

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 46 | NO. 17 | APRIL 29, 2021

# Reader

## DOGNAPPERS

Tin Fork: grasshoppers, worms, and the elixir of the gods



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## LETTERS

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

### The glory and the stupidity

This is just stupid ("Fires in Alpine, San Felipe Valley, Julian," From the Archives, February 7). Wildfires suppress animals and kill them. Why would we want to glorify them not to mention the fact that they kill people and homes. I'm sure no one will be offended though unless you count the PTSD of those people who lost their home in wild fires who need to hear this name all of the time. Anything you pick will offend someone. Get over it! More important things to do.

Name withheld

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

"Oceanside grandma comes home from San Felipe, gets beat up and tortured"  
Cover Stories  
April 21

It's nice to read that she's still able to swim in the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez. What a horrible story. A career criminal in

the making.... he's looking at the death penalty one day. And he won't be missed.

—Socks3742

Who is this 'neurologist'? To what he was demanding of Cindy "to hand over" her driver's license, why did the neurologist not additionally have the Department of Motor Vehicles REVOKE IT. As the being the CORRECT way; as how Department of Motor Vehicles has done it to another in past-time, when society times were more conservative.

—ised

"Johnnie-on-the-run"  
News Under the Radar  
April 21

Gosh, I remember seeing that photograph of Johnnie Perkins on the run! As I recall he was sort of a union-darling, dim-witted but in-like-Flynn with power brokers and ambitious to advance. That he was involved in the expensive City white-wash of asbestos-y 101 Ash Street building is no surprise. Caveat emptor, Spokane.

—monaghan

"The largest residence of Alvarado Estates"  
Unreal Estate  
April 23

A forty foot ceiling is really, really high, folks. And from the outside, even if the place has only one story, has to look as if it is three or four stories tall. Kind of runs against the notion of keeping the

continued on page 4

# San Diego Reader

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April 29, 2021



ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY ISAACSON

French bulldogs are hot right now — page 16



Holy Guacamole! — page 25



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

BAY PARK

## High (rise) hopes

### Do things get better when apartments replace trailers?

Word on the Bay Park streets is that those streets are much quieter since the Seaton Apartments went up. On April 18, I drove around the neighborhood — which overlooks Mission Bay between the Sea World Drive and Clairemont Drive exits along I-5, and is within shouting distance of the Coaster commuter train tracks and the soon-to-be transversed Mid-Coast Trolley tramway — to listen in. “It’s much quieter, like 80 percent less noisy now,” said John S., who was “admiring” the new architecture of the Seaton Apartments. “The walls are buffering or soundproofing the



Seaton brings the sweet sounds of silence.

descended Frankfort, I noticed a decrease in noise from the I-5 freeway.

“It is quieter,” agreed Albert, a Circle K convenience store employee. “And at about 2 o’clock, there’s always a big train

“That’s a big jump from 90 mobile homes to 150 apartments. The 30-foot height restriction was bypassed, and now that new building blocks the views of the homeowners. I wonder what that’ll do to our home prices.”

air and noise, it seems. Go up on top of the street by Tonopah [Avenue], and you’ll notice the difference.” I then drove around the complex, which faces West Morena Boulevard and Mission Bay, found my way to Tonopah Avenue, and made another right on Frankfort Street, which is on the back end of the apartment complex. As I

that’s heavy that passes by.” Albert’s store is on Franklin Street and Morena Boulevard, across the street from the new apartment complex. According to *ApartmentFinder.com*, there is “no Availability” amongst its 150, one-and-two bedroom, 900-1000 square-foot units. “Mostly everyone that comes in, they [say they] are

really liking new apartments and everything,” continued Albert. “They think it’s modernizing the whole area. Because if you looked in that area [before], it was a trailer park.” From 1941 up until a couple of years ago, this area, formerly known as Coastal Trailer Villa, was home to 90 mobile homes. The developers got rid of the mobile homes and built the new Seaton complex beginning at the right side of the infamous Light Bulb Warehouse seen from the I-5 Freeway to the opposite end by Circle K.

Albert’s friend chimed in, “I work at the [Roberto’s] taco shop next door. I think it’s going to benefit us; it’ll bring



Trailers out, high-rise apartments in.

us more business.”

Albert replied, “The apartments have their own parking, but if they have visitors, that’s probably going to be a problem.”

She nodded in agreement. “And the visitors can’t park over here in our parking lot. And across the street, there’s a bus station.”

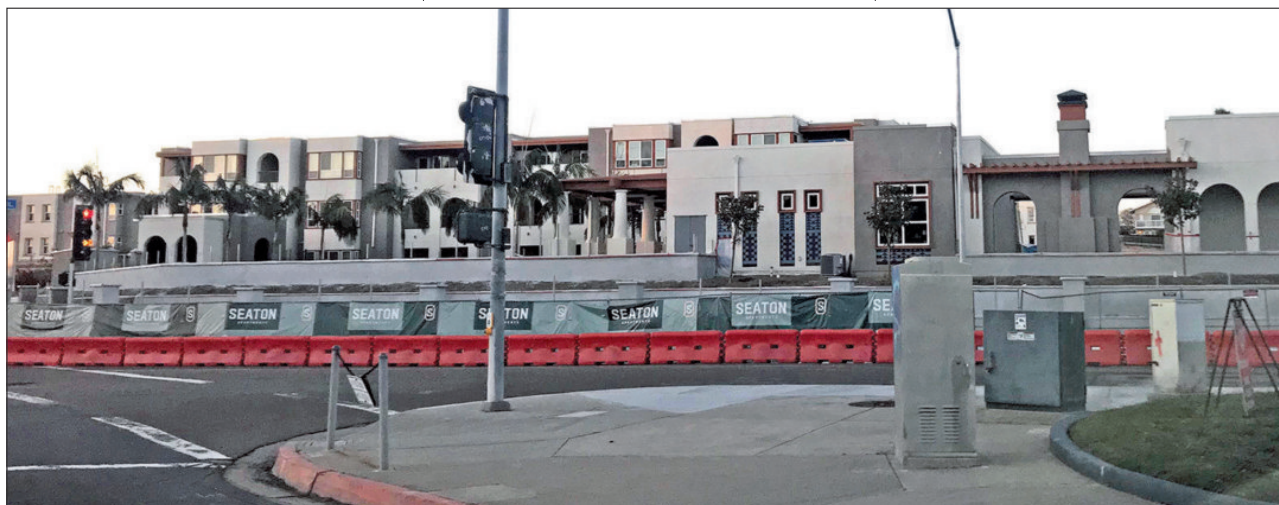
“It’s the homeowners; they’re the ones that are complaining really,” said Albert as he rang up his next customer. “But for us, it’s good.”

“Their visitors will have to park up in the neighborhood,” said Ed, who’s lived in the area since 1989. “That’s a big jump: from 90 mobile homes to 150 apartments. The 30-foot height restriction was bypassed, and now that new building blocks the views of the homeowners. I wonder what that’ll do to our home prices.” According to Redfin: “In March 2021, Bay Park home prices were down 13.6 percent compared to last year, selling for a median price of \$865K. On average, homes in Bay Park sell after nine days on the market compared to 11 days last year. There were 16 homes sold in March this year, unchanged from 16 last year.”

In 2014, I spoke with Jim LaMattery, a

real estate agent who, with his neighbors, created the “Raise the Balloon” gathering. They walked a giant red helium balloon 60 feet in the air along Morena Boulevard to help people visualize the height to which the city of San Diego could, at the time, allow developers to build tall condos in the Bay Park and Linda Vista planning areas. “We can’t rely on our San Diego representatives to have our backs and oppose SB-330 as political pressure to approve it comes from the democratic platform,” LaMattery posted in part on NextDoor before the “noise buffering” apartments went up. “The outcome of these new mandated laws broadly applied with broad strokes, such as the new removal of parking space requirements and protective height limits, to all areas of the county without regard to individual communities’ character. [This] will be declining the quality

*continued on page 6*



“I welcome redevelopment. Getting rid of trailer parks, tired shopping malls, car lots, liquor stores, etc., makes sense.”

## Development thrives in darkness

Donation notification delay draws tiny fine

As a torrent of cash from out-of-town developers gushed into the campaign coffers of a San Diego ballot proposition ostensibly meant to boost low-cost housing with a property tax hike, proponents of the measure delayed disclosing to the city's ethics commission six \$10,000-plus corporate donations until last November 2, the day before the vote. So says a stipulation regarding the case, approved April 15 and posted online by the commission.

"In order to provide the public with readily accessible information concerning the sources of funding to committees formed to support and oppose City candidates and measures, [San Diego ethics law] requires such committees to include the text 'Funding details at [www.sandiego.gov/donors](http://www.sandiego.gov/donors)' on or during its campaign advertisements," the document says. City law "also requires that, within three business days of receiving \$10,000 (in the aggregate) or more from a single contributor, these committees send a notification email to the Ethics Commission with the name and identification number of the committee; the name of the contributor; and if applicable, the contributor's identification number. This information is then posted on the Ethics Commission's website so the public can access it via the website address provided on, or during... campaign advertisements," says the document. The agreement levied a mere \$750 fine against a committee calling itself Yes on Measure A – Homes for San Diegans to atone for the disclosure violations. According to the stipulation, the penalty was low in part because the Yes on A committee filed on-time disclosures required by state law with the city clerk's office. The Yes on A group also "fully cooperated with the Ethics Commission investigation," per the stipulation.



From Yes on A website.

Requiring a two-thirds vote to raise property taxes through 2068, Measure A already faced a formidable fight for approval even before an October 1 *Union-Tribune* editorial condemned the proposal. "Given that such housing costs on average more than \$400,000 per unit — and that only a small percentage of the needy would actually get shelter if the measure passed — this is an extravagantly expensive and underwhelming approach to a problem that has much cheaper solutions," the paper opined.

Though opposed by many locals, a bevy of developers from across the country opened their pocketbooks for the cause, though word of their later contributions didn't make it to the ethics commission — and hence the general public — until the campaign was virtually over, the stipulation shows. The six donations cited by the ethics commission document came from Century Housing Corporation of Los Angeles (\$20,000, October 9), Raymond James and Associates, Inc. of St. Petersburg, Florida (October 15, \$10,000), Wakeland Housing and Development Co, San Diego (\$35,000, October 16), Boston Capital Corporate, Boston, Massachusetts (\$25,000, October 19), Mercy Housing Inc., Denver, Colorado (\$50,000, October 19), and Suffolk Construction Company, Inc., Boston (\$15,000, October 20.) San Diego ethics law dictates that contribution dates, sources, and amounts be communicated to the commission within three days, but the required disclosures of all six of the October donations cited were withheld until November 2.

Matt Potter

## UNDER THE RADAR

**Making Kevin great again** Big money Donald Trump donors continue to kick in for ex-San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer's bid for California governor. The latest contributions include \$32,400 on April 9 from "Aluminum Treating Co, Inc." of South Gate, according to an April 14 filing with the California Secretary of State's office. Other records show that Astro Aluminum Treating, Co., Inc. is in South Gate, an industrial suburb of Los Angeles. Astro chief Mark Dickson and his wife Janice each gave \$250,000 to Trump's presidential re-election cause last year, according to a September 24, 2020, *Los Angeles Times* account. Decron Properties, a Los Angeles real estate concern whose employees gave Trump a total of \$6638 and \$50 to Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg last year, contributed \$10,000 to the Faulconer fund on March 31.

Howard and Susan Groff of L.A. came up with a total of \$64,800. The *Times* report says she gave \$185,000 to Trump last year. Charter school advocate and Central Valley carrot grower Barbara Grimm Marshall of Bakersfield contributed \$10,000 to Faulconer on March 25. Last year she gave \$350,000 to Trump and donated \$740,000 to House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy's Take Back the House committee, according to *OpenSecrets.org*.

Unrelated to Trump, but closer to home, Del Mar property mogul Marc Brutton, who owns the floundering Del Mar Plaza shopping complex, came up with \$20,000 for Faulconer on March 31. "Patty and Marc Brutton spent roughly forty-million dollars buying the plaza in 2017," KGTV reported last September 30. "The successes have been very few and far between. It's been a long hard road," Patty told the station about the pandemic-hit center.

