organic materials, including manure. This webinar is a 4-part composting series. Email kelsea@solanacenter.org Wednesday, March 10, 3pm; free. solanacenter.org. (ONLINE)

Serum Making Class In Serum Making Class, learn about the different vitamins and active ingredients used to improve skin texture, minimize wrinkle lines, improve elasticity, treat acne, and even skin tone. Students take home two facial serums and either gel eye shadow or mascara made in class. Make natural hand sanitizer for students to take home with them. Sunday, March 7, 12pm; \$104. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Zero Waste Bathroom Webinar

We'll discuss bulk bathroom products, identify specific low-waste swaps, review how to recycle right, and share DIY recipes. Leave with the tools and ideas you need to live more sustainably and reduce what you're sending to the landfill. Saturday, March 6, 10am; free. <https://bit.ly/3kuBxSr>. (ONLINE)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Book Study: Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time Have you outgrown the Christian faith you were taught as a child? Have you struggled with the image of Jesus as "the Son of God" or the "Savior of the World"? Are you ready for a new image of Jesus? Dive into Marcus Borg's thought-provoking book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, with a weekly book study group. Sundays, 4:30pm; through Sunday, March 28, free. 18 and up. belovedsandiego.org/meeting-jesus-book-study.html. (ONLINE)

LECTURES

The Other Side: Journeys in Baja California Judy Goldstein Botello explores these questions in her book, "The Other Side: Journeys in Baja California." During her years of wandering through the Baja peninsula, the author discovered her own "other side," falling in love, in the process, with Mexico in general and with Baja California in particular. Join us to share a virtual journey through some of the most enchanted—and enchanting—places on earth. Wednesday, March 10, 1pm; free. <https://bit.ly/2NFrjcp>. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Ocean Water Temperature, of late in the high 50s Fahrenheit, are finally on the upswing as the daylight hours lengthen and the sun arcs higher overhead in the sky each day. It will take about five months of spring and summer sunshine before the ocean's enormous mass and large heat capacity fully responds to the input of solar energy. A maximum water temperature in the low- to mid-70s is expected by August or September.

March Is the Proverbial Windy Month here in San Diego, as in most places. From midday to late afternoon, sunwarmed air expands and rises over the county's interior, drawing in an influx of cool air from the coast to replace it. These afternoon sea breezes will continue at peak strength until well into the summer, providing dependable conditions for such sports as sailing, kite flying, and hang-gliding.

Plenty of Rain and Bright Sunshine during the last month have triggered the emergence of bright green leaves on sycamore, liquidambar, and other decorative deciduous trees around San Diego. Cruise down 163 through Balboa Park to appreciate the vernal splendor of the sycamores growing in the landscaped center divider. Or walk across the El Prado bridge and look down upon the same.

Mexican Coral Trees, or "naked corals," are showing their stuff this season by bearing flamelike flowers on the tips of their twisting, often leafless branches. Commonly planted as park and freeway landscaping, this and other species of coral are blooming along State Route 94, Interstate 5 through Oceanside, along Harbor Drive near the airport, at the San Diego Zoo, on the lawns in front of San Diego City College downtown, and on the San Diego

State University campus. The bloom may continue into late spring, when the naked corals will cover themselves with eight-inch-long leaves, just in time to provide shade for the warm months.

African Daisies are bursting into bloom around San Diego, especially along the freeway embankments. The name refers to a wide variety of species belonging to the genera *Arctotis*, *Dimorphotheca* and *Osteospermum*, with flowers ranging in color from yellow, orange, and white to purple. These hardy ground covers require little water except when in active growth and help to hold soil in place during heavy rains.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gem Faire Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals at manufacturer's prices. Buy direct from the importers & wholesalers. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. For more info, visit www.gemfaire.com or call (503) 252-8300 or email: info@gemfaire.com. Friday, March 5, 12pm; Saturday, March 6, 10am; Sunday, March 7, 10am; free-\$7. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

SPOKEN WORD

San Diego Poetry Annual Night *San Diego Poetry Annual 2020-21* has published. Anthony Blacksher and Michael Klam will be hosting SDPA Night at Moxie Theatre, taking place on Zoom and featuring a post-show Q&A. Friday, March 5, 7:30pm; \$15-\$25. moxietheatre.com/. (ONLINE)

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A breakfast to remember

“Sorry, but I never reveal my sauces.”

I’ve just signed a lease for another 10 years,” says Carmen. “I’m 71. We’re in the middle of a pandemic. People say I’m crazy.”

This is 8:30 in the morning, in the Golden Hill Cafe, at the corner of 25th and C. Hard to say how many times I’ve looked out from the window of the #2 bus, seen this green, porthole-windowed art-deco joint, and thought, “That looks like a real 1950s cafe.”

Of course, covid tents and outside tables cover it up a bit. So it doesn’t look so cool, even though right now, before the sun gets to it, it is kinda cool, chilly cool, outside. Then, hey, I see a bunch of people inside, looking cozy and covid-free. I head on in there.

“We’re allowed to be 25 percent full inside,” says Pati the server. “That’s under a dozen. You might just fit.”

I slide into a green banquette with its curved-corner Formica tables, check out a couple of ancient movie stars on the wall, plus a hand-written sign, “Due to the filming of the motion picture *K-9*, Golden Hill Coffee



unless it’s a tiny sausage, this is a big deal. Of course, you can go upscale. Under “Hungry,” you get to Eggs Benedict for \$15.95. Or, also at \$15.95, the Farmer’s Mix. That includes “scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage, onions, bell pepper, all mixed, and biscuit with gravy.” Or a Chef’s Omelette, with mushrooms, Chile Ortega, tomato, Swiss cheese, and hollandaise, for



The six-buck breakfast special



Trudi, Carmen the owner, Pati

\$13.95. It comes with hash browns and toast, or beans and tortillas. Chorizo and eggs (\$9.75) heads a list of Mexican dishes. Also, Ropa Vieja, that basically Cuban dish of shredded beef, tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, \$13.75.

Oh man. Can’t decide. Then I look at the “Light Options” again. And right up top, tortilla soup. I have been on a tortilla soup kick ever since the weather’s

been cold. Here they have it in three sizes, \$3.50 for a cup, \$6.96 for a bowl, \$9.95 for a large bowl. Heck, I go for the cup, just while I make up my mind on the other stuff. And what a perfect \$3.50 appetizer. The tortilla chips, chunks of Panela cheese from Oaxaca, along with onions, avo, and a beef soup stock. Best choice, almost filling enough for a breakfast in its own right.

But, natch, I have to go for the other bargain, the hot cake (read, pancake) special, with the egg (I go for poached), the bacon, the sausage. At six bucks and change, a deal, specially with the big fat sausage they give you. I load everything aboard the hot cake, including butter blob and syrup, nice wide bacon, plus the poached egg I sliced, oozing gold over everything. Even the ketchup adds taste as well as color. All in all, a blast of a breakfast. Pati keeps pouring the coffee, too. She says the most popular items are

the chilaquiles (\$7.95, plus \$2.30 for 2 eggs), the French toast combo (\$10.95), and the club sandwich (\$10.95 with fries).

A woman comes in. Sits down at one of the booths, lays out a string of bills and receipts. She sighs. Name’s Carmen. We talk. She is the owner. Has been the owner for — deep breath — 41 years! This is when she tells me that two weeks ago, she renewed her lease at age 71. Ten year lease. “Crazy, I know,” she says. “But I just love this place. It’s my life. And these people, like Trudi and Pati. Pati’s been here 23 years, Trudi, 31 years, and me, 41 years. We just don’t want to let it go.”

Turns out it wasn’t work but Covid that nearly killed the business. “I had to pay \$4000 just to put up these Perspex screens between booths,” Carmen says. “Then we had to build the outside. Now we’re back inside, but only for a few people. But we’ll survive.”

At the beginning, she was just a waitress with no money. Then the owner of the property sold her and her husband Ronald (who died 20 years ago) the place for \$12,000.

Hard to leave, but I gotta go. “Of everything so far?” I say, when Carmen asks what I liked best. “Have to say, the cup of tortilla soup. That’s what I’ll come back for when I’m broke. But also the taste. Not just the Oaxaca cheese. It’s the soup itself. What is that you put in it? It gives it a super umami taste. What is it?”

“Sorry. I never reveal my sauces,” Carmen says. “That’s a joke.” ■

The Place: Golden Hill Cafe, 2505 C Street, Golden Hill 619-239-7464

Hours: 7:30am-2pm, Monday to Friday; 8am-1pm, Saturday, Sunday

Prices: breakfast combo (two eggs, sausage, bacon or hash browns, two French toast, \$10.95; (or two pancakes, \$8.95); two hot cakes, \$4.95; hot cake special with egg, bacon, sausage, \$6.50; Eggs Benedict, \$15.95; Farmer’s Mix, \$15.95; Chef’s Omelette (shrooms, chile Ortega; tomato, Swiss cheese, hollandaise, \$13.95; chorizo and eggs, \$9.75; tortilla soup, \$3.50, \$6.96, or \$9.95; chilaquiles, \$7.95 (plus \$2.30 for 2 eggs); French toast combo, \$10.95; club sandwich, \$10.95 with fries

Bus: 2

Nearest Bus Stops: Broadway and 25th



Golden Hill Cafe’s windows show you life at 25th and C

Shop with be closed Friday August 6th, 1988.”

So we’ve got history here. I listen to the mainly Spanish conversation going on around me. This part of town is just outside the tourist belt. I can see a guy catching the warmth of the sun on his balcony. It’s above the pawnshop across 25th. I take the tall mug of coffee Pati pours for me (\$2.95 with refills). Man, need this. I scan the one-page menu. And they’re all there, the really standard dishes I’m craving.

Turns out this place is more than reasonable. A breakfast combo, with two eggs plus sausage, bacon, or hash browns, and two French toast costs \$10.95. Or you can swap the French toast for two pancakes and only pay \$8.95. Two hot cakes are \$4.95. Bacon costs \$1.95 extra, a sausage, \$2.95.

But here’s the thing: Under “Light Options,” they have this incredible offer: “One hot cake, one egg, one bacon, one sausage, \$6.50.” Man,

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Tu Taco is flamin' hot in Chula Vista

Tu Taco Taco Shop; 1419 Hilltop Drive Unit D, Chula Vista. When a friend of mine started working as an eighth grade teacher, he

reported a wave of addiction sweeping through his classroom. The kids, as he told it, were hooked on Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

The red and spicy version of the crunchy corn puff snack was so common, he had to reinforce the classroom's no-eating rule to include a no Cheetos clause. Still, whenever he turned his back to write on the chalkboard, he'd hear tell-tale crunching behind him. Not that the kids could ever get away with it. All he had to do to find the rule-breaker was ask for a show of hands. Cheetos dust, especially the flamin' hot variety, sticks to the fingers, and there's no way around it. Every day, he was catching Cheetos eaters red handed.



The Flamin Hot Burrito, wrapped in a Flamin' Hot Cheetos quesadilla.



Chula Vista's little Tu Taco Taco Shop, ain't too proud to use Cheetos on the tacos.

Since he told me that story, I've noticed how widespread and unrelenting Flamin' Hot Cheetos has become in America. Take a look in the munchies aisle of a grocery store, and you'll usually find that Flamin' Hot shelves outnumber the original flavor. The brand has added an Extra Flamin' Hot flavor, and another boasting a hint of lemon. That red Flamin' Hot powder has been applied to other munchie brands as well. Last week, I found a bag of Flamin' Hot Funyunns.

If you're part of the Flamin' Hot fanbase, you doubtlessly know the phenomenon has seeped into the restaurant world, too. I've spotted Flamin' Hot dust added to everything from fried chicken

tenders to poke bowls. So, it wasn't terribly surprising to learn that a local taco shop has gone Flamin' Hot.

The redundantly named Tu Taco Taco Shop might otherwise have remained somewhat anonymous since opening in 2016. Its small storefront sits in an unremarkable shopping strip on a relatively untrafficked road in south central Chula Vista. Mostly, its menu hewed pretty close to the taco shop standard: burritos, tacos, a few breakfast items, *carne asada* fries, and *tortas*.

But the idea to add Flamin' Hot Cheeto dust to burritos in 2017 has proven so popular, there's now a dedicated Flamin' Hot menu. Photos of

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Flamin' Hot Rollies: beef rolled tacos topped by melted cheese, sour cream, and loads of crushed Flamin' Hot Cheetos dust.

these red-dust coated items now cover the shop's windows, including Flamin' Hot Fries, Flamin' Hot Mozzarella Sticks, and a Flamin' Hot Torta. Inside, there's a painting of the Cheetos mascot — Chester Cheetah — and a neon sign reading “Made by the hot Cheeto king.”

