



P
N D I E G O

Reader

VOL. 46 | NO. 16 | APRIL 22, 2021

RAY, IS THAT YOU?

"I saw a silhouette
of someone large
approaching
the mirror."

Local baller lands sneaker deal ■ Modern hipster psychology ■ Sherry cocktails are back

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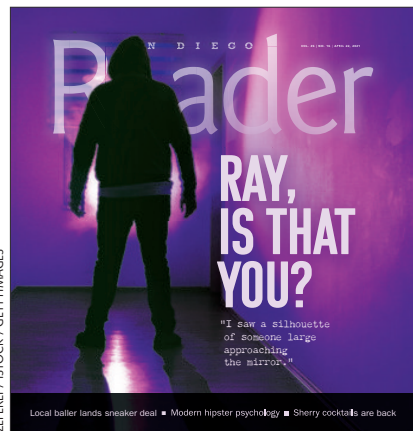
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April 22, 2021



Where are the jewels?! — page 14



You can't spell adobo without OB — page 30



Gun fun — page 34

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	38
Cannabis	44
Classifieds	36
Health and Beauty	21
Legal Solutions	11
Massage	41
Music	33
Research Studies	16
Restaurants	30

NEWS & FEATURES

Neighborhood News

From Skidrowceaside to the Homeless Hotel.....2

News Ticker

Binion's boy greases Gloria.....3

Under the Radar

Falconer's trash man lands in Washington State.....3

Letters

.....4

Ask a Hipster

Modern hipster psychology.....4

Drinks All Around

Sherry cocktails are back - Uno Ojo at Raised by Wolves.8

Unreal Estate

The group wanted to mate a pair of desires.....8

Golden Dreams

Lickona outlives Fitzgerald, Hemingway.....12

Ray, is that you?

"I saw a silhouette of someone large." by Eva Knott14

Surf Diego

"It was raining so hard that you couldn't open your eyes.".....40

Puzzles

.....42

News of the Weird

.....43

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures,
Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness23

Poetry

Three sonnets for Shakespeare's birthday24

Outdoors

Look for Jacarandas25

San Diego Booze News

One Season Brewing debuts28

Restaurants

Tin Fork: barrio bourbon.....29

Feast: OB-friendly Filipino30

Music

Blurt: local baller Norman Powell lands a sneaker deal31

Local Five: San Diego acts you ought to check out.....32

Immortal beauty: classical music is self-canceling.....33

Movies

Scott Marks says it's Neeson season.....34

Movies at Home: *Breakfast on Pluto*35

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

OCEANSIDE

Sent from the tents From Skidrowceaside to the Homeless Hotel

A sprawling tent camp near Oceanside Boulevard and I-5 that was home to about 50 homeless people was upended on April 6 when a phalanx of some 40 police officers descended on the campsite, which was built on a city right-of-way. The well-organized plan to uproot the encampment, which had been nicknamed “Skidrowceaside,” started shortly after the break of dawn when the squatting homesteaders were contacted

to get temporarily housed Tuesday morning appeared to be congenial. “I knew you since you were a teenager,” he said in a smiling, friendly way. Terry Brown, an analyst with the city manager’s office said by telephone the day before the police action that the city was working diligently to secure enough hotel vouchers. “I think we have 20 or 30.... We may have to double up some people in each room. We think we have enough.” Brown said Tuesday’s activity was only a “stop gap” measure to deal with the tent camp, which she said was neither “safe or sanitary.” (The city had an April 16 deadline to receive proposals from local agencies to operate Oceanside’s first city-sponsored homeless shelter. The former Ocean Shores continuation school site near El Camino Real and Oceanside Boulevard was purchased by the city last year. Brown



The campsite was built on a city right-of-way

“People have been driving by all night long honking at us and yelling at us to get the fuck out of here,”

in their tents by the police. The tent folks were invited to come to the Oceanside Police Department’s temporary headquarters to get placed in services which would provide a more stable environment with shelter, food and counseling.

“There was a little tension for a while because of all the confusion, but their rules don’t seem too unreasonable,” says Rodney McGough who helped organize the tent encampment about a month ago. “They have this sheet that you sign that says that you have to agree to some things before you can go to a hotel.” The city council passed an emergency ordinance April 7 to deal with the campsite. One longtime Oceanside police officer screening those hoping

says that facility may or may not be used to house the new shelter, depending on the contractor selected. The city is set to award the contract in June.)

The linear tent camp, which ran parallel to the Sprinter tracts, drew strong reactions from locals. On the evening of April 2, a group was congregating across the street. They were there to pass out bottles of water and snacks and to document any illegal activity the homeless might endure at the hands of police. “I’ve seen people drive by and scream out, ‘Get a job you lazy piece of shit,’” said Dante. “People have been driving by all night long honking at us and yelling at us to get the fuck out of here,” said McGough. “This is the kind of stuff that drives the needle in deeper.”

McGough did not deny that drugs have impacted his tent city. The night before the camp break-up, an inhabitant of his adjacent tent seemed to be writhing in a withdrawal state. “There have been a lot of ODs that the fire department has had to tend to,” said Oceanside police chief Fred Armijo. “There have been drug sales and drug use [at the encampment]. Unfortunately, there is a sub-population among

the homeless that is criminal, which preys on the other homeless people.” Armijo said the city is focused on helping those who can be helped, and to separate them from those who are “service resistant.” A man from the nearby

building, a newly spray-painted “Rodney is a punk fuck little bitch” appeared for the first time. “James admitted that he did it,” said McGough. One police officer on site noted that he had just arrested James the week before. It was not immediately clear if James had been arrested for the newly-painted graffiti.

Jerry Torres is a former Camp Pendleton Marine MP (military police officer) who worked security at the San Onofre nuclear power plant. He now works with the non-profit Liberty Eagle Paralegals, helping needy people with their legal affairs. He had been monitoring Oceanside’s tent city. Torres maintained the city has mostly done everything



An oceanside tent city resident at left with a volunteer.

Fire Mountain neighborhood who did not want to be identified said that while he was stopped at a nearby stoplight about a month ago, one homeless person jumped on his hood and kicked in his windshield. Armijo said that the suspect had just been arrested.

McGough said that a great majority of his tent city neighbors were decent, peaceful people. “We have one person who gets up, gets on the bus and goes to work at Home Depot.” An employee at the nearby Go Staff temporary employment agency said he has used workers who sleep at the tent camp, and that he has found them to be productive and dependable. But McGough admitted that one tent camp dweller named James had been particularly troublesome, violently confronting others and maliciously spreading trash across the campsite. McGough said James did everything he could to subvert his efforts to keep the peace. On April 6, along the side of the Sherwin-Williams paint

to comply with all laws and court precedents. He said the city painted numbers in front of each tent, so that when the belongings were gathered up by the city, they could eventually be returned to their owners. He said that shows that Oceanside, “has been going



“They have this sheet that you sign that says that you have to agree to some things before you can go to a hotel.”

above and beyond what they need to do. I was talking with a friend out of San Diego and he said they just put on Hazmat suits and come in dispose all of their of their stuff in trash

continued on page 6



Leon was a stroke victim who... “just fell over and just broke his nose.”

Binion's boy greases Gloria

Troubled son of gangster gambler gives a grand San Diego and Las Vegas have had a long, wild history together. Besides the mobbed-up Moe Dalitz's La Costa resorts, San Diego County has played host to several marginal figures who became Vegas notables, including Dalitz crony Wilbur Clark. A onetime bellhop at the San Diego Knickerbocker hotel, Clark built and ran the Desert Inn and casino under Dalitz's guidance. More recently, the

1990s Cheetahs bribery case, which forced the resignation of three San Diego city council members and put one behind bars, began as an investigation of the Nevada strip club's doings by Vegas-based federal prosecutors.

The latest connection comes in the form of an April 7 campaign contribution disclosure report by Democratic mayor Todd Gloria, revealing that Jack Binion, son of infamous Vegas casino magnate Benny Binion, gave \$1000 to the San Diego Democrat's 2020 election fund on January 7. Binion is listed on the document as CEO of Pilot Grove Management. Dominic Polizzotto, listed as CEO of Pilot Grove, LLC, and a longtime Binion associate, kicked in another \$500 on January 6, per the filing.

Born in Pilot Grove, Texas, Benny Binion, who died December 25, 1989, at 85, led a colorful, if murderous, career, and the gambling legend and owner of the famed Horseshoe Casino on the strip wound up doing three years behind bars. "From 1954-1957, he served time in Leavenworth Penitentiary for tax evasion during his gambling operations in Texas," notes an online Binion biography by PBS's *American Experience*. "By 1964, however, Binion was out of jail, and his family had control of the Horseshoe once more. Binion was never reissued a gambling license after his stint in prison, but his sons, Jack and Ted, and his wife, Teddy Jane, ran the casino, as he earned a salary as a 'consultant.'"

Binion started in Dallas, Texas as a 24-year-old horse trader, the account notes, then took to bootlegging, illegal lotteries, and bombing his rivals. "In the 1930s and 1940s, many murders in Dallas were attributed to Binion. For most of the next two decades, Binion built up a lucrative underground business, becoming involved with prominent politicians and members of the Syndicate. Binion tried to kill a competitor named Herbert Noble and missed with his trademark bomb. Facing possible prosecution from authorities, or worse from rival gang members, Binion decided to skip town." During his Vegas period, says the account, Binion, "killed



The Illinois Gaming Board declined to bet on Binion as a casino owner.

people through others and then killed the witnesses. One victim was a former FBI agent Bill Coulter, who Binion had blown up in a parking garage in 1972 and still remains an unsolved murder. Binion, as with many of the casino owners in his time, had connections — 'juice' as Las Vegas call it — and charges were never placed against him."

After Benny Binion's death, family strife and tragedy struck the Binions. In September 1998, Jack Binion's brother Ted, a heroin addict, was found dead in his Las Vegas home, and his girlfriend Sandy Murphy, 28 years his junior, was charged with and convicted of arranging his murder. The Nevada Supreme Court threw out the guilty verdict in 2000, citing judicial errors, and Murphy was acquitted by a second jury in 2003, setting her free after four years in prison. She moved to Orange County's Monarch Beach, according to a May 2010 profile in *Orange Coast Magazine*.

Jack Binion has also had issues, as described in a 2002 disclosure document filed with the federal Securities & Exchange Commission by Horseshoe Gaming Holding, Inc., whose assets included a Joliet, Illinois gambling emporium. "On June 30, 2000, the [Illinois Gaming Board] preliminarily denied Joliet's application to renew its gaming license and preliminarily found Jack Binion the Company's chairman of the board and CEO, unsuitable to be licensed as a key person," according to the disclosure. "Joliet filed a Verified Request for Hearing of the [Illinois Gaming Board's] decision. Effective January 31, 2001, the IGB approved a settlement agreement between the IGB, the Company, Joliet and Binion." As a result of the deal, Horseshoe Gaming "sold Joliet to a suitable purchaser; Binion withdrew his key person application; and Joliet withdrew its Verified Request for Hearing, thereby causing the previous denial to be moot."

As recounted by the *Las Vegas Sun* in July 2000, "The five-member Illinois Gaming Board voted unanimously to deny an

continued on page 21

UNDER THE RADAR

Johnnie on the run Johnnie Perkins, the former trash company executive and lobbyist who became San Diego Republican mayor **Kevin Faulconer's** chief of environmental services, has landed on his feet in Washington state — but not without controversy. Last month Spokane Mayor **Nadine Woodward** named Perkins to fill the City Administrator vacancy created when her first appointee to the post quit after less than a year. "One former [San Diego] council member who I spoke to called him Johnnie-On-The-Spot," Woodward told the *Inlander*, a local weekly. "He was always there to deal with the issue, to help with the problem, to respond."

Then the publication began digging into Perkins and his extensive history with San Diego's troubled 101 Ash Street building. "Hundreds of San Diego public records reviewed by the *Inlander*, speak to Perkins' hands-on involvement with the Ash Street renovations," according to the report. "During the project's most pivotal months in 2019 and 2020, one of San Diego's highest-ranking officials overseeing it was Johnnie Perkins," continued the April 8 account. "Speaking with the *Inlander* on Monday, Perkins was vague about his role in the project, saying only that he was working with the project team on 'various elements of the tenant improvements' task." Added the story: "On December 16, 2019, San Diego appeared ready to unfurl its 'Mission Accomplished' banner. As the city began moving hundreds of employees onto the floors of the Ash Street building, Perkins told the San Diego *Union-Tribune* that the city was 'on time and within budget' and that the \$30 million worth of renovations since 2018 would ultimately 'save tens of millions of taxpayer dollars over time.' But while Perkins and other city leaders celebrated the positive news coverage, they knew that important aspects of the renovation still hadn't been completed."



Spokane Mayor Nadine Woodward hired a former Faulconer flunky.



CityLink Investment Corp president William D. Jones: "What, me worry?"

Caregiver cash Longtime San Diego politico **Toni Atkins**, who began her career on the city council here, is now looking to run for Lieutenant Governor of California in 2026. The Democrat, currently Pro Tem of the state Senate, has filed with the California Secretary of State's office to raise cash for the race, records show. Meantime on April 5, another Atkins political fund kicked in \$10,000 to a committee calling itself Caregivers & Californians United Against the Recall of Gov

Newsom, sponsored by the National Union of Healthcare Workers. California Works: Senator Toni Atkins Ballot Measure Committee, made that donation. On October 22 of last year, Bloom Energy Corporation of San Jose, maker of high-tech fuel cells, gave the Atkins ballot measure fund \$15,000, state disclosure records show.

As first reported in February by Sacramento-based non-profit CapRadio, Bloom got what ultimately became a \$2 million no-bid contract from the state to refurbish ventilators directly solicited by **Gavin Newsom** in March of last year. From September 2018 through October 2020, Bloom gave Newsom's campaign a total of \$85,000, CapRadio reported

Keeping up with the Jones

As San Diego Gas & Electric fights to keep its city energy franchise, an ex-city council Democrat currently on the board of directors of SDG&E parent Sempra Energy looks to be an influential ally of the utility giant. **William D. Jones** has been a Sempra director since 1998, per the company website. "He is the president and chief executive officer and a director of CityLink Investment Corp. He is also a director and board chair of certain funds under management by the Capital Group and Capital Group Private Client Services."

Los Angeles-based Capital Group has faced controversy abroad after upping its investment in Ireland's Kingspan, which furnished allegedly faulty insulation for 24-story Grenfell Tower, the London residential high-rise that erupted in flames in June 2017, causing 72 deaths. Jones is set to join the board of pharmaceutical giant Biogen in June. The company is currently lobbying the Federal Drug Administration to approve its anti-Alzheimer's drug Aducanumab, which was panned by an FDA panel of experts late last year.

According to the announcement of Sempra's annual shareholders' meeting, scheduled for next month, Jones got a total of \$415,158 in 2020 compensation. Campaign filings show that since 2006 Jones has come up with a total of \$20,407 in campaign contributions for city races, including \$1000 for **Todd Gloria's** mayoral bid, \$2700 for City Attorney **Mara Elliott's** two electoral campaigns, and \$270 for **Carl DeMaio's** 2012 council campaign fund.

continued on page 21

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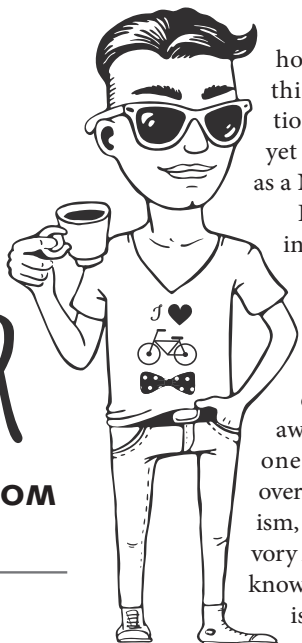
Dear Hipster:

What has had a greater effect on defining what it means to be a 21st-century American hipster: movies and TV, music, or something else entirely?

— AJ

That's a bit like asking, 'Who is smarter, a particle physicist or a US Supreme Court justice?' You could go back and forth endlessly and never formulate an accurate answer, because the criterion of distinction isn't a certain quantum of "smartness," it's the possession of (usually a tremendous amount of) particular knowledge. For sure, smartness enters into the equation, because both of them boast the ability to absorb and make use of a vast body of highly specialized information, which in turn requires a substantial degree of cleverness. Thus, the question is fundamentally flawed because it makes the wrong inquiry.

Moreover, the question would be doomed from the start because of unfair stereotyping. In our society, not all knowledge is perceived equally, which is rather unfortunate. You might imagine someone with a functionally encyclopedic knowledge of breakfast cereal. Picture a person capable of waxing poetic on everything from trivia about the origin of Cap'n Crunch (invented by a woman from New Hampshire based on her grandmother's recipe for butter and brown sugar over rice) to the socio-economic and physical importance of a balanced breakfast. The brainpower necessary to carry around and "use" (i.e. find a reason to work it into any conversation,



however inconvenient) this wealth of information is patently obvious, yet there's no such thing as a Nobel Prize for trivia.

I think that's a grave injustice, and not solely because I fancy myself a shoo-in for such an award if the prize-giving committee ever got around to awarding it. Privileging one body of knowledge over another smacks of elitism, and it sends the unsavory message that acquiring knowledge for its own sake is a waste of time.

But, you might be wondering, what does all this have to do with the formative influences on modern hipster psychology? Similar to the "who's smarter" argument, asking if hipster style is more defined by audio, visual, or some other media asks the wrong question, because it assumes the truth of a major premise, to wit, that hipster behaviors are shaped by outside forces. In reality, it may be the other way around.

You can think of this in terms of economics. No self-respecting producer would develop a movie designed to appeal to hipsters if there were no hipsters to watch the movie. In actuality, the only way the movie producer knows how to solicit hipsters is by looking at hipsters, figuring out what they want to watch, and then giving them what they want. I mean, yeah, could

somebody spend \$100 million dollars making some crazy hipster movie thinking someday, somebody will like it, maybe? Of course, but it wouldn't be a good decision. That kind of logic only works in *Field of Dreams* and movies very loosely based in some small part on *Field of Dreams*.

When you boil the question down to its essence, you have to realize that hipsters aren't cultural products, they are cultural producers. It is not that more and more people are clamping on to some sort of hipster identity based on what they see, hear, and read. Instead, the world has gradually become more and more hipster-shaped in recent years, and we shouldn't confuse cause with effect.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

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

Cornucopia of politics

Toni Atkins proved she's just another tax & spend politician vs. looking out for her taxpaying constituents when she spewed out how a tax surplus could be spent, e.g. free college for students, giving money to people here illegally, inter alia ("The coming Weber-Gonzalez catfight," News Under the Radar, March 3). Here's an idea - either use it for paying down the huge pension deficit or return it to us taxpayers. C'mon, Toni....smarten up!

Lou Cumming
La Jolla

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

"Infamous Las Vegas name behind \$1500 in Gloria post-election cash"
News Ticker
April 12

Of special interest in this zero-out statement is the "Win Bonus" of \$50,000 to Gemini Group, Jennifer Tierney's one-stop-shop for Falconer and all the other Establishment types since 1999, <https://gemnigroupconsulting.com/clients>. Far from the hat-in-hand pleadings of other politicians for fundraisers

to retire legal proceeding debt, seems everyone simply knew how much was needed to contribute for Gloria (three+ months after the election) to cash out to the House without fanfare. Thanks to Matt Potter for turning up the old dirty money still circulating.

—Cassander

"Is Normal Heights' Orchid complex ugly or cool?"

Neighborhood News
April 12

This building looks like 8 pounds of crap in a 5 pound bag. Even though architecture is an art form with which we interact continually, this mistake makes me long for the days of caves. Hopefully, there is space near the foundation for vines to grow...

—wysiwgds

It would be funny if The Orchid won an Onion award.

—Caroline McKeown

"As San Diego county dodged minimum wage, elderly suffered"
News Ticker
March 18

Those public streets have now gotten soo quiet, as they are getting too cleaned out. As the public streets were the earlier problem, now the national border, that runs along our count(r)y line be the trouble -- as the citizens expand their traveling up further north. Be it walking, trolley, bus, public transit; car, bus, truck --- or whatever way. Further concern to the health environment.