**Binge giving** Democrat Shirley Weber, whose daughter Akilah recently overwhelmed the rest of the field in her drive to replace her mother in the state Assembly, continues to raise plenty of political cash for her California Secretary of State bid. Appointed to the seat by Governor Gavin Newsom after a vacancy created by Newsom's naming of prior occupant Alexa Padilla to the U.S. Senate, Shirley

Weber is scouring the state for election contributions. Recent donors include Patty Quillin of Santa Cruz, the wife of Netflix billionaire Reed Hastings, who gave \$8100 on April 5 and listed her occupation as unemployed. Last year, the couple contributed a record \$120 Million to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, per a June 17 ABC news report... Now that the San Diego city council has voted to spend tax dollars on a

legal battle to overturn the two-thirds vote rule that doomed last year's Measure C hotel tax hike, the pro-Measure C campaign is giving \$15,000 to the county Democratic Party. So reveals an April 19 filing by the group with the city clerk's office.

**Freeing Spokane's records** An expose of Kevin Faulconer's ex-environmental department head has led to good notices for the San Diego Republican ex-mayor's online public records archive from a Spokane weekly newspaper. "Last week, we published a piece about John-



Trump got \$6638, Buttigieg got \$50.

nie Perkins, the man who will have one of the most important positions in Spokane city government, Mayor Nadine Woodward's city administrator," says an April 15 piece in the *Inlander*. "Perkins, as one of San Diego's deputy chief operating officers, had played a pivotal role in overseeing the 101 Ash Street project's troubled renovations in 2019 and 2020. But Perkins himself offered few specifics about his involvement with the project when pressed by the *Inlander*, repeatedly shrugging off specific questions with vague generalities like 'we all face and are given challenges and opportunities in our life,' 'all major projects present their own unique circumstances,' and 'public safety is a top priority first, second, and always.'"

Enter San Diego's NextRequest public records system, implemented during Faulconer's mayoral reign. "Go ahead, try it out. Search 'Perkins' or 'Ash Street' or 'fire alarms' or, for that matter, 'San Diego Padres' and get a bunch of documents instantly available for download. It's exactly the sort of open public records portal that City Council President Breean Beggs and Councilman Michael Cathcart want to bring to Spokane."

**Shutdowns forced** by the covid-

19 pandemic have not been easy for downtown's Gaslamp Quarter Association. On March 23, 2020, says a newly released financial report, the merchants' group was forced to "lay off one staff members (*sic*) to reduce \$52,000 in salaries expense. On January 4, 2021, the Association laid off one staff member to reduce \$80,000 in salaries expense. Cancellations or postponements of events, including the Artisan Market, Pet Parade, and Gaslamp Gala, caused a total

approximate loss of revenues of \$77,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, according to the group's annual financial report of April 7, 2021.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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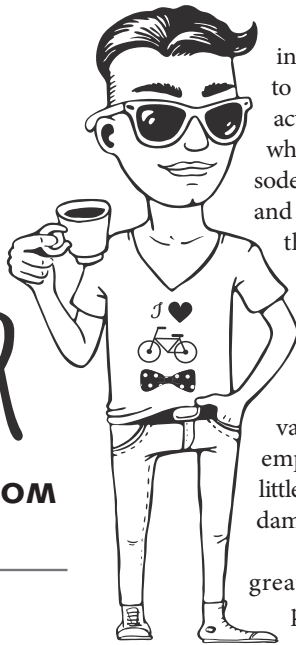


## Dear Hipster:

I get how it's cool and hipster to have obscure, preferably one-of-a-kind aesthetic sensibilities, but I don't get why it's important. This is kind of abstract, but how is there any value in being different purely for the sake of being different? I suppose you could make a random series of movements and noises, set in a random location, and the odds are good that it would qualify as a unique gesture that had never before been attempted by any human being. Although it would arguably entitle the person doing it to claim he or she invented something new and unique, all I can say to that is, "S.F.W."? That doesn't seem to move the proverbial needle of humanity in any particular direction, because it's ultimately nothing more than an empty gesture. Isn't it better to be the best at something familiar because at least there's some way to measure that?

— ANTHONY, NORMAL HEIGHTS

Can a human being ever truly hold a unique thought, speak a one-of-a-kind phrase, or accomplish a singular act? Or is it the case any individual human's thoughts, words, and deeds can never be truly *sui generis* because they can only be understood in terms of what has already been done, and so they are, therefore, definitively not unique? I bet legitimate philosophers have wrestled mightily with these questions; and I further suspect these twin mysteries have gotten the better of one or two Ivy League Ph.D. candidates over the years. Compar-



ing an actual philosopher to me is like comparing an actual doctor to somebody who has watched every episode of *Doogie Howser, M.D.* and *House, M.D.* But rather than be intimidated by my poor qualifications, I'm encouraged by the fact that, like a teenager permitted to drive Mom's minivan aimlessly around an empty parking lot, there's little chance I can do serious damage to the topic.

Some might say the greatest of all the hipster put-downs is to call something derivative.

For example, you might say a band sounds "like early Pixies." That appears to be a compliment, at least if you like Pixies. In reality, it's a veiled putdown for the same reason you don't want to draw attention to the obvious fakeness of that Louis Vuitton backpack you bought from the back of a van when you were on vacation in that small Eastern European country that one time.

The pointless "uniqueness" you're talking about is pure randomness, and randomness isn't the same as originality. There's a line somewhere between the deliberately unique and the equally deliberate yet pointlessly random. It's a super important line. It's what separates Schoenberg from a toddler bashing on a piano; and it's the difference between a Rothko and a wall where city workers

have indiscriminately covered up graffiti with differently colored blocks of paint. The closer you get to that line, the harder it becomes to convince people you're not just some goober standing in a field in Siberia shouting nonsense words into the wind because you can. It's ultimately worth the difficulty to creep out on that particular ideological precipice, because the further you get from the mainstream, the less competition you face in the race to be yourself, and the less likely you are to accidentally end up being somebody else, which is among the least hipster, and therefore most boring, of the many fates a person might suffer.

— DJ Stevens

## LETTERS

continued from page 1

houses low slung, doesn't it? I've lived in the county for fifty years, and I have no recollection of this area, or of having heard anything about it before. And yet, it's cheek-to-jowl with the SDSU campus. Surprising that it can remain so inconspicuous in such a central location, but then, the world is full of surprises.

—Visduh

### "Disclosure-shy developers draw hand-slap ethics fine"

News Ticker  
April 19

The agreement levied a mere \$750 fine against a committee calling itself Yes on Measure A – Homes for San Diegans to atone for the disclosure violations." So for hiding donations of \$155,000, this committee only had to pay a penalty of 0.0048%, because it "fully cooperated with the...investigation"? Seems exorbitant considering the \$200 (0.00067%) that Todd Gloria paid to be allowed to fraudulently launder over \$300,000. Still, how amazing! Who knew justice could be afforded with less than the equivalent of coins from the spare change tray at a convenience store?

—RescueHillcrest

With little publicity surrounding this action, few SD voters will know that their votes are being

influenced by out-of-town interests. Those interests have little concern about the issues, because they hope to profit from the sort of thing that would be built with the funds generated. SD voters would be well advised to vote to reject any and all such tax boosts. Too often they raise funds for wasteful projects that actually harm the locals, rather than helping them. And nobody should ever forget that SD can waste money with the best of 'em, all the while crying poor mouth.

—Visduh

### "Why was OB Pier report held back?"

Neighborhood News  
April 19

Every time I watch this as a news topic on different news stations, I have not seen civilians on the pier. In my earlier time of living in a coastal city that had a pier: most fisherman were standing towards the eastern end.

—ised

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

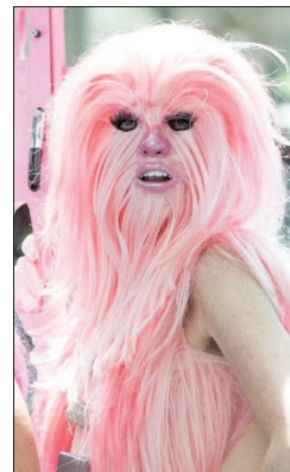
Neighborhood News  
April 12

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...

—wysiwyg



Not actually a doctor.



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of life from what we know to what will be [a] reality soon everywhere across the State of California.” A local physical therapist commented on LaMattery’s Facebook page, “Morena and Loma Portal are eyesores. I welcome redevelopment. Getting rid of trailer parks, tired shopping malls, car lots, liquor stores, etc., makes sense. [They] probably will renovate some of the apartments along that strip as well. Not likely they will build six-story high rises all along the boulevard.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

## TIJUANA

### Pol plunders public pesos for private plumbing But was former Mayor’s munificence embezzlement?

Last April 9, the Baja California’s general prosecutor’s office began a legal process against the former mayor of Tijuana (2016-2019), Juan Manuel Gastelum Buenrostro, for embezzlement. According to the pros-



Rich people’s plumbing is infrastructure.

ecutor’s office, he and one of his administrative directors, Edgardo Torres, gave 4,360,828 pesos (\$222,491) social support to the Puerta de Hierro neighbor’s association. Puerta de Hierro is one of the richest neighborhoods in the city. The money,



“The pier is about one step away from being shut down,”

## OCEAN BEACH

### Pier pressure problems Not talking about the problem only makes it worse

The Ocean Beach Pier has been closed since January 2021 due to storm damage, and its fate remains unknown after a report revealed it has “reached the end of its service life.” The

above and below the water. Vertical cracks were found on approximately 25 percent of the piles during the inspection, and seven piles were found to have significant spalling and a possible loss of pre-stress in one or more strands. These findings, along with the “end of life” determination, were made in 2017. Since then, the pier, built in 1966, has been closed multiple times due to wave events. During this time, despite requests by the Ocean Beach Town Council for information regarding its condition, none was released.

“Clearly there was some decision made somewhere not to release this report to the general public,” Mark Winkie, president of the Ocean Beach Town Council says. “The pier will open again, it’ll be repaired cosmetically... probably within a month or so. The report will get pushed into the background again, but this is a really important issue. Every day, every week, every month that goes by, the pier becomes less safe...the saltwater is getting into the interior parts of it, cracking that rebar out and destroying the concrete...All it will take is one big storm to finish it...We weren’t given the facts...There was no plan, and it’s only now because this has come to light that they are talking about

given on August 17, 2017, was to be used for fixing plumbing infrastructure that goes through private housing. The current Tijuana administration, which initiated the action against Gastelum, argued that this neighborhood is not a marginalized or low-income zone. The lawsuit was filed in April last year, but it wasn’t until last Friday that the judge began the legal process against the former mayor. The judge gave a six-month time period for investigations on the case, which concludes next October 9.

This is not the only lawsuit the former mayor is fighting; during a local trial in March of this year, he was required to answer accusations made by Arturo Gonzalez, his successor in the mayor’s office. This time, he was accused of giving away taxi plate registrations while he was running for re-election.

During his last encounter with local media, he encouraged listeners to be calm and trust the judicial system, and assured them that he was innocent.

IVÁN MOLINA

“The pier will open again, it’ll be repaired cosmetically... probably within a month or so. The report will get pushed into the background again but this is a really important issue.”

364-page, \$700,000 taxpayer-funded report from civil engineering firm Moffatt & Nicol details the pier damages. But a simple visual inspection of the pier reveals where it sags downward and upward again, creating a sag. This sag is the lowest point on the pier and the weakest link, where most of the serious damage is happening, according to the report. Also noted are cracked pilings and corrosion

putting together some sort of advisory panel to figure out what to do. Why wasn’t that done back in 2019?”

The report, finalized on September 3, 2019, was made public after it was obtained by the *OB Rag* in April. City Council president Jennifer Campbell, who represents the city’s council district 2, which includes Ocean Beach, said

continued on page 8



Why wasn’t pier review published prior to this?