And when I walked into the place to pick up my own Flamin' Hot Burrito (\$8.99), I spotted a massive plastic bag in the kitchen, filled with dozens of party size Cheetos, to fuel this madness.

That Flamin' Hot burrito that started it all is an interesting beast. It's similar to a California burrito, being that it rolls up a pile of carne asada fries. It features a healthy dose of chipotle salsa. But instead of being wrapped in a basic flour tortilla, it's actually rolled up inside a large quesadilla: two tortillas pressed together with a center of melted cheese and that signature red dust.

The burrito's served chopped in half to show off the flamin' hot red ring around its saucy interior. People have started visiting from around the county to taste (and Instagram) the thing. May have noticed the other Flamin' Hot menu items tend to feature the red crumble a little better: for example, the fully red coated serving of rolled tacos, dubbed Rollies (\$7.25).

What I've come to realize it that Flam in' Hot Cheetos have always been Mexican food. The corn-based snack jibes with masa and chili spice, to the point that, even though my Rollies were coated with the stuff, they didn't taste all that different from a spicy set of rolled tacos. Perhaps next time, I'll gird my stomach for something stronger: the Flamin'

Hot chimichanga!

by Ian Anderson

The Bachi Bus stops daily in South Park

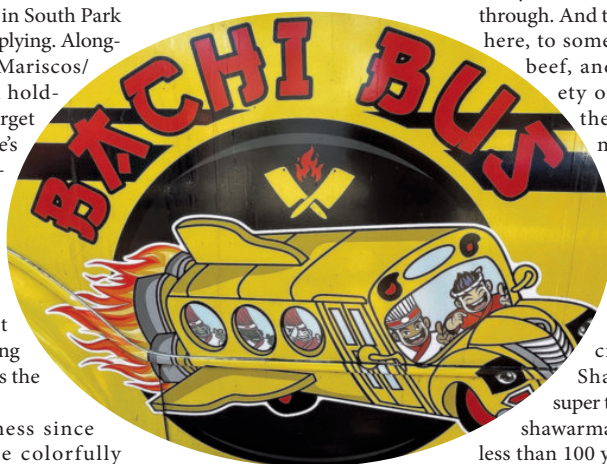
The food trucks in South Park seem to be multiplying. Alongside the usual Mariscos/ fish taco truck holding down the Target parking lot, there's now a Sonora-style grilled taco truck. The Shawarma Guys truck is a Yelper favorite on the next block. And joining the party lately is the Bachi Bus.

Doing business since September, the colorfully painted Bachi Bus specializes in *teppanyaki*, also called *hibachi*, best known as charcoal-fired Japanese barbecue. The truck is a pandemic-inspired side hustle of a group of nightlife and sports marketing vets, as well as NBA player Thomas Bryant (starting center for the Washington Wizards until a recent, season-ending injury).

I found it doing brisk business on the sidewalk adjacent that Target parking lot, with one crowd of customers waiting on their orders, another lined up to place theirs. Seafood options abound, including shrimp, salmon, and lobster tail, the latter going for a pricey \$28.50. On the meat side, chicken plates go for \$15, while I indulged in the filet mignon plate for \$19.75.

These entrees feature steamed rice and sauteed vegetables, in my case a tender Kabocha squash sautéed

with onions. A selection of tangy and spicy sauces may be added at 50 cents apiece, beginning with the house ginger sesame concoction dubbed Bachi Sauce.



The colorful logo of South park's newest daily food truck.

It all sounds good to me, and my take-out box had an admirable heft to it. However, while there's a lot to look at painted on the sides of the Bachi Bus, when I opened the box, there wasn't much to see. It was just three separate piles of steamed rice, sliced squash, and cubed steak. A side order of chicken fried



An almost too simple plate of cubed steak, Kabocha squash, and white rice.

rice was more of the same: just fried grains of rice and chopped chicken meat.

I'm an admirer of simplicity in cooking: using fine ingredients and treating them minimally to let their quality shine through. And that's happening here, to some extent. Good beef, and a tasty variety of squash, help the drab looking meal taste much better than it seems. But I didn't find enough flavor to justify the roughly \$20 price tag, especially with the Shawarma Guys' super tasty *wagyu* beef shawarma going for \$12 less than 100 yards away.

Add-on sauces were the saving grace, lending the flavorful punch needed to make the meal memorable. The truck has started offering an option to “hot drop” sauces — that is, slather heated sauces ranging from garlic butter to spicy “diablo” directly on the meat or seafood before serving. It's an extra couple dollars to do it this way, but may be worth it.

One can easily spend a lot of money at Bachi Bus. If you

can't decide between the steak and lobster, there's a combo of the two for about \$36. Or, you can add shrimp for a three-meat combo for \$45. Between the available combos and large portions of rice, you'll walk away from the meal with a full belly.

It's fair to say you can't go wrong, but also fair to say the more you spend, the happier you'll be. It might be that kind of cachet keeping the mobile kitchen busy. Just when I thought that yet another food truck had appeared in the area, I was told that the Chubby Burgers truck parked beside the Bachi Bus was there operating as a second Bachi kitchen, to help keep up with demand. I guess it's been that kind of year, where people just

want heaps of steak and seafood, packaged to go.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

In The Kitchen With Patrick Hallahan Join Patrick Hallahan of My Morning Jacket for a 3-part cooking series. Sunday, March 7, 3pm; \$25-\$50. Online Internet Events, All over the world from. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Street Food Enjoy a weekly street food collaboration featuring new food trucks each week including Tijuana's Torta Wash Mobile, Grater Grilled Cheese, Super Tacos, and more. Saturdays, 4:30pm; Wednesdays, 4:30pm; through Saturday, May 29, Grant's Coffee Room, 2953 Beech Street. (SOUTH PARK)



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

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

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

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 bottles all day.

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

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

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

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

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Local app helps beer buyers improve their taplists

Back in the fall of 2019, **O'Brien's Pub** co-owner and general manager Tyson Blake was manning the bar and catching up with a regular customer. O'Brien's is well known as one of the city's oldest and best craft beer destinations, and as the two spoke, a parade of sales reps came through, one after another, each hoping to sell Blake bottles and kegs for the bar.

After something like the tenth rep left, the customer expressed surprise that so many in-person sales calls would happen in a single afternoon. Blake's response? "That happens to me every day."

Although customers are now accustomed to finding and even buying beer through web sites and apps, wholesale deals have remained relatively low-tech, person-to-person affairs. In normal times, small armies of brewery and distributor reps

prowl the county's bars, shops, and restaurants. They provide samples and forge relationships with beer buyers, who order off of sales sheets or via email. For a bar such as O'Brien's, that means daily sales calls and ordering beer from dozens of sources.

"Wouldn't it be awesome to have this all in one place?" Blake's customer asked.

Except it wasn't an idle question. This customer happened to be a senior engineer at a very prominent local tech company, and he had the skills needed to bring the wholesale beer business online. Since that 2019 conversation, he and Blake have partnered up to develop the app **Keg Seeker**, a sales platform that allows breweries and distributors to list their updated keg, can, and bottle inventories.

It's not an entirely new idea. Several of the larger beer distributors, such as **AB InBev**, have developed apps that service their brands. However, by offering a more egalitarian platform, Keg Seeker provides visibility for breweries and distributors regardless of their resources.

"Most local breweries are distributing for themselves," Blake points out. "So it's a place for them to be on an even playing field with the big boys."

Keg Seeker launched a year ago, and 30 local breweries signed on within the first two weeks, most of them self-distributing. Of course, coronavirus restrictions shut down bars almost right away, which put a serious crimp in its first year in operation. However, Blake says the app did generate \$200,000 in sales despite these challenges. Meanwhile, the pandemic provided for a soft launch period, wherein he and his part-

ners converted buyer and seller feedback into upgrades for what is now a more streamlined app.

"I actually use it five times a week," notes Blake, "Within 30 seconds I've placed my order."



On the Keg Seeker app, beer buyers may browse current brewery offerings by style

Because it's working with so many different sales entities, orders made through the app generate emails to the appropriate sale reps, allowing business to function as usual. However, Blake explains that most sales sheets list only the name and price of a given beer. Each beer is just another row on a spreadsheet, which may not even mention whether it's an IPA, lager, or stout. "Missing on a lot of sales sheets or emails," Blake says, "was brand visibility and clarity."

To remedy this, Keg Seeker allows breweries to provide detailed descriptions for the beers, say, which hops are featured in a specific IPA. "You can put together a story behind the beer," Blake says, noting, "Those are the things that sell the

product, not just to beer buyers, but from the bartender or server to the table."

With breweries' brands and products clearly visible, Keg Seeker allows beer buyers to browse by brand, quickly viewing which beers are available and in which format and at what price. A single brew might be available in 15.5-gallon kegs, 5-gallon sixtels, bottles, or cases, for example. Buyers may also view beer lists sorted by style (distinguishing IPAs from double IPAs, for example), and they can even quickly peruse which beers are New or Popular.

Keg Seeker is free for buyers and will remain so for sellers until June. Currently, it mostly features around 40 mostly self-distributed San Diego breweries. As the world starts to open back up, Blake and company are working to bring more buyers, breweries, and distributors to the platform.

One local distributor, **Brown Bag Beverage**, and its clients are already on Keg Seeker. Brown Bag owner Susie Bags cautions, "I don't think it will replace good old fashion sales calls."

However, she adds that, if more buyers start using Keg Seeker, the app could become a useful tool for both sides. "I imagine in the future we might be able to access accounts that we didn't previously have a relationship with."

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.

ENCINITAS

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

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 & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: All draught pints (excluding cask, \$6 Anytime, and Black Velvet) and

bottled beer \$1 off. well liquor \$4.50, \$5 house wine, appetizers \$5.95-\$7.95.

MISSION VALLEY

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

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

NORTH PARK

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

OLD TOWN

Home & Away: Monday,

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

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

PACIFIC BEACH

Ambrogio15: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$19 per person biodynamic (organic) wine flight with three selected biodynamic wines (two ounce pour) and focaccia bread, olives, artichokes.

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

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

Mavericks Beach Club:

Monday, 5-6pm: \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. 3-10pm: Half off one pound orders of all wings, no limit. Tuesday, 5-6pm: \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. 5-10pm:

\$10 all you can eat taco bar. 5pm-2am: \$4 all Mexican beers, \$4 Margaritas, \$4 shots of El Jimador. Wednesday, Friday, 5-6pm: \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. Thursday, 5-6pm: \$4 beer, wine, and wells, \$6 margaritas and mai tais. \$2 off snacks. 9pm-2am: \$3 Natural Lite seltzers and Saturdays, \$4 shots of Jameson, Altos, Absolut, Malibu, Jagermeister.

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

POINT LOMA

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

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



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blurt the inside track

TikTok collab North County rapper Kiyoshi teaches classes on rap songwriting and freestyle flowing on Zoom, Instagram, and other social media networks. Wack 100, who has managed rappers Blueface and The

“Claustrophobic” joint that he dropped on February 16.

“It’s doing well on the Spotify and Bandcamp streaming sites. My supporters seem to like more tangible things they can sit with.”

“And what’s up with Tik-



Local rapper Chris “KILLcRey” Reyes: “If you ain’t about the love then I don’t bless your game.”

Game, took to the internet recently to school the Million Dollaz Worth of Game vlog’s viewers on how to create a viral rap song. “This is how it works,” he explained in part, “they do a 15-20 second TikTok dance to your song, right. After it starts moving and goes viral, then they say, ‘I wanna hear the whole song.’ They go to Spotify or Apple; they stream it, they listen to it [and say,] ‘Oh, I like the song. I wanna watch the video.’ Then they go to YouTube. Radio is watching the numbers of YouTube, Spotify, Apple, and TikTok; and that’s [how they determine] what they’re putting on rotation.”

“It seems like an oversimplification,” said Logan Heights rapper Chris “KILLcRey” Reyes in a *Reader* interview. “But, what if you’re not making dance music? Like this:

*Play the shit loud if your mind is your instrument
Christen shit, yo blessed be the name*

If you ain’t about the love then I don’t bless your game.

The verse is from Reyes’s

Tok?” I asked.

“I have a TikTok account, but I’m not sure my new song will work for the app, only because it doesn’t seem like people at this moment are going to TikTok for layered or deeper music.”