—ised



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trucks.” Torres did say that Oceanside’s Hot Team, which was set up to look after local homeless, was counterproductive at least once. “A Samoan organization volunteered to bring down porta potties for these people. But a captain of the Hot Team told them to take it out because they didn’t have permits. I looked into it, and it wasn’t really needed. They could have just written a letter to the city council and requested both a dumpster and porta potties, but no one looked into it. Then that same Hot Team later complained that there was trash and contamination by human waste. You can’t have it both ways.”

McGough said that one of his tent camp neighbors named Leon was a stroke victim who, “just fell over and just broke his nose.” McGough said he was a disciple the Twelve Tribes group that runs the Yellow Deli in Vista, “until they kicked me out.” He said his role with the tent city has been that of “a shepherd looking over the sheep. Just trying to keep the wolves out.” He said that the local shops in the nearby shopping center would not let his people use the bathroom facilities, and that dumpsters that once were available for tent camp trash were locked shut. Tent camp residents did get to use the portable showers set up every Thursday at the nearby Bread of Life facility.

The city of Oceanside said it had received complaints from nearby businesses, who said the tents were hurting their bottom line. Yet McGough said the novelty of the tent city helped at least one local business. “Everybody is driving by to see this new attraction. Whether it be the looky-loos or the people who want to yell things out. Since we’ve been here, Starbucks has been having lines all the way to Popeye’s chicken. People are screaming at us because we are causing them to have to wait in line too long at Starbucks. So either they are yelling at us for hurting business or for making the lines too long.”

The tent city issue put the homeless issue front and center, said Tim Yzaguirre, Bread of Life’s executive director. “If they go down and live on the [San Luis Rey] river bank, very few people see them. But this put the homeless in everyone’s face.” He applauded the vouchers. “How bad can it be to go from a tent to a warm bed and three meals a day?” McGough reported that he was given a voucher and would be taken to Marty’s Valley Inn in the San Luis Rey Valley in the afternoon. “There will still be a few tents down there until we can assist those people who are still there,” said Tom Bussey Oceanside police spokesman on the day of the clearout. He said the city is still trying to track down more hotel vouchers. “It will be a few days and it will all be cleaned up.”

KEN LEIGHTON



“We have altered the neighborhood. Pray we do not alter it further.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

NORMAL HEIGHTS Is Orchid an Onion?

Or just a herald of Abnormal Heights?

On April 11, Lisa Sku and her doggie Stella strolled past Orchid, a newly built Adams Avenue structure that their neighbor had compared to Darth Vader. “I appreciate the urban design element,” she said to me later that day. “It appears to be a three-story multi-use building with an interesting design. I think the it fits in, and it’s an upgrade to what used to be on that lot. Did you see what was there long before? It was Grandma’s House, the dog sitting place.

200 comments, mostly negative. Many of the mid-city dwellers said it was “ugly, an eyesore, and disturbing.”

“If there really is no parking incorporated for the residents, that’s one of the biggest offenses,” commented Sku’s neighbor. “Even though our micro-neighborhood is walkable, you need to take a car and a freeway to get places in San Diego. Not including any parking is irresponsible and puts more of a burden on the neighborhood with street parking. Especially in that location.” Max, who lived in the area from 1960-1982, commented “[I] am pained by

“Maybe an array of differences [between] the old and the new will make Adams Avenue between the 15 and the 805 a new cool destination to check out.”

Besides, it corresponds with the city community plans: distinctive neighborhoods, development diversity, etc.”

Steven Slater, who made the Darth Vader reference, moved to Normal Heights last year. “It has been painted black and has some sort of futuristic brushstroke clouds mural by the stairwells,” he said. “The whole thing is extremely boxy and top-heavy. It does not fit in with the neighborhood at all, as most of the buildings along Adams Avenue are low wood-framed or classic brick and mortar structures.” On March 16, he had posted a photo on NextDoor of the Orchid complex under construction from a vantage point where it appeared to be towering over the street’s telephone lines. “I hate this new building ...” he captioned the photo. Shortly after, it went semi-viral, garnering over

what the downtown political power kings have force[d] into the neighborhood. My family hangs on in the area just because they are not able to relocate. How is \$4,500 a month considered affordable housing?”

The Society of Master Craftsmen’s Properties calls the multi-dweller complex “Orchid — experimental community in Normal Heights.” According to their website, the complex contains 13 one-bedroom, one-bath apartments and two studios. The management company opened the high ceiling and modern, “lofty” apartments and studios to view and rent on April 5. According to the new complex’s website, the one-bedroom, one-bath apartments are renting for \$2,300-\$2,800 a month, the one open studio is renting for \$2000. The management company rented another studio in the complex for \$802 a month with

a stipulation that the renter’s annual income “must be \$40,450 or less to qualify for the unit.”

Not every comment agreed with Stu, however, “[Would] you guys lighten up,” commented Kevin from Kensington. “It’s there to stay; it’s a contemporary industrial building style.” And Mark Martinez, who works for the County of San Diego, likes the futuristic-looking architecture, which partly shadows the Vons parking lot to the east. “Hopefully, [the area] will become a destination for its nickname: ‘Abnormal Heights.’” he said. “Maybe an array of differences [between] the old and the new will make Adams Avenue between the 15 and the 805 a new cool destination to check out.”

TIJUANA Canine crisis

It’s a dog’s life — and death — south of the border

According to Ivan Marquez from Provid-Animal Tijuana, there are more than 300,000 stray dogs in Tijuana. “Right now, it is difficult to know, but four years ago that was the estimated population. Due to cancellation of sterilization campaigns by the government



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS COUTIERREZ

“Stray dogs in Tijuana go through the most horrible situations.”

and private organizations during the pandemic, the number could have increased,” he explained. The issue concerns the entire city, but the east part of Tijuana is where the problem is most highly visible. The area also has other problems — things like crime, poverty, drugs and lack of public services — and that has pushed stray dogs down on the list of priorities. “It’s a zone with more limitations, talking socio-economically,” Marquez said.

continued on page 22

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Back in 1948, a group of outdoor-loving professors at San Diego State College got together with a handful of other prominent local professionals. The group wanted to mate a pair of desires: city living and country space, with enough room for horseback riding and other outdoor activities.

What they came up with was Alvarado Estates, a private gated community comprising a few square miles just west of the college campus on the hills sloping down into Mission Valley



Don't go chasing waterfalls... well, maybe this one.

from Montezuma Mesa. At the time, the area was the site of a private airport and a single residence. The new homesites, keeping with the open space theme,

would occupy at least one acre. (Lots in the area at the time ranged from a sixth to as small as a tenth of an acre.) None of the homes were to protrude more than

a single story above street level, keeping the community modest in appearance even if the mansions that would eventually spring up were anything but.

According to the neighborhood's website, early investors met in the college cafeteria to draw numbers out of a hat, thus determining who got first pick among the lots in the first subdivision. While originally priced at less than \$5000, demand (and prices) quickly grew, and eventually the site became home to 129 parcels, overtaking and consuming the old airport.

The main access point to the Estates is Yerba Buena Drive, and listing materials retrieved from Zillow declare the estate at 4605 Yerba Buena the largest residence in the enclave.

"This palatial estate boasts over 15,000 square feet of unparalleled luxury and exquisite finishes," gushes the listing for this eight-bedroom, eleven-bath behemoth constructed in 2000.

The "open concept

prestigious domain" features "an abundance of natural light, flawless flow from each room to the next, massive 40-foot ceilings, a private gym, hidden bar," and an "extended balcony overlooking an oversized four-acre lot," which is among the larger spaces in the development.

The entry hall is mammoth, but spartan. Yes, the ceilings are very tall, but this huge room seems empty, save for a handful of animal sculptures and potted plants. Perhaps it could be filled by a crowd of wealthy university donors served by an army of tuxedoed waiters bearing appetizers and champagne flutes on silver trays.

The rest of the interior is modern. Grey and brown tones cover the walls and floor. There's a nice gas fireplace at the bottom of a

continued on page 41

Drinks All Around

BY AMANDA TASCHER

TONY ROEHR

Raised by Wolves
4301 La Jolla Village Dr #2030
La Jolla
(619) 629-0243
raisedxwolves.com

With indoor bars being closed, quarantine could be considered a quasi-Prohibition. How fitting to find myself at the speakeasy Raised by Wolves, where bartender Tony Roehr is prepping their newest cocktail menu.

The Uno Ojo, he tells me, uses a lightly aged dry sherry as its special ingredient. "It gives off this deep nuttiness in the background. Mixing that with blanco tequila, cucumber, some ginger, some citrus, and putting it on nice crushed ice — kind of an adult snow cone of sorts."

Roehr champions the revival

of sherry. "It's one of my favorite ingredients to put in cocktails. I think the clientele in La Jolla is not used to seeing sherry in cocktails and I really want to introduce that to them. Most people hear 'sherry' and they think cooking wine, and there's just so much more that you can do."

His love of sherry is rooted in an enthusiasm for the history of cocktails and spirits. "Back in pre-Prohibition times, they were drinking this very popular cocktail called a Sherry Cobbler, which is tons of muddled fruit like berries and oranges, tons of sherry and a little tiny bit of brandy. And they would put it on crushed ice." He likens its popularity to today's mule. "It was on every single menu... and then it disappeared, and now I think it's finally coming back. And it's coming back strong."

Inspiration came from another

modern-day classic cocktail, the Dos Ojos, "which is a twist off of a mule that gets tequila, ginger and cucumber. And I wanted to mix that with sherry and do like a Sherry Cobbler twist off of the Dos Ojos."

The name also lends a visual. "Whenever people drink the ginger syrup we make, they always go 'Whoa!' and kind of make a face. And I say, 'Yeah, it has a one-eye-closed kind of thing.' So it's Uno Ojo," he says decidedly.

Roehr says the eye-catching, Uno Ojo "has a lot of familiar flavors in there that people are going to really like. But then adding the sherry really changes this drink up and gives it more character. It's the one ingredient in this drink that's very unfamiliar."

"You're going 'What is that?' and that makes you take another sip. Eventually your drink is gone and you're ordering another one."

RAISED BY WOLVES' UNO OJO



- .75oz lime
- .75oz sweetened ginger juice
- 1oz Palomino Fino Sherry
- 1oz Ocho Plata blanco tequila
- 2-3 muddled cucumbers

Combine ingredients, shake, strain into glass, top with crushed ice, and garnish with cucumber.

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The Buick Cascada: RIP 2019.

Midway upon the journey

I noticed a convertible on the way into work today. *Pretty good looking... especially for a Buick. Good grief, I'm admiring a Buick. Old, old, old. The kind of person who still says Good grief, because Charlie Brown used to say it and he read a lot of Peanuts as a kid, because kids read the funny papers back when newspapers were a thing... Good grief. Just brilliant: a theology of suffering — the sorrow of the cross transformed into the fulfillment of that thrill of hope that Nat King Cole sings about every Christmas — turned into a depressed little boy's signature catchphrase.* Hell, that kind of reverie is its own testimony to senescence. Too much accumulated bric-a-brac, too poorly organized. You go rummaging for one thing and bring four others tumbling down. Worse still, it turns out I was admiring a Buick that had stopped produc-

tion smartly changed it to *Alone in Berlin*. Instead, I suggested Kingsley Amis' *The Old Devils*, which at least has the good sense to be funny about the inevitabilities wrought by time. What's better comedy than a man — that thing Shakespeare lauded as “in form and moving, how express and admirable” — struggling to move his bowels? “Not trying at all because that was the healthy, natural way, trying a certain amount because that could have no real adverse effect, trying like a lunatic because why? — because that was all there was to do.”

We had to wait to make our purchase while an old codger chatted up the proprietor. “Did you see Ken Burns’ documentary on Hemingway? It’s excellent. He’s the greatest writer of the 20th century.”

“Well, he’s certainly one of them.”

“Did you see Ken Burns’ documentary on Hemingway? He’s the greatest writer of the 20th century.”

tion in 2019. The dying eyeing the dead. I keep thinking I’ve had my midlife crisis. And then *pow*, I get on a train of thought that stops at Christmas, and recall that for the first time ever, a majority of Americans are not affiliated with any sort of church. Christmas? *Humbug*. Ancient history, of which I shall soon be a part.

An old friend visited over the weekend. Took him to Maxwell’s Books on La Mesa Boulevard, where he asked me for a recommendation. I passed by the copy of *Every Man Dies Alone*, but not before imagining the sales pitch. “It’s a thrilling, heroic novel based on the true story of a working-class German couple who became part of the German Resistance! I’m calling it *Every Man Dies Alone!*” Titles are marketing; who would buy such a thing? The movie ver-

“No, I would say he’s the greatest. His writing is so direct. You really feel like you’re there.”

The proprietor wisely resisted the bait. “The thing about Burns is he’s so smart about marketing. Hemingway is the closest thing to a superstar celebrity author we have.” Read: nobody reads any more, but here’s a once-famous guy whose life — hard-drinking, hard-loving, full of shooting and explosions, capped off with pills, depression, electroshock therapy, and suicide — makes for good TV.

I used to read. I used to read Hemingway. Then I read *Everyone Behaves Badly: The True Story Behind Hemingway’s Masterpiece The Sun Also Rises*, and got yet another confirmation of Lickona’s Theory of Success: all you have to do to make it big in showbiz, literary

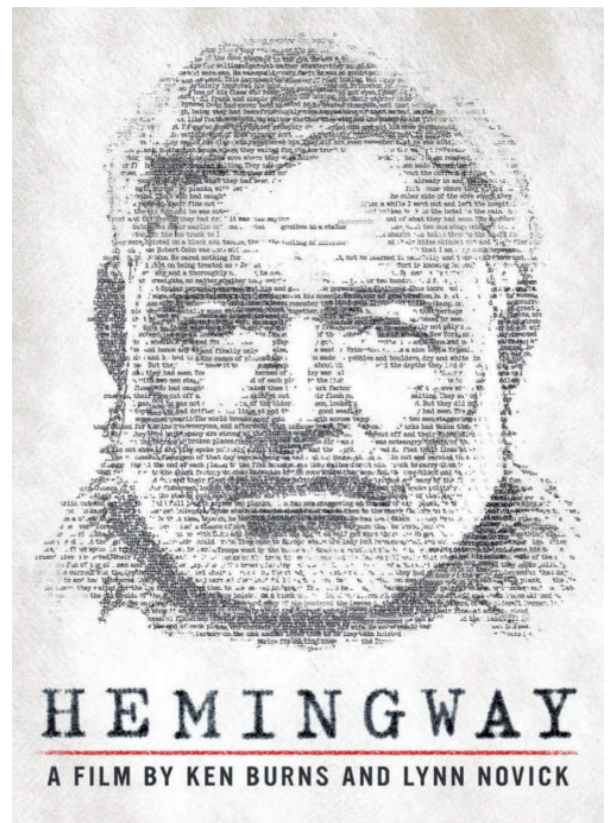
or otherwise, is betray somebody close to you. Hemingway did it no less than three times on his way up, first wriggling out of his small-time publishing house contract by sending them a savage parody of its star author Sherwood Anderson, who happened to be his first mentor and champion. When they declined to publish, he was free to move on to bigger things, and the bigger thing he moved on to was a *roman à clef* about a trip to Spain with some friends that turned them all into monsters on the page. They were stunned, but Hemingway was on his way. Oh, and along that way, he also ditched his first wife for her good friend. Later, he took a literary hatchet to another early supporter, my old favorite F. Scott Fitzgerald. But I still watched the Burns documentary. Celebrity has its attractions.

Fitzgerald drank himself to death before he got old, but before he went out, he gave us *The Crack-Up*, a personal essay which described a blow “that comes from within — that you don’t feel until it’s too late to do anything about it, until you realize with finality that in some regard you will never be as good a man again.”

The day after our visit to the bookstore, I took my friend to a dinner party at a hillside home in Spring Valley. “My God, look

at all the gray hair,” said a fellow attendee. “We’re really getting there, aren’t we?” We are. We joked about how old people talk about aches and pains, and then, having taken the curse off, we talked about aches and pains. (Unlike Amis, we avoided bowel movements; it was a dinner party.) We talked about the idea of core identity lies — falsities with which we had kept company for so long that they had become rules to live by. Mine: that real change for the better is not actually possible. That the unbelievable thing about Easter is not that Jesus rose from the dead but that there is a new life in Him for me — or for anyone. That even the finest acquired habit is just a mask, waiting to slip off and reveal the sorry sameness within. We talked about how what a man does for work is often one of the least interesting things about him, *contra* the standard small-talk opener of “What do you do?” The sort of lesson you learn after you’ve spent a few rounds in the ring with a career.

But job or no job, there’s still the question, “What have you done?” followed hard by “What will you do?” At least Fitzgerald managed to crank out *The Great Gatsby* before cracking. Another night, another friend: He tells me that when he hears me talk like this, he thinks I’m on the verge of breaking through, of doing something really worthwhile. What a lovely thought. ■



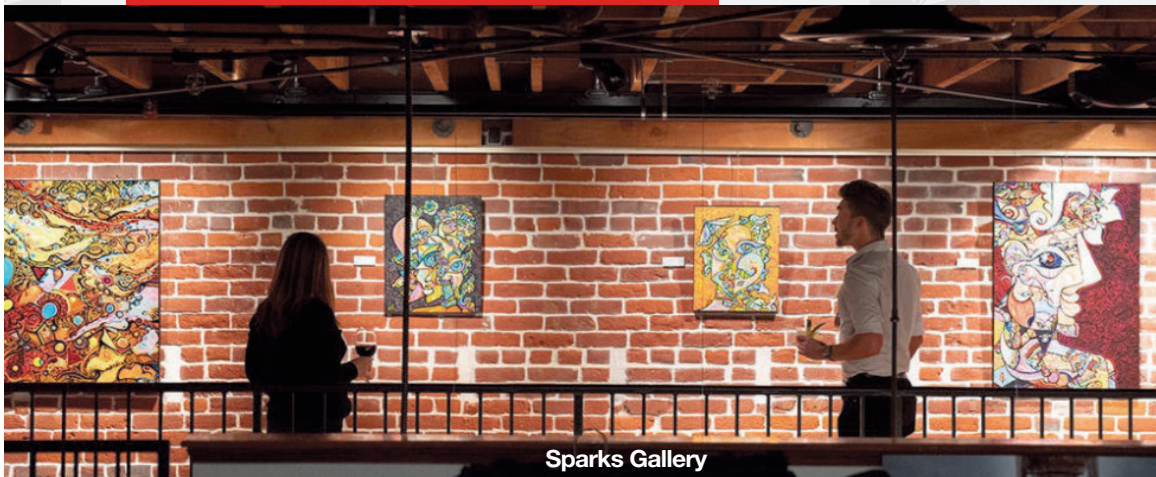
Art begins in a wound.

MATTHEW LICKONA

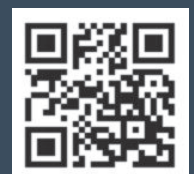


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RAY, IS THAT YOU?

It took about five hours for Cindy and Ray to drive from their hacienda in San Felipe, Mexico, to their home in Oceanside. “The sun was out,” Cindy recalled that spring day in May 2018 when she testified a year later. “It was nice. I think I was wearing shorts and a tank top. The drive home had been very nice. Might have been a little bit on the warm side.”

Cindy was 64 then. She kept active and was in good shape and didn't mind showing her legs. Cindy and Ray had married six years before, and they often enjoyed trips to their beach home overlooking the Sea of Cortez. That last trip, they were in Mexico perhaps ten days.

Ray parked his van in the back driveway. Their small home was on a street corner, on a big lot, and they

had two driveways. The front driveway led to a tiny garage attached to the mid-1950s, single-story house. The back driveway led to a larger garage and their big back patio area.

First thing after they got home, Ray went around and opened up all the doors and windows to air out the house. Cindy got busy bringing things inside. “I always unload the perishables while he unloads the other stuff. And then our friend Larry came over, our neighbor. And I went inside and laid down to read and just relax.” The men visited out back. They had the music on.

Cindy lay down on her bed. She wanted to finish a book she had started while in Mexico. Later she guessed it was maybe 3 or 3:30 pm when she went to the master bedroom.

Ray and Cindy lived just one block from Interstate 5 in Oceanside.