An aerial photograph of San Diego, California, showing the city's urban landscape, the San Diego Bay, and the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Friday that although she had been asking for an update, her office had not seen the report. “The Ocean Beach Pier has been a treasured part of our city since it was opened in 1966,” Campbell said. “But the pier has sustained significant damage through the years. My office has asked for updates on the extent of the latest damage since it was first closed earlier this year. Unfortunately, the recently released assessment report was not made available to my office. I thank Geoff Page at the *OB Rag* for bringing this 2019 report to light which gives us a realistic look at the condition of the pier.”

There are three solutions explored in the report: repair, replace, or rehabilitate. The repair option comes with a \$8M+ price tag and no promise of longevity. Rehabilitation of the pier would cost roughly \$30-\$50M. Replacing the pier entirely would cost \$40-\$60M, permits alone taking up to five years. “The pier is about one step away from being shut down, one big storm away from having some serious catastrophic failure,” says Winkie. “It’s great to get people back out on the pier, but that’s not the story; the story is, what are you going to do about it long term?”

DELINDA LOMBARDO

## MISSION BAY

### Park pleas for Plan Pickleweed partisans speak for the creek

The Balboa Avenue Station Specific Plan ends right where one of the largest urban wetland restoration projects in the state begins. Over the next 10 years, a construction boom is expected to add thousands of homes around the new Balboa Avenue Station at Morena Boulevard, which is expected to open in late 2021. To convert the area into a walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented com-

“increasing the number of residents of this community sevenfold, ...which means seven times more trash, dog waste and people trampling on the pickleweed banks.”

munity, the city is creating a web of links to help people get around. But one vital destination has been ignored. Critics of the plan want to make the Rose Creek area through Pacific Beach a city park. So far, the effort has stalled.

On April 16, the Coastal Commission approved — with modifications — the city of San Diego’s plan to amend the certified Land Use Plan to implement the Balboa Avenue plan. The modifications include stronger

water quality requirements, protecting affordable visitor accommodations, and a beach shuttle service. But no park. To opponents, it was a missed opportunity to create access to De Anza Cove and ReWild Mission Bay, a project of the San Diego Audubon Society and their coalition partners. The group is restoring wetlands along Pacific Beach Drive and both sides of Rose Creek. “I think you need to include Rose Creek as part of the plan,” said Isabelle Kay, manager of the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve at the corner of

Pacific Beach Drive and Crown Point Drive. Supporters say the planned shuttle could bring students to the sites, and provide recreation for those who live there and visitors. Imagine a lovely park that connects to a restored wetland, and further connects into Mission Beach, said Gwendolyn Dick. The plan “must be designed for trolley riders looking for recreation spaces.”

And while the wetland area has been excluded since it’s outside the specific plan,

the coming growth won’t restrict itself to those boundaries. Activists want the city to support the restoration of the creek ahead of the construction boom. “The city is proposing increasing the number of residents of this community sevenfold,” said Karin Zirk, executive director of Friends of Rose Creek. “Which means seven times more trash, dog waste and people trampling on the pickleweed banks.” Michael Prinz, city planner, said the aim of this project is that, where new development is adjacent to Rose Creek, it “should be designed in a sensitive manner and front the creek appropriately.”

Complicating its stewardship, Rose Creek straddles a few different planning areas, which commissioners said were last updated in 1995. They include the Pacific Beach land use plan and Mission Bay Park. Frank Landis, conservation chair for the San Diego chapter of the Native Plant Society, said that is part of the problem. “Rose Creek has been piecemealed out of the city’s planning around Mission Bay. It is not in this plan. It is not in the De Anza Cove plan; they’re all adjacent to it.” Planner Prinz said in an email that efforts related to Rose Creek and ReWild “will be addressed as part of the De Anza Revitalization Plan and through future capital improvement efforts.”

SHEILA PELL

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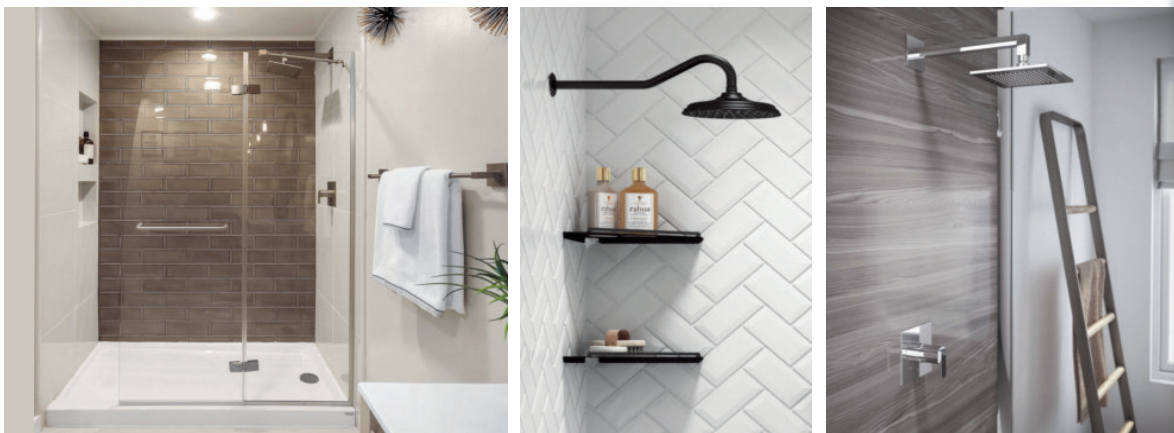
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**Hopeful language**

“Saluton! Kiel vi fartas?”

This is my friend John Drehner. A regular in this column and a regular sage.

“Come again?” I say.

“I said ‘Greetings! How are you?’”

“In what language?”

“In the language that is going to help the whole world live in peace,” he says. “The only



**John Drehner, Esperanto evangelist, spreads hope and peace.**

problem is, no one’s heard of it.”

He’s talking about Esperanto, a language which belongs to everybody because it belongs to no nationality. It started with an idealistic Polish eye doctor, Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof, who created it — mostly while he was a still a kid — and published it in 1887.

And the world still needs it, says John. “At the moment, English is an international language. And yet it’s about the most difficult, hard to pronounce, inconsistent language on the planet.”

And, he points out, it’s by no means a universal language. Fewer than 10 percent

Casey, sang in Esperanto for many of her 102 years). She even recorded an LP of Esperanto songs called *San Diego Voka* (“San Diego Calls.”) To hear her singing familiar songs like “Kredis Mi” (“Yesterday”) or “Ponto Trans Akvo Storma” (“Bridge Over Troubled Water”) is to hear the difference and yet the connection between English and Esperanto.

“The point is, Esperanto is supposed to be a bridge language everyone can share on equal terms. It is kept deliberately simple and logical and easy to pronounce, whether you’re American or Chinese,” says John. “The syntax is systematic. You just get it. So the lower threshold means more people can talk together in a language neither owns but both share imperfectly.”

Esperanto is the survivor of a bunch of idealistically created languages that burst forth around the 1880s with the idea of ending war and creating community across borders and language barriers.

Two world wars failed to kill it, even though speakers were persecuted (all three of Zamenhof’s children died in concentration camps) but today’s supporters fear two things might just finish the job. First, the notion that Esperanto is too Eurocentric for today’s world, and second, that the internet will kill it. “With instant translation on Google,” says Drehner, “you can stay in your silo and let the machines do the reaching out.”

So 134 years after this Polish kid invented the language of hope (“Esperanto” doesn’t need translating) how’s it doing? Honestly, it doesn’t feel as if it’s reaching critical mass. But

“At the moment, English is an international language. And yet it’s about the most difficult language on the planet.”

of Chinese people speak it. Only 39 percent of French people can even stutter in it. More people speak Spanish.

Drehner believes people need an easy second language that everybody in the world can use, and one for which no one claims special ownership. “Wars come through lack of understanding. And who’s surprised? There are 3500 to 5000 languages in the world. And yet, people can’t even speak to each other! Can’t share a joke.”

But Esperanto is alive and well in San Diego, and especially Santee. (The Grupo Esperanto meets monthly at The Living Room coffee house, 5900 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area.) Their website says it takes only 100 hours to get Esperanto down, compared with 600 hours for “easy” Spanish.

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extinction? No way. “It’s popular in schools, because it teaches kids to learn a foreign language with this easy, open, architecture,” says Drehner. “That encourages them to go on to learn ‘real’ languages.”

How will you know when you’re ready to move on?

“When you can play Scrabble in Esperanto.”

**Three loud birds**

Sunday morning. Trying to sleep in. No chance. Not one, not two, but three mockingbirds flit around and land in the tree right outside, going “Chuck! Chuck! Chuck!” Aggressively, non-stop.

“They’re mockingbirds alright,” says Jen Hajj later. She’s San Diego Audubon’s Events Membership Coordinator. “But they’re just saying ‘This is where I am going to be. Stay

away.’ They are also doing their best to attract a mate. It’s usually repetitive. And they start this song very early in the morning.”

Great. There goes the sleep-in. But also, I can’t help thinking: three mockingbirds, sitting in the five-finger tree? It’s as though they’re talking to me. Makes me think of a BBC program on bird language where they electronically took away certain elements of human speech until people sounded exactly like birds, to demonstrate how we have many parts of our speech in common.

“Well, they used to be velociraptors,” says Jen. “Chickens, especially, have more T. Rex in their DNA than, say, mockingbirds.”

“That’s it!” I say. “The three mockingbirds! Charles Darwin! Voyage of *HMS Beagle*. The birth of evolution theory!” I’m remembering the picture of three actual mockingbirds Darwin collected in the Galapagos Islands, back in 1835. The Natural History Museum in London still has them, showing their slight variations, which sent a rocket through the scientific world. Those three mocking birds from separate islands confirmed his suspicions that species don’t remain static. They adapt to differing conditions.

And according to *Phys.org*, there’s a big effort to reintroduce a single mixed population of mockingbirds to the Galapagos island of Floreana, where they went extinct sometime after Darwin visited. Of course, according to Jen, my three guys here are Northern mockingbirds, part of a robust year-round population which has to fear only two things: cats (cats kill an unbelievable 3.7 billion birds every year in the US, according to a Smithsonian study, not to mention 20.7 billion small mammals), and climate change.

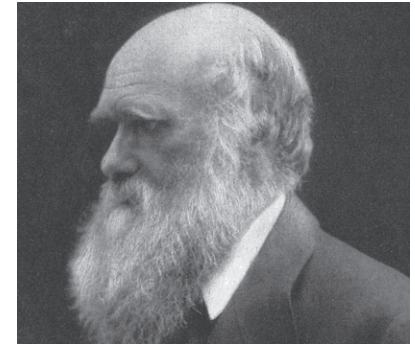
“Right now, climate change applies more to migrant songbirds than your resident mockingbirds,” says Jen. “Until now, when they get where they’re going, they’ve always had these resources to fly to. Like when birds are leaving Mexico, it might be the same time caterpillars are starting to hatch. Now they may be hatching later. Or more dry conditions may mean those caterpillars aren’t hatching at all. So birds get to that place and they’re exhausted.

So ready to eat, and there’s nothing.”

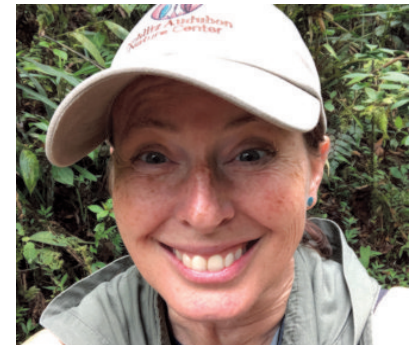
Now she’s reading from her birding Bible, the *Birder’s Handbook*. “Mockingbirds’ cup-shaped nest is tended by both the male and female. They lay 3-5 blue-green eggs, heavily marked with brown spots. Incubation is about 14 days. Then it takes another 14 days for the kiddos to fledge. So a month before they can fly to safety. This is when you should be locking your cats up.”

Me, I’m more concerned with the adaptation of my own species. I’m going to have to deal with being woken up, every day, before dawn, by that three-mockingbird “Chuck! Chuck! Chuck!” chorus. It’s probably been going on since dinosaur times. I can just hear those poor sleep-deprived velociraptors yelling “Shyaddaaaap!”