The majority of TikTok’s users are from the Generation Y and Z sets. At a glance, the circa 2016 video-sharing app is more of a lighthearted platform. Users create up to one-minute clips with optional text pop-ups, animated filters, voiceovers, and licensed background music.

“Artists get discovered by first getting their music in TikTok’s ‘Sounds’ catalog,” Reyes continued, “Next, they let their fans know their music is on TikTok, and they encourage them to make videos using their music. I hope that my new video reaches younger people that might need it. If I can spark thought in the younger generation, that’d be dope.”

I reached out to local rappers with TikTok and Wack 100 in the subject line, and my efforts yielded one

response. “Lots of hardcore rappers think TikTok’s corny,” responded Kahlee, a Mira Mesa rapper, “but for me, if collabing with a TikToker, could bring us exposure, I’m down to rock with you.”

—Mike Madriaga

Footage fetish “We feel very strongly how important footage is and why it needs to be preserved,” says David Peck, president of local Reelin’ in the Years. Founded in 1992, Reelin’ maintains and

licenses over 30,000 hours of music footage and more than 7000 hours of interviews spanning 90 years (including *The Merv Griffin Show* and *The Tonight Show*), as well as representing television stations and independent archives in the U.S. and overseas. Among his San Diego rarities are clips from a December 1969 Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young concert at Balboa Stadium filmed by famed rock photographer Henry Diltz.

Peck earned an associate producer credit on the recent HBO Bee Gees documentary *How Can You Mend a Broken Heart*, for which Reelin’ in the Years licensed material. “I was heavily involved in guiding them in the direction of footage, not just in my archive, but others... and [I] gave advice on historical accuracy as each cut developed. In the documentary, there is an incredible amount of home 8mm movie footage from the Bee Gees’ own archive, and I know a lot about how they should look when they are properly transferred. These Bee Gees



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films were transferred many years ago and, when I saw them in the earlier cut of the film, I practically begged them to re-transfer them, which they did, and the results are night-and-day.”

The new music-themed streaming service The Coda Collection, launched February 18 on Amazon Prime, features Reelin’-curated content, including the company’s American Folk Blues Festival 1962-1966 series, which earned them a Grammy nomination for Best Long Form Music Video. “It has

always frustrated me to see how YouTube has allowed bootleg versions of concerts and TV appearances by music’s greatest artists to be readily available to millions of viewers with no compensation to the rights holders. What I truly appreciate most about the way The Coda Collection has approached this music video channel is their respect for the artists and the footage rights holders.”

Reelin’ in the Years was heavily invested in putting out DVDs. Their first platinum seller (100,000 sales) was 2006’s *Marvin Gaye – The Real Thing In Performance*, a rare DVD sales benchmark also attained by a release featuring The Temptations. The next few years saw archival concert DVDs starring Pete Seeger, Quincy Jones, John Coltrane, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, The Hollies, Freddie Hubbard, Miles Davis, Ray Charles, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, a Jazz Icons series, and

the only known 1958 footage of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers with Lee Morgan and Benny Golson.

However, Peck has mostly abandoned physical media for streaming services such as the Coda Collection. “Since DVD is, for all intents and purposes, now a dead market, this platform allows us to share our unique content with the music-loving public in a fair and equitable way, a way which not only benefits my company and clients, but which will revolutionize the way music video

and Merle Travis preparing to board a small plane.

His most important discovery was an archive featuring thousands of hours of American jazz, blues, rock, and folk performances dating back to the ‘50s. However, it never would have happened if he hadn’t annoyed Baby Spice of the Spice Girls while trying to arrange a green room autograph for his nine-year-old niece backstage at *The Late Show With David Letterman*. After getting booted by Baby to a different green room, he chanced to

meet Rolling Stones/Allman Brothers keyboard player Chuck Leavell, who was thrilled to find that Peck had rare footage he’d been seeking, sparking a new friendship.

“That summer, I was in Amsterdam to see the Stones, and I was backstage with both Chuck and [Stones drummer] Charlie Watts. They introduced me to a friend of theirs from Belgium, who had a large library of material. It was through that friend that I became aware of the Belgian TV station RTBF, which subsequently became my

first client.

“So, were it not for pissing off a member of the Spice Girls, I would probably not have the company I do today.”

— Jay Allen Sanford



David Peck checks the company footage from *The Merv Griffin Show*, which they gained control of in 2012.

is consumed.”

Peck’s greatest finds include 30 minutes of home movies from the 1950s. Shot on 16mm color film, performance footage and candid clips include Hank Williams singing at a disc jockey convention in Nashville, Marty Robbins playing guitar on a front lawn, Kitty Wells standing in front of her tour car,

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



PARKER EDISON

Rapper Jack King, aka Parker Edison, is a TedX speaker and a member of the award-winning rap-jazz group Parker Meridien. He came to local notice in Parker & the Numberman, who earned a Best Hip-Hop Album trophy at the 2011 San Diego Music Awards and took home the same prize in 2012. Edison also executive produced a 2015 compilation called *Reclaiming the Community*, featuring Aki Kharomicel, Odessa Kane, Tiny Doo, and others. In 2016, he won a local peace-maker award from the National Conflict Resolution Center for producing the Reclaiming the Community Music Project, which showcases the storytelling community of Southeast San Diego. Parker Meridien teams him up with local jazz cats

like drummer Nathan Hubbard and bassist Harley Magsino. Edison is now the host and co-creator of a podcast series called *The Parker Edison Project*, where, he says, "I'm specifically looking at it through the black lens, because that's my lens." Ten episodes are currently planned to run, one every two weeks. The first entry features guest Latanya Lockett (B-Side Players, Psydecar) discussing "Womxn On Film," another has Ricky Garcia, aka local crooner Oranje Space, revealing how music helped him to stop stuttering, and additional planned topics include sex, food, fashion, money, religion, the theater, and cinema.



HEMISPHERE

The LGBTQ-led band Hemisphere promotes diverse musical collaborations, drawing on rock, pop, jazz, fusion, and metal for inspiration. The multicultural group features openly gay members Rob Shinno (guitar, vocoder) and Don Bowman (vocals, sax), as well as Mike McQuilken (drums), Nathan Brown (bass), and Max Zape (keys). Founded in 2000, the band has played at the Newport Beach Jazz Festival and was a San Diego Music Awards nominee for Album of the Year for the full-length *Blue Planet Dreams*. Its most recent album *American Dreams* includes guest players like Grammy

winner Tommy Aros (Fattburger), Rebecca Jade (2020 SDMA Artist of the Year), Leonard Patton, trumpeter Derek Cannon, and guitarist Patrick Yandall. Local jazz star Peter Sprague served as engineer and mixer, and the album was mastered by Bernie Grundman (Steely Dan, Michael Jackson, Prince). A collectors CD was offered with a 16-page pamphlet of liner notes, images and lyrics. Hemisphere has a new music video for the album track "America." Using social distance precautions, the footage was shot in Rancho Bernardo during early September 2020 at Studio West.



MONARCH

Based in Oceanside, Monarch is a hard rock/metal group founded in 2007 by Ratt Black guitarist Casey Trask (the Three Tremors, Cage), backed by founding drummer Adam West, and joined in 2016 by singer-guitarist Matt Smith (Nihilist, Damcyan). They've shared the stage with bands such as Death Angel, Nervosa, Powerglove, and Act of Defiance, and won the 2019 Wacken Metal Battle USA competition, earning the chance to play at an upcoming festival. Their upcoming sophomore album *Future Shock* (due April 16), tracked at Clarity Recordings in El Cajon, marks the debut

of a new bassist who joined last year, Gabe Mendez (Supra Summus, Sister Steele). The first single is now available, "Shred Or Die," with a video streaming online. "We're all just super excited to get this album out to everyone because I think everyone right now needs something new to get excited about," says Trask. "At the time of this release, parts of the world are still under quarantine from the Covid 19 virus, and we think it will be a welcome escape from having to worry so much right now. We should all be cautious of course, but we can't make our lives not worth living."



ROB \$TONE

Jaylen Robinson, aka Lemon Grove rapper Rob \$tone, came up as a member of the 1207 hip-hop collective. After a brief time living in Atlanta, GA, he returned to San Diego and released his debut mixtape *Straight Bummin'* in 2015. His first video was for the track "Nachos." \$tone scored a hit single in 2016 with "Chill Bill," inspired by and featuring samples from the film *Kill Bill*, with a video currently at 289 million views. Said to have been written in the back of a police car, the song reached number 29 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart and was later remixed with rappers D.R.A.M.,

Denzel Curry, and Cousin Stizz. After releasing his *I'm Almost Ready* mixtape in 2016, he toured as an opening act with A\$AP Ferg. The following year, he was featured in a new designer footwear line released via Creative Recreation. His last album *Don't Wait For It* was preceded by single releases for "Holy Grail" and "Two Spoons Freestyle." \$tone has a new 7-song EP, *Solitaire Stone*, and an upcoming album called *Bonafide*. The EP single "Fantasy," produced by Big Jerm and Jay Card, comes with a video streaming online that was shot at various hangouts around San Diego.



E.N. YOUNG

Reggae rocker E.N. Young has a new single called "No Complaint." According to Young, "This song is a rendition of a classic Half Pint song from the '80s with an original verse added. The song features a rootsy vinyl-inspired lo-fi sound of the early years in reggae music. The lead synth has a classic duck-tone wobble with King Tubby-type dub effects surrounding it. I extended the mix and added a section of dub after the tune that was common on vinyl 12-inch single versions, to fill the entire side of the record. That dub section starts with a hard cut on the snare, which was typical in the old

studios in Jamaica. The engineer would cut the tape on the visible transient, which he presumably thought was the kick but was actually the snare, and spliced the two versions together. I grew up hearing this hiccup on the 12-inch extended versions and grew to love it. The dub version also features subtle effects on the bass that resembles the likes of Mad Professor from UK. I had a great time recreating some of the great works in reggae music and will continue to pay homage to them with more music."

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, 4pm — Arlo Parks Livestream. \$9.
Thursday, 4:30pm — Dizzy's Livestream: Jazzmeia Horn. **Free.**
Thursday, 6pm — Kygo Live From the Sunmore Alps.
Thursday, 2pm — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.
Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 6pm — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.
Friday, 6pm — 3 Doors Down 3XLive.
Friday, 6pm — Tokyo Police Club: Champ 10th Anniversary. \$10.
Saturday, 5pm — Brandy Clark: Your Life is Still A Record. \$15.
Saturday, 6pm — Los Lobos Livestream. \$9.
Saturday, 5pm — Madison Beer: Life Support In Concert. \$18-\$200.
Sunday, 5pm — Belly Up Livestream: Donavon Frankenreiter. \$10.
Sunday, 6pm — Dwight Yoakam: One Time Live Series. \$20-\$165.
Sunday, 4pm — Leonard Patton: A Broadway Cabaret. \$25.
Sunday, 5pm — Matthew West Live from Houston. \$10.
Monday, 8pm — Casbah Presents: Haydee Jimenez.
Monday, 5pm — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**
Monday, 11:30am — Sonia D: The Story So Far. **Free.**
Monday, 6pm — Zara Larsson: International Women's Day Celebration. **Free.**
Tuesday, 6pm — Shakey Graves Livestream. \$20-\$50.
Wednesday, 10am — Urban Village Livestream. \$10.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream On the heels of his second Grammy Award nomination — Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for *Unfollow The Rules* — singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright announces Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective! 2021 the 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. Wainwright shares the dates for the last four albums, starting on Friday, January 8 with Wainwright performing the first side of *Release the Stars*. Tickets for individual shows are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 day of show, and 4 show bundles are also available. Bundles come with the opportunity for fans to participate in intimate Q&A's with Wainwright and other surprises. Thursday, March 4, 2pm; \$20-\$25. rufuswainwright.veeps.com.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Feeling spring-ish

The last few days of unabated San Diego sunshine have me feeling particularly spring-ish even though we are technically still in winter. However, it did get me thinking. I don't believe we've ever looked at spring-based music here in the column.

With that in mind, let's look beyond the obvious spring-fare such as Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*: "La Primavera," and Stravinsky's decidedly brutal depiction of rivers exploding out of their icy slumber in *The Rite of Spring*. Stravinsky also includes human sacrifice as a tradition of spring. Ah, the good ol' days when no virgin was safe from ritual murder.