In front of their home was a dense bunch of pygmy date palms that had grown so thick it completely blocked the view of most of the front of their house. The front door and the whole front porch could hardly be seen at all. In contrast, the back yard area was plain to see; both gates were wide open there.

Cindy fell asleep. “Just kind of a light sleep, not dead-to-the-world asleep.”

It was the sound of the metal security door at the front of the house opening and closing that woke her. Cindy expected it was her husband. He must have come in to put things into the small garage. She called out, “Ray, is that you?”

Cindy was still lying down. She turned her head to look down the hall; there was a large mirror hanging at the end, situated so she

“I saw, like, a silhouette of someone large approaching the mirror.”

could see the entryway in the reflection.

"I saw, like, a silhouette of someone large approaching the mirror."

The silhouette continued to walk toward the mirror, and his image became larger and clearer, until she could see his face "quite clearly."

Cindy was confused. She thought to herself, "Who is this? What's going on?"

She did not speak. "The look on his face was very smirky."

Cindy believed the stranger could see her, too, that he could see her reflection in the same mirror. She said, "He almost smiled, that was the look on his face." When she spoke in court later, she said she could almost hear him thinking, "Look what we have here!"

And then, the man in the mirror "all of a sudden did a jump and a spin in

the air and came directly into the bedroom and landed on the bed."

Cindy testified in December 2019, more than a year after she was attacked. "He immediately pushed me down with his knee, his left knee in my chest. And put his hands on my throat and just started choking me." She couldn't breathe. It was painful.

She tried to yell "help" but could not. At first, her attacker did not say anything. Cindy tried to push him off, unsuccessfully.

Then the strange man started to demand, "Where are the gems? Where is the extra cash?" He was loud and angry. She later remembered thinking that was so odd, "Whoever says that?" He said gems, not jewels or jewelry. But she and Ray did not keep any valuable jewelry — or large amounts of cash — in their home.

The gutsy granny

gasped, "What the hell? Are you crazy? Who has gems and cash just sitting around?" The stranger responded angrily. "But then he started shouting and shouting and shouting and getting angrier and louder." He grabbed her throat again and squeezed harder than the first time.

Then she remembered an antique emerald ring she had inherited from her mother years ago, and Cindy made a gesture with one hand toward the guest room, where her grandchildren sometimes stayed. The valuable ring was in a little box in that guest room. The strange man quickly left for that room.

She could hear the wood floor creak while he was in the guestroom. For the short time he was gone, she gasped to catch her breath.

He came back angry. "Really really angry and

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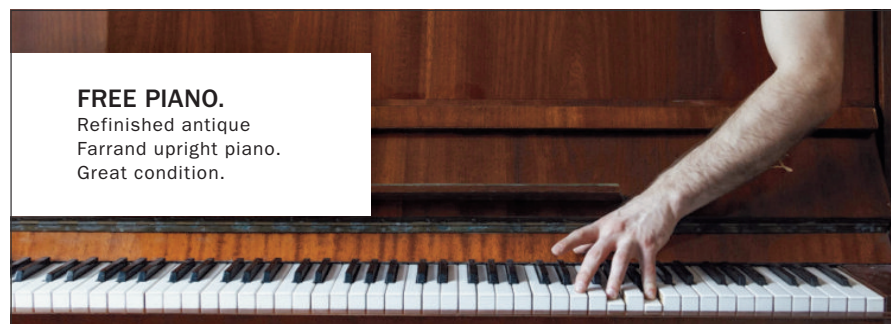
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really shouting.” He again demanded gems and cash.

When he came back, he straddled her and choked her again. He had one strong leg on each side of her ribs, and he was squeezing, “I mean, I wondered if I was going to die from broken ribs, puncturing my ribs, or strangulation first.”

While he was choking her and squeezing her ribs, he said, “I have eyes!” And he pointed at his own eyes. “I have eyes! I can see that you’re rich! And rich people save! They invest! They save! They stash! They save jewelry! They save cash because they never know when they’re going to have a rainy day!”

The angry grandmother choked out, “Oh! And this is my rainy day?” And the man smirked at her and said, “Yeah!”

And then her attacker

reached out and touched the rings she wore on her left hand. He tried to remove her wedding rings, but they were on tight and did not come off.

Cindy was wearing an inexpensive necklace, it was her favorite and the one she wore most often, it had a fine chain holding a slender pendant in the shape of a lotus blossom. But the violent man was not interested in that necklace.

Then the man told her, “Your husband, he’s already dead! What a damn fool! By his own belt in fact! Don’t you be a fool!” And he beat on her.

She tried to fight him with her arms and fists, and he struck back at her with his fists. “And then he just did like a kind of a half roll and dragged me off the bed onto the floor.” Cindy described it as some



Cindy and Ray had married six years before, and they often enjoyed trips to their beach home overlooking the Gulf of California.

kind of wrestling move.

He broke her nose. He struck her in the mouth, “I had loose teeth. I had lacerated lips.” He continued breaking her ribs, and he beat her head against the wooden floor, or maybe it was against the bed frame. She wasn’t sure when she tried to remember later.

Cindy believed that he strangled her for maybe five or ten minutes, then she blacked out. “Everything just went black for I don’t know how long. It felt like a long time.” She guessed she was unconscious five to ten minutes.

When she became aware again, he had left. “I suddenly realized that as crunched up as I was on the floor, I could breathe. And I thought that I was dying prior to that. But all of a sudden I realized I could breathe. But I didn’t know where he was. I was like, ‘Am I safe now, or what? Am I alive?’

“I could only see right in front of me, the dresser right in front of me.”

Cindy could hear the floorboards creaking to her left, and she knew he was over there. But she couldn’t see him. Later she learned that she had suffered a stroke during the attack, and that resulted in a hole in her vision, on the left side.

Cindy began to wish she could get onto her bed. “I laid there for a while thinking about, ‘I just want to get up on the bed. I’ll be okay if I can get on the bed!’” But she could still hear him over there, so she laid still for a few minutes, maybe it was five minutes, she guessed.

“And then, finally, I heard the boards creaking out by the living room and the door open and shut. So then I pulled myself up on the dresser and lay down on the bed.”

She could see blood on the wooden floor and on the throw rug there next to the bed. And there was her lotus blossom pendant, her favorite necklace, on the floor. After a while, she realized that must be *her* blood. “So then that’s when I got up and just kind of wobbled out to the backyard.”

She could see her husband Ray and neighbor Larry, the men were still in the backyard. Their music was loud. “They turned around and looked at me with horror in their eyes,” Cindy remembered. The men rushed to her and asked what happened? Did she fall?

It was hard to speak, but finally, Cindy choked out, “No, there was a bad man in there.” Both men

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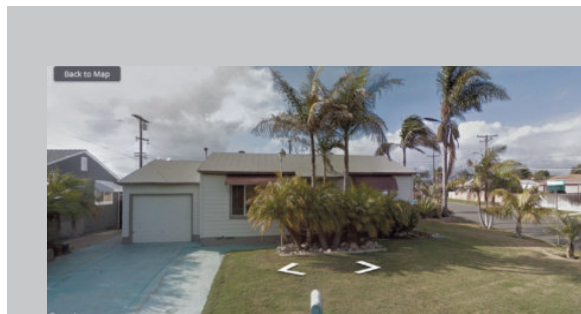
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brought out their phones and dialed 911. While they were on the phone with emergency dispatch, they wanted Cindy to describe her attacker. She was only able to say: “Big, tall, black, very angry.” Cindy guessed his age as between 30 and 40.

An ambulance came. Cindy remained on the back patio. A male cop and a female cop asked her questions. The paramedics discussed her apparent injuries and decided she needed a brain trauma specialist. She was later admitted into the traumatic brain injury unit. She said, “From the stroke.... It has affected my balance, my coordination, extremely.” Her walk is wobbly, “Like I’ve been drinking.”

Cindy was in hospital two weeks. She got stitches in her lips, to put her mouth back together.



Ray and Cindy lived just one block from the 5 freeway in Oceanside, their home was near the ocean. In front of their home was a dense bunch of pygmy date palms; that tangle of plants had grown so thick it completely blocked the view of most of the front of their house. In fact, the front door and the whole front porch could hardly be seen at all. In contrast, the back yard area was plain to see; both gates were wide open there.

Her neurologist immediately informed her that she could no longer drive, and Cindy had to hand over her driver’s license. “I can’t drive at all, I’ve been told.”

She’d had the same job for 19 years, as manager of a dental office. “I lost my job.”

She did five months

of physical therapy. She takes medications and sees a spine specialist now. Cindy expects to have spinal surgery some time in future.

She is not fully recovered. Life is different. “I’m not comfortable with stairs. I’m not comfortable with dark. I’m not comfortable with

people around me, things around me.”

After she got home from the hospital, she found her emerald ring. It was a comfort to still have this memento of her mother.

While Cindy was still in the hospital, Oceanside police detective Ryan Malone came to show her

some mug shots. Cindy said she tried to concentrate, looking at the mug shots, “Five or six of them. Looked pretty much all the same guy.” She finally pointed to one photo, she decided his nose was most like her attacker’s.

She guessed her attacker was 6 foot 3 inch-tall, maybe he weighed

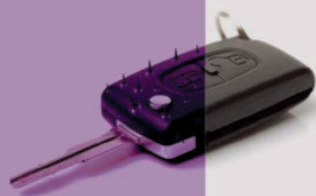
160 to 180 pounds.

Cindy described her attacker many times, to many different persons. She complained later, “I felt like I told it ten times!”

Eventually, Cindy was able to see still photos and video from a neighbor’s RING doorbell video. She couldn’t remember who showed her those images, maybe it was a cop. The images showed a man approaching a neighbor’s front door. In some pictures, Cindy could clearly see his profile. “And he’s almost got that smile in one of the pictures, that smirk smile.” She said that “absolutely” it was the image of the man who attacked her.

Oceanside police detective Ryan Malone testified that he showed the victim, while she was in hospital, still photos taken from RING video evi-

RESEARCH STUDIES



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dence. “She said that she was 100 percent sure that was her attacker.”

Police interviewed neighbors; there were several persons who reported seeing a man wearing a backpack riding a red-framed BMX bicycle. At one point, that bicycle was in front of one home with a RING doorbell. Detective Malone testified that any time the RING camera senses movement, it records.

Another neighbor said he was working in his front yard that day about 4 pm, and he noticed somebody going around on a red bike. He described the man as dark complexioned, maybe Hispanic, about 5 foot 6 inches and 130 pounds.

It was a year later when Cindy first came to the courthouse. She wanted to see the suspect



Cindy was wearing an inexpensive necklace, it was her favorite and the one she wore most often, it had a fine chain holding a slender pendant in the shape of a lotus blossom. But the violent man was not interested in that necklace.

appear in court. She was able to see the man while he stood in a clear plastic booth, and she recognized him. She heard him speak to the judge, and she recognized his voice.

The suspect who was arraigned was Dion Kavis Knight. He is described in jail records as 5 feet 9 inches tall and 160 pounds. Knight was 20 years old in May

2018, at the time of the attack, 21 when Cindy saw him in court more than a year later in June 2019

It was December 2019 when Cindy testified at a pre-trial hearing. At that time, Knight was seated at the defense table, and she again identified him as her attacker.

During the pre-trial hearing, Cindy was ques-

tioned for hours by attorneys for both sides. Sometimes she struggled to remember. At one point she blurted out, “I don’t even want to deal with this! I want it to go away! I’m trying to be cooperative! And I’m trying to do the best that I can!”

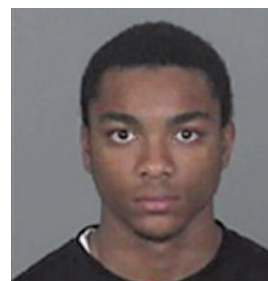
Cindy’s husband Ray gave testimony at the same pre-trial hearing. Ray said they got home from Mexico that Wednesday about 2 or 2:30 pm, and, first thing, he opened up his home, “to let it air out.” This because the house had been closed up for ten days while they were in Mexico.

He and Cindy had been home about two hours when his friend and neighbor Larry came over. The men stayed out back and visited for about a half hour, and then his wife appeared. “She came out of the house all bloody.”

He and Larry jumped up. “Well, I was pretty much in shock!” Ray testified. “Here’s my wife! Hanging on to the sliding door! Bloody from her forehead, nose, and down onto her shirt! And I asked, what the hell happened?”

He first imagined that his wife must have fallen and hit her head against the pool table.

But his wife could barely speak, it took a while for her to choke it out. “She said a bad man



When cops spoke with Dion Kavis Knight on May 30, 2018, he admitted that he was in Oceanside the day of the assault. And yes, he was using a red bicycle then.

came in the house.” Cindy said the man was black and Mexican, so Ray communicated that to the 911 operator.

While Ray was on the phone with police dispatch, his friend Larry ran through the house and jumped in his car and went driving around looking for the attacker. Ray said, “I stayed with my wife.”

After cops and paramedics arrived, Ray went into the house, cops wanted him to look around and point out anything that might be missing. First Ray saw that the master bedroom was all messed up, and he saw blood, and he saw that closet doors had been opened.

When Ray looked in the closets, he saw large coffee cans that had been filled with coins still there, they were on the top shelf and pushed to the back. It

wasn’t until later that Ray discovered those coffee cans had been emptied of coins.

Ray later confirmed to investigators that they commonly kept Mexican pesos, in paper money, on top of a dresser in their home.

While he was in the witness box, Ray admitted that he was rude to the cops in his home. “By the time I got to the master bedroom, after talking to a couple police officers outside, there were nine policemen in my bedroom. And I asked them to leave. Because, I told them, ‘You are messing up any evidence!’”

Ray told the judge “It might be on the record I wasn’t very nice.”

While some cops were inside the house with Ray, two cops stayed outside with his wife. They asked her over and over, “Did your husband do this to you?”

Ray said that after the attack, his wife could barely speak for a week. After two months, he drove his wife to a dentist, because they were both afraid she would lose her two front teeth. Her ability to walk remains poor.

Ray said that Cindy still needs more surgeries, especially for the cracked vertebrae in her back.

Detective Ryan Malone was aware that North County Transit Dis-

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trict has excellent camera surveillance systems. The district reviewed their footage from that day, May 9, 2018, and found video of someone who matched the suspect's description. Those cameras were in downtown Oceanside, off Tremont Street, maybe two miles from the victim's home.

While the suspect was waiting on a bench, he drank the last blue liquid from a plastic Powerade bottle, and then threw it, and other trash, into a drainage ditch next to the train tracks before he got onto the train to Escondido.

Investigators collected the trash the suspect had thrown away and after some time, they identified the Knight's DNA on the Powerade bottle. But before the DNA results came back, a cop in



FACEBOOK

Cindy was in hospital two weeks. She got stitches in her lips, to put her mouth back together. Her neurologist immediately informed her that she could no longer drive, and Cindy had to hand over her drivers license. "I can't drive at all, I've been told."

Escondido arrested Knight for outstanding warrants regarding other matters. That was four days after the attack, on May 12, 2018. Escondido police officer David Bishop

used his bodycam while he searched Knight, who had lots of coins and a paper 50 Peso note on him.

Knight was soon booked into custody in a Los Angeles jail. When

Oceanside police learned of their DNA match, they traveled to interview Knight in the Los Angeles jail, and get a fresh DNA swab. That was on May 30, 2018.

When cops spoke with Knight that day, he admitted that he was in Oceanside the day of the assault. And yes he was using a red bicycle then. Detective Malone said he showed Knight photos from the RING video, and Knight admitted that was him.

But he insisted that he did not assault any woman. "He claimed that it was somebody else, that it was a guy named Chris," detective Malone testified. "He said somebody that looked like him, but not him." Knight told cops he was hanging out underneath an Interstate 5 overpass, and this Chris person



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told him, 'Hey I'm going to go do my shit.' The detective said, "I asked him what that meant. He says he knows that to mean he's going to go commit a robbery or maybe even a murder.... And so Chris asks Mr. Knight for some of his stuff. Mr. Knight gives him his bike, his jacket, I believe a pair of gloves, and his hat," the detective testified. "About 20 minutes later, Chris comes back all sweaty and excited and tells everyone to leave because police are coming." According to Knight's story, Chris dug out loose change from his backpack, and he distributed that change to everyone there, and Knight got a hundred dollars in loose change. Then Knight got on his red bike and went to the train station.

Detective Ryan Malone interviewed



Cindy and Ray have made more trips to their beach house in Baja since the incident. Cindy was pleased to find that she is still able to swim.

Knight again on September 12, 2018. At that time, Knight was in state prison on other charges out of Orange County. Oceanside cops showed Knight the RING video, plus video from North County Transit District, and Knight admitted that was him.

Knight was born in 1998. He has spent most of his adult life in custody. The year Knight turned 18, he appeared in San Diego County criminal records when he pleaded guilty to felony car theft. The December 2016 paperwork noted that his

DNA was already on file, which suggests Knight might have a juvenile record somewhere.

Knight was held in local custody about six weeks, then he was released on probation. He was in and out of custody on warrants and probation violations, from multiple counties.

In March 2018, Knight was arrested by Las Vegas Metro police for an unknown offense. He was 19.

Two months after his arrest in Las Vegas, on May 8, 2018, Knight was in custody in Orange County, according to notes in his criminal file. He must have been released that day or the next, if he was in Oceanside the next day, May 9, 2018, when Cindy was attacked. At that time, Knight had just turned 20 years old.

Three days after Cin-

dy was assaulted, on May 12, 2018, court paperwork noted that Knight was serving a California Department of Corrections prison sentence for an Orange County case. That paperwork noted that Knight was not due for parole for two more years, until August of 2020.

A year later, he was sent to a California prison. Paperwork in Knight's file showed he was being considered for early release on parole. This note was dated May 23, 2019 and he had recently turned 21 years old.

On June 25, 2019, suspect Knight was booked into the Vista jail, next door to San Diego's North County Superior courthouse. He has been held without bail since this date.

The day after he was booked into custody in

San Diego County, Knight was brought into court. He is charged with five felonies: attempted murder, robbery, first degree burglary, assault, and torture.

Cindy and Ray testified at a preliminary hearing on December 4, 2019. On that day, defense attorney Will Rumble emphasized the differences in description given by the witnesses.

Judge William Wood heard a full day of evidence, and then ordered Knight to answer charges at trial. Knight pleads not guilty to all of them.

Cindy is now 67. She and Ray have made more trips to their beach house in Baja since the incident. Cindy was pleased to find that, despite her injuries, she is still able to swim in the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez.

— Eva Knott

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

owner's license to Horseshoe Gaming Inc., chief executive Jack Binion, after a report that staff investigators uncovered questionable business practices and compliance issues involving Binion in Nevada, Louisiana and at the Joliet casino." According to that account, an investigative report obtained by the *Chicago Tribune* "said that Binion offered 'highly irregular' partnerships to four people in Louisiana who were not investors in his casino ventures and appeared to do little actual work other than to offer ties to politicians and 'local influence.'"

Including the Binion

cash, Gloria collected \$33,650 in monetary contributions, many from lobbyists and real estate developers between the beginning of this year and April 7, his filing shows. After making \$106,162 in cash payments, the San Diego mayor's election fund closed up shop with a zero balance and filed its termination statement.

Matt Potter

Under the radar

continued from page 3

The ex-fire chief of Santa Barbara is firing back against a *Los Angeles Magazine* story accusing retired police chief **Lori Luhow** of being absent during that city's multiple natural disasters. Pat

McElroy says that contrary to the magazine's account, he saw and interacted with Luhnow during 2017's Thomas Fire and has photos showing her present at other disasters. He also noted that Luhnow, a retired San Diego police captain with an annual pension of \$159,686 in 2019, according to *TransparentCalifornia.com*, spent time at her Coronado residence while being treated for cancer in San Diego. Luhnow retired as Santa Barbara police chief on February 13 after four and a half years leading the department.

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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“On top of that, there’s a market for purebred dogs, and therefore, there are people exploiting and reproducing dogs to sell, even though statewide it’s illegal to breed dogs.”

But despite all this, some changes have come. Marquez said that seven years ago, government-collected dogs and had just 72 hours to be adopted before they were electrocuted or killed in gas chambers. Now, Tijuana’s Animal Control Center has introduced an injection that causes heart attacks in the unwanted dogs. And there are other improvements. “When we had our dog shelter, we used to receive 10 reports daily of pet abuse or attacks from dogs with irresponsible owners. And now there are people that make rescues independently.”