No wonder they went extinct. ■



**The great man: Charles Darwin. It started with three mockingbirds**



**Jennifer Hajj**



**Northern mockingbird: small body, big noise**

BILL MANSON



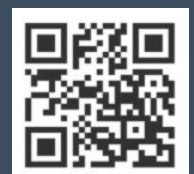
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# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

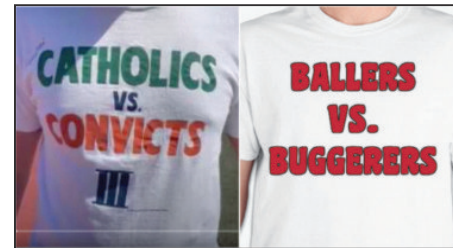


Gee, the colors are nice, but what is it?

## Glass Houses Cathedrals *Lincoln High students respond to taunting t-shirt with one of their own*

In 1988, the No. 1 Miami Hurricanes football team played No. 4 Notre Dame in a thrilling game that came down to the last second. Prior to the game, a pair of Notre Dame students created a t-shirt that billed the game as Catholics vs. Convicts, since Notre Dame was a Catholic school and several Miami players had been arrested prior to the season and subsequently lost their scholarships. Fast-forward to 2021, when students at top-ranked high school football team Cathedral Catholic created a similar t-shirt as a comment on their game against Lincoln High, and posted photos

to social media. The outcry was swift and severe: officials from both Cathedral and Lincoln condemned the act as racist and unacceptable. But sometimes, the official response is not the one that resonates, and that seems to be the case here, as the real buzz on social media surrounds the clapback shirt created by an unknown but enterprising Lincoln High student. The sales page for the shirt, available on makeatee.com, includes the following text: "It's true that Lincoln High has been in the headlines for run-ins with law enforcement, most notably, the 2016



File under: people who shouldn't throw stones.

lunchtime brawl that sent a school police officer and several students to the hospital. It's also true that the Catholic Church has been in the headlines for its run-ins with law enforcement, most notably, the decades during which it conducted and then covered up the rape of countless little boys, which sent a whole bunch of people to jail. Lookin' good, Cathedral Catholic!"

## Refund the Police *Mayor Gloria under fire for diverting funds from police to so-called "libraries"*

San Diegans from all walks of life are calling for both explanation and change from Mayor Todd Gloria following the release of his proposed city budget. At issue is his proposal that the city's police department receive a mere \$19 million increase — barely enough to cover its rising pension obligations — while diverting millions to "libraries," a kind of pre-internet information resource with warehouse locations around the city. "This is outrageous," says Black community activist Wendell Jones. "At a time when poll after poll and survey after survey show that Black Americans in marginalized neighborhoods want more police presence, not less, the mayor thinks its okay to simply maintain the status quo in a town currently suf-

fering a serious police shortage. And then he has the gall to prop up some failing, irrelevant institution just to placate his liberal elite supporters who think education is the solution, when study after study shows it simply isn't. And even if it were, who goes to the library any more? Schools hand out iPads like they're candy; we have all the information we could possibly need right at home. Now we just need to be safe, right at home. And for that, you need police." Mayor Gloria has tried to placate critics by noting that he cut nearly \$7 million from the previous library budget, but Jones remains unimpressed: "Talk to me when those temples to the outdated technology that is the book are converted to affordable housing."

## Crisis Actors, Not Crisis Actresses

*SDSU prof says that when times get tough, moviegoers want men on screen*

According to a new study from San Diego State's Center for the Study of Women and Television in Film, the percentage of top-grossing films featuring female protagonists dropped from 40% in 2019 to just 29% in 2020, the year that coronavirus brought the world to its knees. This despite the fact that, according to the Center's execu-

tive director Marsha Loozin, the percentage of females as major characters and in speaking roles actually increased slightly, rising from 37% in 2019 to 38% in 2020. "Clearly, when times are hard, moviegoers want the strong, confident presence of men onscreen — men whom they can trust to save the day when all seems lost. Here, you had more

women in major roles, and yet a serious drop in corresponding box office draw. I grant that it's not the outcome I hoped for, but we here at the Center for the Study of Women and Television in Film are nothing if not honest. And it's not like these findings make women unimportant to the movie world. After all, the men need someone to save, right?"



Loozin: "Consider Blake Lively, star of 2020 action flop *The Rhythm Section*: sure, she's pretty, but be careful — with a \$6 million return on a \$50 million budget, she's box office poison!"

## WHO PLAYS WHO

## MATTHEW FLUCKIGER EDITION



On *True Detective*, **Glenn Fleshler** played Errol Childress, a man who was allowed to get away with sexual abuse because of the people he knew.

The California Dept. of Public Health knew that **Matthew Fluckiger** had been accused of multiple sex crimes against nursing home residents, but did not suspend his CNA license.



On *Stranger Things*, **David Harbour** plays Sheriff Jim Hopper, a man driven by duty to struggle against creepy monsters from the underworld.

**Matthew Fluckiger** hopped from nursing home to nursing home, and is accused of betraying his duty by sexually assaulting at least four people in his care.



On *The Simpsons*, **Comic Book Guy** handles old comics with the greatest of care, especially when removed from their protective packaging.

**Matthew Fluckiger** is accused of sodomizing a wheelchair-bound woman with his fingers during a diaper change; Avocado Post Acute decided it was just "rough handling."



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- After Weight loss Surgery (patients who had gastric sleeve or gastric bypass) and require removal of excess skin.
- Minimally invasive procedures: Botox, fillers



Doctors Eduardo Ochoa and Nicolas Leyva, located in a tourist area of Tijuana just 5 minutes away from the border, are two young plastic surgeons with a contemporary concept of beauty, with innovative ideas and techniques, whose mission is to offer their services with professionalism, ethics and safety, thus generating confidence and satisfaction in their results.

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As it is widely known, many foreigners seek certain medical services in Tijuana, not only because of its facilities, but also because of its cost, which is much cheaper than in countries like the United States (even 70% less).

"We offer comparable or even better results than many plastic surgeons in other countries such as the U.S. and at a lower cost," said these Tijuana doctors, who added that they only operate "in places with first class facilities and state of the art technology.

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What makes these young surgeons renowned for their excellent work is that they are not only detail-oriented, but also seek to understand and know their patients in order to achieve the result they desire, since they understand that beauty is different according to each person's perspective.

One fact that is also important to point out is that both specialists study the health status of the patients to determine if they can go under surgery, something that is not seen very often and that of course is necessary to know.

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# DOGNAPPERS



**O**n February 3, a neighbor's camera caught Brody wandering away from his San Lorenzo, Northern California home. The next day and 500-plus miles south, Brody mysteriously crossed into Tijuana.

Brody is a four-year-old French bulldog, the same breed as Lady Gaga's two pets, the ones that were recently "dognapped."

For two weeks, nobody back at Brody's home, 24 miles southeast of San Francisco, knew of his whereabouts.

"My mom is extremely heartbroken," posted Audra Campbell on Facebook, hours after the brown-furred canine vanished. "My mom's emotional support dog is missing. Message me if you've seen him. He is friendly and snorts like a pig."

Three days later, Campbell updated Brody's online photos with a \$1000 no-questions-asked reward. The images went viral throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Benjamin Gonzalez, a former Bay Area resident who was deported in 2019 and now lives in Tijuana, saw Brody caged and for sale on an undisclosed Tijuana street, according to *EastBayTimes.com*.

"I said, 'What do you want for it?' The guy said, '\$2000,'" Gonzalez recounted in the March 3 article. "That's a lot of money. I had to think about it. I called my friend and asked him if we could use the dog for breeding. He said, 'Yeah.' So I went ahead

---

"In recent years, Frenchie popularity seems to have exploded as the new 'it' dog. Breeders sell them for an exorbitant amount of money."

---

and bought it."

Days later, Gonzalez found out through his relatives in the Bay Area that the dog he negotiated down to \$1000 and purchased was the missing Brody.

"Gonzalez first reached out to us via Facebook and phone," Campbell explained to me on March 16. "Our phone numbers were on Brody's missing posters online, and Brody has a serial number tattooed on

his leg that matches his registration numbers on his paperwork.”

Gonzalez then Face-Timed with Campbell's 64-year-old mother, Debbie Campbell, so that she could see Brody.

“My mom was overjoyed and extremely emotional; she could not believe what she was hearing and seeing.”

Gonzalez agreed to relinquish Brody to the Campbells.

“On February 27, my brother Eric Campbell drove down to San Diego and met one of Gonzalez's family members near a mall,” Campbell continued.

Eric handed over \$1000 to Gonzalez's family member, picked up Brody, and drove the eight hours back to San Lorenzo.

“When the dog was with me, it was not hap-

py,” Gonzalez said in the *East Bay Times* interview. “Something was wrong. Then I saw the videos when it got back to the Bay Area. Now I know it's home.”

Throughout the near-month-long ordeal, Campbell said she thought their family would never see Brody again. “My mom was so happy to have him back in her arms again finally. Brody helps her with severe depression due to pain in her legs and her back. While they play together, Brody helps to keep her mind occupied from the pain; he also keeps her company while she's stuck in bed. He provides much happiness to her.”

Campbell believes Brody was targeted because of his breed. “In recent years, Frenchie popularity seems to have

exploded as the new ‘it’ dog. Breeders sell them for an exorbitant amount of money.”

“How much?” I asked Campbell.

“Judging by recent postings on Craigslist up here, anywhere from \$3000-\$5000. Dognappers see the dollar signs and an easy way to make money: via ransom, backyard breeding.”

“French bulldogs are hot right now,” corroborated Diane C., “just like Lady Gaga's two dogs that were stolen.”

I spoke with Diane on March 8 as she played with Oodle. We hung out at the Ward Canyon Dog Park by Adams Avenue and Interstate 15 in Normal Heights.

I squatted down and caressed Oodle's head. He licked my face and eyeglasses. “How much

do French Bulldogs sell for around here?” I asked Diane.

“Frenchie go for a couple of thousand dollars each.”

That money may have motivated the gunman who, on February 24 in West Hollywood, hopped out of a white sedan, approached Ryan Fischer, shot him to the ground, and took two of the three French bulldogs Fischer was walking. The incident was caught on a surveillance video aired by TMZ.

Fisher yelled, “Help me, I've been shot,” as he lay on the pavement with the third Frenchie, Miss Asia.

The day after, actor Danny Trejo — whom I photographed with Chopper the Biker Dog and interviewed for a 2014 *Reader* article titled “Bikers for Christ roll up



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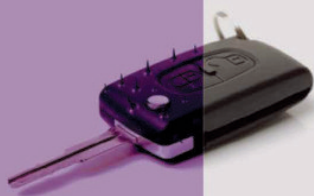
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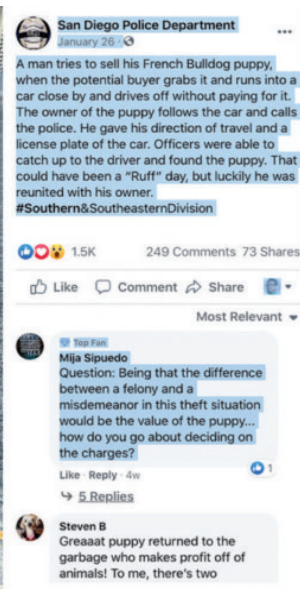
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This study is funded by **Eli Lilly & Company**



Brody is a four-year-old French bulldog who wandered away from his home in Northern California, then was found in a cage for sale in Tijuana.

On January 26, the San Diego Police Department posted on Facebook about a Frenchie-abduction in a southeast neighborhood. “A man tries to sell his French Bulldog puppy when the potential buyer grabs it and runs into a car close by and drives off without paying for it. The owner of the puppy follows the car and calls the police. He gave his direction of travel and a license plate of the car. Officers were able to catch up to the driver and found the puppy. That could have been a ‘Ruff’ day, but luckily he was reunited with his owner.”

to Mt. Soledad” — tweeted out to the French bulldogs’ owner: “So sorry to hear about your dogs @ladygaga, we got people out there looking for them.”