There are, indeed, several pieces of classical music that

bear the word "spring" in their title. One such piece is Edvard Grieg's "To Spring" from his *Lyric Pieces*, which are composed for piano. *Lyric Pieces* is a collection of 66 short compositions that Grieg composed between 1867 and 1901. Besides "To Spring," there are two pieces entitled "Spring Dance." Each is just over one minute long.

Another composition with "spring" in the title is *Spring* by Alexander Glazunov. Glazunov is best known for his ballet entitled *Seasons*. There is a spring section in the ballet, but this stand-alone piece from 1891 is so fresh and beautiful that it deserves to be listened to not a few times over the course of the next few weeks.

Claude Debussy took a human approach to spring in his symphonic suite entitled *Spring*. According to the archives of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Debussy wrote the piece while in Rome. In a letter, he said that he didn't want to write a description of spring the season but a human spring or rebirth.

Robert Schumann's *Symphony No. 1: Spring* is so-called because of a letter he wrote to conductor Wilhelm Taubert. In the letter, Schumann asks, "Could you breathe a little of the longing for spring into your orchestra as they play? That was what was most in my mind when I wrote [the symphony] in January 1841."

Johann Stauss II com-



Schumann: "Could you breathe a little of the longing for spring into your orchestra as they play?"

posed *Voices of Spring* as an indication of the spring breeze that flows through Vienna off of the Danube. Trust me, you've heard this one before.

The last piece of spring music comes from the Act IV duet "Oh Mimi tu piu non Torni" in Puccini's *La Boheme*. At the conclusion of Act III, Rodolfo and Mimi

pledge to stay together until spring because no one is ever lonely in spring. Well, it's spring, and Rodolfo is feeling so very, very lonely. He commiserates with Marcello, who is missing Musetta, his so-called "hellcat."

I'm on the record as a Pavarotti "hater," but no one sings this music better than Pav.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

UPCOMING SHOWS

Arrowood Golf Course:

Friday, Apr. 2 — Cowboy Jack. **Free.**

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, Apr. 8 — Tennis and Molly Burch. \$20-\$35.

Brick by Brick:

Tuesday, Apr. 6 — Swallow the Sun and Infected Rain.

Casbah:

Friday, Apr. 2 — Holy Fuck.

Casino Inn Bar and Grill:

Saturday, Apr. 10 — The 8 East Band. **Free.**

Loft:

Thursday, Apr. 1 — Joel Ross: Good Vibes. \$9-\$39.

Online Internet Events:

Thursday, Mar. 11 — Belly Up Livestream: Ziggy Marley. \$20.
Friday, Mar. 12 — Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective Livestream. \$20-\$25.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Lespecial Plays Primus. **Free.**

Friday, Mar. 12 — Ryan Cabrera Live From Old Red, Nashville. \$10-\$125.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Danko Jones 25th Anniversary Livestream.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Japanese Breakfast Live From Pioneerworks. \$9.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Daughtry Live From Nashville. \$20-\$100.

Friday, Mar. 12 — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Friday, Mar. 12 — BoomBox: Ghost Notes Solo Acoustic Set. **Free.**

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

Saturday, Mar. 13 — Danko Jones 25th Anniversary Livestream.

Saturday, Mar. 13 — DJ Paul: Live From Los Angeles. **Free.**

Saturday, Mar. 13 — Todd Rundgren Clearly Human Virtual Tour. \$35-\$299.

Saturday, Mar. 13 — Casbah Presents: Grampadrew's Flim Flam Revue. **Free.**

Sunday, Mar. 14 — Dropkick Murphys St. Patrick's Day Livestream. **Free.**

Sunday, Mar. 14 — Dwight Yoakam: One Time Live Series. \$20-\$165.

Monday, Mar. 15 — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**

Monday, Mar. 15 — Casbah Presents: Pharlee. **Free.**

Tuesday, Mar. 16 — SXSW Online.

Tuesday, Mar. 16 — Art of Elan: Open Air. \$5-\$10.

Wednesday, Mar. 17 — SXSW Online.

Wednesday, Mar. 17 — Flogging Molly Live From Dublin, Ireland. Livestream. **Free.**

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.

Sunday, Mar. 21 — Billy Strings: The Déjà Vu Experiment.

Monday, Mar. 22 — Della Mae Monday Night Hoedown. **Free.**

Wednesday, Mar. 24 — Billy Strings: The Déjà Vu Experiment.

Thursday, Mar. 25 — Baby Boys Live at the Mall of America.

Soda Bar:

Friday, Mar. 26 — Satsang and Paul Izak. \$15.



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Billie-deux

There is so much fact-fudging going on in *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* that for all the good it did screenwriter Suzan-Lori Parks, the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, she could just as easily have fabricated a character out of whole cloth based on the life of a famous jazz-singer whose heroin addiction paved the way to an early grave. But that would have denied director Lee

Daniels (*Precious*, *The Paperboy*) the privilege

of reacquainting, and in many cases introducing, the world to “Strange Fruit,” Holiday’s bitterly haunting signature song, which forms the heart of the piece. It might also have robbed viewers of the preternatural beauty on display in Audra Day’s electrifying transformation. The Grammy-winning singer and San Diego native (her family relocated to SoCal when Day was three) is making her acting debut as the First Lady of the Blues.

From the outside, the band of odd-ball adjutants that answer to Holiday’s beck have what it takes to make it in the cast of cast-off characters living inside the best of Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski (*Ed Wood*, *Dolemite is My Name*). Leslie Jordan opens the show with a dollop of good ol’ Southern boy sleaze as Reginald Lord Devine, a wigged out radio host who is equal parts Rip Taylor and televangelist Ernest Angley, topped by a Karastan pile of curls. *Dolemite* alum Da’Vine Joy Randolph appears as Holiday’s one-eyed *aide de camp*/traveling companion Roslyn, Tyler James Williams plays Lester Young, the pork pie-hatted Jazz messiah credited with hatching the “Lady Day” handle, and Natasha Lyonne shows up as Tallulah Bankhead. Together they go nowhere, despite being all dressed up.

Other than a stock troupe of white faces in high places — Garrett Hedlund’s depiction of Federal Bureau of Narcotics Harry Anslinger borders on cartoon overstatement — Holiday’s worst enemies were her own people. The plot flutters forward with the chaotic rapidity of a VU meter that peaks in the red every time Trevante Rhodes appears. The most disputed member of her inner-circle is Jimmy Fletcher (Rhodes). According to *Slate*, “Very little is documented of Fletcher’s life,” leaving the filmmakers ample room to sketch with a free hand. Fresh from the service, Fletcher shows up in full uniform to catch Holiday’s show at Cafe Society. Even his mother is outraged to

learn that Jimmy is a Fed working on the side of whitey to take down a prominent African-American. A romance with the married Holiday is as inevitable as it is unverified: Fletcher was in fact ordered to follow Holiday’s tour, but there’s no record of him boarding the bus. And how preposterous is it to have Fletcher — an officer who, according to the script, wanted nothing more than to keep drugs out of the black commu-

nity — turn a blind eye to Candyman dropping off a vial of Holiday’s “medicine”? The only thing more outrageous is Fletcher’s sudden desire to ride the horse with Holiday. Rico and Youngblood would be more likely to share a needle with *The Untouchables’* Eliot Ness.

“All of Me” was to Holiday what “Over the Rainbow” was to Judy Garland. As grateful as she was for the attention it brought, Holiday and her audience wanted “Strange Fruit” to be a regular in her nightclub act. The more “people in high places” who cautioned her to drop the number the more important it was that it be included. Her connection to the song gives the film its bite, even when the cogs of the plot prove to be toothless.★

Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry

Let us make a smooth transition from Billie Holiday’s last decade to five years in the meteoric rise of self-made teenage song sensation, Billie Eilish. Prior to watching *Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry*, the singer meant little more to me than the girl with the Prestone antifreeze-tinged locks whose name frequently appeared on *TMZ*. The same way people now have the capability to shoot a movie on a phone, Eilish and her brother/producer/performer Finneas O’Connell recorded a song in the latter’s bedroom and posted it online. A week passed and the recording received radio airplay. Three years later she was an international star.

I was skeptical at first, particularly upon discovering that the film’s 140-minute running time includes a built-in intermission. But anyone who has amassed enormous success at such an early age can afford to be a little full of themselves. And anyone who can work the term “Oxford comma” into her lyrics deserves attention.

As an artist, Eilish is quite the contrarian. Finneas compares the writing process to walking a minefield. The head of A&R at Interscope records



The United States vs. Billie Holiday: Audra Day soars as a decidedly not-so jolly Holiday.

desires another hit, and a compliant Finneas aims to pen their best (read: most accessible) song to date. He’s been told to keep his plans a secret from Billie who catches on quickly and replies, “That’s stupid! I’m never gonna do anything ever if I think that way.” Looking to tell her she’s full of shit while managing to make it sound like a compliment, Ambassador Finneas diplomatically counters with, “You don’t have to think that way, but I can.” When mother Maggie Baird chimes in with the suggestion that her daughter follow her voice down a more commercial path by writing more commercial fare, our tortured teenager counters by including lyrics that imply jumping off a roof as an option to living. According to Billie, incorporating such thoughts into her art is her answer to not doing it.

Despite her success, the family continues to live in the same house in which Billie grew up. As much as she embraces her fans as part of her extended family, nothing compares to the real deal. It was Maggie and husband Patrick O’Connell who passed on their love of music to the children. They began as a family quartet, like a smaller Partridge Family: same values, different cool tour bus. Where is it written that all teenage singing sensations must flirt with drugs? Both parents act as reminders that their home-schooled duo have an army of people dedicated to ensuring that neither make bad decisions.

Those who have been fortunate enough to meet their idols will take great pleasure in Billie’s devotion to Justin Bieber. Watch as the adoring fan melts in the presence of her musical hero. The film’s biggest laugh comes when her people inform Billie that

Bieber has expressed interest in appearing on her latest album, masking sure to end the proposition with, “Not that you need it.” The second biggest chuckle is when Patrick looks at his daughter’s freshly manicured press-on nails and

asks, “How do you wipe with those?” Surrounded by material like this, one can’t help but question just how much of her gloom and doom angst is real and how much is showbiz.★★★

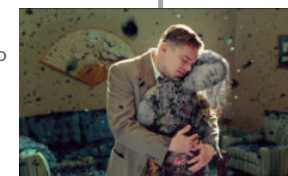
—Scott Marks



Felt like making a return revisit to an old Scorsese friend and

booked passage on a boat trip to *Shutter Island*, the film that asks the musical question, “Baby, why are you all wet?” Another 1000 or so words await your approval online.

— Scott Marks



Shutter Island: Leonardo DiCaprio and Michelle Williams - love everlasting.

SHUTTER ISLAND (2010)

The idea for this one had been growing in Marty’s head for quite some time. During the preparation for *Shutter Island*, Scorsese produced and narrated *Val Lewton: The Man in the Shadows*, a documentary about the revered producer of 1940s ‘B’ noir-horror. *Bedlam*, the last picture in his nine noir cycle at RKO,

takes place in London’s legendary insane asylum. The original title of Scorsese’s film (*Ashecliffe*) indicated that it might be patterned after the Lewton classic. But at its core, the film owes more to Hitchcock’s deeply personal self-portrait *Vertigo* and Sam Fuller’s delirious *Shock Corridor*. (In the latter, a newspaper reporter checks into a mental hospital to investigate a story and winds up more insane than any of its inhabitants.) The Lewton connection is more thematic than stylistic.

I knew nothing of the film’s celebrated twist ending going in. (Can a movie truly pack a surprise twist if audiences are alerted of its presence and told to watch for it even before they’ve purchased a ticket?) The strength of the movie is that the twist doesn’t matter — this is an emotional study dressed up as a plot-driven narrative. Like Lewton’s best work, *Shutter Island* is a melancholic piece shrouded in horror trimmings.

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

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YA KNOW it has a nice ring to it: a robotic vacuum. Take that cordless. I just hope not myself was right about control.

CARRICK TO CARRICK Score! How sweet that was!

GUESSING OR NOT KNOWING which isn't a connection worth rendering rhymes to the minds eye hypothetical is not necessarily but an unwilling desire. The irony I watch my back when I'm around you yet I'm there to watch yours. Its a new sensation ouch if ur kind.