Laura Arellano is one of those independent activists. “Stray dogs in Tijuana go through the most horrible situations you can imagine,” she says. “Some are sexually abused or mutilated. They can live in the streets for years until they die.” Arrellano remembers the case of the dog she baptized as Flora, though her new owners call her Tia in honor of Tijuana. “The analysis showed that someone shot her, and the bullet



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS CUIERREZ

For adoptions they cross the animals by land to the U.S.

was stuck in her chest. It caused her a serious cough problem. I can’t explain to myself how a person can shoot a dog. How can you do that?” She’d seen even kids maltreating dogs. “It’s obviously a behavior learned within their families. That violence can scale up. Later on, those kids can be violent with humans.”

Arrellano and her sister use their own money to support their efforts, but they also get support from a Canadian group that helps find new families for her rescued dogs. Her sister, who focuses on sterilization campaigns, gets support from Los Angeles. She says that around 90 percent of the money they use for these campaigns comes from California or Canada. When it comes to adoptions, they cross the animals by land to the U.S. Then in Temecula, they hand them over to another person who delivers the dogs to their next home.

IVÁN MOLINA



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS CUIERREZ

A Mexican mutt, rejoicing over the shift from electrocution to lethal injection.

CARMEL VALLEY

Pay to play?

Greenbacks garner green spaces

There’s a divide in the county when it comes to outdoor recreation. North of the 8, parks unfurl in all directions. In the South Bay, you have to squint to see them. Now, thanks to San Diego’s nearly 100 joint-use agreements, which involve partnering with school and community college districts to provide shared use facilities for recreation, the county has found room for more parks. But only 39 of those agreements are in park-poor areas, while 60 are in communities not so lacking. “This is creating two very different living conditions for our children in San Diego,” said councilmember Vivian Moreno at an April 6 meeting, as the City Council approved the latest joint-use agreement with San Dieguito Union High School District. “The agreements that come to council are, by and large,” to the north where parks are plentiful,” said Moreno, whose district 8 covers the South Bay. We need to be engaged with and partnering with”

school districts such as Sweetwater, South Bay Union, San Ysidro.” Moreno said she met with park staff in 2020 to discuss the inequity that has left her district with far less green space. While the department has had conversations with some of the South Bay districts about potential opportunities, that’s as far as it’s gotten. There are no concrete plans to create new joint-use areas in District 8, she said — “the area that needs it the most.”

A report by the San Diego Foundation mapped the most park-poor areas as having the highest concentration of low-income and minority households. It noted that while 45 percent of the county’s total land area is green space, communities don’t share equally in the park riches. And the latest agreement doesn’t change that. It will open two more recreation spots in 2022 — in North County. That agreement covers the use and mainte-

nance of facilities at Pacific Trails Middle School and Canyon Crest Academy in the Pacific Highlands Ranch Community of Carmel Valley. It will add 29.02 acres of irrigated natural turf field, running track, access



No concrete plans for joint-use parks in District 8, just lots of concrete.

drive, parking lots, and infrastructure to the area’s already abundant options for outings. Right next to the schools, the city-owned Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Park opened in April 2019 with a five-acre turf field, new 17,000-square-foot recreation center, two dog parks, a playground and discovery play area, skate plaza, the city’s first free public parkour area, and a bike pump track. Joint use with the adjacent schools was planned when the park was recommended for approval in 2016 by the Carmel Valley Recreation Council (an advisory board to the San Diego Park and Recreation Department) and the Park and Recreation Board. According to a staff report, the school and park sites were acquired and built to function on a joint-use basis in order to reduce the overall cost to the public to use them. Construction was funded by the district. The city’s annual estimated maintenance cost is \$27,654.

SHEILA PELL

OCEANSIDE

Drugs not hugs

Was tragic death of infant a murder?

In 2010, when Kelsey Shande Carpenter was 20 years old, she was arrested for possession of heroin and burglary. “She has been dealing with drug addiction for over ten years,” a prosecutor said in court on April 9. In 2013 Carpenter gave birth, but that child was removed from her custody because the baby tested positive for drugs. Early in 2020, she gave birth again, but Child Protective Services removed her second child as well, for the same reason.

Carpenter must have immediately become pregnant again, because she gave birth to a third child on November 15, 2020. Although her mother and other persons aware of her situation begged her to get pre-natal care and to have a medically-assisted birth, “she refused to do this as she was aware that CPS would likely take this child away, as they have previously done with her prior two other children,” the prosecutor said. The young mother instead gave birth to her third child while alone in her

Oceanside apartment. She cut the umbilical cord herself, and tried to stop the bleeding by putting a piece of scotch tape over the baby’s belly button, and then putting a diaper on the baby. But the newborn girl bled to death, according to the prosecutor.

Carpenter sent multiple text messages and a photograph of her new baby, the prosecutor said, but she did not call 911 “until the baby was practically dead.” The deceased infant tested positive for high levels of methamphetamine and Buprenorphine, allegedly. Carpenter was arrested by Oceanside police on March 23 and charged with murder and felony child abuse.

At the hearing, the defendant had a private defense attorney, Brian White, who disputed facts alleged by the prosecutor. He asserted that Carpenter was getting treatment for opioid addiction at the Mission Treatment methadone clinic, and that when she became pregnant, they gave her the drug Buprenorphine, “which

continued on page 44

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



Thursday | 22

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival kicks off on Earth Day, and will screen twenty films about nature, activism, conservation, climate change, wildlife, environmental justice and agriculture, all shown virtually. Two of the films are *The Pangolin Man*, in which Moses Arineitwe strives to save the most illegally traded mammal in the world; and *This Land*. Runner and advocate Faith E. Briggs used to run through the streets of Brooklyn every morning. Now she's running 150 miles through three national monuments.

WHEN: Thursday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 27, 7 am to 9:30 pm

WHERE: browercenter.org

BEYOND PRISON WALLS

A collection of virtual short plays and conversations sharing the successes, challenges and hilarity of returning home after incarceration. Each evening includes two or three short plays performed by San Diego State University Theatre students. Scripts were written by participants in Out of the Yard programs at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Centinela State Prison, Male Community Reentry Program, and the Returned Writers Circle. Each performance will be followed by a talkback with the returned writers. Event is free, tickets required.

WHEN: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday April 22, 23, and 24, 6 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: playwrightsproject.org

Saturday | 24

KORN: MONUMENTAL LIVESTREAM

Korn will perform deep cuts and classics from their catalog as well as the concert debut of tracks from their most recent album in a fully virtual event. Available to stream for 72 hours through April 27.



KORN

WHEN: Saturday, April 24, 1 pm

WHERE: kornlive.com



THE DECEMBERISTS

Sunday | 25

THE DECEMBERISTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join the Decemberists for three shows, each with its own setlist. Some ticket options have a VIP experience post-show (additional performances and a Q+A with the band) and a limited edition series poster illustrated

by Carson Ellis. Each show will be available to view on-demand for two weeks following the stream.

WHEN: Sunday, April 25, 5 pm

WHERE: boxoffice.mandolin.com

Wednesday | 28

BIRD WATCHING IN & AROUND SAN DIEGO

Being situated on the Pacific flyway and hosting diverse habitats makes San Diego a hotspot for migrating birds. Over 515 species have been recorded in the county. There will be an introduc-

tion to birding and equipment needed, as well as tips for attracting birds to your yard and where to see birds in the San Diego area. Dr. Nigella Hillgarth is a biologist who served as the executive director of the Birch Aquarium. She was also executive director of the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, the largest bird sanctuary in the country, where she collaborated on conservation efforts for marine birds in the Galapagos islands, Peru and Argentina.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 28, 10 am to 11 am

WHERE: ljcommunitycenter.org



NIGELLA HILLGARTH

THURSDAY, APRIL 22: BEYOND PRISON WALLS

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Spring Tails This festive event includes hands-on animal encounters with several springtime species, a discovery walk to unravel a puzzle for a treat and craft for you to create and keep. To schedule, please call us at 858-756-4117 ext. 318 or email education@animal-center.org. Grades/Ages: Toddlers, Preschool–5th Grade. One hour time slot between 9am–3pm. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$50 per group (6 people to a group). Saturday, April 24, 9am; Sunday, April 25, 9am; \$50. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

Abstract Painting With Acrylics In-person Spring Session II (Ages 18+) Abstract painting with acrylics (with an emphasis on color gradation) with Kaori Fukuyama. Learn how to create captivating abstract compositions with a focus on color gradation. Wednesdays, 6pm; through Wednesday, May 19, \$250-\$280. 18 and up. Lux Art Institute, 1550 S. El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Adults In-Person Spring Session II Enjoy a comprehensive introduction to the various techniques and strategies that make up collage. Develop your sketchbook and create stand alone collages while learning techniques such as cutting, glueing, tracing, image transfer, embroidery, and more. General Member or above \$250 Non-Member \$280. Contact: education@luxartinstitute.org

Art Making Classes for Adults Art making classes for adults and mature adults. Small groups, mini-

mum 3 to maximum 6 participants. Everything needed for the class is provided. Beginners welcome. Fridays, 2pm; through Friday, December 31, \$30-\$60. 18 and up. Golden Moth Creative Lounge, 439 South Cedros Avenue Suite 201. (SOLANA BEACH)

Benito Bautista & Linda Cabalero Sotelo Join Arts District Liberty Station for a Creative Conversation event featuring Benito Bautista Executive Director and Co-Founder of San Diego Filipino Cinema via Zoom. Thursday, April 22, 6pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3eausnf>. (ONLINE)

MultiMedia with Susan Wickstrand This course is intended to provide students with a diverse range of art-making opportunities while also allowing them to continue to investigate different visual art styles and techniques using art and design elements and concepts. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, May 18, \$250-\$280. 18 and up. Lux Art Institute, 1550 S. El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

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

Author Reading: Orr Agam Orr Agam is the inaugural artist to be featured in the Artisan Network Program. *The Fixers Mess* reading includes a Q&A and in-person signing. Saturday, April 24, 3:30pm; **free**. Passport Refreshments, 1455 Frazee Road Suite 500. (MISSION VALLEY)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Kate Quinn Warwick's will host Kate Quinn as she discusses her new book, *The Rose Code*, in conversation with Kristina McMorris. Saturday, April 24, 11am; **free**. warwicks.com/event/quinn-2021. (ONLINE)

Rhyme & Verse

Three sonnets for Shakespeare's birthday

IV

Unthrifty loveliness, why dost thou spend
Upon thyself thy beauty's legacy?
Nature's bequest gives nothing but doth lend,
And being frank she lends to those are free.
Then, beauteous niggard, why dost thou abuse
The bounteous largess given thee to give?
Profitless usurer, why dost thou use
So great a sum of sums, yet canst not live?
For having traffic with thyself alone,
Thou of thyself thy sweet self dost deceive.
Then how, when nature calls thee to be gone,
What acceptable audit canst thou leave?
Thy unused beauty must be tomb'd with thee,
Which, used, lives th' executor to be.

V

Those hours, that with gentle work did frame
The lovely gaze where every eye doth dwell,
Will play the tyrants to the very same
And that unfair which fairly doth excel:
For never-resting time leads summer on
To hideous winter and confounds him there;
Sap cheque'd with frost and lustry leaves quite gone,
Beauty o'ersnow'd and bareness every where:
Then, were not summer's distillation left,
A liquid prisoner pent in walls of glass,
Beauty's effect with beauty were bereft,
Nor it nor no remembrance what it was:
But flowers distill'd though they with winter meet,
Leese but their show; their substance still lives sweet.

VI

Then let not winter's ragged hand deface
In thee thy summer, ere thou be distill'd:
Make sweet some vial; treasure thou some place
With beauty's treasure, ere it be self-kill'd.
That use is not forbidden usury,
Which happies those that pay the willing loan;
That's for thyself to breed another thee,
Or ten times happier, be it ten for one;
Ten times thyself were happier than thou art,
If ten of thine ten times refigured thee:
Then what could death do, if thou shouldst depart,
Leaving thee living in posterity?
Be not self-will'd, for thou art much too fair
To be death's conquest and make worms thine heir.



William Shakespeare (1564–1616), a poet who needs no introduction on a poetry page, was (needless to say) the greatest writer of English verse — and one of the greatest poets of any language — to put pen to paper. According to historical records, Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, but to bestow on his biography the same symmetry with which he imbued his sonnets and his plays, most historians have accepted his birth and death on the same day, 52 years apart — April 23. Although his day of birth was based on an 18th-century mistake in scholarship, this date marking both his birth and death is especially fitting on the grave marker of England's greatest poet, as it is also the day on which England celebrates its patron saint — St. George.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Building Confidence with Meditation This class is for anyone at any level who'd like to build more confidence in their meditation practice and their life. Meditating in a group builds a stronger energy to tap into, which you can take with you into your daily meditation practice. Thursdays, 7pm; through Thursday, April 29, **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

CCS Prevents: SAAM Workshops Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Virtual Prevention Workshops: CCS will host a series of virtual prevention and education workshops on Wednesdays in April. Wednesdays, 4pm; through Wednesday, April 28, **free**. <https://bit.ly/2Py8an6>. (ONLINE)

Family Master Composter Course The Family Master Composter course will cover everything you need to compost with confidence, all presented in a way that's fun and intuitive for kids. Virtual Course Format: 1-hour weekly meetings via Zoom will include live lessons from educators, Q&A time, mini quizzes, videos, and more. Saturdays, 10am; through Saturday, May 1, **free**-\$25. solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops. (ONLINE)

History of Yiddish Literature Enjoy a comprehensive introductory course about Yiddish literature. During the seven lectures, you will meet the most significant Yiddish

poets and writers of the 19-20th centuries. Sundays, 11:30am; through Sunday, May 23, \$20-\$120. <https://bit.ly/2R28Q4t>. (ONLINE)

Meditation, Awareness & Awakening Expand your awareness and awaken to all that you are through the practical methods of Trika Buddhism. Class includes both meditation and mindfulness instruction for all levels. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, April 24, **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Retro Tapestry Weaving Class Practice plain weave, twills, tapestry, sumac, fringe making and more. Weave traditionally and create four 1960s and 70s inspired, richly textured and tactile samplers of fiber art. Please register in advance. \$156 Bravo member, \$180 non-member + \$29 Supplies fee. Sunday, April 25, 10am; \$185-\$209. Bravo School of Art South Park, 2963 Beech Street. bravoschoolofart.squarespace.com. (SOUTH PARK)

Sha un shtil! A New Yiddish Theater Experiment Join our experimental Yiddish course featuring Itzik Manger's "Megile Lider." Our innovative format will include elements of Iyeykraz and shmues, and special guests. This will be the first in a series of exciting Yiddish Theatre workshops offered by the Yiddish Theater Academy. Thursday, April 22, 11am; Tuesday, April 27, 11am; \$15-\$120. <https://bit.ly/3rvXDpl>. (ONLINE)

Support Global Warming 3-part Family Fun Series In "Support Global Warming" your

family will learn how fun and easy it is to compost at home with red wiggler composting worms — the best pets you will ever have! Saturday, April 24, 1pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3g1cruf>. (ONLINE)

The Truth of Finding Yourself There is so much Joy to experience in meditation, once we get out of our own way. Join Terra for meditation and discussion about the Path. Mondays, 5pm; through Monday, April 26, **free**. 18 and up. dharma-center.com. (ONLINE)

Traditional Composting Workshop Series Hone your composting skills, or to get started for the first time. Each part of the 4-part webinar series builds upon the previous offering, covering how to build your own backyard composting bin, what to add for optimal decomposition, utilizing the bokashi method, and how to harvest and use your finished product. Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, April 27, **free**. solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops. (ONLINE)

Troubleshooting, Harvesting, Using Traditional Compost Composting is a dynamic process with needs that change over time. This free virtual webinar will teach you how to care for your compost pile from start to finish and reap the rewards of a beautiful finished soil amendment. Tuesday, April 27, 6pm; **free**. solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops. (ONLINE)

Women's Healthcare Conference Sharp Healthcare Presents a Women's Healthcare Conference: Featuring Elizabeth Gilbert, author

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of The New York Times Best Sellers "Eat, Pray, Love", "Big Magic" and "City of Girls." Saturday, April 24, 9am; free. warwicks.com/event/sharp-2021. (ONLINE)

COMEDY

Ari Mannis Ari Mannis has been seen on MTV's Greatest Party Story Ever, Brake Time, Sales Force, and more. Thursday, April 22, 8pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Rene Vaca Rene Vaca has been seen on NBC & Comedy Central. Saturday, April 24, 8pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Steve Furey Steve Furey has been seen on Youtube's Night of the Living Karens. Friday, April 23, 8pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Cherry Bombs Livestream: Macabaret Enjoy a presentation of Macabaret, a story of a man tangled in a delicious web of torment and retribution. The Cherry Bombs combine all the dance and skill sets with a theme about what happens to someone who runs out of luck at the White Dog Saloon. Friday, April 23, 12pm; \$20-\$75. <https://bit.ly/3dtBJQ3>. (ONLINE)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Becoming Compassion: Putting Compassion into Action Weekly online Compassion Practice group will engage in guided meditation, personal reflection and group sharing. Tuesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, April 27. free-\$20. <https://bit.ly/3uK1cdQ>. (ONLINE)

LGBTQ+ & Allies Podcast Discussion Join BELOVED San Diego for a 4-part discussion group on the Colors of Hope podcast exploring hope as an act of resistance for people who identify as LGBTQ+ in the church. Thursdays, 6:30pm; through Thursday, April 29, free-\$20. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3wNfbBd>. (ONLINE)

MAPS (Mentorship, Advisors, Peers, Sponsorship) Join Women In Bio's Southern California chapter for our MAPS (Mentorship, Advisors, Peers, and Sponsorship) Peer Group launch event to learn more about MAPS, network, and meet the peer group leaders and members of this community. The event will be hosted on zoom. Thursday, April 22, 6pm; womeninbio.org/page/VirtualEvents2021. (ONLINE)

Real Word Reunion Speakers Panel The Real Word is a panel comprised of individuals who have spent time in foster care after experiencing abuse, neglect, or aban-

OUTDOORS

Look for jacarandas on Rosecrans Boulevard, 25th Street in Golden Hill, Mission Village Drive

Blue-Blossoming Jacaranda Trees have already produced a first wave of color along the streets of San Diego. By early or mid-May, warm weather permitting, this Brazilian import could put on a dazzling show. The larger jacarandas, which in full bloom are leafless, or nearly so, display myriads of delicate, trumpet-shaped blossoms — a lavender haze as seen from afar. Jacarandas are commonly used as landscaping in parks and on most college campuses. Nice rows of jacarandas grace several streets downtown, Rosecrans Boulevard in Point Loma, 25th Street in Golden Hill, and Mission Village Drive above Qualcomm Stadium.

Monkey-Flowers of various species are putting on an excellent display this month around San Diego. Look for these low, shrublike plants with tubular yellow, orange, or red flowers wherever native vegetation clothes the landscape — from the coastal bluffs to the lower slopes of the mountains. As you drive Interstates 8 or 805 near Mission Valley, look for the rust tint these flowers give to the steep hillsides. On the terraces just above San Onofre State Beach, you can usually see springtime monkeyflower blossoms of every intermediate shade from yellow to red.