On February 26, the Grammy award-winning singer tweeted: “My beloved dogs Koji and Gustav were taken in Hollywood two nights ago. My heart is sick, and I am praying my family

will be whole again with an act of kindness. I will pay \$500,000 for their safe return. Email [KojiandGustav@gmail.com](mailto:KojiandGustav@gmail.com) to contact us.”

On March 2, the Los Angeles Police Department tweeted: “Both of Lady Gaga’s dogs have been turned in to a local police station ... they have been safely reunited with Lady Gaga’s representatives.”

Back down in San Diego County, French bulldogs, their owners, and breeders were targeted long before Lady Gaga’s pooches were snatched up. Frenchie-thefts and Frenchie-robberies have been reported frequently throughout San Diego County, since 2012, when a downtown surveillance camera captured a woman stealing Mozzzy, a French bulldog. On the

incriminating video aired by ABC 10 News, a woman is witnessed luring Mozzzy to the doorway of a loan office located on Front Street. The woman kneels and holds the door open, then Mozzzy bolts behind her. After the clip aired, the police caught the dognapper and took her to jail.

Almost nine years after the police reunited Mozzzy with his owner, on January 26, the San Diego Police Department posted on Facebook about another Frenchie-abduction in a southeast neighborhood. “A man tries to sell his French Bulldog puppy when the

potential buyer grabs it and runs into a car close by and drives off without paying for it. The owner of the puppy follows the car and calls the police. He gave his direction of travel and a license plate of the car. Officers were able to catch up to the driver and found the puppy. That could have been a ‘Ruff’ day, but luckily he was reunited with his owner.”

Randi Allen was not as lucky with her three French bulldogs. “I was hit by their car when they stole my puppies,

and then they floored it,” she commented underneath the police department’s previous post. “I had no way off of the [hood and]... I fell quite hard. I hope it’s them. I can ID them.”

On January 8, Allen posted a photo of her French bulldogs and offered a \$10,000 reward for all three of them. “I was robbed at 2 pm[on] 1/7/21,” she captioned the photo. “I expected one or maybe two people to show up about 1:30 pm to view the puppies, [but] five sketchy

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people showed up. Only two puppies were for sale; they attempted to take all four, but one escaped. They fled to a ... silver 2000 Civic style car with a broken windshield wiper."

"Have the police found your dogs?" I asked her on March 4. "No, I'm disappointed. They kept telling me it was a property crime."

On the State of California government website, it states: "Every person who feloniously steals, takes, or carries away a dog of another which is of a value exceeding nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950) is guilty of grand theft."

"And just in case I get attacked as a breeder in the article," Allen continued. "I have many clients who will attest to my commitment to my

pups. The dogs sleep on my bed every night."

Allen's Facebook timeline is packed with photos and videos of her dogs, ducks, and artwork spanning back to 2018.

Diane, the dog watcher I met at Ward Canyon Dog Park, is extra careful when it comes to selling pooches. "First of all, you don't let someone in your house without a driver's license; check them out first," she said to me. "Make them fax you or text you a photo of their driver's license, so you have backup in case they do steal your dogs."

Regarding Allen's misfortunes, Diane says, "I don't have that much sympathy, because if you are going to be selling dogs for money, a respectable, responsible breeder does not sell to the general public. They

check you out first, and they speak to you.

"When I adopted my dogs from the rescue, there was a three-page questionnaire; she should at least have papers on these people before she accepts them, because you don't know who the hell they are."

"I'm in the market to buy a dog. What are signs to look for when I buy one?" I asked Diane.

"Make sure you go to their house and see where the puppies are raised. See what condition the mother lives in; that's the most important thing, to ensure that the mothers are treated well. Make sure you meet the mother, because temperament is genetically passed down from the mother to her puppies. You want a happy and easy-going mother."



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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

“Have the police found your dogs?” I asked Randi Allen on March 4. “No, I’m disappointed. They kept telling me it was a property crime.”

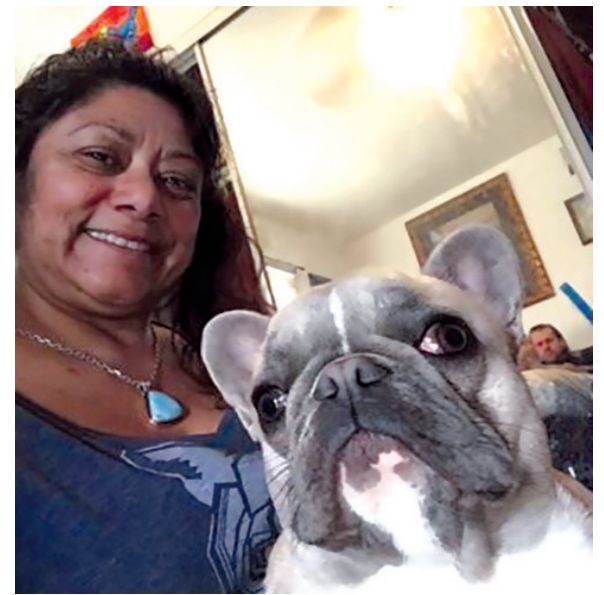
In June, a “homeless guy” stole Betty Boop, a tan-colored French Bulldog, from Cindy LaValle’s home on the City Heights/North Park borderline on University Avenue. LaValle, a 20-year

veterinary technician, reached out to me in September. He said that by talking to a some area locals, “I found out a homeless guy stole Betty Boop. I was looking for Betty all over the

encampments in the area. I spoke to many homeless people, and the community came together like crazy for this pup.” After two days of pounding the streets, alleys, and parks, “another

homeless person ended up taking Betty back to me. They regulated the thief within their community and ran him out, and his huge encampment was gone by the morning. I was also able to help a neighbor recover his stolen bicycle baby seat — the thief used that seat to transport Betty.”

French Bulldogs are ranked number five on the “Top 10 Most Stolen Dog Breeds” list on *caninejournal.com*. “Although 92 percent of pet parents consider dogs members of their family, most state laws don’t agree,” continues the internet pet resource site. “You may have heard the term ‘dognapping,’ but it’s misleading from a legal standpoint. Kidnapping a person is a severe criminal offense. However, the law does not see it that way with kidnapped dogs.... Dogs, instead, are seen as personal property.... That’s why pet theft most often falls under a state’s general theft and larceny laws. In these states, stealing a pet isn’t distinguished in any way from taking a TV, jewelry, or other possessions.... California and Louisiana impose differ-



In June, a “homeless guy” stole Betty Boop, a tan-colored French Bulldog, from Cindy LaValle’s home.

ent charges and penalties based on the monetary value of the stolen dog.”

Fischer, Lady Gaga’s dog walker, survived his gunshot wound. Days after he was gunned down, he posted a photo on social media from his hospital bed. “Your babies are back, and the family is whole... we did it!”

“I continue to love you, Ryan Fischer,” Lady Gaga responded online. “You risked your life to fight for our family. You’re forever a hero.”

As this article goes to print, the Hollywood

dognappers have not been caught.

Allen, the OB artist who lost her three French bulldogs to dognappers in January, recently found one of her missing French bulldogs in City Heights through a Craigslist ad. On March 14, her Facebook update post read in part: “I was instantly sure they had no idea about [the dog’s] background; I felt 100 percent safe telling them the dog was stolen. I paid what they paid for her [in] good faith.”

— Mike Madriaga

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# Calendar

# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

## Thursday | 29

### BIG THIEF: NOONCHORUS



BIG THIEF

This stream will offer a start-to-finish recording of Big Thief's last U.S. pre-pandemic performance in Columbus, Ohio in November 2019. The footage gives fans an intimate look at the band in the moments leading up to the concert, and shows performances of songs spanning all four of their releases. The stream will rebroadcast for 48 hours.

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 29, 7 pm

**WHERE:** [noonchorus.com](http://noonchorus.com)

PG-13): Benedict Cumberbatch and Rachel Brosnahan headline this Cold War espionage thriller based on the

true story of an unwitting English salesman recruited by M16 and the CIA to set up operations in Russia in order to sneak classified Soviet intelligence to the West. Cinema Under The Stars is an outdoor theater with a weatherproof retractable dome and

infrared heating, single and double zero gravity recliners, love seat cabanas, and deck chair/ottoman with table.

**WHEN:** Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, 8 pm; Sunday, May 2, 7 pm.

**WHERE:** Cinema Under the Stars, 4040 Goldfinch Street, Mission Hills, [topspresents.com](http://topspresents.com)

## Saturday | 1

### STAIND LIVESTREAM

Staind will livestream a performance of their *Live: It's Been Awhile* album on May 1. On May 8, they'll play their 2001 album *Break the Cycle* in its entirety, exactly 20 years after its release. The 20th Anniversary show takes place at Mill 1 in Open Square in Holyoke, Massachusetts, bringing the band back to their Western Mass roots.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 1, 2 pm

**WHERE:** [staindlive.com](http://staindlive.com)

## Sunday | 2

### SAN DIEGO VINTAGE COLLECTIVE: SPACED OUT

Celebrate Earth Day and support local small businesses in an outdoor market of vintage vendors and local makers. Find the perfect Mother's Day gift.

## Friday | 30

### THE COURIER

*The Courier* (2020). 112 minutes.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 5: THE SKY TONIGHT ASTRONOMY TALK: COLORS IN SPACE

There will be home goods, furniture, fashion, accessories, collectibles, and hand-made items. The market will be



STAIND

in the heart of Liberty Station's Art District, right next to Stone Brewing. Social distancing and face masks required.

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 2, 10 am to 4 pm

**WHERE:** Arts District Liberty Station, 2875 Dewey Road, Liberty Station. [sdvintagecollective.com](http://sdvintagecollective.com)

## Wednesday | 5

### THE SKY TONIGHT ASTRONOMY TALK: COLORS IN SPACE

Join Fleet Science Center for a virtual tour of the solar system narrated by resident astronomer Lisa Will. Begin

the Sky Tonight talk with an overview of astronomy in the news and a tour of this month's sky. Then Will

will lead a presentation about what colors mean in space. Is our Sun really yellow? Why are some nebulae blue while others are red? What can colors tell us about the universe? The link to the zoom session will be shared with all registered participants. Spots are limited.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 5, 7 pm to 8 pm

**WHERE:** [fleetscience.org](http://fleetscience.org)



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

## ANIMAL FRIENDS

**Animal Care Camp** This one-day camp involves unique hands-on activities from our professional animal care staff to give campers experiences with the different aspects of animal husbandry. Sunday, May 2, 9am; \$200. 9 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. [animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/](http://animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/) (RANCHO SANTA FE)

**You Can Be a Veterinarian Camp (Full Day)** You Can Be a Veterinarian Camp offers a rare opportunity for kids in San Diego to practice veterinary skills, interact with animals, and gain experience with equipment they might use in the future! Saturday, May 1, 9am; \$155. 9 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. [animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/](http://animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/) (RANCHO SANTA FE)

**You Can Be a Veterinarian Camp (Half Day)** You Can Be a Veterinarian Camp offers a rare opportunity for kids in San Diego to practice veterinary skills, interact with animals, and gain experience with equipment they might use in the future! Saturday, May 1, 1:30pm; \$80. 9 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. [animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/](http://animalcenter.org/programs-services/education/) (RANCHO SANTA FE)

## ART

**Abstract Painting With Acrylics** In-person Spring Session II. Abstract painting with acrylics. 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. [classes.luxartinstitute.org/adults-classes-new](http://classes.luxartinstitute.org/adults-classes-new). (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](mailto:education@luxartinstitute.org)

**Art Making Classes for Adults** Art making classes for adults and mature adults. Small groups, minimum 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)

**Art Show: Surrounded By Beauty** Visions of the sublime in the ordinary. Domonique L. Kinney and Natasha Monahan Papousek are very different as artists, but share a joy in the beauty that is all around us. May 1-15, 2021, Studio 23. Saturdays, 10am; through Saturday, May 15, **free**. Art Studios @ Spanish Village, 1770 Village Place (619) 233-9050. [spanishvillageart.com/](http://spanishvillageart.com/) (BALBOA PARK)