PUMPKIN HEAD Hi B! It's me, mom! Just wanted to say I love you so much! You are a very special little dude. Hi to our dog Busta Rhymes too who turned 14 last month. Ride or die. Love, mom. ambuckley00@gmail.com

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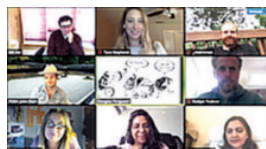
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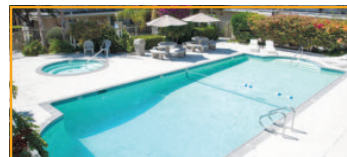
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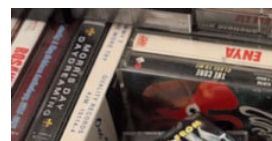
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NORTEÑO GROUP FOR HIRE Toro Pesado, the #1 Norteño group for hire in San Diego (619) 827-4748



WANT 80S CASSETTES AND RECORDS I collect 1980s cassettes and records. Looking for large and small collections. Email me photos or a list of music that you might want to sell. tjohnnycat2many@gmail.com

POWER AMPS FOR SALE QSC GX3, \$90; Russound X125, \$70; Sonance 275SE, \$50; call (760) 274-5264.

DJEMBES Toca multi-colored djembes, about 60 available. \$30 each, or 5 for \$125. Other sizes and models are available. (619) 990-8864

ISO DRUM PARTS Wanted: drum parts, spare parts, hoops, lugs, shells, etc. (619) 846-6378

LADIES, LOVE TO SING? Join virtual rehearsals with four part harmony chorus. All ages welcome. Mondays at 7 PM. (619) 449-7107

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

BASS GUITAR \$2000 1989 "Signature" jazz bass, red burst body, figured maple neck, chrome hardware, sadowky preamp, MEC gold pickups, mint condition, \$2,000. (619) 980-6008

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

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

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

PETS

ADORABLE SIBERIAN PUPS They're 12weeks old both male and female seriously looking for a good and forever home.pups are vet checked, dewormed and comes along vaccine records. reach us now! gomezashley933@gmail.com

DOBERMAN PINSCHER PUPS AKC registered Doberman Pinscher pups ready to go! Mother is a black and rust and the father is a red. Out of the litter of eight we currently have available 4 black and rust females. Available to go to loving homes.(737) 201-6636

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

NEED FREE MIDDLE AGED DOG for a very depressed friend, young is okay too. Linda (619) 397-9586.

PEDIGREE SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPS 4 Pedigree Springer Spaniel puppies for sale, 1 liver and white dog, 3 black and white bitches and 4 black and white dogs.I have males and females and they are well trained and will be coming with all papers. (737) 201-6636 gomezashley933@gmail.com

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY WANTED Male Golden puppy wanted no older than 6-7 weeks for good home with older Golden. Seller must be reputable and live in San Diego area. Contact David at (760) 533-9066.

WANTED: GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY Male Golden retriever puppy no older than 6-7 weeks old wanted for family with older Golden. Seller must live in the San Diego area. Call David at (760) 533-9066

MISSING COCKATIEL Reward \$1000. Missing cockatiel. North county San Diego, but could be just about anywhere. Cinnamon Pearl Pied. Grey and white feathers, orange cheeks and yellow comb. Please call (760) 626-5784 Reward \$1000. (760) 626-5784 / mrlayes@yahoo.com

CAKE FOR YOUR PET Cake For Your Pet at your service.

HELP WANTED

Everyone
deserves a
family
like yours

BECOME A MENTOR

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MENTOR
Family Home Agency

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

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

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Today!
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our Referral
Program!

Order now at (619) 721-1822. 4" \$25. 6" \$35. Our cakes are 100% healthy and safe for your pet. Instagram.com/CakeForYourPet



KEEP PETS WARM WITH PONCHOS We have handmade Mexican-style ponchos for your dogs! All sizes and colors are available. www.instagram.com/jv_pet_boutique/. (619) 623-9194



SHIHTZU MIX He's very playful, energetic, and cute. Tricolor, 9 weeks old. Updated on his shots and deworming. Contact for rehoming fee (619) 804-3138



MINIATURE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS 3 puppies ready for their new homes March 13th. First shots/vet check. 1 Blue Merle female, 1 Black tri male

and 1 Black tri female. \$160 cloudy smile624@aol.com

LOOKING FOR PUPPIES For sale or free. Small dogs like Chihuahuas. Prices affordable. Please contact lhchompy256@gmail.com. Service pets, cats too. For me student looking for a pet.

SHAR PEI ADOPTION We have two young, healthy, and smart dogs in need of a new home. They are willing to be trained and loved. Keep in mind that there will be an adoption fee. For more information, contact (213) 610-2186.

PUREBRED BENGAL KITTENS will be born February 21st. Now accepting deposits. Forever homes April 30th. Don't miss out! (619) 597-9729

BERNESE MOUNTAIN PUPS FOR SALE We are happy to announce our Dalia had her first litter of 5 healthy and beautiful puppies, 3 boyz and 4 girls. Mum and dad are both purebred Bernese Mountain Dogs with great temperaments and desirable markings. (414) 485-7859 / morsonlucas@gmail.com

WANT SMALL DOG Chihuahua preferred 1-2yrs, text or call (619) 246-8219.

WANT SMALL DOG prefer Chihuahua, text (619) 438-4567.

GAITED HORSE I want to buy sound, gaited trail horse. Text

SPORTS

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



VOLLEYBALL ANYONE? So that we can have a minimum level of play for everyone, players should have the ability to pass a ball to the setter before attending. https://www.meetup.com/SanDiegoVolleyball/

BASKETBALL HOOP \$100 lightly used basketball hoop and assembled for you. 2 available, 1 new, 1 used. Text to pickup (619) 373-2924

BASKETBALL HOOP \$60 Like new, rarely used basketball stand with hoop by Lifetime. Put sand or water in the bottom for support. \$60. (619) 804-5616.

GOLF CART FOR SALE Refurbished Ezgo Electric 48 Volt golf cart. This has an AC drive system for lots of power and speed. (760) 683-9667.

OLD SPORTS MEDALS Selling track and field, basketball, and football medals. Text for details (760)439-8742.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS JERSEYS Size XXL and \$50 each. (619) 777-9354.

SOFTBALLS FOR SALE Selling (28) 12" softballs all in good condition plus carry cart. Asking \$65 for all call or text (619) 672-0526 if interested.

TENNIS BALL MACHINE WITH REMOTE Silent Partner Smart tennis ball machine with a remote. \$1,195. Text for info. (602) 989-9893.

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

BICYCLES

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

MOTORCYCLES

BMW MOTORCYCLE 1989 K100RS, 42,000 miles, needs some work, \$1,500. Call Pat (619) 342-6128.

HARLEY DAVIDSON HELMET genuine, 1/2 helmet, flat black, medium. Fiberglass, not plastic, not made in China. Only \$35. (619) 464-6255

MOTORCYCLE DETAILER We detail motorcycles. Call now and schedule your appointment at (619) 587-5347.

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

AUTOMOTIVE

38 BUICK STREET ROD 1938 Buick 4 Door. Chopped top. All steel. Olds 350 Drivetrain. Many extras. Call Bob for more details. (760) 943-1500 / skutter@pacbell.net

FLOOR MATS 2013 - 2021 AUDI Q7 textile floor mats for sale,

charcoal black, new, only \$65. Call (760) 274-5264!



2010 CADILLAC SUV \$6960 2010 Cadillac SRX SUV Sport for \$6,960. It comes with leather seats, 149K miles, and it's super clean. (619) 816-5732 / info@economic-cars.com



2019 HONDA CIVIC \$12K 2019 Honda Civic EX Sedan 4-door for \$12,000 with 19,200 miles, blue exterior and black interior and a salvage title — call 1 (619) 770-3019.

1999 CHEVY BLAZER ENGINE for sale. Ran great before removal. Lot's of extras, \$350 obo, (619) 928-8220, text best.

SALE OR TRADE Vintage auto engines-1957 Chrysler Hemi, 1957 Oldsmobile, 1958 Dodge slant 6 trans, 1968 Chevy cammer, Two Chevy small blocks (435) 714-1793 Guy.

2007 BMW SERIES 3 328i \$7495 2007 BMW Series 3 328i

coupe. The vehicle drives and looks terrific, must see. 1 owner; clean title; 91K miles!; dual power seats. \$7,495. (702) 831-3451.

2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE 2007 Cadillac Escalade. 150 bucks every 2 weeks. Clean title. Black on black. Fully loaded. Moon roof/Leather/Heated seats. Call or text (760) 415-1842 for details.

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

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

HELP WANTED

75 YEAR OLD LADY desperately needs help. Seven days a week. Weight is 145. She's an amputee. Person must be willing to work seven days a week. No under the table pay and must be committed for one year per the doctor's instructions. I have three shifts. I'm looking for a shift for 7-4 and from 11-7. Those two shifts are available. So please call me at (619) 297-3382.

CAREGIVER/COMPANION WANTED Dependable, experienced, for 24 hour shifts. \$120 cash paid at end of shifts. No alcohol, hangovers, smoking, drugs, pets, children. mysandiegocar@yahoo.com

FENCE LABOR Fencing yard maintenance, service, repair and installation. CA Drivers License required. Must have chain link

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

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

Includes filter, pan gasket, fluid, most cars, From

\$179
+ tax & hazardous materials fee

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.

AC SERVICE

\$29

Most cars, freon extra

12,000 mile, 1 year warranty

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Just off the 905 freeway • Se habla español
Must present ad prior to service. Expires 4-5-21



fence installation experience. Ask for Brad. (619) 749-1494 / dan.ca@cox.net

GLOBAL LOGISTICS ANALYST
Avanty, LLC seeks Global Logistics Analyst in San Diego, CA to research textbook markets, work w/ logistic carriers, & more. Resume: 3111 Camino del Rio N. Suite 465, San Diego, CA 92108

LEAD STRATEGY ANALYST
Lytx, Inc., a driver risk management company, seeks the following in San Diego, CA: Lead Strategy Analyst: Lead the automation efforts of the Lytx Intelligence Reporting Suite through leveraging BI applications within a highly technical and rapidly evolving data driven organization. Reqs BS + 7 yrs or MS + 5 yrs. To apply and see full requirements, go to https://lytx.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Lytx, and search by Requisition # R-1315 to submit cover letter and resume.

QUALITY MANAGER Becton, Dickinson & Co. (BD) seeks a Quality Manager, New Product Engineering in San Diego, CA to provide direct management to technical and managerial staff. Req. MS + 2 yrs or BS + 5 yrs exp. To apply mail resume to: (BD), Attn: Debbie Tucker, 3750 Torrey View Ct., San Diego, CA 92130. Must reference Job Title & Code: 000585. EOE.

WANTED EAST COUNTY HANDYMAN to install wall mount TV swivel stand and TV at reasonable fee. (619) 900-3035



SOCIAL JUSTICE + MUSIC RADIO Are you interested in social justice? Are you interested in community affairs / music? Non profit, all volunteer KNSJ 89.1 FM is seeking volunteers for on air talent and support. Newbies OK. See KNSJ.org for info. Contact Tim.Taylor@KNSJ.org

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT iTreasureSanDiego.Com needs help. Part-time. Affluent in Adobe Software, Office, photography, and writing skills,

etc. Send resume to Rocky@iTreasureSanDiego.Co

CAREGIVER FOR DISABLED MAN I'm a disabled man looking for help for two over night shifts: Tuesdays and Fridays. 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM. Personal/ bowel care, turning me in bed, showers, light housework, laundry, dishes etc. MUST use no tobacco products. Must have vehicle and cell. (619) 582-2367 / sdman1111@aol.com

CAREGIVERS NEEDED In home private Caregivers wanted throughout San Diego County. All shifts available. We can work around your schedule. We pay mileage and put employees first! Apply https://safeharborhc.com/careers/ or email careers@safeharborhc.com or (858) 634-1012 / careers@safeharborhc.com

FENCE INSTALLATIONS Top \$ paid for experienced, fence erector. You must be trustworthy, reliable, and honest. California driver's license required We have work, and if you qualify you can start immediately. (619) 499-7799 Ask for Brad (619) 749-1494 / dan.ca@cox.net

FENCING YARD MAINTENANCE service, repair and installation. CA Driver's License Required. Chain link fence installation experience helpful, but not mandatory. Ask for Brad (619) 749-1494.