Bracken Ferns are rising on the higher moun-

donment by their caregivers. The "Reunion" panel will feature two Real Word alumni along with their CASA volunteers, who together will reflect on foster care, pivotal moments in their lives, and the role of CASAs. Tuesday, April 27, 5:30pm; free. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3ehOXp3>. (ONLINE)

San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering There will be a livestream main stage with performances on Tuesday, April 27th and Wednesday, April 28th from 10am-6pm. The week will also include a series of live virtual events along with over 100 pre-recorded sessions and workshops for engagement and learning for the entire family. Sundays; Mondays; Tuesdays; Wednesdays; through Sunday, May 2, free. lovestemsd.org/. (ONLINE)

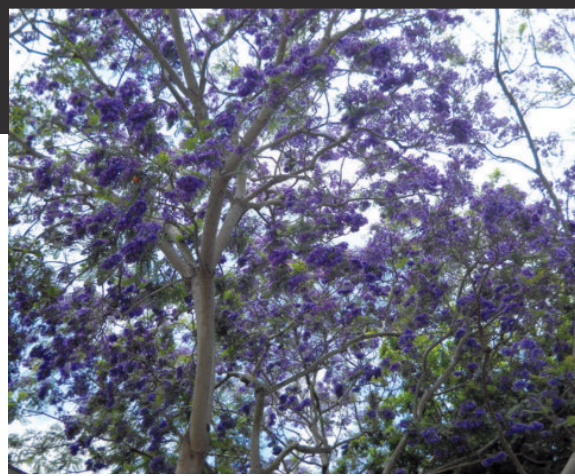
Smart Recovery Meeting: Poway/RB/Peñasquitos For Zoom meeting ID and password contact Dave H. (facilitator) 858-205-5828 davehoward63@outlook.com. Smart Recovery® is a free alternative to 12-step programs, using a science-based approach. Mondays, 7pm; through Monday, May 31, free. 18 and up. (ONLINE)

FARMERS' MARKETS

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

FILM

The Unscene: Filipino Food & Short Films San Diego Filipino Cinema presents The Unscene, a night of Filipino food and Boba tea and local Filipino American short films. This is an outdoor cinema event. Food will be served during the film screening. Meal choices are available upon checkout. Thursday, April 22, 7:30pm; \$25. Villa Manila, 500 E. 8th Street. (NATIONAL CITY)



JACARANDA ALONG CANON STREET, POINT LOMA

tains of San Diego County, their bright green, unfolding fronds (called "fiddleheads") pushing up through the russet remains of last year's growth. Look for waist-high bracken fern along the 7 creeks and hollows of the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains.

Desert Agaves, or century plants, are sending up their asparagus-like flower stalks on rocky hillsides throughout much of the Anza-Borrego Desert. On warm, sunny days the stalks may grow almost one foot per day (fast enough for you to notice the sharp leaf tips at the bud actually separating from one another). After the stalk reaches a height of 10-20 feet, clusters of waxy, yellow flowers appear, ready for pollination by bees and other insects. After blooming, the fleshy, dagger-like leaves at the base of the plant die (after a life of 10 or 20 years, not a century) and the stalk, bearing a crop of seeds, dries up as well.

The above comes from the Outdoors listings in the Reader compiled by Jerry Schad, author of Afoot & Afield in San Diego County. Schad died in 2011. Planet information from SkyandTelescope.org.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival kicks off on Earth Day, April 22 and runs through April 27, hosted by the Citizens Climate Lobby, North County chapter. Twenty award-winning films about nature, activism, conservation, climate change, wildlife, environmental justice and agriculture will be shown virtually. Thu-Tue, April 22-27, 7am; \$15-\$25. browercenter.org/wsff-2021/. (ONLINE)

LECTURES

Advanced Iyeykraz: Socialism in Yiddish Literature In this 6-session advanced Iyeykraz, we will read Yiddish literary texts about socialism written by authors who represent different generations and different regions. We will get familiarized with various literary styles, from realism and social-realism to expressionism and modernism, in poetry, drama, and in prose. Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, April 25, \$18-\$60. 18 and up. <https://bit.ly/3s8nN2P>. (ONLINE)

Bird Watching In & Around San Diego

San Diego is a wonderful area for birding with many different habitats and also being on the Pacific flyway means that many birds migrate through the area. Over 515 species have been recorded in the County. There will be an introduction to Birding and equipment needed as well as how to attract birds to your yard and where to see birds in the San Diego area. Wednesday, April 28, 10am; free. ljcommunitycenter.org/wc. (ONLINE)

Richard Lederer: The Legacy of William Shakespeare

Celebrate the Bard's birthday with columnist Richard Lederer, who will demonstrate Shakespeare's contributions to our English language. Shakespeare exited the earthly stage more than 400 years ago, but Dr. Lederer will demonstrate that the Bard is alive and well and living robustly in San Diego. Register online to receive the zoom link. Thursday, April 22, 5pm; free. <https://bit.ly/3duR8zC>. (ONLINE)

The Fishing Link: A New Take on the Coastal Model

San Diego Archaeological Center: Dr. Mark Sutton discusses the role of salmonids as a magnet that drew Paleoindians south along the coast and into

the Americas south of the ice. Other colonization possibilities and the role of a maritime adaptation with boats are also covered. This event will be held on Zoom. Thursday, April 22, 6:30pm; sandiegoarchaeology.org/fishing/. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Star Jasmine's Sweet Perfume, exuded from clusters of small, white flowers, will continue to scent San Diego's spring breezes until sometime in June. Not a true jasmine, or *Jasminum*, star jasmine belongs to the genus *Trachelospermum*. In both public and private spaces, it has been widely planted as an ornamental ground cover and as a trellised vine.

The Annual Green-to-Golden Transition of San Diego's wild grasslands typically takes place in April. North-facing hillsides and canyon slopes retain the green color longer, as they are less exposed to drying sunshine. Locally, most of the wild grasses are naturalized (non-native) annuals, the seeds of which were introduced along with hay and other grains brought in by the Spaniards during the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the mountain meadows have remnants of native grasses, which remain more or less green almost the year round. These rare native grasslands can be found in certain parts of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and more widely distributed at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in the Santa Ana Mountains west of Temecula.

The Rising of the Full Moon

on Saturday, April 19 nearly coincides with the time of sunset. Some folk names for the April full moon are "growing moon," "seed moon," "planter's moon," and "budding trees moon." Try taking a walk at sunset along the sidewalk on Harbor Island. From that vantage, Saturday's full moon comes up right over San Diego's downtown skyline, just as the lights of the city come on. The Annual Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks this year during the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 22. This is a relatively minor meteor shower. This year's Lyrid shower will mostly be spoiled by the glare of the nearly full moon.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Walk The Block: Barrio Logan

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

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feelbeautiful.com

Barrio bourbon

“Might I trouble you for another Doublewood?”

Cherry-looking chap’s taking a sip of beer. We’re in the Barrio, up from Northgate Market, in this little restaurant row beside Cesar E. Chavez Parkway. Sign says “Liberty Call,” and shows off big anchors and lots of red, white, and blue. Quite a contrast to Pho Bo and Oi Asian Fusion, the two eateries next door.

Guy’s name is Josh. He’s trying to explain to me how distilling works. We’re looking through glass at a shiny still that’s making whiskey as we speak. Feels like we’re on the set of a steampunk movie. Pipes, portholes, shiny stuff. “You can tell what’s happening by looking through the portholes,” says Josh. He’s sipping one of their six draft beers, La Flama Blanca, a Mexican lager (\$6). Turns out he is the actual distiller, the guy who makes all these bourbons and single malts



those amino acids), green onion, radish, cherry tomatoes, carrots, cilantro, citrus, slices of avo, jalapeño, and *pinquito* beans (sweeter than pinto). Plus, included in the price, a choice of protein: *carnitas*, grilled chicken, vegetarian

jackfruit, short rib beef *birria*, fish, or, for \$3 more, tri-tip. Hmm.

Now I see it, a sandwich board pushes the Monday-to-Friday \$10 lunch. You get to choose between a burger, a chicken sandwich, a plate of

poutine, a flatbread, and a salad, plus a side including soup, and a soda. Sounds generous to me. But I go for the Barrio Bowl salad with *carnitas*. And what a glorious mess: beans, peas, seeds, quinoa, lettuce, and big pile of *carnitas*.

Of course, their thing here is making spirits. Whiskeys, mainly. But also gins, a spiced rum,

vodka. In the end, I can’t resist their offer of a flight of any four for \$15. Honestly, spirits ain’t my thing. That

burnt taste, the acid flair in your mouth.

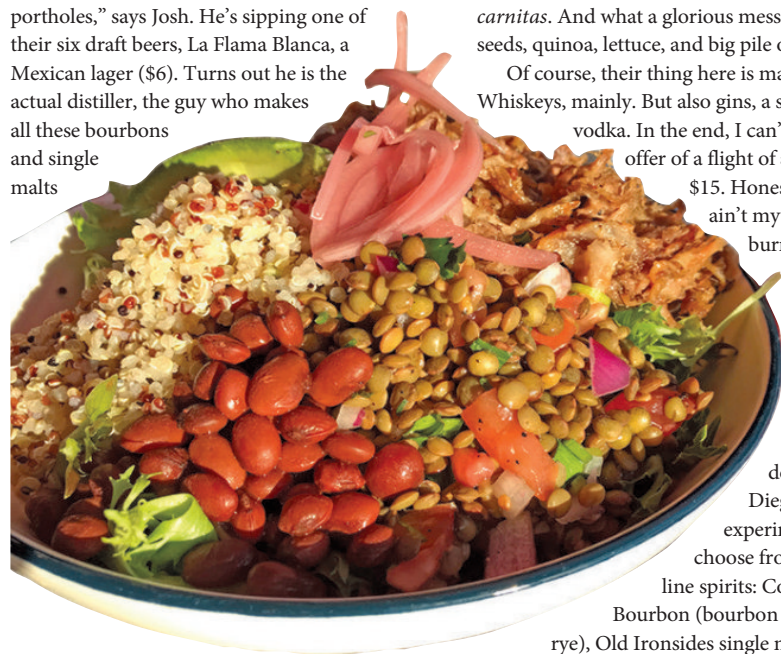
Same with tequila. But how can I turn down San Diego’s latest experiment? I

choose from their main

line spirits: Constitution

Bourbon (bourbon blended with rye), Old Ironsides single malt, Double-

wood Very Small Batch bourbon, and hey, PB Chocolati — bourbon with peanut butter and chocolate. And, okay, it’s the only one I truly enjoy, because it’s sweet. Which tells you how much I know about spirits. (Later I see online what I could’ve had if I were really serious: a bottle of “Pappy Van Winkle,” Family Reserve, 23-year-old bourbon whiskey. It costs \$4999. Per bottle.)



Best deal all day? Ten bucks buys this, complete with choice of meat or fish

that they’re displaying around the bar. “The portholes do tell you how the liquids are developing, but you have to interpret what’s going on to deliver the right strength and flavor,” he says, “so it is still a very human art.”

This is the second time I’ve dropped in here. Yesterday was just because they were offering \$10 lunch specials. It’s a newish joint up from the Barrio Logan trolley station, an airy, high-ceilinged place, with one of those roll-up glass-front garage doors that exposes the whole inside. The interior is butter-yellow, with black furniture, and an anchor inlaid into the back wall. Most everybody’s sitting up to the bar, but I take an inside-outside table and start studying the beers. Get a Juice Press Hazy IPA (\$7) from Michael the server, and a Barrio Bowl salad (\$10), because I’ve been having too much fried stuff lately. And this looks like the deal. Mixed greens with lentils, quinoa (high fiber, all



Liberty Call’s poutine: not just gravy



Patio scene: as much outside as in

The Place: Liberty Call Distilling Co., 1985 National Avenue, Suite 1131, Barrio Logan, 619-432-1848
Hours: 11am-8pm Monday to Friday; 12-8pm Saturday; 12-5pm Sunday

Prices: Soup of the day, \$8; cashew wings, \$8; Dos Tacos (various fillings), \$8; poutine, with birria short ribs, white cheese sauce, \$10; fried cauliflower, \$10; duck confit pupusas, \$10 for 2; pepperoni flatbread, \$10; barrio bowl salad, with quinoa, \$10; barrio burger w/fries, \$12; fried chicken sandwich with fries, \$12; fried rice, \$12; two keto cups, \$12; mussels and fries, \$12

Buses: 12, 901, 929

Nearest Bus Stops: Logan and Chavez (12); National and Chavez (901); Main and Chavez (929)

Trolley: Blue Line

Nearest Trolley Stop: Barrio Logan, Chavez and E. Harbor Drive

Food, on the other hand, is a deal. Next day, I’m back, and checking the \$10 lunch offer, this time with a bean-type soup and a plate of poutine. This poutine’s basically stringy short rib *birria* on top of a pile of fries with white cheese sauce liquefying things. Good kind of food to share and chew the fat with.

Specially with a guy like Josh. It turns out he also makes his own spirits. “I call my company Deaf Shepherd Distilling,” he says.

I have to ask why.

The incredible answer is that this guy is still active duty Navy. Bomb squad. EOD. Has done six deployments, Iraq, Afghanistan. Has neutralized 125 IEDs. And always with his companion Satchel, an Afghan Warrior Shepherd dog. “We’ve been 11 years together, a lot at firebases. We finally came to the end of one deployment. I had one last mission, to blow up a cache of weapons we had discovered. I checked everybody was clear, but somehow Satchel snuck back in.”

“The charge went off. “Then we saw Satchel.

She came tearing out of the cache area, disappeared into the tent and under my bed. The explosion blew both

her eardrums. She has been partially deaf ever since. But otherwise okay. So I named my distilling company after her: ‘Deaf Shepherd.’”

Is she still in

Afghanistan?

“She is back with me



Josh Christy, Distiller and active duty explosives guy

here in San Diego.”

Josh was born in Saudi Arabia. His parents were both teachers over there. “Everybody had their liquor stills,” he says. “It was a very dry country.” Between deployments, he decided to make a profession of distilling. “I came to Bill Rogers, the owner of Liberty Call. He said ‘Bring me a batch you’re proud of.’ I did, and have been their distiller ever since.”

He has hair-raising stories. Seventeen of his 22 buddies at their forward firebase earned Purple Hearts, meaning they were wounded. Three were killed.

I realize I have nervous-chewed through all my poutine fries. For a moment, I think of ordering up their \$12 Barrio Burger. (Even better, for \$3 you can add bacon and a fried egg.) But then I think no. What I need is a drink. And no wishy-washy beer. More like, say, a good stiff Very Small Batch Bourbon.

“Uh, might I trouble you for another Doublewood?” I ask. ■

OB-friendly Filipino

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

Starfish Filipino Eatery brings something new to O.B.

Starfish Filipino Eatery; 1830 Sunset Cliffs Blvd Suite E, Ocean Beach. Count me among the many thousands of young transplants who, upon first arriving in San Diego, took a look around the city, and all it has to offer, and decided to settle first in Ocean Beach. And why not? It's got instant access to the sandy beaches that lured us here, and kook-friendly surf for those determined to start. There are scenic cliffs to stroll, lively bars serving cheap, potent cocktails, and an endless influx of quirky people to watch. For all the same reasons, someone like me might move into OB and for months or years at a time never see any reason to leave the neighborhood.

the feeling that, given the choice, long-time Obecians will choose the same ho hum meal they've ordered from the same cherished place they've loyally patronized for years, rather than take their palates on a culinary adventure.

That's probably why I took notice of a new spot that opened on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard earlier this year: Starfish Filipino Eatery. San Diego's actually blessed with a greater breadth of Filipino restaurants than most American cities, but they tend to cluster around neighborhoods with higher concentrations of Filipino Americans, such as National City and Mira Mesa. Though we food writer types tend to seek them out, and share the experiences, descriptions of some traditional Filipino dishes too often keep non-adventurous eaters at bay.

For example, I checked out an emerging Filipino restaurant a few years ago, and wound up trying *balut*: a fertilized duck egg that tasted



Pan-seared salmon with stir fried vegetables.

What eventually drew me away from the beach was food. The neighborhood is set for burgers and tacos, has a bona fide institution in Poma's Italian Deli, and thanks to the recent years arrival of Blue Water Seafood, can satisfy most fish cravings. But, while tourists might line up for Hodad's, there aren't legitimately exciting meals to be had.

It's as though restaurants in the area know they have a captive audience, so they don't rock the boat by deviating from the usual. I just get

like a cross between hard boiled egg and pâté. I quite enjoyed it, but didn't wind up writing about it, out of concern sharing photos of a boiled duck embryo could turn people off to Filipino food forever.

That is not a concern I have about recommending Starfish. Its promise of "modern Philippine cuisine" is so well aligned with Obecian tastes that it offers a vegan menu. I won't pretend I enjoyed vegetable lumpia more than Starfish's conventional beef and pork ver-



Starfish Filipino Cuisine opened in Ocean Beach during the pandemic.

sions, or that most won't prefer the eatery's "special" lumpia, which adds shrimp. But the egg roll-like fried wrap filled instead with minced mushrooms, cabbage, water chestnut, carrots, and green beans? Still pretty darn addictive.

Starfish is still pretty new, and it did open in the middle of a pandemic, so its menu doesn't feel complete. For that matter, it has yet to offer dine-in seating — a reminder that, despite easing restrictions that allow indoor dining again, some restaurants still have too small a footprint to make 50-percent capacity work.

But, now is a great time for Obecians to check its take-out menu for some Filipino greatest hits. For example, the stir-fried noodle and vegetable dish *pancit* provides a tasty introduction to Filipino food. Meanwhile, meat eaters should try some *adobo*. It's the best known non-lumpia dish of Filipino cuisine, and Starfish makes it as either a chicken, pork, or boiled egg dish. I ordered a combo of all three, and though it wasn't as spicy or vinegary as most *adobos* I've tried, it was savory and satisfying, especially when I ate some with a bit of garlic fried rice.

I had a similar experience with the *pritong* salmon. They pan-seared the fish with skin on, and the crackling texture nearly imparted more to the brightly colored fish than its light seasoning. Served with a colorful mix of stir fried vegetables, it was another OB-friendly dish — tasty, sumptuous, and easy to like. Give Starfish a few years, and it will likely become another beloved mainstay for a new generation of incoming Obecians, who may find themselves altogether running out of reasons to head inland.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Dim Sum & Jazz Music Series 4/23 Cobby Brzeski Feat. Koosha Hakimi Trio, 4/30 Sacha Boutros, 5/7 Leonard Patton Trio, 5/14 Trio Gadjo Feat. Claudia Gomez, 5/21 Koosha Hakimi Band Feat. Adelia Young, 5/28 The Garden of Joy, 6/4 Ed Kornhauser Quartet/ Fridays, 6pm; through Friday, June 4, free. Golden Island, 10660 Camino Ruiz. (MIRA MESA)

Essential Worker Appreciation Day The new bakery in Point Loma wants to thank those who are taking care of our community. First Responders, Military and Medical Professionals will enjoy 10% off all cake purchases on this day with ID or badge. Thursday, April 22, 9am; free. Nothing Bundt Cakes, 3225 Sports Arena Boulevard Suite 103. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Flamingo Fridays Live music and \$2 off canned Cutwater cocktails. Dog friendly patio, face masks and social distancing will be enforced. Fridays, 4pm; through Friday, April 30, free. Graze by Sam, 555 West Date Street & Eats by Sam, 807 W Harbor Dr. (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)

Surfrider Foundation Benefit Day 20% of sales will be donated to the San Diego chapter of The Surfrider Foundation, an organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches for all people. Friday, April 23, 9am; free. Nothing Bundt Cakes, 3225 Sports Arena Boulevard Suite 103. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Veteran's Village Benefit Day 20% of sales will be donated to Veteran's Village of San Diego, an organization that serves America's veterans in overcoming homelessness and related challenges. Saturday, April 24, 9am; free. Nothing Bundt Cakes, 3225 Sports Arena Boulevard Suite 103. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)



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blurt the inside track

A sense of elation

followed by pride broke out among San Diego hip-hopsters and sneakerheads last month when Lincoln High alumnus, Norman Powell, signed a sneaker deal with AND1.

“Powell is currently the only San Diego-born player with his own shoe,” said local hip-hop head and sneaker dealer Dante Rowley. “Powell signing with AND1 is a great decision; it’s every player’s dream to get his or her signature

watching AND1 mixtapes, and now to be a part of the brand is surreal.”

Miguel Degracia, SDSU student and hip-hop DJ, recalls the notorious AND1 Mixtape VHS cassettes. The mixtapes contained montages of street basketball footage backed with hip-hop joints seemingly mixed by a live DJ.

“It’s all about the hype and the swag of the ballplayers,” Degracia explained. “When you got that type of music in the background, it creates a feeling as if you’re

“Yes, they look cool and seem to be good hooping shoes, but more so in support of a San Diego native.”

Ryan Anthony, a well-known Spring Valley rapper, wrote that he’s “fasho finna get em” on an Instagram post. “...The AND1 sponsorship is legendary.”

Complex magazine reposted AND1’s teaser flicks of Powell’s basketball shoes in black and red, and white and red colorways with Powell’s “NP” logo embroidered either by the heel or on the tongue.