**Art of Elan: Impressions** Gerald Finzi's "Interlude for string quartet and oboe" and the Phantasy Quintet by Ralph Vaughan Williams help create the lush sound world of this intimate concert that pays homage to the Impressionist movement of the art world. Works by Debussy, J. S. Bach, and Jean Francaix round out the program. \$40 museum members, \$50 non-members, \$15 students. Tuesday, May 4, 7pm; \$15-\$50. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. [artofelan.org/](http://artofelan.org/) (BALBOA PARK)

**Emotions Embodied: Abstracts from the West Coast** The American abstract movement of the 1950s included artists such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Helen Frankenthaler, all of whom continue to influence the genre of abstract art in contemporary times. In celebration of this movement and its evolution nearly 70 years later, Art Scene West is bringing you two full weeks of abstract art from artists in Central and Southern California to the Gallery and courtyard for a Spring Emergence pop-up show. Saturday, May 1, 10:30am; Sunday, May 2, 10:30am; **free**. Art Scene West Gallery, 312 South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

**Memories at the Museum** Take part in a discussion and virtual tour of several Balboa Park museums. Docents with the Memories at the Museum program engage people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease and an accompanying family member or friend in discussions about the artwork to stimulate visual and verbal abilities, and to spark memory. Tuesday, May 4, 2pm; **free**. 21 and up. <https://bit.ly/3dS3FNw>. (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. [classes.luxartinstitute.org/adults-classes-new](http://classes.luxartinstitute.org/adults-classes-new) (ENCINITAS)

**San Diego Made Summer Market** This event will feature a socially-distanced outdoor shopping experience with handmade and vintage goods by roughly

## Rhyme & Verse

April: "Roots"

A poem by Joseph O'Brien

After Jamie Wyeth

Whan that April with his showres soote  
The droughte of March hath perced to the roote...  
—Chaucer

Down a ravine, the first fool flush of spring  
Is always brown. The ice-carbunckled ground  
Breaks down, roiling and sifting, revealing  
An old oak's tense, textured system of roots,  
Like cut-away illustrations of sound  
Found in schoolbooks, tied up in bolted knots  
Of depth and shape, escaping beyond

Limits of either. Down the rucked ravine,  
The waters rise like a fortune to come,  
The kind blow in with sudden rain; between  
Fox kit's noisy eviction (that one night  
In early spring) and skunk kit's chronic home-  
lessness, a sheltering thatch of root,  
Nested with clotted stone, begins to roam

Outside topsoil's loamy island, masted  
With a trunk, its each branch, a windy spar.  
Below deck, the rusty clay, ruby-hued,  
Grips thigh-boned runners, gasping as they creak,  
And spells out tubers with fossilized char,  
As April waits adventitiously to break  
In waves as well over elm as larkspur...



To say that roots have a system is to say  
Rain is symmetrical or Shakespeare is  
Grammatical. But either way,  
Our words don't dig down deep enough  
To tap the complexity — ours or nature's —  
For elements to take sufficient hold of,  
Exhaling rain, sunning earth. Sure, Chaucer's

April may very well engender flowers —  
But only the thirsty taproot empowers.

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

Find more poetry online at [SDreader.com/poetry](http://SDreader.com/poetry)

60 local vendors. The theme of this event is going to be 60s/70s. Extensive safety measures will be in place to ensure a secure environment for sellers and attendees (with sanitizing stations, social distancing, limited touching of goods and masks required. Saturday, May 1, 11am; Sunday, May 2, 11am; **free**. Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive. (LA MESA)

**San Diego Vintage Collective: Spaced Out** Space Out, an Outdoor Spring Market featuring vintage vendors and local makers. This season come celebrate Earth Day and support small businesses and shop local for that special Mother's Day gift. Park for free. Wander for \$3, paid at entrance. Debit/Credit Cards only. Face masks are required to enter the venue. Sunday, May 2, 10am; \$3. Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade, 2875 Dewey Road. <https://bit.ly/3gDaULd> (LIBERTY STATION)

## BEER

**Orange Creamsicle Beer Slushie Release** The Orange Creamsicle Beer Slushie: start with Looker Blonde Ale, then layer in OJ and coconut topped with whipped cream, rainbow sprinkles, an orange slice, and a GF cookie, with over a dozen taps flowing and food trucks. Fri-Sun, Apr 30-May 2, 12pm; **free**. 21 and up. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

**Punk Rock & Paintbrushes Book Signing & Art Show**

Celebrate the release of *Punk Rock & Paintbrushes: The Insides of Artists* written by Outsiders, an exclusive coffee table art book co-created by Emily T. Nielsen and Warren Fitzgerald. This event will be adhering to current guidelines for social distancing and face coverings/masks are required for all attendees. The event will be limited to 100 attendees at a time and reservations are required. Saturday, May 1, 2pm; Amplified Aleworks, 1429 Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Sundays at Quartyard** Sundays at Quartyard will feature live music from 1-3pm and a local DJ from 3-7pm playing a wide range of genres for the neighborhood. Sundays, 1pm; through Sunday, August 29, Quartyard, 1301 Market Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Warwick's Author Livestream: Karen White** This Couch Surfing Book Tour event features Karen White as she discusses her new book, *The Last Night in London*, in conversation with Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke. Thursday, April 29, 4pm; **free**. [warwicks.com/event/white-2021](http://warwicks.com/event/white-2021). (ONLINE)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**5-Week Master Composter Course** Solana Center is here to help take your composting knowledge to the next level with a 5-week

virtual Master Composter course. Join expert educators to dig deeper into the art and science of composting during weekly live Zoom sessions including dedicated Q&A time. Master Composter certification requires attendance at all 5 classes, and 30 volunteer hours of related community service. Wednesdays, 6:30pm; through Wednesday, June 2, \$25. [solana-center.org/free-compost-workshops](http://solana-center.org/free-compost-workshops). (ONLINE)

**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. Thursday, April 29, **free**. 18 and up. [dharma-center.com](http://dharma-center.com). (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. Saturday, May 1, **free**-\$25. [solana-center.org/free-compost-workshops](http://solana-center.org/free-compost-workshops). (ONLINE)

**Forming a Legal Business Entity to Sell Soap Class** Soap Business 320 is a beginning business class for anyone interested in forming a new business. This class focuses on the applications, fees, licenses, and permits required to form a legal business entity. Students also learn how to determine costs, set prices for handmade

products, and determine profit. Classroom hours: 3.5 hours, includes one 15-minute break. Class fee: \$69. Materials fee: \$12 Sunday, May 2, 1pm; \$81. Soap-making Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

**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)

**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 leyn-krayz 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 29, 11am; \$15-\$120. <https://bit.ly/3rvXDpl>. (ONLINE)

## COMEDY

**Jada Catta-Preta** Jada Catta-Preta has been seen on The Soup and Comedy Central. Friday, April 30, 8pm; Saturday, May 1, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**The Drunk Texts: A Hope Renew'd** Join The Drunk Texts for a special May The 4th event! Tuesday, May 4, 4pm; \$10-\$25. <https://bit.ly/3tRt7IL>. (ONLINE)



# SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

## Ethnos Community Church

**Contact:** 3950 Berino Court, San Diego 858-46-8329 [www.ethnos.us](http://www.ethnos.us)

**Neighborhood:** University City

**Membership:** 100

**Pastor:** Scott Eng

**Age:** 39

**Born:** Anaheim

**Formation:** University of California-Berkley; Golden Gate Baptist Seminary (now Gateway Seminary), Ontario, CA

**Years Ordained:** 6

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

**Pastor Scott Eng:** How radical God's grace is. That's something we have a lot of human conceptions about, and his grace is always

bigger than we expect. I find a lot of people have different backgrounds, whether spiritual or non-spiritual, and they all have an idea of who God is. If we misunderstand who God is and his character, then we have a misunderstanding of how he wants to love us and provide for us and feed us. I enjoy helping people have those "Ah-ha moments" where they see something new.

**SDR:** What's the mission of Ethnos?

**PE:** Ethnos is the Greek word for "nations." A big part of our mission is that we recognize that God wants to bring people from every corner of the world to get to know him. So part of our job

and mission is, as our vision statement says, to be a community for all peoples. So no matter where they come from, where they grew up, or who they are, we believe God wants to welcome them. So we try to do that. It's especially important for our neighborhood – University City – which has a lot of ethnicities, with people coming from other countries. Ethnos is also a place for people to go back out into the world. They come to the universities and different industries in the area, and if we can be part of how they learn about God's love here and then take that to the rest of the world, we think we've done our job. Our musical worship direc-

tor, Eric Lige, does a great job of highlighting how different cultures worship God. We sing in different languages, use different musical genres, to grow an appreciation of how people around the world worship God, and how we can all learn from that. We usually have four or five songs on a Sunday. We would usually have one or two that are in a different language... For instance, if we sing a song that was written in Iran and speaks of the persecution of the Christian Church there, by singing that, we're also connecting with their story. **SDR:** Where do you go when you die?

**PE:** I believe in heaven and hell. As an addendum,



Scott Eng

though, I would also say that we believe that, at the end of the Bible, the picture is heaven, God's realm, meeting with earth. The Bible talks about a new heaven and a new earth, but the two are coming together and taking a new form, an eternal form we are not exactly going to know until we get there. Heaven is

a different realm, but it also has got to be here and now. That's part of why we care about what's going on in the world, because we're all supposed to be a part of bringing about heaven through witness and by living out God's values... In grace through faith, Jesus gives a free invitation to all people that he has paid for, and we need to accept that invitation. We want to follow his way instead of our own. Let's say we don't accept the invitation; then we basically live in an eternal state of rejection where we've staying separated from God because that's what we've chosen.

– Joseph O'Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at [SDReader.com/worship/](http://SDReader.com/worship/)

## DANCE

**Red Room Burlesque: Cinco de Maio** Online live interacted pole, belly and exotic dance performance, get a drink, log in and enjoy the show. Cinco de Maio show will be inspired by international music and dance styles. \$1 to \$5 tickets/donations that are shared with the performers. Saturday, May 1, 7pm; \$1-\$5. 18 and up. [gogodancearts.square.site/](http://gogodancearts.square.site/). (ONLINE)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**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/](http://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](mailto:davehoward63@outlook.com). Smart Recovery® is a free alternative to 12-step programs. Mondays, 7pm; through Monday, May 31, free. 18 and up. (ONLINE)

**The Journey to Mesa College** A great opportunity for prospective students, friends, and families to come and learn a little bit more about Mesa College in a more familiar setting. We invite all interested students and their families to attend an info session. Thursday, April 29, 3pm; free. [sdmesa.edu/calendar/](http://sdmesa.edu/calendar/). (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

**Rupi Kaur Live** Rupri Kaur is a *New York Times* Best Selling poet. *Rupi Kaur Live* is her first independent film, featuring a stand-up poetry performance with theatrical style. Friday, April 30, 7pm; \$15. <https://bit.ly/32JZf54>. (ONLINE)

## LECTURES

**Exploring Ethics: Precision Genomics & Immunotherapy** Precision genomics and immunotherapy offer promise to improve outcomes in cancer, but doing so means we need to move beyond historical models for cancer diagnosis and treatment. In this program we will discuss insights from this rapidly changing field and address some of the ethical challenges that must be met if we are to transform the lives of patients with cancer. Wednesday, May 5, 5:30pm; free. <https://bit.ly/3gEvLgY>. (ONLINE)

**Jillian Hernandez: Remote Guest Lecture** Jillian Hernandez is a scholar, curator, and community arts educator. Her work is inspired by Women on the Rise!, a project she founded in Miami, Flor-

ida in 2004 that engaged thousands of Black and Latina girls in critical dialogues about identity through feminist art. Friday, April 30, 12pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. <https://bit.ly/3sP433K>. (LA JOLLA)

**Joel Slayton: Computing in the Arts Lecture** University of California San Diego presents Joel Slayton, a pioneering artist, researcher, and curator with over 35 years of experience involving art and technology. His work engages a wide range of practice including media, installation and performance and has been featured in over 200 exhibitions around the world. Thursday, April 29, 5pm; free. <https://bit.ly/3xooNmj>. (ONLINE)