LIVE-IN CAREGIVER NEEDED Seeking a healthcare aide to help out on a part time basis in my home. Possible work/rent trade for the right individual. In my 80s, and need extra assistance due to health challenges related to a spinal cord injury. (619) 307-0544 / 70yoyoz@gmail.com

BEAUTY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS Rogue Salon in La Mesa wants you. Opening our doors for viewing, Sat. 27th 12pm-7pm. Come check us out. (619) 439-2040 or info@roguelamesa.com for more details. (619) 203-3299 / tami@roguelamesa.com

MEDIA COORDINATOR, PART-TIME To strengthen and enhance the creativity, relevancy and excellence with A/V in First Presbyterian of El Cajon worship service and online presence. Working with A/V technology,

graphic design, video editing, live streaming. 8-12 hrs/week, \$20-22/hr. communications@firstpres-elcajon.org

SEEKING ANYONE W/ TRUCK willing to earn extra money to take me to recycle. Contact Gloria at (619) 470-0733 serious callers only.

SOUND TECHNICIAN Part-time position to set up and/or operate sanctuary audio equipment to ensure it is used to maximum advantage during First Presbyterian of El Cajon church services. Approx. 5 hours week. \$18-\$20 per hour. www.firstpres-elcajon.org communications@firstpres-elcajon.org

REGISTERED IHSS CAREGIVER NEEDED for senior woman with bird. Five days a week, five hours a day, flexible. Must have references and a car. Please call (619) 488-0822 for an interview, no texting.

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 agarciajr14@sbcglobal.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 LVN's and new grads welcome. Bella Vista is a Covid-free facility. Go to https://bit.ly/2KoMgzP to apply or more info. Also can apply in person at Bella Vista Health center, 7922 Palm Street Lemon Grove 91945. Bellavistahealth.com

REGISTERED 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

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

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

CASH PAID for gold and silver. call# (619) 280-2075

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

WANTED AIR CONDITIONER I want to buy a used window (room) air conditioner which is in good working order (619) 379-9151 mysandiegocar@yahoo.com

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

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

SEARCHING FOR OLD TUBE STEREOS I am an Electronics Hobbyist, and I am looking for

1960's vintage, Tube Type Stereo Components to refurbish, such as Fisher, Scott, Marantz, Dynaco & More. Maybe, it is stashed away in the Attic or Garage. I pay cash, so Please call Jack 619-296-3100 (619) 296-3100 / jack22@cox.net



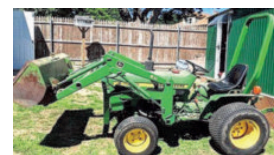
CASH FOR OLD BASEBALL CARDS Looking to buy your old pre 1980 baseball cards (football, basketball, hockey, all sports and non sports too). Also more recent value cards in all sports. Garbage Pail, comic books, autographed items. All sports collectibles. San Diego local. (832) 651-8302 / ashscot@aol.com



CASH FOR OLD GARBAGE PAIL KIDS STICKERS Looking to buy your old 1980's Garbage Pail Kids stickers, boxes, and other GPK items. Primarily interest in #'s 1-84, 1st & 2nd series. But others too. San Diego local. (832) 651-8302 / ashscot@aol.com



CASH FOR YOUR HAM RADIOS We pay top dollar for large collections of ham radio gear including all types of radios, transmitters, linear amplifiers, tubes, telegraph keys, bugs, microphones, speakers, vacuum tubes, transceivers, receivers, hardware, accessories, etc. (949) 302-5150



JOHN DEERE 750 OR 650 TRACTORS Looking for a John Deere 750 model tractor or the 650. They must have a front loader and have a rear box scraper. 2wd or 4wd is ok. In running condition or needing some work is fine. Send me some pics and info. (619) 888-0443



WANT OLD AND NEW SLOT CARS Pay cash for old and new slot cars. Text pictures or call # (619) 279-7833



WE BUY ENFAMIL BABY FORMULA Buying each of the following at about \$10 per can of

the 12 oz cans: Infant, Gentlease, AR, Prosobee, Reguline. (714) 622-0515.



SELL US YOUR RV'S Wanted all motorhomes, fifth wheels, and travel trailers. Check out our website www.mikethervbuyer.com (909) 377-9597



WANT VW BUS OR BUG Hello, I am looking for any old VW Bus, camper, or even a Bug that maybe is just sitting around and making a sight of your home? (714) 499-1896

LOOKING FOR OLD JARS OF CHANGE will pay a bit extra for them than their total value. If they're not picked coins. The older the better plus I will promise you that if they're unpicked and I can tell if they are. If I find the coin I'm looking for you will prosper as well. (619) 376-8190 first of month is best.

WANTED FREE BOWLING BALL not wanting for bowling so if scuffed that is fine. Need delivered text (619) 631-9258.

BUYING OLD CAR BATTERIES Bring us your old 12V car, computer, boat, motorcycle, 6V golf, RV batteries and we pay cash. (619) 448-5323.

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.

I BUY OLDER STEREO GEAR Pioneer, Sansui, Klipsch, JBL, Fisher, Yamaha, Dynaco, McIntosh, Tannoy. What do you have? Call or text pictures, (619) 279-7833.

WE WANT TO BUY YOUR OLD baseball, football, basketball or hockey cards and memorabilia for cash now. Call or text us at (315) 760-6806.

I BUY ROLEX WATCHES (619) 280-2075

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.

FISHING TACKLE wanted to buy. Top dollar paid for

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

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

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

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

CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE 4491 Park Blvd. (Park & Monroe) 619-297-4204 • Mon.-Sat. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm www.cliffbrownautomotive.com

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

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.

WANTED FREE DULCIMER
Better known name as autoharp or laparp its what mother Maybel of Carter family played. Please text. (619) 931-9258

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. 619-631-9258.

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

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.

ROCK & ROLL WANTED I buy 1950s-1980s concert posters, flyers, handbills, used-unsold tickets, programs. Pls call (619) 522-0283. Private party.

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

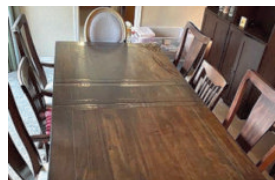
WANTED: SPEAKERS, AMPS and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 1(619) 303-8031; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

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

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9A.M. - 2P.M. Saturday & Sunday for the next two weeks at 7037 Everglades Ave. San Diego, CA 92119. Great merchandise come out and check it out.

ALLEY, 4136 OREGON SAT. 8-12PM Between Polk and Howard Sts. North Park. Tools, costumes, props, theatre lights, file cabinets, picture frames, household goods, tables, art supplies, computer parts, miscellaneous toys and games. (619) 569-4922



LEAVING THE COUNTRY SALE Furniture, appliances, cars, music instruments, motorcycles, designers clothes, shoes,

camping equipment, ammunition of different calibers, expensive health equipment, kitchenware, and more. (949) 836-1996.



EVERYTHING MUST GO Everything must go asap. The Escondido sale is every day until it's all sold. Lomas Serenas neighborhood. (512) 507-0574.

A BARN FULL OF ANTIQUES Interested in old stuff? Call Brick n Barn at (760) 651-2635

BEKINS VAULT & EQUIP AUCTION Follow us on EstateSales.org: <https://estatesales.org/estate-sale-companies/joe-bradley-auctioneers-9519> Phone: (619) 297-7653.

EL CAJON GARAGE SALE Selling art, Star Trek collection, dishes, Bissell vacuum, housewares, a glass vase, Hollywood memorabilia, beach chairs, and more. By appointment only. Call (925) 383-0431

OCEANSIDE ESTATE SALE Oceanside estate sale. Call (760) 583-0851 for details.

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.

1999 TOYOTA AVALON - \$2,495 Only two owners. Taken good care of. Engine runs very good. Leather restored. michael.cianflone@outlook.com

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

CHRIS ELECTRIC KILN works good, \$100. (760) 753-8152.

INNER BEAUTY RINGS for rims for 47 to 58 Chevy truck. Three total, \$30 obo. Text

LOW COST FIRST CLASS STAMPS Only 38 cents each. Complete details rush S.A.S.E to: Artco; 6742 Omega Drive, San Diego, CA 92139.

MISC AUTO SUPPLIES motor oil, valve caps, engine oil stpl leak, etc. \$15 all, (619) 283-8417.

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

SURFERS JOURNALS Complete collection from 2002-2020 (vol.11/ no.1 - vol.30/no.1). All in great condition; \$3.00 each or \$225 for entire lot (107 issues). (619) 888-6411

TWIN BED decent shape, wood headboard and foot board with mattress, no accidents on mattress. \$60 obo text (619) 631-9258.

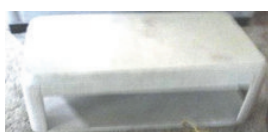
CEMETERY PLOT Double-depth companion lawn crypt. El

Camino Memorial Park. \$12k. (760) 402-7425.

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



DRESSER - VISTA 54" high, 34" wide five-drawer dresser chest made by Ashley Signature collection. Roller guide drawers. Like new condition. \$150. (760) 712-0089



COFFEE TABLE - VISTA 50" long whitewashed oak. Could use refinishing, otherwise good condition. \$25 (760) 712-0089



SOFA - VISTA Macy's brand 90" long 38" deep. Neutral beige with solid dark wood frame. Removable, refillable cushions. Has seen very little use. Excellent condition. \$175. (760) 712-0089



1991 BUICK LESABRE 1994 LeSabre Limited. Leather, mags, gauges, sound, etc. 223,000 mi. Needs new headliner. South Carlsbad. \$2,500. Roomy, nice ride, Good mpg. safranlaini@gmail.com

60 INCH TV available for pickup and donation to halfway house, contact Naomi (760) 419-9817.

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks good condition suit case fancy candle holder folding laundry basket. ALL these items YOU MUST buy for 40.00 obo any interested candidate ask for james and much more!!!! (619) 450-7914 / j.f.fild31@gmail.com

3 MINI COOPER HEADRESTS 3 Mini Cooper Headrests from my totaled 2013 Coupe. black great condition. call Fredz (619) 223-9236



MARISCOS AND FISH TACO TRUCK Aguachiles, clamatos, tostadas, cucarachas and other mariscos treats are available at the La Morena de Fuego foodtruck parked outside of 841 S. 45th St. San Diego Ca, 92113 (619) 765-9146

COMFORTER/DUVET fits full/queen, reversible, one side pink, other side pale lavender. Gently used, good condition, \$15. 1-(858) 484-4483, Rancho Penasquitos area.

DOG BEDS \$50 WASHABLE Dog beds repel flea stuff with cedar chips dogs love smell washable with zippers stuffed with polyfill and cedar chips (619) 850-3264.



1995 TOYOTA T100 new paint, rebuilt trans, new tires, spray in bed liner, much more. must see approx. 250k miles asking \$5000 or best (858) 302-6376 / dustbutcher1026@gmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE Children's books, cookbooks, war, weapons, sports, all kinds. (619) 723-9889 / nazzalmanuel04@gmail.com

BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS \$30 NEW Bluetooth speakers loud Bass (619) 850-3264.

DRONES ALL TYPE All type drones with video cameras and takes pictures different prices from \$11 to \$60 (619) 850-3264.

GROW LIGHTS - LOW ELECTRIC BILL I have to grow lights, brand new, two-for-the-price-of-one (619) 850-3264.

MOTORIZED BICYCLE 150 MPG I have to motorized bikes for sale brand new \$500 each (619) 850-3264.

NEW QUEEN SIZE BED and large beautiful dresser, \$100 (619) 456-7390, Susan Peters, I can send pictures.

PORTABLE CD PLAYER new portable cd player \$40. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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

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

OIL CHANGE \$14.95 Additional \$5 cartridge fee. Plus tax, haz.waste & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl.
SMOG CHECK \$11.75 Sedan only. NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only. SUV and Trucks extra. +18pt cert +1pt DMV transfer fee
BRAKES \$49 Front or rear *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars
30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services \$65 *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars
RADIATOR or Transmission Services \$45 *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.
TIMING BELT \$75 Parts & Labor *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.
STARTERS, RADIATORS, or ALTERNATORS \$95 Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.
FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT 96 and up. We'll beat any written estimate!
Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork. B.T. Auto Wrench Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary! 8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C 1-858-565-4634

STUN GUN FLASHLIGHT COMBO

We have \$20 and \$30 models bright strobe light included with flashlight and stun gun holster included bodyguard protection police models (619) 850-3264.

TV SMART BOX EVERY CHANNEL

TV Smart Box nothing blocked every channel on the planet including movies TV shows series pay-per-view all sports all local channels no cable bill all you need is internet \$300 only guaranteed satisfaction or your money back (619) 850-3264.

TELESCOPE AND TRIPOD

Selling my Parks 60 power telescope and tripod. Telescope \$150 and tripod \$75. Both new in box. aztecfan2@cox.net

7" TO 8" MONEY WREATH made with real US currency. Box in great shape. \$25 (619) 874-9982.