Reports state that Powell’s sneakers will ship to Foot Locker Canada stores, but there was no word on if or when they’ll arrive in San Diego Foot Locker locations.

Rowley is known to source rare sneakers for his Rosewood store in the Gaslamp District; he supplies rappers and basketball players from all parts of the world.

“San Diego had a connection to AND1 before Powell,” Rowley continued. “When Jamaal Franklin from SDSU went pro, he was also signed by AND1. Anytime a player gets his own shoe, it is a big deal because kids growing up now will remember that

player even if they end up fizzling out.”

Degracia added that his SDSU alumni already have a couple of Nike basketball shoes floating around. “Those 2011 SDSU sneakers are customs, and I would love to have a pair. I believe the [Kick Factory 619] utilized a pair of hi-top Nike SB dunks, and since the SBs have made a huge comeback over the past year, that could add a lot of value to them.”

The original, circa 1998 AND1 Mixtape VHS tapes featuring rappers Mos Def, Sadat X, and GZA are available for sale on eBay for \$18.50.

— Mike Madriaga

The only sneakers repped by a San Diego NBA player.

there, and it adds another element to the highlights.”

Back in ‘98, Foot Action, a subsidiary of Foot Locker — reportedly hooked up their clientele with about 200,000 complimentary AND1 Mixtape Volume 1 VHS tapes. The formula was a success and “made AND1 a household name in the mid-2000s. Every kid used to emulate the moves of ‘Skip to my Lou’ aka Rafer Alston (on the video),” Rowley recounted.

Powell’s Attack 2.0 sneakers should be available in early fall. “Are you going to rock them on your hip-hop sets?” I asked Degracia.

Holy Love Snakes

Devon E. Levins of Morricone Youth has played just about every kind of rock and roll, and just about everywhere in San Diego’s city limits.

“The last night of the old Casbah was memorable in 1994, recalls Levin, who lived in town from 1987 to 1998. “I played two sets with both aMiniature and Creedle opening for Drive Like Jehu... ‘Karaoke with Creedle’ in 1992, when we tried out lead singers on stage at the old Casbah as well as the Half Man/Half Pie record release party, where a half-naked Ryan Fox pretended to throw a Julian Pie Co. pie in Tim Blankenship’s face and instead pie-ed himself. Casbah cover sets as Rocket & The Crips, Guns & Creedle, and Ziggy Shuffledust & The Creedles from Mars. Creedle had plenty of fun shows at the Che over the years as well.”

“Holy Love Snakes was my first band I joined in San Diego, in 1988,” recalls Levin. “It [was] started by Dan Brewer a number of years before I met him, playing at the Spirit Club a lot. Although on Cargo/Headhunter [Records], HLS was more during that late ‘80s/early ‘90s time, when first-wave hardcore and thrash metal had arguably run its course, but grunge/indie rock had not really kicked in with full force.

“Creedle was more kitchen sink, everything goes, arguably more punishing on the band members and the listener with roots in punk, jazz, metal, noise, prog, and typical indie rock. It was formed out of the ashes of a number of San Diego bands, that had all broken up at the same time — Holy Love Snakes, Pulltoys, If Tomorrow, and Daddy Longlegs.

“aMiniature and Rust were never my bands. I was more of a sideman, as they were run by John Lee and John Hogan, respectively, and I played local shows and toured some after their former guitarists left them. I played with Napo briefly, but I never played any shows with them. I did do a couple of Fern Trio improv shows as well as Christina



Morricone Youth’s Devon E. Levins: “The original concept itself spawned from San Diego.”

Chabalaba’s Charvana.”

Asked about his favorite shows seen over the years, he starts out with an obligatory “Geez, there’s too many. But the first that come to mind are tons of shows at the original Casbah, like Jesus Lizard two times, Nirvana with Dale Crover on drums pre-*Nevermind*, Zeni Geva and the Caspar Brötzmann Massaker, the Pixies at The Bacchanal, Crash Worship, and Trumans Water virtually any time they played.

“Bad Brains and The Buzzcocks at Iguanas (does Tijuana count?), Fugazi at La Paloma, Drive Like Jehu’s first show at the original Soma, The Flaming Lips at the Spirit, Danzig on his first tour at Rios. P-Funk at the Belly Up where I felt the funk, when Bootsy played his bass walking through the audience.”

Asked about favorite places to eat, drink, and party down, Levins remembers several places fondly. “Dao Son 2 was my favorite Vietnamese restaurant where I have not found an equivalent since. The Vietnamese crepe, chicken lemongrass, and garlic chicken all make me hungry just thinking about them. The Pink Panther was where I met many lifelong friends when I was relatively new to San Diego. I couldn’t believe that the singer of Mani-fest Destiny was the door guy.

“The Windsock, merely because it was as unique as a karaoke bar can be and

walkable from my last place in Middletown. I recently revisited it a few months ago when *Top Gun* was on TV. [The Windsock was] the best part of that film. Period.”

All of the Off The Records (Hillcrest, Encinitas, and College) helped me learn more and more about music. My record collection wouldn’t have been the same without them.”

He moved to NYC in 1998, following some friends who’d gone over first. “My now-wife and I had always wanted to live in New York for at least a year or two to have that experience, me for music and her for art. I was very inspired by the downtown avant garde music scene, initially at the old Knitting Factory, later Tonic, and now the Stone.”

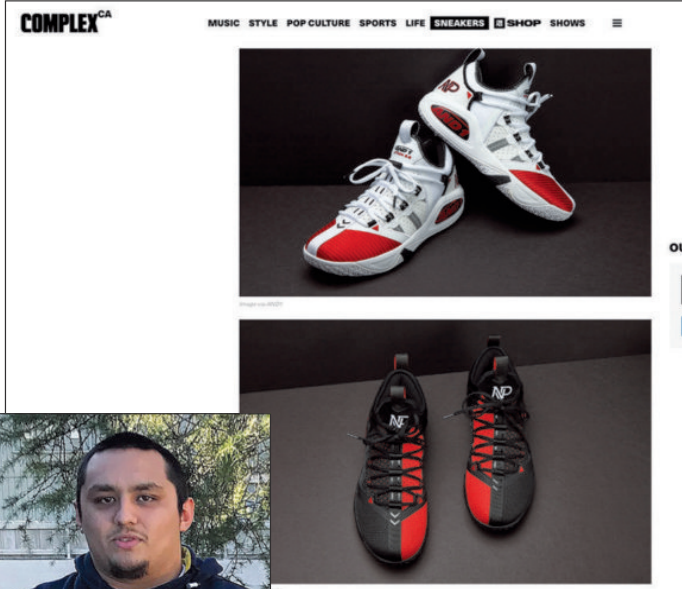
Morricone Youth (the name riffing on Sonic Youth side project Ciccone Youth) started in 1999, with the idea of re-interpreting soundtrack music, or furnishing new music to films. “The funny thing is that the original concept itself spawned from San Diego as something that Chris Stillwell (Greyboy Allstars), Steve Kader (Donkey Show/B-Side Players,) and I discussed doing in the mid-late ‘90s, but it never materialized.”

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



DJ Miguel Degracia’s a fan.

shoe and is also almost next to impossible.”

Powell — former GoDaddy rapper and current 6-foot 4-inch guard for the Toronto Raptors, 2019 NBA champions — reportedly signed with the footwear and gear company days before March Madness’s preliminary jump ball.

“It has been a dream come true to be able to be one of the faces for AND1 and to be able to partner with them,” Powell said in a statement. “I grew up

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



JEFF BERKLEY

As one half of the folk duo Berkley Hart, Jeff Berkley has toured the world and performed countless concerts with Calman Hart, including a continuing series of themed shows paying tribute to pop culture touchstones like the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Berkley got his first co-producer credit at age 22 by working on a Joel Raphael record. Now the owner of Berkley Sound, he's since recorded with hundreds of performers, including a growing roster of local talents such as Gregory Page, Lisa Sanders, Stevie & the Hi-Stax, and Tim Flannery. As a solo performer, he's toured the UK opening for Eve Selis and turned up oc-

asionally at local venues, but never did any solo recording until a 2017 album celebrating the music of New Orleans. He's been livestreaming performances on Facebook, but Berkley's first in-person post-pandemic concert happens May 1 at the Grand Ole BBQ. He'll be joined by a local all-star lineup featuring bassist Rick Nash (Soul Persuaders, Back to the Garden), guitarist Dylan Ankney (of Sweetwater Sound and the band Brax), drummer Josh Hermsmeier (Crash & the Burns, Jason Lee & the R.I.P. Tides), guitarist and fiddler Ted Stern (Country Rockin' Rebels, City Limits Band), and Jason Cox.



CARNIFEX

The heavy metal heroes of Carnifex came together in Fallbrook, with their 2010 album *Hell Chose Me* scoring the number four slot on *Billboard's* Top New Artist Albums (Heatseekers) chart. 2014's *Die Without Hope* reached number 98 on the U.S. *Billboard* Top 200, and the band has persevered through several lineup changes, releasing their seventh studio album, *World War X*, in August 2019. The pandemic shutdown of early 2020 cost the band over \$250,000 in lost tour revenue and costs, according to frontman Scott Ian Lewis. The group recently debuted a video for their newly released cover of Korn's 1998 track "Dead Bodies Everywhere." According to Lewis, "Korn was

one of our original influences and inspired us greatly as young musicians. Each time we do a cover, it's our way of saying thank you to the musicians that came before us, and just maybe we added our touch of brutality." The song was tracked earlier this year at local Back Lounge Studios, produced by the band and Mick Kenney (Anaal Nathrakh, Bleeding Through). The "visualizer," as the video is referenced in its title, mainly features creepy quick-flashing black-and-white still images, text, and partly animated skeletons, creating a sort of flip-book backdrop to the pounding track.



EARTHLESS

Psychedelic jam band Earthless first earned national notice when both of their LPs *Acid Crusher/Mount Swan* and *From the Ages* scored slots on *Mxdwn's* Best Albums of 2013 list, which also cited their *Black Heaven* full-length as one of the Top 50 Best Albums of 2018. Since their last big in-person show in January 2020 at the Heavy Psych Sounds Fest, they've kept busy during the pandemic by livestreaming five concert performances from the natural amphitheater of California's Mojave Desert, covering Black Sabbath's "Never Say I Die" for the *Best of Black Sabbath*

(*Redux*) tribute album, and livestreaming multiple shows from the stage at an otherwise unoccupied Casbah. "We just wanna say that we have finished all the tracking, overdubs and seasonings for what will be our fifth studio album," says the band of their current sessions with Ben Moore and Dean Reis at local Singing Serpent Studios. "[Thanks to] Thaddeus Robles for gear loanage. It was nice to do all of this in our hometown of San Diego." The album will be released this fall on the Nuclear Blast label, who also put out their most recent LP



JULIA SAGE

A songwriter since early childhood, Julia Sage plays Chilean-flavored folk, blues, and Americana. She performs as a solo artist, as part of Grampadrew's Flim Flam Revue, and with her band the Bad Hombres. Their debut album *Desnuda* was recorded in 2018, and Sage was nominated Best New Artist at the following year's San Diego Music Awards. Last October, she and her band played a livestream "farewell" performance for the closing of Bar Pink in North Park, and her most recent solo album, *Midnight Songs in the Time of Corona Volume 1*, dropped in February. The Sleepwalkers have been playing authentic Americana roots

rock since 1992, specializing in blues, country, Tex-Mex, Cumbia, and their own brand of roots rock. Their debut full-length *Can't Stop Rockin'* earned them a nomination for Best Americana album at the San Diego Music Awards. Julia Sage & the Bad Hombres will be appearing in-person at Grand Ole BBQ on April 24, and they'll share a bill with Los Sleepwalkers when downtown's Quartyard presents an outdoor evening of Latin influenced rock on May 29. The latter event offers two complete shows, with a matinee performance at 5:30 and an evening show at 7:30.



ANTHONY DAVIS

Pianist Anthony Davis once turned down an offer to join the Grateful Dead and has led prestigious ensembles such as Episteme. As a composer, he's known for operatic works such as the free jazz staple "Of Blues and Dreams," recorded with Leroy Jenkins and Pheeroan ak Laff, and "Episteme," which featured electronic performer and trombonist George Lewis. He made his Broadway debut in 1993, composing music for Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and for Kushner's companion piece, *Perestroika*. Davis,

who joined the faculty of the UCSD Music Department in January 1998, received a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for his opera *X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. His collaboration with Wadada Leo Smith, Ten Freedom Summers, was nominated for a 2013 Pulitzer Prize in music, making the final cut of three. A 2016 opera called *Five*, which documents the infamous case of the Central Park Five, won the Pulitzer Prize in early 2020. Davis will be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters on May 19.

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

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Casino Inn Bar and Grill:
Saturday, 6pm — The 8 East Band. Free.

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:
Sunday, 5pm & 8pm — Courtyard Concerts: Christian Sands. \$70-\$80.

Online Internet Events:
Thursday, 6pm — Aubrey Logan: Louboutins 2.0. \$15-\$99.
Thursday, 4:30pm — Glen Campbell Birthday Tribute. \$9.
Thursday, 5pm — Rainforest Benefit Concert. Free.
Thursday, 4pm — Streetlight Circus at Arlene's Grocery. \$10-\$25.

Thursday, 5:30pm — eTown's 30th b'Earthday Celebration.
Friday, 6pm — Boys World: While You Were Out Livestream. \$5-\$27.

Friday, 12pm — Cherry Bombs Livestream: Macabaret. \$20-\$75.
Friday, 6pm — Hootie & the Blowfish Group Therapy Livestream. \$15-\$250.

Saturday, 1pm — Korn: Monumental Livestream.
Saturday, 6pm — Levitation Sessions: Fuzz.

Sunday, 5pm — The Decembarists 20th Anniversary Celebration. \$25-\$195.

Tuesday, 9pm — Tracy Lawrence Live From The Warehouse.
Wednesday, 6pm — Tune-Yards: Party in a Can.

Thornton Winery:
Friday, 6pm — Brothers Igniting a Groove.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Classical music is self-canceling

The internet was recently astir regarding an article in *The Telegraph*. The headline read, "Musical notation branded 'colonialist' by Oxford professors hoping to 'decolonize' the curriculum."

Musical pundits picked up on this as "the woke" trying to destroy Western Culture from within. After reading the article in *The Telegraph*, I must admit I was alarmed.

A few Google sessions later, I found an article from the Associated Press that read: "CLAIM: The U.K.'s University of Oxford is considering removing sheet music from its music curriculum as part of sweeping changes intended to "decolonize" the program.

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. There are no plans under consideration to remove sheet music or western musical notation from the music curriculum at Oxford

University. The music faculty are planning to add new offerings to the curriculum to be announced in the coming months, a representative from the university said.

"THE FACTS: Social media users this week are falsely claiming one of the oldest and highest-ranked universities in the world is ditching sheet music as part of an overhaul to combat racism and white supremacy."

The AP article also mentioned Oxford University head of communications Stephen Rouse. Rouse claimed that the Oxford faculty views discussed in *The Telegraph* article came from a single individual. Rouse also assured the AP that there were no plans to discontinue sheet music at Oxford.

That is refreshing. Yet, I still can't help but retain a modicum of alarm.

The fact remains that

there is an individual in the Oxford music department who believes sheet music is a product of white supremacy. I can only stand in awe at the size of the disconnect created here.

Obviously, musical notation predates the African Slave Trade and Colonialism by several centuries. The oldest musical notation discovered is the *Hurrian Hymn No. 6* from the 15th Century BC. Interpretations of the musical notation vary. The origins of modern sheet music date back to the 10th and 11th Centuries AD.

It appears as if this individual believes that music was written down during the Colonial Period, and therefore, it should be regarded as being Colonialism itself. This boggles the mind.

The over-arching concern



Hurrian Hymn no.6

here is that Western Civilization is inherently abusive. Yet Oxford is a product of Western Civilization. The concept of the university and the academics within them are products of Western Civilization.

Is this individual, as an employee at a bastion of Western Culture, not also a colonialist? Perhaps this person should consider canceling himself.

Too frequently, we find this type of ridiculousness in

the arts. Do we hear science departments canceling the findings of Isaac Newton as being Colonial?

In the final analysis, this is a case of an individual overestimating the importance of classical music. Classical music is a niche product that has severe limitations baked into its very existence.

It's long. It's abstract. It's complicated. To most, its primary function is relaxation.

Classical music is, in a way, self-canceling.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

CLASSICAL MUSIC

San Diego Opera Spring Festival San Diego Opera announces a Spring season of safe, socially-distanced, drive-in performances, which opens April

24 with *One Amazing Night*, San Diego Opera's annual concert of arias and duets with the San Diego Symphony. The next evening, April 25, San Diego Opera will present the first of four performances of Rossini's classic comedy *The Barber of Seville*, originally announced for the 2020 season. Additional

performances are April 27, 30, and May 1. Like *La bohème at the Drive-In*, patrons will watch the action live on stage from their cars, while video monitors placed throughout the parking lot provide close-ups of the action on stage. Saturday, April 24, 7:30pm; Sunday, April 25, 7:30pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard.

San Diego Opera: The Barber of Seville Gioachino Rossini's comic masterpiece about love and money and the means one will go through to get both. Featuring some of the most recognizable music ever composed. Saturday, April 24, 7pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

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Neeson season

Over the past decade or so, the early months of the year — a time when most average moviegoers spend their days either catching up on Awards Season dross or in hibernation — have generally proven fertile stomping grounds for Liam Neeson (*Taken*, *The Grey*, *Cold Pursuit*) both commercially and, on occasion, artistically. In another time, my sights would have been set on a January 15 visit to the multiplex to catch *The Marksman*, but covid-19 played monkey wrench to the plan, and I had to hold off until it became available for download.

A decorated Vietnam veteran, Jim Hanson (Neeson) spends his days patrolling the border in search of “illegals.” It’s sunset, and our titular rifleman had just finished lowering the flag on his front lawn. Swathed in Old Glory, Jim listens as a suit from the bank arrives with news that his home will be put up for auction. He’s lost everything: his wife (to cancer), his livelihood, and now his ranch. And the mounting hospital bills have left him broke. Relax. It’s a movie.

Things are bound to get worse from here.

While on the prowl, he encounters Rosa (Teresa Ruiz) and her young son Miguel (Jacob Perez) fleeing a drug cartel. Jim calls the sheriff before realizing just how much danger the mother and son are in. A violent exchange leaves Miguel an orphan and Jim guilty of killing the brother of the ring’s thrill-killing leader Mauricio (Juan Pablo Raba). A curbside vigil finds Rosa saying her last goodbyes and asking Jim to drive the boy to her family’s Chicago home. The dutiful law-abider instead turns Miguel over to the authorities, but not for long. A guilty streak and a plot in need of motivation have their say, and in no time, Jim has kidnapped the boy from the border patrol office with the help of his late wife’s duly-sworn daughter Sarah (Kathryn Winnick), and it’s off to the Windy City.