**The Sky Tonight Astronomy Talk: Colors in Space** Join Fleet Science Center for a virtual tour of the solar system narrated by resi-

dent astronomer. Dr. Will will lead a presentation about what colors mean in space. Is our Sun really yellow? Why are some nebulae blue while others are red? What can colors tell us about the universe? Wednesday, May 5, 7pm; \$5-\$20. <https://bit.ly/3tNIYYC>. (ONLINE)

## SPOKEN WORD

**Vamp: Gods & Monsters** Vamp is So Say We All's monthly curated storytelling showcase, featuring nonfiction stories on a theme. For April, it's "Gods & Monsters." Heroes, villains, myths, creatures, the big guy in the sky, those untouchable forces that toy with our mortal shells for their delights... is someone else responsible? Are we? Catch the show on Facebook Live. Thursday, April

29, 8pm; free-\$5. [facebook.com/SoSayWeAllOnline/](https://facebook.com/SoSayWeAllOnline/). (ONLINE)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**Spring Hike Walk for Holiday Magic** Enjoy the annual 7 Bridges Spring Hike/Walk through San Diego's Balboa Park, surrounding neighborhoods and 7 bridges. Hike includes a colorful map, guided audio tour from Jeffery the Care Deer, an official Hike for Holiday Magic mask, and a 30% discount the day of the event @ Coffee 'N' Talk for registered participants. Kids under 12 are free to participate. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome too. Saturday, May 1, 8:30am; \$35-\$70. Balboa Park Activity Center, 2145 Park Bou-

levard. [holidaymagiccd.networkforgood.com/events/28890-spring-hike-walk-for-holiday-magic](http://holidaymagiccd.networkforgood.com/events/28890-spring-hike-walk-for-holiday-magic). (BALBOA PARK)

**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)

# NOW OPEN

## LITTLE ITALY MERCATO SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm

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

OPEN YEAR-ROUND, RAIN OR SHINE

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



# HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at [SDReader.com/drinks](http://SDReader.com/drinks)

## CARLSBAD

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

## CITY HEIGHTS

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

## CORONADO

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

## DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

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

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

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

## EAST VILLAGE

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

**Duck Foot East Village Taproom & Kitchen:** *Tuesday, \$5 pints gluten-reduced beers on tap all night*

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

## BOOZE NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

### Hannegan's House is home to beer and beer ice cream

There's a conspicuous cocoa flavor running through the green mint ice cream; it's nearly as rich as the chocolate chips scattered throughout. But behind the frozen dessert's sweetness lurks the tonic burn of alcohol. Because there's no chocolate flavoring the ice cream, there's just beer. Specifically, a dry Irish stout.

You can get a pint of each — the ice cream and the beer — at their source: **Hannegan's House Beer Co. & Creamery**. The combination brewery and small batch creamery sits within a small warehouse space near the shipyards in National City. Behind the venture is South Bay native Andrew Hannegan. As sole proprietor, Hannegan brews the beer, makes the ice cream, and does virtually everything else.

That includes building out an Irish pub-inspired tasting room — complete with brick wall façade — that he originally scheduled for a March 17, 2020

grand opening. That St. Patrick's Day party had to wait a year.

Hannegan's beer menu isn't restricted to Irish styles — he highlights an easy-drinking saison made with orange blossom honey — but they do make up the brewery's flagship beers. In addition to Where the Stout Has No Name, the Irish stout behind the mint chocolate chip ice cream, he brews an Irish blonde, and an Irish red ale dubbed The Color We're Meant to Bleed. As Hannegan puts it, he brews what he likes to drink.

"What truly got me into brewing was the Irish red," says Hannegan. As a customer, he had trouble tracking down his favorite beer style locally, so decided to give homebrewing a try. "Okay, I'm not going to look for it," he recalls thinking, "I'm just going to make it."

Back in 2015, he made his first batches at **Citizen Brewers**, the Grantville brew on-premise shop that gives homebrew customers a place to brew using professional equipment. Pretty soon, he had set up his own rig at home, and within a couple years he found himself enrolled in the Business of Craft Beer program at SDSU, to see what else he might learn.

By time he completed the program, an acquaintance who enjoyed Hannegan's beers offered to put up the money to start a beer business together. Though the partnership didn't materialize, the idea had been given shape, and Hannegan grew determined to see it through.

"I was already all in, in my head and in my heart, to do this," he says. He moved back into his childhood home to save money, and the career termite inspector diverted his income into launching a brewery.

So, with his St. Patrick's Day opening disrupted by covid-19, Hannegan decided to continue following through, serving beer to go with occasional hours throughout last spring. But it wasn't until

Hannegan says. "It's not just about the beer, there's something more that people want to come in for."

With his red ale he makes a strawberry chipotle ice cream, the blonde alternates between strawberry and peach ice creams. His personal favorite, at the moment, is honey raspberry with saison. Each gallon of ice cream contains roughly 24 ounces of beer, meaning there's too little beer in a pint to get anybody drunk. Though a handful of restaurants and shops have shown interest in selling the beery ice cream, Hannegan prefers to sell exclusively in-house. Customers have to pay Hannegan's House a visit to get their hands on a pint of mint chocolate chip stout.



A pint of Irish stout, and a pint of mint chocolate chip stout ice cream made with it

The same is true of

Hannegan's remarkably easy-drinking beers. Though the pandemic forced the business to sell packaged beer, this will be chiefly a drink-in-person taproom. Customers looking to take beer to go may request a bottle fill, but Hannegan hopes the ABC will continue to allow outdoor service just outside the brewery's large roll up door, and is already eyeing expansion into a neighboring warehouse suite to make more room for guests.

In other words, Hannegan's modest ambition isn't to ship beer and ice cream across the country. Rather, it's to bring people here, to the bayside outskirts of National City, for stouts, ales, and dessert.

For more craft booze news, see [sandiegoreader.com/news/booze-news](http://sandiegoreader.com/news/booze-news)

## ENCINITAS

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

## ESCONDIDO

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

## LA MESA

**Brigantine La Mesa:** *Daily, 3:30-6:30pm: \$1 off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$4 glass sparkling wine, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine.*

**Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:** *Friday, All day: Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24. Sunday, 11am-2pm: \$4 Bloody Marys, \$5 Champagne.*

## LAKESIDE

**Eastbound Bar & Grill:** *Monday-Friday, 2-5pm: \$2 off all house cocktails, \$3 domestic bottles, \$4 micro drafts.*

## LITTLE ITALY

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

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

## MISSION HILLS

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

## MISSION VALLEY

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

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

## NORTH PARK

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

## OLD TOWN

**Home & Away:** *Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off glass of wine, draft and bottled beer, well drinks, \$3 to \$6 off*

specialty cocktails. \$2.75 tacos. *Tuesday, 3-6pm: Taco Tuesday specials, see server.*

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

## PACIFIC BEACH

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

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

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

## POINT LOMA

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

off specialty drinks. *Thursday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$4 select beers, \$5 well drinks, \$6 house wine, half off specialty drinks.*

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

## RANCHO SAN DIEGO

**Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:** *Friday, All day: Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24.*

## SOLANA BEACH

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

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

**Et Voilà French Bistro:** *Tuesday-Sunday, 4:30-7pm: \$7 cocktails, glass of house made sangria (\$14 pitcher), draft Iron Fist Counter Strike IPA, and draft 1664, \$5-\$9 wines by the glass. Discounted food menu.*

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# Grasshoppers, and the elixir of the gods

“As long as you don’t get their legs stuck between your teeth, they’re a cinch to eat.”

Listen, kid, people have been flinging their fangs around these little guys for generations. I think we can handle them once and live to tell the tale.”

“I’m not touching them. Forget it.”

“They’re salty. They’re a *botana*, a snack! They go with your Modelo beer. Here, I’ll show you.”

Maggie, the beloved stepdaughter, watches in horror as I put a mouthful in and start crunching away. *Chapulines*, roasted grasshoppers.

Why doesn’t she get it? *Chapulines* are like protein packs on legs. Aztecs have crunched on them since way before they even had Tenochtitlan as a capital. I’ve had them before as well. As long as you don’t get their legs stuck between your teeth, they’re a cinch to eat, and tasty with seasonings of garlic, lime juice, and salt (and sometimes

an extract



Roasted grasshoppers. Delicacy from Oaxaca packs big calorie punch

of maguey worms, which give them a sour and spicy taste).

We’re in a tent in a parking lot facing a sign, *Gastronomia Oaxaqueña*, an eatery in the Mission Escondido shopping center. It’s late afternoon, and here in Escondido, boy, we’ve also been roasting. Way hotter than on the coast.

Except, right now, early evening, it’s cooling down nicely, and a frosty Negra Modelo helps mightily. But we came to eat, and Lucy, the owner, turned us in the right direction.

“We have the best *moles*, because we are from Oaxaca, but you could start off with *botanas* — snacks — like *chapulines*, or *gusanos*,” she said.

The *gusanos* — moth caterpillars that hatch and grow on agave spears — turn out to be uber-nutritious. Like, three ounces of them contain about 650 calories, the equivalent two plates of rice.

Oaxaca, the Pacific coast state south of Mexico City, is also famous for chiles, chocolate, and turkeys (and no, turkeys didn’t come from Turkey. They came from Mexico). In fact, along

with tomatoes, potatoes, chiles, chocolate, cocaine (Original Coca Cola, anybody?), the Americas seem to be feeding the world, good habits and bad.

And Oaxaca has the richest reputation for food, along with Lima, Peru, which they call the gastronomic capital of the Americas. Oaxaca has one of my favorite snacks, the *tlayuda* (“Mexican pizza,”) a 16-inch corn tortilla, partially fried, loaded with *asiento* (pork lard), beans, *quesilla* (Oaxaca specialty — think Mexican mozzarella), cabbage, tomato, avocado, plus the main element, *tasajo* (beef), *cecina* (pork), or my usual choice, *chorizo*. Fifteen bucks. Not cheap, but they do make deliciously flavored disks to crack your teeth into.

On the other hand, this being a Oaxacan place, *mole* is everywhere. One temptation is a *tamal* with *mole negro*, and pork, wrapped in banana leaf. Costs \$4.99.

So, dilemma. We could go safe, and have a chicken *mole poblano*. Costs \$14.99, with rice. Or *mole roja* (\$14.99), or green or yellow.

But no. When in Rome... We order the plate of grasshoppers and another of agave worms (I promise Mag I’ll eat the worms. Plates are \$13.99 each) ’Course, then I see we could have gotten a way-cheaper alternative, a *chapulines* taco for \$3.99. Dang.

Still, the good news is Mag takes to the *chapulines* like a dolphin to water. Loves that garlicky, shrimp, limey, smoky taste.

I mean, the plate is fairly basic: raw onion, avocado, tomato slices all around, but mainly this pile of spiky, dark, naked-looking insect bodies, which it takes a little getting used to to eat. Same with the worms, the *gusanos*, except they come better disguised. They’re on an interesting pile of guacamole, filled with veggie bits, plus chips to scoop them up with. Good thing too, because you need a bit of protection when you chew. They’re crunchy-fried but a little squirty, too. Whatever, you know you’re feeding yourself full of protein. Actually, when you think about it, this is like eating the agave plant itself, with a little processing from our *gusano* friends.

Lucy comes back out from inside. She carries a small red bowl of frothy liquid. “Try this,” she says. “It gives you energy, life energy. Men appreciate it, and it helps women make more milk for babies.”

She says a long time ago, only Aztec royalty was allowed to drink it. They called it their *tejate*. “Elixir of the gods.”

“The Zapotec and Mixtec people still love it very much. They drink it to celebrate.”

Mag picks up the bowl. It’s filled to the brim. “Ooh,” she says when she tries it. “Delicious.



Survivor: Owner Lucy Contreras, and poster showing her in traditional Oaxacan dress

Chocolately. Fruity.”

She passes it over. Rich, bubbly, like *champurado*? No. But cacao’s definitely in there. Lucy insists this is on the house. It normally costs \$4.99.

I take another gulp. Sweet, cocoa-like, fermented. Deeply comforting.