AUTHENTIC FRAMED SPONSOR PIN COLLECTION 1984 Olympics L.A. \$150 (619) 874-9982.

BOOKS FOR BULK SALE We have 2500 books for sale. \$1500 (760) 917-0816 / storagewurk@gmail.com

LOWEPRO DRYZONE 200 BACKPACK

For the photo enthusiast, sacrifice for only \$75, call (760) 274-5264.

ORGANIC MATTRESS-TOPPER SET

Organic cotton with wool stuffing, non toxic, high quality natural mattress with topper set, California King. Topper has three layers: cotton, wool and natural latex. Barely used, back in original packaging. Retail price >\$2K.

AUTOMOTIVE

GOOD PRICE IN TOWN!

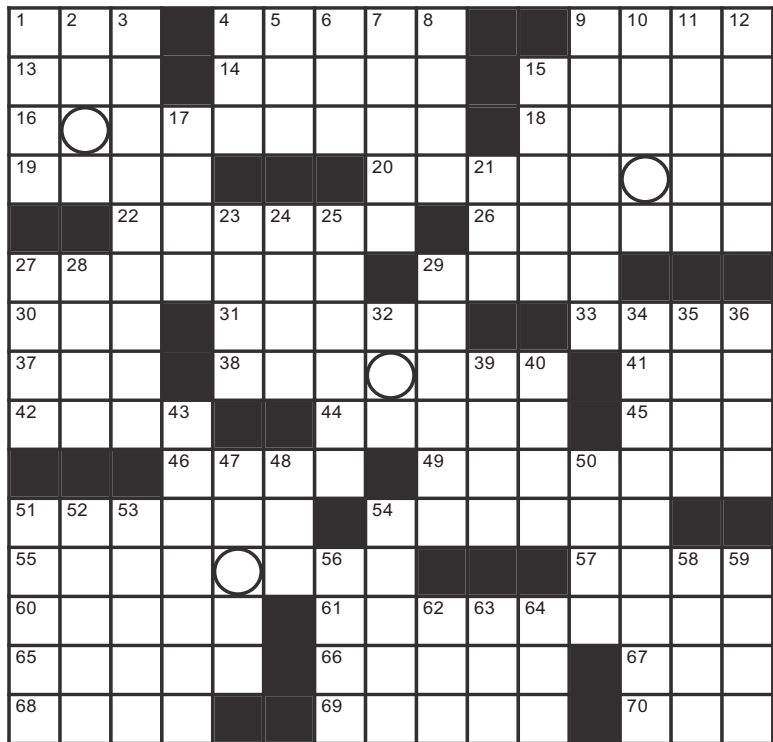
OIL CHANGE \$15 4-cyl., most cars. Up to 5 qts. 10w 30	USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION \$599* + From Labor Most 4 cyl. cars
Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat	SMOG CHECK \$16.75* Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a star station. From 2000 & up

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 ASE CERTIFIED
9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126
(By 1-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn)
858-586-6666

CROSSWORD



© 2021 DAVID LEVINSON-WALK

Across

1. Snake in "Antony and Cleopatra"
4. Really put one's foot down
9. Kid
13. Soccer star Hamm
14. "Old MacDonald" refrain
15. Hedren of Hitchcock's "The Birds"
16. Like a hastily-dressed person's shirt, perhaps
18. "You're _____ One, Mr. Grinch"
19. It can be bounced off someone
20. Product with a Crispy Buffalo variety
22. Animal in the squirrel family
26. Mystery and romance, for two
27. Best Picture winner that was banned in Vietnam
29. _____ Reader (quarterly magazine)
30. Symbol of strength
31. Fashion's Anne or Calvin
33. Cousin of penne
37. "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" rapper
38. Stop along the Trans-Siberian Railroad
41. Doze (off)
42. Home to the 72,000-foot volcano Olympus Mons
44. "Awakenings" drug
45. Corporate \$\$\$ overseer
46. "Takes care of"
49. Only inductee into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the National Inventors Hall of Fame

51. Syrup of _____
54. Futuristic tracking device
55. "Apollo 13" costar
57. Title pig in a 1995 film
60. _____ Sports Bureau (stats record keeper)
61. Where LeBron James and others finished their 2019-20 pro season ... or one of four in this puzzle's grid
65. Dickens' _____ of Two Cities"
66. Some are tightly wound
67. Reply to a texted joke
68. Figs. on IRS forms
69. It merged with Mobil in 1999
70. Klingons and Romulans, for short

Down

1. Mine, in Montréal
2. Nautical stage name of comedian David Adkins
3. Device used to treat tachycardia
4. Darn things
5. One in la familia
6. "_____ the land of the free ..."
7. Center
8. Fancy-schmancy
9. Literature Nobelism Juan Ramón _____
10. Amenity at many a wedding reception
11. Talked like Moses or Abraham?
12. Cheryl of "Curb Your

- Enthusiasm"
15. Occupied
17. Longtime pitcher Jim with the nickname "Kitty"
23. Streaming device choice
24. Daniel Defoe's "_____ Flanders"
25. Ryan and Tatum of filmdom
27. Amanda Gorman work
28. Netflix's "Floor Is _____"
29. Countless
32. Not on good terms (with)
34. Not up to the job
35. Meat substitute
36. "Dancing With Myself" singer Billy
39. World Oil Outlook publisher
40. Reckless
43. Tea parties, e.g.
47. Team supporters, collectively
48. Org. concerned with broadband access
50. _____ Xtra (Dr Pepper rival)
51. Stores whose bathroom sinks are named for Swedish bodies of water
52. Bombards
53. Water with the Alps in its logo
54. Desk tray
56. Previously
58. Rorschach image
59. Serpentine swimmers
62. _____-en-Provence
63. Rain-_____ (bubble gum brand)
64. SEAL's org.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

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@srdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle submissions.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

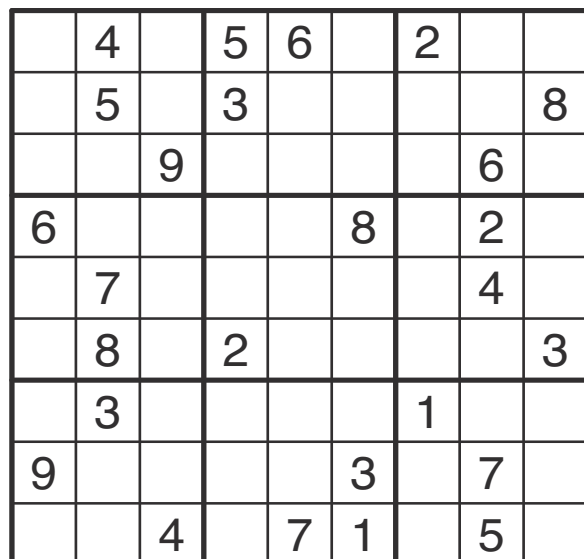
THIS WEEK'S WINNER:
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Matt Scallon, Chula Vista, 1.**

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:



RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. Your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
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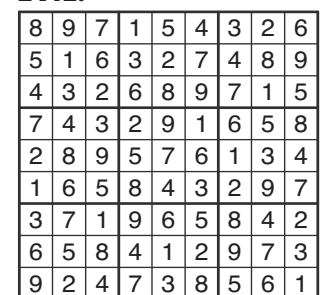
☛ **Robert Rodewald, Carlsbad, 1.**

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

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



USED CAR BATTERIES/ STARTERS Discount Battery Co. is selling used alternators, starters, and batteries. Call (619) 280-2572 for prices

60" & 48" FLATSCREEN TVS with remote, \$50 each. (619) 448-1919

CARPET CLEANER Hoover power scrub elite; heavy duty rug cleaner. Works great, comes with all accessories (hoses, attachments, etc.) barely used- \$50 (619) 888-6411.

SUPER BOWL 33 FOOTBALL limited edition of 5000, great shape. \$30. (619) 874-9982

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

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

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

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.

HAMMER DRILL package Milwaukee corded hammer drill, lot number 537802. Bits included and case. \$125. (760) 632-7116

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.

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

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

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

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

SERVICES

AGAVE PARRYI huachusensis to grace your garden...get 'em from Lalo Of Vista Energizes! Also for sale Dracaena marginata, Dasylyrion longissimus and Dicksonia Antarctica...many more. Talk to Mr Jimmy Plantsman Extraordinaire (760) 945-7892

ASIAN MASSAGE 15 \$ off. Asian Massage. Asian Girls Massage. Show Ad for OPN15 off any massage. 9855 Erma RD #132 CA92131. (858) 262-4895 / yw7865579@gmail.com

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES Support/assistance for busy families, seniors, homebound, etc. Cleaning and organizing, shopping, transportation, yardwork and more. Former teacher with solid references. Rob (619) 894-3204 / hemmingsr@gmail.com

WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICES Protect your home from the threat of wildfire with a Home Ignition Zone (HI2) Assessment. Residential wildfire service and home protection from impacts of a wildfire, please, visit at: www.wildfiremitigationservices.com (760) 505-1498 / wildfiremitigationservices@gmail.com



ALLSTATE INSURANCE Get a free quote for auto, home, renters, business, and life. Bundle and save. (858) 583-7729



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.



CAR STRANDED IN MEXICO? If your car is stranded in Mexico and you need it towed back to San Diego — WhatsApp: (664) 591-8976.

ORNATE BALLOONS DISPLAYS Specializing in events and decorations. We make balloon drops as well something small to let your loved one know your thinking of them on their special day to large arrangements. IG: https://www.instagram.com/officialcreatingmagic/

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

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



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



7 DAY JUNK HAUL AWAY We remove any kind of junk: household junk, old furniture, apartment/office junk, construction debris, yard waste, storage junk, and more. (619) 629-9879. www.7dayhaulaway.com



COMPUTER REPAIR & SALES Network, Cabling, Servers, VPN, Security Camera; Windows & Mac. Honest & with references (619) 770-0011 / luislednick@gmail.com



PATIO FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY Does your patio or backyard furniture need new upholstery? Text/call us at (619) 721-5331. https://www.facebook.com/rauleconomy/



PRO DJ WITH A DANCE FLOOR The perfect way to create a true fairytale moment. DJ and a 20-foot X 20-foot dance floor. (619) 263-0958. www.facebook.com/StephDjSteph

BIG MOOSE YARD MAINTENANCE We do all aspects of yard cleaning, flower planting, and much more. Call (619) 305-4239.

DOG GROOMING \$30 I am doing Dog Grooming services in the east San Diego 92119 (I will send my address when you get Grooming appointment.) in my house have a small grooming studio. https://yuki-dog-grooming.jimdosite.com/ (619) 876-8187 / yuki@dosex.org

CEMETERY/GRAVESITE WORK IN TJ We do custom work for

cemeteries, gravesites, tombstones, vases, books, photos, crosses, planter plates, and more. We are at your service in Tijuana. WhatsApp: (664) 340-4586 or (664) 490-5563



CUSTOM BUILT SKATEBOARD RAMPS Hand-crafted, fully customizable Skateboard Ramps built by local experienced craftsmen. From Quarter Pipes to Bowls and anything in between, no job too big or too small! Visit JimBellSkateboardRamps.com or call (619) 218-8114 for a quote today. (619) 218-8114 / HANNAH@JIMBELLSKATEBOARDRAMPS.COM

MOBILE NOTARY Need a document notarized? Text this number for more information: (608) 618-1195.

YARD AND LAWN CLEAN UP Yard and lawn clean up or regular weekly or monthly maintenance service. Clean ups including hauling. Materials start at \$75. 30+ years experience. Free estimates. (619) 339-6145 / stonart619@gmail.com

COMPUTER REPAIR & SALES Laptop, desktop, Windows & Mac. Sales, servers, security cameras. VPN for remote access. Honest and with references. (619) 770-0011 / luislednick@gmail.com

CONCRETE POURING Driveways, slabs, concrete stamped, retaining walls, bricks, and block. Call (619) 551-9477 for quotes.

FREE WASHERS/DRYERS HAUL AWAY Hi, we haul away washers and dryers, working or not for free. (619) 552-7765

MARBLE INSTALLER / TILER Call (619) 247-2918 for an estimate

NEED A HANDYMAN? If someone ever needs a handyman or electrician my husband can help, he has a lot of experience. Drywall, plumbing, carpenter, framing, painting, fence, etc remodeling homes much more. (619) 717-4136.