An occasional pothole adds a bump or two to an otherwise smooth journey. This is a savvy, computer-literate band of mercenaries we’re dealing with, people who are capable of



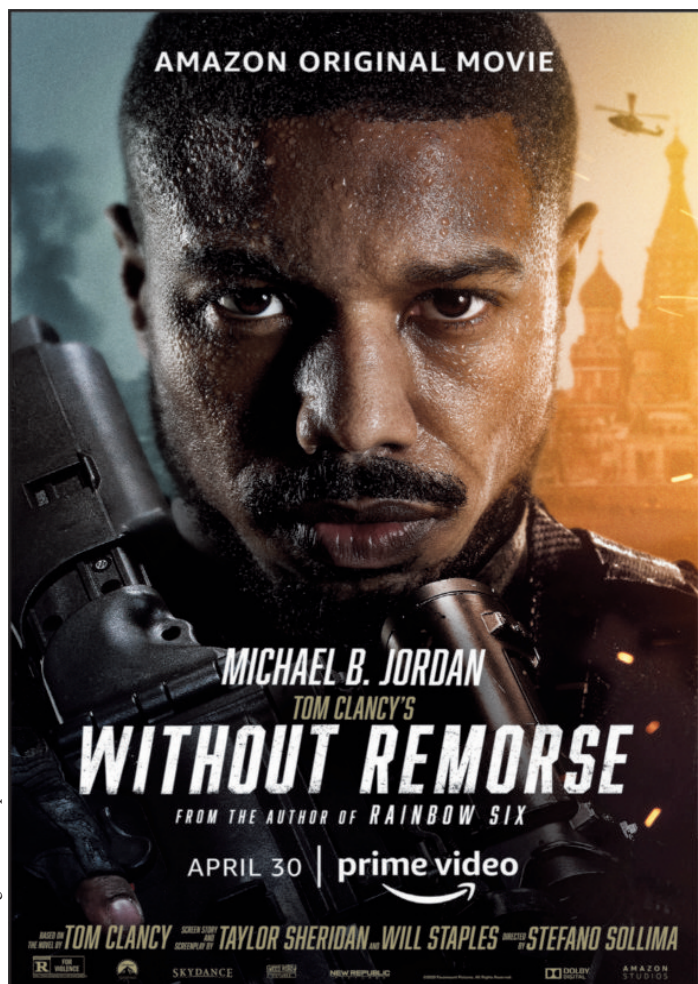
The Marksman: Proving the old adage: “Give Jacob Perez a gun, and he’s safe for a scene. Have Liam Neeson teach him how to shoot, and it’s a lifetime’s worth of entertainment.”

tracking Jim’s every move. His refusal to own a phone (“Nobody needs to call me”) admittedly makes him more difficult to spot, but the string of murders that follow Jim — from convenience store clerk to auto mechanic and so on — adds to the plotting a predictable pattern of death by credit card. As techno-smart as they are, would these criminals really possess within them the patience to spend

hours, if not days, standing on an overpass, looking down at every car until the one driven by Jim passes below? And why on earth would Jim ever consider making good on the bank loan after Mauricio torches his home?

Miguel initially blames Jim for his mother’s death. He pretends not to know a word of English, but we know it’s just a matter of time before

the kid lets his guard down. Happily, their relationship never borders on mawkish. Together, they make a fine pair, with Jim, a *Godzilla* with a cowboy hat, towering over Miguel’s diminutive Minilla. Jim is a guy who gets the job done. The decision to take Miguel to Chicago was his, and it’s something he is going to have to live with. If this sounds like a Clint Eastwood hand-me-down, it might



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very well have been one. Eastwood's former 1st AD-turned-director Robert Lorenz (*Trouble With the Curve*) leads with an uncluttered visual style, a respect for his characters framed in juxtaposition with the land that would make his former boss proud. ★★★
—Scott Marks

Video on Demand New Release Roundup: George Gallo's *The Comeback Trail* and *Vanquish*

A copy of *The Comeback Trail* has been lounging on my hard drive for going on four months now. This week, temptation finally got the best of me. George Gallo rocketed out of the gate with such propulsion that his feet never touched down. He scripted Brian De Palma's underrated *Wiseguys* and a film one can never say enough of, *Midnight Run*, before making his directorial debut with *29th Street*, the knockabout true story of the first man ever to strike it rich in the New York lottery. This was followed by the affable Nicolas Cage Christmas comedy *Trapped in Paradise*. It's been almost two decades and seven features since a film with Gallo's name attached played San Diego — he wrote *The Whole Ten Yards*. What are the chances of two pictures signed by George Gallo crossing my radar within a four month period? To say he's on a comeback trail of his own would be half-right. There's also *Vanquish*, a crime thriller that's impossible to overcome.

No matter how much trouble Max Barber (De Niro) finds himself in, he always finds a way out. A low-rent Hollywood fringe dweller in hock to mobster Reggie Fontaine (Morgan Freeman) for \$350,000, Max comes up with a surefire scheme to pay him back. He scours the Actor's Retirement Home, looking to cast a former leading man just frail enough that one stunt will kill him. Such a man is cowboy superstar relic Duke Montana (Tommy Lee Jones), a crusty outcast looking to end it all. (When Max happens upon Montana, the old buckaroo has a cocked pistol aimed at his tonsils.) With a \$5 million life insurance policy taken out in his name, the rickety curmudgeon's demise would cause production to cease on day one. Or would it? Suppose his work proves to be so impressive that even Reggie stands humbled by Montana's return to glory?

Robert De Niro's old *Midnight Run* buddy has come through again. It's been years since a De Niro picture has brought forth so much intentional laughter. With his white shock of Albert Einstein hair and bulbous-

nosed good cheer, I see Jack Warden in De Niro's every move. Max is the kind of blustery con-man Warden would have naturally gravitated toward, and it's great to see De Niro once again sink his teeth into a formidable comic character. (This makes a great double-feature with *The Comedian*.) It's unlikely, but one hopes that this is the first of many comedies to pair De Niro and Jones.

The Comeback Trail is based on Harry Hurwitz's 1982 film of the same name, one that's nowhere to be found. Even the blackest cupboards on the dark web couldn't turn up a copy. One can't help but think Hurwitz was inspired by Vittorio de Sica's *After the Fox* and Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, a pair of '60s comedies that turn to art as a means of bilking money out of "investors." Prof. Irwin Corey and Henny Youngman both receive screen credit for "additional material." And it stars Buster Crabbe in the Duke Montana role! Run the specs on IMDB and if you can track down a copy, please share. ★★★

Vanquish finds Gallo careening in the opposite direction of a comeback. Ruby Rose stars as Victoria, a single mother whose past as a Russian drug smuggler comes back to haunt her when former mentor Damon (Morgan Freeman) kidnaps her sick daughter in exchange for one last job. Once a decorated top cop, a bullet has sidelined Damon, turning him into a bitter wheelchair-bound recluse eager to cross over to a life of wrongdoing by putting his vast knowledge of criminology to bad use. Turning up the guilt, Damon reminds Victoria that were it not for his largesse, she would have been jailed and her child placed in foster care.

Alone in his pastel-lit mansion ("You didn't think I could afford a place like this on a cop's salary?"), Damon watches every one of Victoria's moves through her body-cam, but there's not much to observe. These characters have no life assigned to them; they're stick-figure slaves to a godawful script co-penned by Gallo and Sam Bartlett. For the benefit of the unmindful in the audience, in two instances, a montage is called into action to help recap material that was covered just moments earlier. Using cross dissolves rather than straight cuts might have better suited dialogue scenes were there some motivation behind their disposition other than, "Hey! Wouldn't it be cool if..." And the plotting is the least perplexing piece of the serrated puzzle. Audiences leave with one question left unanswered: why did Ruby Rose pass on a lucrative career as TV's Batwoman to co-star in schlock like this? ★



BREAKFAST ON PLUTO (2005)

Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game* stands as one of the most significant films released in the past thirty years. It is probably the single most essential gay-acceptance film ever made. By the time we discover that she is a he, even the most homophobic observer, drawn in by audience word-of-mouth that refused to reveal the film's secret, would be hard pressed not to have been won over by Dil's story.

Years later, at a kill-or-cure point in his artistic growth, Jordan found Lourdes in novelist Patick McCabe's vivid account of one Patrick "Kitten" Braden (Cillian Murphy), a transgender teenager searching for her mother amidst the turmoil of IRA bombings and glam London in the seventies.

Breakfast on Pluto kicks off by subverting two of the oldest tropes in the business: here, the unwanted baby left on the church doorstep and the leggy beauty — she causes the harassing construction worker to halt in mid-wolf-whistle upon discovering things aren't what they seem — are one and the same. Cute, talking Disney-fied CG robins herald the arrival of a founding deposited next to the milkman's bottles. Father Bernard (Liam Neeson) dispatches the urchin to the care of barkeep Ma Braden (Ruth McCabe), a domineering old harridan who is aghast to discover her nine-year-old consignment modeling foster mum's dress and lipstick. Around the time young Patrick begins grappling with the concept of gender identity, another pressing question emerges, one that will haunt our lead over the next 135 minutes: who was the woman that dropped Patrick on the steps of a

church in Tyreelin, Ireland?

Despite the unconventional outward appearance, Patrick is not without a posse. Down syndrome is given an honest, non-sentimental face in the form of Laurence (Seamus Reilly). Brilliantly relying on a character whose genetic disorder presents more than a little built-in public rejection, Jordan introduces an intellectually challenged, socially scorned friend with whom Patrick can iden-

mother's whereabouts finds him making a hasty exit from the confessional. The outwardly straight Billy Hatched (Gavin Friday), front man for the glam-rockabilly band Billy Rock and the Mohawks, is besotted by the gorgeous Kitten and momentarily becomes her knight in shining armor. Bertie (Stephen Rea), a low-rent magician/hypnotist captivated by Kitten's tragic tales (and the bruises on her neck), invites her to be his

audience ringer. And upon awakening in a miniature kiddie castle, Kitten finds John-Joe (Brendan Gleeson), an alcoholic theme-park employee who lands her a job dressed in a "Wombles" costume. Their one common thread: just like mom, at some point, they all abandon Kitten.



Breakfast on Pluto: Cillian Murphy and Ruth Negga on a quest for family.

Despite the ever

present political themes at work in Jordan's films, he doesn't necessarily view these beliefs as vital. According to the production notes, Jordan "spent my twenties in Dublin and London. The fact that there was political violence in Ireland was like a blight on everybody's life. What interests me is how individuals work with what they've been given... *Breakfast on Pluto* is really more about a beautiful soul than about politics or violence."

Jordan's "How does somebody survive a deeply aggressive world just by being themselves?" approach is almost as intense as Kitten's quest for family. Even with a backdrop of political violence, police brutality, and social ignorance, Kitten's incredible journey is rife with fairy tale good cheer; nothing will stop her from getting at the truth. There's not an ounce of self-pity or cloying, clichéd "I'm more woman than you'll ever be and more man than you'll ever get" dialogue to derail the journey, just the enlightened sound of one of cinema's most resolutely compassionate voices.

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Feeling that "the biggest city in the world swallowed up my mother," and with nothing more than an "I've tried my best. I'm off" to his foster family, Patrick dons glam-rock duds and mascara and heads to England. Not unlike Oz's Dorothy, our heroine, who by now asks to be referred to exclusively as "Kitten," encounters four father substitutes along her road to enlightenment. Father Bernard may have done his best when it came to placing the orphan, but will haunt our lead over the next 135 minutes: who was the woman that dropped Patrick on the steps of a

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BOCCI BALL AT BALBOA PARK What: To play bocci ball and meet new friends. Why: Bc its low barrier to entry, out door, and socially distance activity. Join here: https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-bocci-ball-meetup-group/

RUSSIAN MARTIAL ARTS Never heard of Systema? No problem. Here's what you need to know. Systema - Russian Martial Art - is a phenomenal full-spectrum martial system, and is rooted in ancient warrior traditions of Eastern Europe. https://www.meetup.com/Systema-San-Diego/

SPANISH TEACHERS Six Mexican teachers at your service. We all know learning a second language opens many doors in everyone's lives. Call us; we teach all levels. (619) 414-7736 / andycs3195@gmail.com

STUCK AT HOME? LEARN SPANISH! We believe that in order to speak a language, you must actually SPEAK the language. Join our community today for SPANISH conversation immersion classes in a fun, relaxed, non-intimidating

environment in the heart of North Park and ONLINE (right now, only online). Learn from a caring native speaker. Make friends and have fun! PuraBuenaOnda.com. (619) 916-8339. ImmerseYourself@PuraBuenaOnda.com

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

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

ROOMMATES

CHULA VISTA, \$770 Furnished room. Single occupancy. Proof of employment required. Includes utilities, cable/ Internet, new mini-refrigerator in room, microwave. Quiet neighborhood. No drugs, smoking, alcohol, pets. East of I-805. 619-840-7299.



LIVE IN HOUSE-KEEPER Room barter + pay. Large house on large property in Escondido. 2 blocks from 15 Freeway. No tobacco smoking. seedmanagement@gmail.com

\$567 FURN BDRM-SHARE SD HOUSE 3 men (45->71yr) seek adult male: Utilities included+WiFi. Close 2 bus, street parking. No smoke/vape. Share house: kitchen+toilet+ shower+washer&dryer. Need: current job w/income+rental history. Sec deposit required. More details? Text or send email. (858) 367-9736 / AcaciaStHouseSD@pm.me

FURNISHED BEDROOM for rent in cozy home, near downtown. \$550 per month. Call (619) 727-0753

SEEKING PRIVATE ROOM My name is Mark, looking for a private room to share, with a female preferred, furnished, between \$350 and \$575 a month. Phone number is (619) 665-2856

ROOM WANTED \$500-\$700 with bathroom preferred. Chula Vista, National City, Downtown area near trolley. 11 years same employer, 100% solid references, no drugs, no smoking. Calls preferred, call Joe (619) 408-9317.

SANTEE, \$700 2/2 home w/ homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. (619) 499-9663, phone calls preferred.

ROOM WANTED Help me get climb out of homelessness. 62 year young healthy single, no family, Virgo, never married non-smoker, clean SoCal native, low income male high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in house Solana Beach, Cardiff, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973.

RENTALS

1 FURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT Near downtown. Rent is 735 + Deposit. Washer and dryer on-site. All utilities included. Close to trolley. (619) 370-8109 / uiuw79@gmail.com

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

SENIOR LOOKING for room to rent preferably the greater San Diego area (858) 282-4370

SENIOR NEEDS ROOM male, 67, responsible, clean, active, quiet, non-smoker, non-drinker. North Park, South Park, City Heights. \$500-\$600 (619) 674-9577

SOUTH PARK, \$1750. 1BD+1BA downstairs unit near Downtown San Diego and Balboa Park. Easy 5-minute commute to work. Secured building, fireplace, hardwood floors, laundry on site, street parking only. 2329 C Street. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allprotsrealstate.com.

\$200 GARAGE FOR RENT \$200 garage for rent in Palm Avenue. Call Apartment Finders, Inc. at (619) 296-2787.

NEED BOAT STORAGE? Need a place to store your boat, RV, trailer, or car? (916) 848-5641

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LA MESA, \$1849-2249. 3BD+2BA (\$2249) and 2BD+1BA (\$1849) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable, Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

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STORAGE SPACE for truck, van, motorhome. Call (619) 727-0753.

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

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RENTALS

DOWNTOWN \$550-880



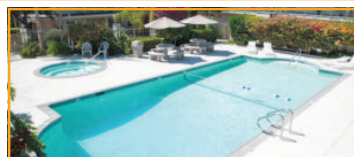
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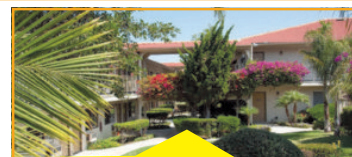
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MUSIC

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TROMBONE, FRENCH HORN Tommy Dorsey trombone Conn and King, \$8500 and \$9150 OBO. York & Son french horn 1903, \$6000 OBO. Call (760) 271-9187



FREE PIANO Refinished antique Farrand upright piano. Great condition. 4ksb@cox.net

TROMBONE- KING 3B With F trigger, rare opportunity. Nice lacquer, flawless slide, great case. Priced below market, \$600. Call (619) 264-3686 for more details.

AUDITION FOR LEAD GUITAR woman, bass woman, drummer woman, age 21 to 38 send photo, improvise is a must, text to (619) 251-2729.

BAND REHEARSAL PRACTICE monthly lockout studio. Fits 5 to 7 piece. Now available. 10:00am-Midnight. Universal Sound Inc. (858) 401-2973

LADIES, DO YOU LOVE TO SING? Join virtual rehearsals with four part harmony chorus. All ages/all voice parts welcomed. Mondays, 7 PM. (619) 449-7107

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YELLOW INDIAN RINGNECK Our birds are ready and looking for new homes. For more details please contact us at (424) 738-8000 / christianhills46@gmail.com



BAZOOKA (IPO3, FH2, V) Bazooka is 7 years old, large size, black color with medium length of coat and high strength. She has good angulations and chest proportions. She is self-confident and watchful, she produces excellent working line litter, with power. Contact Deatail:- (843) 779-7790 / happyshortlegs@gmail.com

CUTE CANE CORSO PUPS FOR SALE The puppies are 5 weeks today!! This past week

they've really grown into their personalities. They are becoming so playful. It's so fun watching them grow. Call or text us now for more inquiries and pics. (737) 201-6636. falamaharvey09@gmail.com

A HEART FOR PUPPIES PUPPY FAIR The A Heart for Puppies Team is excited to announce we are coming to San Diego to meet you! May 6, 7, & 8(12pm-7pm) at 1604 W. Lewis St. San Diego (by Mission Hills Fabric Care Center) Acquiring your puppy is as easy as 1,2,3. aheartforpuppies.com (574) 238-8084 / intake@heartforpuppies.com

BABY CHICKENS/CHICKS \$5 each or 3 for \$10. East County Area. Shelly (510) 316-9278.

PLEASE HELP FIND MY BABY Please help find my baby; he was stolen on 3-17-21 from my house after I left to work. The thief took some of my tools which I don't care that much about. My dog was last seen in Azalea Park in City Heights (92105). (619) 366-3643 / Oregel.jesus@gmail.com

TALKING INDIAN RINGNECK Heart melting Talking Indian Ringneck Parakeet with out going personalities. All our birds comes with papers and accessories. Price depends on age and color. For more details contact us via text or Email. (424) 390-5434 / petejordan282@gmail.com

PET GROOMER FOR HIRE Pet groomer for hire- IG: @fuzzy_ cuts (619) 302-1808.

GUINEA PIG BABIES 14-18 weeks old. Re-home fee \$15 each or 2/\$20. East County Area. Shelly (510) 316-9278.

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

WANT SMALL DOG prefer chihuahua, text or call- (619) 246-8219.

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

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

HORSE PIPE CORRAL 5 sections, includes gate section, \$175. Sun shade 8 ft by 60 ft in two sections, \$200. Text (619) 438-4567.

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California MENTOR Family Home Agency

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

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

SPORTS

BASEBALL CARDS \$15 box of five thousand cards, all teams. Call Ernie, (619) 562-1129. Plus misc sports magazines and paraphernalia.

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

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

HELP FINDING BIKE SADDLEBAGS Lost leather saddlebags. \$50 reward. My leather saddlebags fell off of my bike this morning. I would love them back as they have sentimental value. Offering a \$50 reward! Last seen in Cherokee Point and North Park. Email alexismay93@gmail.com

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

MOTORCYCLES

HARLEY DAVIDSON MECHANIC I've been working as a Harley Davidson mechanic for the last 28 yrs. or more in San Diego and I am familiar with all makes and models. I have very reasonable repair and service rates. (619) 788-4984.

DIRTBIKE REPAIR/ MAINTENANCE Dirtbike repair and maintenance @WideOpenMoto.com (619) 944-1111.

SCOOTER REPAIR Mobile scooter repair services at cyclesquads.com CYCLESQUADS@HOTMAIL.COM

AUTOMOTIVE

2001 LEXUS RX300 Lexus Rx300 for sale, runs but needs work both body and engine. 900 OBO. Mechanics preferred. (619) 370-8109 / uiuw79@gmail.com

LOOKING TO BUY 1990 or older Ford cargo van. fgross0421@gmail.com

HYUNDAI RUNS GOOD, \$1500 2005. White, 4 door, automatic, good tires, radiator just replaced, ac, heat, great stereo system. (619) 679-0317 / glindathegoodniche@gmail.com

GM RUNNING BOARDS (PAIR) Factory parts, list \$436, kits \$100 ea.Fits GM vehicles. 90" long X 8" wide.With mounting bracket kits(2) 8 brackets, black plastic, like new ! Part # 10394625 and GM comp # 10395127. Needs a few mounting bolts, check with your Chevy dealer for fit (619) 642-4936

2008 FORD CROWN VICTORIA Runs excellent, have smog, \$2800 obo by 5/12/21. (619) 542-0472, no texts please.

LOOKING FOR INFO On 1971 Datsun 510 wagon would like to know if still on road, had cal blue plate 376 CTT text (619) 631-9258.

1977 CHYSLER CODOBRA decent shape. Motor was rebuilt, installed but never started. (619) 465-1267 please leave message

1980 CHEVY CELEBRITY little rough and Dodge motorhome, make offer has 413 motor been rebuilt, (619) 460-1267.

2003 VW PASSAT runs great. Automatic, new tires & brakes, many new parts. Dependable car, clean title. 141K original miles. \$3750 OBO. (858) 201-1628

FIBERGLASS CAMPER SHELL for full size truck. Shortbed. SnugFit brand. Good shape. \$100 firm (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

ASSOCIATE VETERINARIANS Medical Management International, Inc. (dba Banfield Pet Hospital) is hiring Associate Veterinarians in the San Diego-Carlsbad, California metro area. DUTIES: Diagnose, treat and control diseases and injuries in pets; perform surgery on pets;

prescribe and administer drugs and vaccines. Lead veterinary hospital team through daily schedule / caseload and delegate tasks. Deliver highest quality veterinary care and exceptional client experience. MIN. RQMTS: Client needs & work volume may require 40+ hrs./week to complete essential duties. Requires working weekends & evenings. TRAVEL: May be asked to cover shifts as needed for Associate Veterinarians on PTO at Banfield hospitals owned and operated by Medical Management International, Inc. (dba Banfield Pet Hospital) located within same MSA/ area of intended employment; such coverage involves local travel within MSA. Annual domestic travel for vendor visits and associate education also required. DVM (or foreign equivalent) & CA veterinary license. For details and to apply: https://banfield.taleo.net/careerssection/9/jobdetail.fti?lang=en&job=00500E4B

BIOINFORMATICS SOFTWARE ENGR (Req# IIC1338) Dvlp swr & data analysis solutions for biological data as part of a clinical genomics sw team. MS+6 mos rld exp. Send resumes to illumina. Attn: SD122440, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & Req#.

CAREGIVER (NORTH PARK): Seeking P/T caregiver on Sat and Sun from 7:30am- 10:00am. Pay is 15 per hour, duties are get quadriplegic out of bed, dressing, and grooming, light housekeeping duties. Willing to train right individual. Great opportunity to gain experience in health care field. Quad lives in North Park/City Heights area so prefer applicants lives close to area. Please email rustykrumm@hotmail.com or call (619) 280-7446 for inquires. Leave a message and reason you would be a good fit for the position. Thank you.

COVID-19 VACCINE RESEARCH STUDY Now enrolling. Millions have been affected by the global pandemic. YOU can help make a difference. Volunteers needed! You may qualify if you: are between 18 and 8- years old; have not received a

RENTALS

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2 DAYS 2 DOLLARS! Everything is just \$2 each, many items new, and used. Sat 24, Sun 25 8am 5pm 1373 First ave Chula Vista.

40 GALLON TERRARIUM with stand, \$50. (619) 456-8968.

BEAUTY SALON EQUIPMENT (REMODELING) One hair cutting chair, \$50. One dryer and chair, \$50. One shampoo chair and shampoo ball, \$90. All working. Stephanie (619) 466-8663.

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DELUXE 1500 W POWER smokeless grill in box, \$50. Bird cage medium size, includes seed guard, \$25. Text (619) 971-9265.

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MISC FOR SALE Subwoofer for home, \$10. 55 inch projection tv, works with snowey pix. DVD player, \$3. All with no remotes, (619) 448-1910

MISC FOR SALE Brand new deluxe 2 bike rack, \$45. Brand new set of 2 tires 20 x 1.95. (917) 420-3207

OSCILLOSCOPES 3 older units, Hickok Electrical Instruments Company, Model 5002A, I don't have the probes, selling all 3 for only \$150. (760) 746-7209

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 three tongue, low profile jack. \$90 (858) 384-6669

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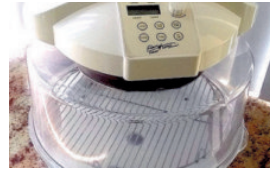
TOOLS FOR SALE Milwaukee corded hammer drill with bits and case. Also Porta Power with short ram accessory. (760) 632-7116.

TRAVEL PRO 3-WHEEL MOBILE SCOOTER may need

battery charger, lightly used. \$100. Call (619) 944-6564.



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SHEAR: PEXTO TRIM TAB SHEAR, Model 269-A, 4" wide blade, 18" depth, 20 gauge maximum capacity, works

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WILDLIFE BIRD PRINTS \$35 Ducks \$10 28 X 16 framed, matted & glass; egret \$25 36 X 44 framed, matted & glass; cash only. favod@hotmail.com



WINE GLASSES \$15 2 red wine glasses. 6 champagne glasses. 6 white wine glasses. All for \$15 cash only. favod@hotmail.com

DIE CAST CARS KISS SERIES of 4 Johnny Lighting. Mint in package. \$60. (619) 874-9982

MOVIE BOOKS from 1930's and 40's. \$20. (619) 874-9982



1977 OTHER BRIGANTINE Item located at San Diego, length: 98'; sale price: \$1,400,000; trades considered;

engine: Cummins 6B. Call (877) 828-8771 getonthewater@skipperbuds.com

MISC FOR SALE Small white foot soaker, \$5. I also have a small lamp, brown base, with a black shade \$15. (858) 505-0685



TACOS AL VAPOR Y BIRRIA Tacos al vapor and birra at 4154 Gamma st. San Diego CA 92113. 10am a 8pm. guessabirria \$2.50; taco de birra \$2; consome \$2. (619) 577-9220.



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MYSTERY BOXES We are liquidators and love liquidating Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond and Target items in our Mystery Boxes. <https://www.facebook.com/oceansidetradingsco> familydlc@gmail.com

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A HORTICULTURE LIGHTING Hortilux # LU 1000/HTL/EN. \$200.00. (858) 997-6149

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

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- New spark plugs
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ELECTRIC HOTPLATE electric hotplate \$20. contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

KING SIZED MATTRESS In fair condition to be given away free. Interested? Email me at winweb007@yahoo.com.

MISC FOR SALE Bakelite chandelier, \$100. Art deco table, \$100. Both 60s/70s ruby ring, \$80. Irene (619) 807-4409

MOVING? Three new wardrobe boxes, and 16 new 18" x 12" x 12" storage boxes. All for \$55. Call (760) 274-5264.

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

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TOMATO PLANT VARIETIES SALE Tomato plants for sale, 5 different varieties. Dixie cups are \$3 each. One gallon pots are \$4 each. Cash only. Will bring out to your vehicle or contact

less. Please wear a mask. Thank you for looking. Tommy, (619) 426-5509.

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Crystal Pier washing machine

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My dad took me and my buddy out to Crystal Pier in PB. It was in the middle of a big storm. There was nobody out in the water. It was like being in a washing machine. We were getting tossed around. Waves were coming left and right. At one point it was raining so hard that you couldn't open your eyes.

I hate when someone snakes me. When people do that, I sometimes yank their leash. I did that at Scripps not too long ago. He was a younger Asian guy, probably in his early 20s. He acted like he was super tough. He was way better than me, no doubt, but he kept snaking me. The other time I did it was when I was longboarding up at Tamarack. Same situation. When I grabbed the guy's leash, he went flying.



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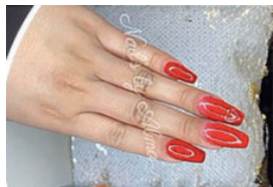


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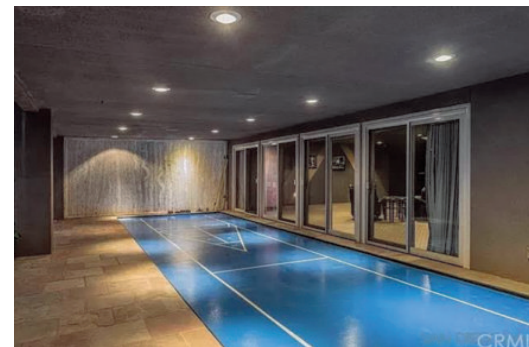
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If you're ever bored... there's shuffleboard!

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 8

huge marble wall in the living room that is spacious enough to effortlessly fit a full grand piano. The 800-square-foot main bedroom features a private balcony looking not out, but in — at the giant hall below.

The kitchen is very large, and so is the adjacent dining room where the table has at least a dozen place settings. So far, it seems the home is making up for a lack of unique luxury appointments through the sheer blunt force of its overwhelming mass.

The stone-topped “hidden bar” is a luxurious touch, though, its shape reminiscent of the bar in a movie theater lobby. And the gym is well equipped, with a wall of windows overlooking Mission Valley below. There's even an indoor shuffleboard court, it seems.

In back, the outdoorsy theme sought by the original Alvarado Estates residents begins to shine.

The estate's “monumental sports court” has a full regulation tennis court along with four basketball hoops to host multiple games at once. There's a “lavish full-sized luxury pool and lounge” sitting next to the “state-

of-the-art 2000-square-foot guest home fit for a king with a full-sized master kitchen.”

But the real beauty is the “custom designed two-story calming waterfall,” complete with pond and glowing light fixtures. As the listing claims, relaxing through sunset at the base of the falls really “screams luxury style living.”

Public records show the Yerba Buena estate's current owner to be Leonard Bloom, a sports executive who's owned a host of teams, including the American Basketball Association's San Diego Conquistadors (repurchased by the league so the ABA could merge with the NBA in 1976), the Los Angeles Sharks of the World Hockey Association (no relation to today's San Jose Sharks), and the San Diego Swingers, a World Team Tennis side (that never actually played in San Diego, spending three seasons instead as the Hawaii Leis). Bloom also consulted on several major stadium projects including the Superdome in New Orleans.

Several attempts have been made to sell the Alvarado Estates home in recent years, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$14.5 million. Its current listing, which went active in late March, carries an asking price of \$11,999,000. ■

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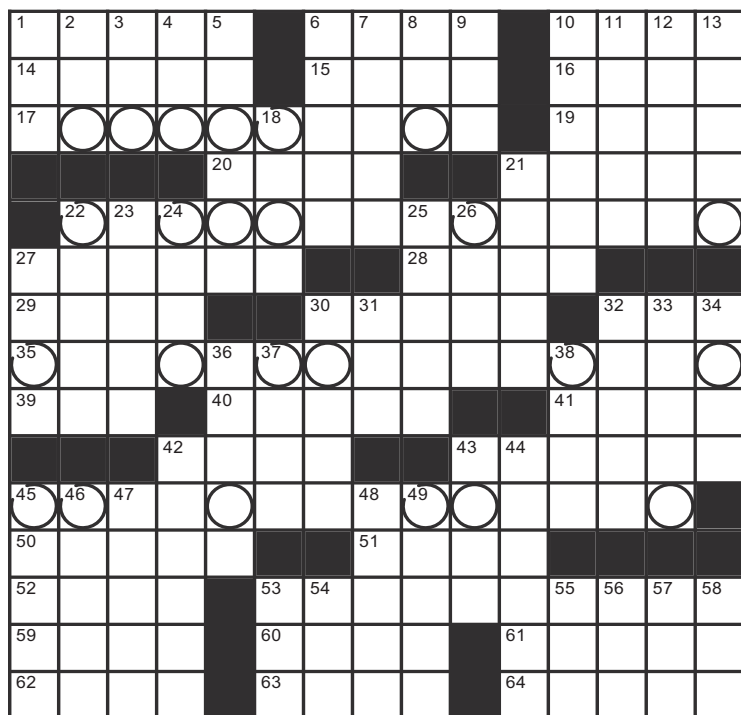
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Across

1. 1990s Britcom, familiarly
6. Sight in a produce aisle
10. BTS music genre
14. Reeves of "The Matrix"
15. Two-tone marine predator
16. What "—" can mean
17. Voice of Gollum whose name consists of 53-Across
19. "The Yipiyuk" author Silverstein
20. The Berenstain Bears live in one
21. 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year Stoudemire
22. Three-time Oscar winner for Best Actor whose name consists of 53-Across
27. Firebugs' felonies
28. Electrical unit
29. "M*A*S*H" actress Loretta
30. Critters who worshipped C-3PO as a god
32. "NewsHour" network
35. "The Fault in Our Stars" actress whose name consists of 53-Across
39. Whole bunch
40. "Blonde" author Joyce Carol

50. "Black-ish" star Tracee _____ Ross
51. Bananas
52. Genre for Gary Glitter and T. Rex
53. Streaming service where one might find 17-, 22-, 35- or 45-Across
59. Lover of Radames, in opera
60. "Night" author Wiesel
61. Mental aggravation
62. Spotted
63. Trebek on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
64. Couldn't stand

21. "This is _____ new to me!"
22. BBC time traveling hero
23. Like many elephants
24. "Me? Never!"
25. States for the record
26. "The Ballad of John and _____"
27. No. 2
30. Pencil maze word
31. Itsy-bitsy
32. Flannel shirt pattern
33. Arctic hazards
34. "Auld Lang _____"
36. "Ella and _____" (1956 jazz album)
37. Facilitate
38. Farmer's place, in song
42. MLB cleanup hitter
43. At some prior time
44. "How ya like dem apples?!"
45. "La Classe de Danse" painter
46. Kemper of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"
47. Part of a lawn mower
48. Cartoon milk mascot
49. Tennis racquet brand
53. "Breaking Bad" org.
54. Not working, maybe
55. Green org.?
56. Illuminated
57. Beehive State native
58. Forlorn

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

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

41. Bring in
42. Bit of misdirection
43. Accommodate
45. 2015 Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award winner whose name consists of 53-Across

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

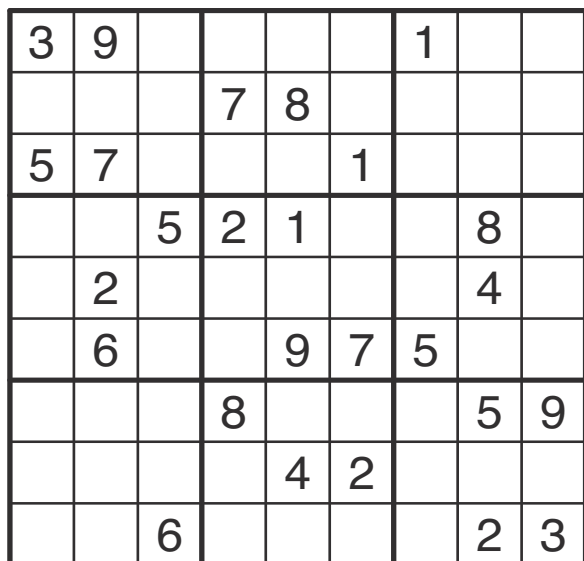
☛ **Sandi Russell, San Diego, 2.**

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

SUDOKU

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EVIL:



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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

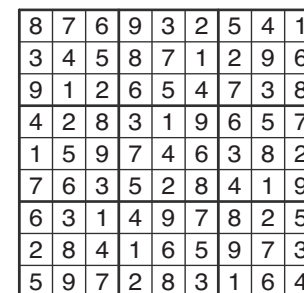
Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

☛ **Matt Koller, Chula Vista, 12.**

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:



Parent of the Year

— Jose Manuel Navarrete, 25, is being held on \$100,000 bond on suspicion of child endangerment in the San Diego Central jail after he carried his 2-year-old daughter into the elephant habitat at the San Diego Zoo on March 19, the Associated Press reported. Navarrete allegedly wanted to take a picture with the African bull elephant, police said, and evaded multiple barriers to enter the enclosure. Witness video shows one of the elephants charging the two trespassers and Navarrete briefly dropping the toddler before picking her up and getting her to safety. "He runs, throws his baby through the gate and it's seconds from hitting him," said witness Jake Ortale. "People were just mad at this guy."

Inexplicable

— A motorist in Delray Beach, Florida, stopped to investigate the screaming she heard on March 23 and found a naked woman trapped in a storm drain 8 feet below street level. *The Washington Post* reported first responders pulled the unnamed 43-year-old woman to safety and took her to a hospital as investigators discovered she had been reported missing by her boyfriend three weeks earlier, Palm Beach County sheriff's officials said. The woman told officers she had been swimming in a canal when she noticed a door leading to a tunnel, which she entered, and then became lost, wandering for weeks in the tunnel system and surviving on a bottle of ginger ale she found. Ted White, a spokesman for the Delray police,

was skeptical: "Was she actually down there the whole time?" Health officials think she might have been in the tunnels just a few days, he said.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

— Good Fortune Burger in Toronto has renamed some of its menu items as office supplies as a not-so-underhanded way to help customers get reimbursed for lunch, the *National Post* reported, and perhaps boost sales. The restaurant's Fortune Burger is now the Basic Steel Stapler, and Parm Fries will appear on a receipt as CPU Wireless Mouse. Director of operations Jon Purdy said the restaurant "just wanted an opportunity to put a smile on some people's faces and have them have a little bit of a giggle."

The Continuing Crisis

— Larry Lee Harris, 66, of Willcox, Arizona, was arrested after chasing a caravan of three National Guard vans carrying COVID-19 vaccines out of a truck stop in Lubbock, Texas, on March 22 and trying repeatedly to run the vans off the road, police said. WAFB-TV reported Harris finally turned his vehicle into oncoming traffic and stopped the vans, then allegedly pointed a gun at a guardsman, identified himself as a detective and insisted on searching the vehicles. He told Idalou police, who found a .45-caliber pistol and loaded magazines in his possession, that he was looking for a kidnapped woman and child. "Mr. Harris appeared to be mentally disturbed," Idalou Police Chief Eric Williams said. All 11 unarmed uniformed guardsmen escaped unharmed.

Compelling Explanation

— Phedeline St. Felix told police in Pompano Beach, Florida, she had gone to a city park in mid-March to settle an argument with another woman when she allegedly drove her car over a gate and into a playground, accidentally hitting Chaunda McCleod and her 3-year-old grandson instead, injuring them both. "I was attempting to run (the other woman) over," St. Felix said, according to WPLG-TV. McCleod said she saw a fight brewing in the park and "started to get all the kids together to get them out of the park. ... As I'm picking (my grandson) up, she's just hitting us both and we just went flying over the car and finally we hit the ground." St. Felix was arrested and ordered not to have any contact with the victims.

Seems Like a Lot of Trouble

— Authorities in Houston charged former Bank of America employee Juan Esteban Ramirez on March 24 with a second felony in connection with tricking young female customers into unlocking their phones so he could steal nude photos of them. In both cases, Ramirez allegedly took the phones to show the women how to look up information on their bank accounts, but with the phones unlocked, he found and sent himself intimate photos. In the second case, Ramirez also texted the woman, who felt threatened, Harris County Assistant District Attorney Keaton Forcht told KPRC-TV. "It's highly unlikely that these are the only two victims," he said.

Devil in the Details

— An unnamed teenager in Thailand was excited by the surprisingly low price he found online for an Apple iPhone, and even though the shipping seemed a little high, he went ahead and ordered it, *Oddity Central* reported. The surprise came when he received a box nearly as tall as he was and found inside a coffee table shaped like an iPhone. The teen posted photos of his acquisition on social media and admitted he had been so anxious to snag the bargain that he didn't read the listing carefully.

Least Competent Criminals

— Volusia County (Florida) Sheriff's deputies responding to a fire at Myers Marine Service in Deland on March 13 were met by witnesses who said they saw Sean Sword running out of the building saying, "I lit a tow rope on fire." Sword, who was severely burned, told deputies conflicting stories about his motives, according to court papers, but after being interviewed at the hospital, he admitted he was looking for a vehicle to steal, but "it didn't work out," so he set a tow rope on fire and the flames spread, adding that he hoped to be in jail for a long time. Boats and equipment valued at nearly \$100,000 were damaged, records show, and Sword faces arson and burglary charges.

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

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 22

is better for the fetus.” Attorney White said the un-attended birth was “extremely painful” and that Carpenter “collapsed from exhaustion, (then) when she came to, the child was not responding.” He suggested “this highly unfortunate and tragic incident” was more like criminal negligence than murder.

The prosecutor argued for \$1 million bail, because Carpenter is charged with murder and faces a possible life sentence. “That poses a flight risk,” the prosecutor said. But Judge David Berry granted Kelsey Carpenter release from custody on her own recognizance, after he made a long list of strict conditions, which included: she must not take any drugs at all without a valid prescription from a physician licensed in the state of California; she is allowed no alcohol whatsoever at any time; she must submit to random drug testing and searches; she will enroll in SCRAM with both drug and narcotic monitoring plus GPS; she cannot leave San Diego County nor the state of California without a court order.

Carpenter’s next court appearance is set for April 21 at 8:30 am in the Vista courthouse.



Carpenter wanted to keep custody, but lost the baby.

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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 5-24-21. **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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