PACHYCEREUS PRINGLEI THE CARDON CACTUS! Buy 'em from Lalo Of Vista Energizes! Along with other landscape specimens like Alluadia, Beaucarnea and Euphorbia. (760) 945-7892 talk to plantsman Jimmy.

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

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

BANKRUPTCY CHAPTER 7 can be a lifesaver. Eliminate credit card and other unsecured debt. Chapter 13. Save your home. Law office of Frank D. Walker (619) 755-2365 ask for Mel - legal asst.

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, Preened 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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continued from page 16

grant. You can currently apply for a Paycheck Protection loan, but if you wait a little longer and apply and are found eligible for a Shuttered Venue grant, it will likely translate to more funds for your business.

“The Shuttered Venue one is much more lucrative,” Smith explained. “It’s a larger grant. The PPP, sure it’ll help you, but that Shuttered Venue one, in my opinion, I know it would guarantee my survival. I know most of us are in the same size-relationship. If, for example, the Casbah got it, Soda Bar got it, I get it — I think we’re golden.”

Until that money arrives, venues will continue to take advantage of whatever methods they can pursue to generate some income and stay alive. The Merrow seems to be luckier (at the moment) than either the Music Box or Aztec Brewing, since they can take advantage of their large parking lot for outdoor operations when conditions allow it.

“I’m in a little better position than some of my peers,” Smith explained. “We do the shows, live-music and night club stuff...all that. But we also have a regular bar crowd during the day. We’re basically running an outdoor restaurant. We don’t offer food normally, but I partnered up with three of the little restaurants that are right next to me here on the street and they provide the food for my guests. So, you can order off one of the three menus that we offer. You come in and sit outside just like everybody else. Have a sandwich, hot-dog, or whatever and order your drinks. That’s the extent of our operations since we reopened in August. We made it through December 7th and then they shut us all



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

SDIVA member Tristan Faulk-Webster is the former president of the Vista Brewer’s Guild, and a co-owner of the Aztec Brewing Company — the only brewery in the San Diego region recognized by the national association as a venue.

down again. I think we had a couple of weeks in June where we had reopened, and that’s been it. Otherwise, we’ve been shuttered or closed for the entire period as well.”

Smith was able to utilize money he received from City and County grants to pay for the outdoor furniture and canopies that serve as his outdoor dining space. “It’s lightweight stuff — if it gets damaged or destroyed within a year, it’s a ‘Who cares?’ type of thing. My guests like it. They feel it’s one of the safer places they can go. We’re 10 or 15 feet apart sometimes — that’s how much space is out there. Nothing is inside, so my staff stays inside and goes out and does the service. It creates quite a separation between the staff and the guests,” Smith said.

All that being said, Smith estimates that live music events account for

70 percent of the club’s business in normal times. The outdoor dining helps, but in no way equates to the volume of business pre-pandemic.

At Aztec Brewing, Faulk-Webster said they are still selling beer to-go, but that profits have definitely dropped as well.

“I’d say a lot of our revenue was based more on live events,” he explained. “So, once that option shut down, we had to switch gears, and luckily we did have the ability to still make money and pay rent. We’ve had to furlough a lot of our employees in the meantime, but we’re still able to keep a sort of skeleton version running. I think that’s one of the better things with being a little bit of a smaller operation. We weren’t over-extended to the point of it hurting.”

Faulk-Webster said that Aztec had live music

events six or seven nights a week before the pandemic started. On weekends, they would have local bands and the occasional national touring act. They also had open-mic and other jam nights focused on genres such as the blues and reggae.

“It’s always surprised me that more breweries aren’t having live music,” he said. “It’s picked up a lot, but when we first started doing it and holding shows, everybody kind of looked at us like we were the Addams Family.”

So, Aztec continues to sell beer, albeit exclusively to-go, and The Merrow opens when they can for outdoor drinking and dining — sort of expected pandemic pivots for both operations. The Music Box’s transformation into a boxed lunch factory — less expected. The venue’s food division is making pre-packaged meals for subsidized school lunch programs. The only catch is that the lunches are delivered to homes instead of schools, due to remote learning.

“It’s not philanthropic. We do it for money,” Rinaldi explained. “It provides ten jobs and allows us to use some PPP money that otherwise would have to be returned. But it does eventually go to a good cause and we are happy to be a cog in that factory. We have a 3000-square-foot kitchen and it’s employed. This box-lunch program is a mid-week Monday through Friday function, so we do have a work week, and that work week has been continuous since August... but it’s not 10 percent of our original business.”

One would assume that at some point, the pandemic restrictions on live music will come to an end. When that day comes, how does live mu-

sic awaken from its coma and reset? In terms of a venue such as the Music Box that books national acts, a Sunday night announcement giving them the greenlight to start hosting concerts the next day doesn’t mean much.

“If I’m gonna have risk on a show that costs \$25 to go to,” Rinaldi explains, “I’m gonna need eight weeks to sell that show. That doesn’t work for the first eight weeks after a pandemic reopening. So, a lot of the stuff we do early on is not going to have those kinds of economics. Those are going to be five-, eight-, or twelve-dollar shows where a lot of bands that haven’t played out in a bit from the community come back and do some shows for us. Normally, we would spread that stuff out and mix it in, but there will be a good concentration of that stuff, because that is what is the most viable in the earliest term.”

He continued, “I think Los Angeles and San Francisco have the ability to fill a bit of a supply pipeline with available acts. I don’t think that Vegas, Phoenix, the Central Valley, Bakersfield, San Diego have those types of markets. But we are very blessed to be so near Los Angeles and, to a lesser degree, San Francisco, to have those regional bands be part of that early calendar.”

For both The Merrow and The Aztec Brewing Company, a return to normalcy should arrive faster. Both venues primarily feature local talent. As long as local bands and artists are ready to gig, they should be off and running within days or weeks as opposed to months.

“I think on a local level, it will definitely be very active,” Faulk-Webster explained. “I know that at the very local part of the

scene, there are a lot of people that are just itching to get out, and once the doors open up, I think a lot of places will be pretty packed again.”

Regardless of how it happens, Smith thinks they still have a long wait ahead of them.

“We think that live entertainment or being able to utilize the inside for something close to what was normal, we’re still thinking that’s no earlier than September or October,” he said. “I don’t know how everybody else feels. We’ve lost pretty much last year. We’re gonna lose this year. So, being out of business for almost two years, that’s hard.”

As for SDIVA, what will this new organization focus on once the pandemic ends?

“I think there’s a lot of different things,” Faulk-Webster explained. “Using the Brewer’s Guild as an example, there is a basic promotion that we can all do together. For example, the Brewer’s Guild has a map of every brewery, I would like to see a map of every music venue, just so the public interest in live music builds. There are also artists that we can help build up between each other. Aztec is a smaller venue, so we’ve given a lot of artists their first start into the music scene. Kind of farming back and forth between venues, some people have been able to build up their presence. I think having a lot of solid artists in our geographic region builds up our reputation outside our city. I would love for San Diego to have the same reputation that Nashville does. I think that the only way we’re going to be able to get there is to coordinate between each other on simple little things like this.”

— Dryw Keltz

Annals of Education

— Concordia University student Aaron Asuini wanted to ask a question in the online art history class he was taking, but when he tried to reach out to the lecturer, Francois-Marc Gagnon, he couldn't find any contact information in the school's portal. So he Googled the professor's name – and found an obituary. *The Verge* reported Gagnon passed away in March 2019, and although the course syllabus listed someone else as the class's official instructor, it also noted that Gagnon would be the lecturer. A Concordia spokesperson expressed regret at the misunderstanding, but Asuini is still unsettled about it: "I don't really even want to watch the lectures anymore. ... I think it lacked tact and respect for this teacher's life."

What's Old Is New Again

— *The Boston Globe* reported on Feb. 15 about the newest hipster craze: typewriters. Manual, heavy, clunky "typers." Tom Furrier, the owner of Cambridge Typewriter, Boston's only remaining typewriter repair shop, first noticed the upward sales trend in April 2020. "I was busy beforehand, but COVID raised my business by 40%." While typewriters can't take the place of digital communications devices, they're attractive to young people for creative endeavors that have become popular during the lockdowns: "My customers use it for journaling, poetry, creative writing," Furrier said. "It's all about writing without internet distractions, about getting into a zone." With pandemic restrictions in place, Furrier brings typewriters

out onto the sidewalk for customers to inspect, then disinfects them and returns them to the window. Customers "instantly get the typewriter bug," he said.

Least Competent Criminal

— Robert Joseph Hallick of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with perjury, forgery and identity theft after applying for a handgun permit using former President Barack Obama's name, according to court documents. The arrest report also said his application included a letter with a United States of America seal and U.S. Department of State letterhead, along with a \$50 check, WTVC-TV reported. In November, Hallick had been denied a handgun permit under his own name due to an active warrant for his arrest in Michigan.

Weird History

— In an auction in Chesapeake City, Maryland, that closed on Feb. 8, a white wooden toilet seat pilfered from Adolf Hitler's retreat in the Bavarian Alps sold for about \$18,750, *The Sun* reported. Ragnvald C. Borch, a U.S. soldier who spoke German and French, was one of the first to arrive at the Berghof at the end of World War II. His senior officers told him to "get what you want" from the damaged property, so Borch grabbed a toilet seat and shipped it home to New Jersey, where he displayed it in his basement. Bill Panagopoulos of Alexander Auctions said, "This was as close to a 'throne' as the dictator would ever get." Borch's son put

the "trophy" up for auction; the buyer was not identified.

Family Values

— Joanna Zielinski, 62, of Naples, Florida, was arrested Feb. 11 after stabbing her sister, Laura, 64, multiple times with an EpiPen, according to authorities. Investigators said the two had spent the evening drinking and taking drugs, and Laura fell asleep on the couch. "At some point," said police, "Joanna went crazy and attacked Laura with an EpiPen," because "I'm allergic to drunks," she told officers, and she wanted to sober her sister up. *The Smoking Gun* reported the EpiPen was prescribed to Joanna, but Laura wasn't affected by the medicine because it wasn't actually injected. Joanna was charged with domestic battery.

Desperate Times

— Police in the Ukrainian village of Hrybova Rudnya determined that the unnamed man who called them Feb. 13 and confessed to seriously injuring his stepfather, made the call in order to get the road in front of his house cleared of snow. Police spokeswoman Yulia Kovtun told the BBC the man insisted that officers would need special equipment to get to him because of the snow, but when police arrived, they found no assault or murder, and the road had already been cleared by a tractor. The man was charged with filing a false report and fined.

Weird Science

— Researchers have solved the mystery of

how bare-nosed wombats, native to south-eastern Australia, produce poop in cubes, reports the *International Business Times*. Wildlife ecologist Scott Carver of the University of Tasmania is lead author on a study, published Jan. 28 in the journal *Soft Matter*, that details the particular inner workings of the wombat's digestive tract that produce the square-shaped dung. "This ability ... is unique in the animal kingdom," Carver said. "Our research found that ... you really can fit a square peg through a round hole."

The Continuing Crisis

— Authorities who pulled over a pickup truck in Elsberry, Missouri, soon discovered the vehicle had been stolen, KMOV-TV reported on Jan. 25, so they headed to the owner's home, where they found skeletal remains in another vehicle in the garage and a ransacked house. Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Harrell said the body may have been there since last summer and "a group of criminal opportunists ... had just ransacked the residence and taken many items. We've recovered stolen vehicles, stolen firearms and tens of thousands of dollars in other related items." The scavengers would have had to walk right past the body for months as they removed items, he added. Prosecutors are working to bring charges against 25 suspects, and there may be more, authorities said. Investigators have not yet identified the remains or determined exactly when the person died.

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

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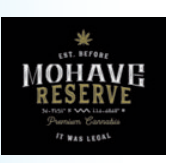


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\$40/OZ

MOONROCK KIEF

\$15/G

EXCLUSIVE INDOOR SHAKE

\$50/OZ

TOP SHELF SHAKE

\$25/OZ

5 EXCLUSIVE INDOOR PRE-ROLLS

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CRYSTAL GOLD SHATTER 10G

\$130

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

\$35

CRUMBLE 3G

\$40

GOLD SHATTER

\$15

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CARTS 6 FOR \$100
Mix & Match several options

STIIIZY \$25

HH Vapes

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GUMMIES 5 FOR \$35 (500mg)

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on Select Strains

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Variety to Choose

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Mix & Match

Flower Select Strains \$65 Half oz \$100 Full oz

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Variety to Choose

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* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 4-5-21. **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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