“This is my own recipe,” Lucy says. “It includes cocoa, the cocoa flower, corn, coconut, and the seed of the *sapote* tree.”

I take another sip, and imagine all the Aztec royals drinking this same potion under the pyramids of the great city of Tenochtitlan.

I ask Lucy how this past year has been. “It has been hard,” she says. She is a brave lady. She has faced covid, close-downs, and her husband Simon passing away. But she rode out all these storms. And here she is, still in business. “Actually, the irony is 2020 was our best year yet. It’s a miracle.”



“Waiter, there’s a worm in my guacamole. Several!” But the combo is a taste treat

she says. “People gathered around us.”

“We’ll be coming back,” says Mag. “I want more *chapulines*.”

“And I want some *mole*,” I say. “*Mole ooblanco*.”

“*Poblano*” means it’s from the state of Puebla,” says Lucy. “Not Oaxaca. ‘And *poblano mole* has more sugar. Our *mole negro* has more chocolate.’

“That’s what you want,” says Mag.

“This young lady has good sense,” says Lucy. ■

**The Place:** El Tejate, 205 W. Mission Avenue, Suite R, Escondido, 760-747-1808 (2nd location at 3050 Pio Pico Drive, Carlsbad, tel 760-637-5320)

**Hours:** 9am-9pm, daily

**Prices:** Mole negro or roja, with rice, \$14.99; mole de olla verde or amarillo, \$15.99; tamale in banana leaf with pork, \$4.99; three memelitas (masa cakes topped with, say, black beans, mole, cheese), \$8.99; mojarra frita (whole fried fish), \$12.99; tlalpeño (chicken and veggie soup, \$12.99); tasajo con hongos (beef with mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, peppers, rice, black beans), \$14.99; choriquesto taco (pork with cheese), \$3.99

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# Privateer goes public

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit [SDReader.com/feast](http://SDReader.com/feast)

## A muffaletta quest leads to Privateer Coal Fire Pizza

The Privateer Coal Fire Pizza; 1706 S Coast Highway, Oceanside. "How many times have I driven past this place?" I muttered to myself. Too many to count. A better question might be, "How long have I been missing out?" The answer to that, I now know, is eight years and change.

It's not like The Privateer



The Privateer signature pizza, featuring chicken, sun-dried tomatoes, and artichoke with a walnut pesto sauce.

Coal Fire Pizza is off the beaten path. It sits on the Coast Highway in South Oceanside, a stretch of road I like to cruise whenever I'm in the area to drink beer, hit the beach, or specifically seek out restaurants to try. A few years ago, I even wrote something about how the dining scene has blossomed along this stretch of South Oceanside. Honestly, it's a little embarrassing that I totally missed this cornerstone of that transformation.

From what I've gathered, The Privateer is what happened when of a pair of friends who grew up surfing only a few hundred yards from here decided to open a restaurant together. They championed scratch cooking from quality ingredients, putting together a menu of pizza, as well as hot sandwiches, pasta, and burgers. What the restaurant's website terms "blue collar gourmet dining." I finally came looking for it when someone in a foodie Facebook group suggested it was a good spot to find a muffaletta sandwich. Turns out, I never noticed it when driving by because it sits behind a good-sized parking lot, and shaded patio. Which makes me all the more red-faced because these are both valuable restaurant assets, especially these days. There's even a wine bar and market



A muffaletta sandwich, served with caper berries.

next door, also called The Privateer. Which gives me an idea how successful the venture has been with people who actually live in the area, versus people like me, who show up every so often to bury our heads in the sand.

It explains why this "blue collar" spot has such a robust wine list. Though I stuck to North County beers represented here, including from Oceanside's Northern Pine Brewing and Vista brand Helia Brewing.

The muffaletta (\$13) on its own would have been worth the visit. Though made not on the round, sesame seed-crusted Sicilian bread that gives the famed New Orleans sandwich its name,

the dense, slightly sweet roll used instead offered a fair approximation. Privateer makes its version with pepperoni, soppressata, and provolone, though it's the olive salad that makes the sandwich memorable.

Also memorable: the sandwich was served with caper berries, which I can't recall ever eating at a San Diego area restaurant, blue collar or otherwise. They look sort of like olives with a stem and peel, but the brined berries are filled with tiny pink seeds, and eat sort of like savory, pickled figs.

With every minute that passed, I found myself becoming a bigger fan of the Privateer, and I

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A bright pink interior awaits the reopening coffee and burrito shop's dining room.



Small, simple \$3.75 burrito and a matcha latte.

hadn't even gotten my coal fired pizza yet. Though it slings regular pizza sizes at dinner, the lunch menu includes \$11-13 personal size pies. You can order up to three toppings, with tomato-based sauce, or you can get the restaurant's signature pizza. That's topped with braised chicken, artichoke hearts, sun-dried tomatoes, black pepper, and *flor di latte* — mozzarella's more delicate cousin. But most surprising is its sauce: walnut pesto.

It takes a lot of confidence and consideration to make a chicken and walnut pizza your number one, and the Privateer is up to the task. The nut's earthiness compliments the char of the pizza's chewy, coal-fired crust. It makes me want to more deeply explore the menu, with its house-made meatball sub, and fish tacos. There's a lot to tackle here, and I've got to make up for the years I've been missing out.

by Ian Anderson

### Birria and lattes show up at Mujer Divina

*Tuétano Taqueria*; 143 West San Ysidro Boulevard, San Ysidro. *Tuétano* is the Spanish word for marrow, and bone marrow has a lot to do with the success of the San Ysidro taco shop, Tuétano Taqueria. Since opening in 2018, it's been written about in national magazines including *Food & Wine* and *Fortune*, and last fall the vaunted *Michelin Guide* hailed it as one of "25 Delicious Discoveries Across California."

And though Tuétano's press clippings have been quick to praise the shop's "bone marrow tacos," in truth, the bone marrow is an add-on; a side

dish you order as an optional topping to any of the shop's assorted tacos. Now, I'll be the first to confirm the slow-cooked marrow makes every taco it touches, better. But in truth, what makes Tuétano tick is its sumptuous beef *birria*. Tuétano owner, chef Priscilla Curiel, once told me she took *cumin* out of the recipe to make its tender, shredded beef pop. I doubt it's truly as simple as that, but whatever her secret, Tuétano's *birria* and *quesabirria* tacos are the shop's true stars, even if you choose to skip the marrow topping that gets so much attention.

Which adds up to great news for National City, where Curiel recently opened another small restaurant, dubbed *Mujer Divina*, or "divine woman." Actually, the sign outside literally reads: *Mujer Divina Burrito & Coffee House*.

Burritos and coffee. It's a combination we're even less accustomed to seeing than bone marrow and *birria*.

It's not Curiel's first stab at a restaurant in this location, on downtown National City's main drag, 8th Avenue. In 2019 she established a sandwich and smoothies shop here, named *Naturale Deli*. While that concept didn't survive the pandemic, *Mujer Divina* is set up for takeout service, particularly due to online ordering and curbside pickup.

For those walking in off the street — and I spotted several during my weekday visit — a small order counter is set up within the doorway, and a couple of standing tables are set up on the sidewalk.

Primarily, *Mujer Divina* is a coffee shop, specializing in flavored lattes of regular, soy, almond, or oat milk. You may

opt for hot or iced *café de olla*, a traditional, Mexican brewed coffee flavored with *piloncillo*, cinnamon, cloves, and star anise. Most of the menu features the likes of pistachio later, rosewater latte, and various others featuring white chocolate, raspberry, lavender, or *cajeta*, the goat milk caramel. One featured latte is flavored like a *conchita* the cookie modeled after *concha*, the conch shell-shaped *pan dulce* that's a fixture at Mexican bakeries.

The espresso machines were hissing and steaming with regular orders when I showed up, but I decided to go for a matcha latte, made with powdered green tea rather than coffee. I drink coffee every day, but to be honest, I needed something more photogenic to frame alongside my order of burritos.

At \$3.75 apiece, these aren't the thick, 6- to 8-dollar taco shop burritos San Diegans have come to expect. They're thinner and smaller — burritos, if you like. Which doesn't make them any less than. Especially when you start with the *birria* burrito. It's the same *birria* recipe driving Tuétano's success down by the border, and it's just as flavorful wrapped in flour tortilla as it is

folded into corn. In other words, fans such as I can grab a bite of *birria* on the fly when passing through National City, rather than having to drive all the way to San Ysidro.

Which isn't to say variety doesn't help. Other small burritos available include bean and cheese, *chorizo* and potatoes, *machaca*, and *chicharrones* in *salsa verde*. My non-*birria* favorite was the *rajas con crema* burrito. Featuring mild poblano chile with melted cheese, sour cream, and corn, it's flat-out delicious.

Which means I'll have to revisit Tuétano Taqueria again soon, after all. Because now I have to find out how great its *rajas con crema* tacos taste with a bone marrow topping.

by Ian Anderson

### FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

**Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito Uncorked for a Cause**  
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito's popular Uncorked for a Cause wine tasting event will be virtual. This year promises to be great with DAOU Vineyards supplying the wine and Mendocino Farms supplying gourmet snack packs. Event food and beverages will be available for curbside pickup at Boys

& Girls Clubs of San Dieguito's Harper Clubhouse in Solana Beach. Saturday, May 1, 6:30pm; \$75. 21 and up. [bgcsandieguito.org/events/uncorked/](https://bgcsandieguito.org/events/uncorked/). (ONLINE)

**Dim Sum & Jazz Music Series**  
4/30 Sacha Boutros, 5/7 Leonard Patton Trio, 5/14 Trio Gadjó Feat. Claudia Gomez, 5/21 Koo-sha 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)

**Low & Slow Ox Barbecue Saturdays**  
New bi-weekly Ox Barbecue series: Pit Master Ryan Sharpe will be dishing out pounds or half pounds of meats straight from the smoker along with house made sides and sauces. Available until they are sold out. Saturday, May 1, 11am; \$14-\$30. Wise Ox, 2855 El Cajon Boulevard #1. (NORTH PARK)

**Mezcal Tasting With Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston**  
Gelson's presents an online tasting with Dos Hombres featuring the hombres behind the brand, Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston. This virtual tasting will showcase the Dos Hombres Espadín Agave Mezcal (\$52.99) paired with a Gelson's custom cheese and charcuterie plate (\$23.99) which serves two. Thursday, April 29, 6pm; \$23-\$80. 21 and up. [gelsons.com/about/news-and-events/an-evening-with-dos-hombres.html](https://gelsons.com/about/news-and-events/an-evening-with-dos-hombres.html). (ONLINE)

**Street Food**  
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# blurt the inside track

**Eight-band man** If you heard Jordan Krimston's history of playing in bands, you would likely assume he was a grizzled, local music scene vet in his mid-50s. The 23-year-old has played in more groups over the past ten years than most musicians do in their entire lifetimes. He started

on a full-length follow-up in December of the same year. He continued to write songs through January of 2020, and then recorded what would become *Bushwhacking* the following month.

"February 2020 — the most cursed month of all time," Krimston explained.



Jordan Krimston: "The San Diego all-ages and DIY thing is spotty."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT KELLY FROM HALFWAY HOME

while he was attending the School of Rock and has since been involved with bands such as Big Bad Buffalo, Band Argument, and Weatherbox. Since most of these years were spent in the "underage" realm, Krimston honed his skills playing at house parties and all-ages gigs.

"I definitely feel lucky to have gotten a head-start," Krimston explained. "I'm grateful to my parents for kind of kicking me in this direction. The San Diego all-ages and DIY thing is spotty sometimes because there aren't that many venues, but I feel it's pretty accommodating. It was great to grow up with venues like the Che Café and just house shows. I feel like the DIY scene in San Diego goes through lots of waves. There's a lot of turbulence with it, but I do feel like it's always been pretty strong — especially when I was in high school. It was a pretty great asset."

After releasing a solo EP in 2019, Krimston began work

"We were so oblivious. It was the calm before the storm. I was like 'I'm gonna have this record, and I can play shows supporting it,' and then covid."

Touring plans got squashed the next month when the country entered shutdown mode. Coincidentally, another one of Krimston's projects, Miss New Buddha, released their debut LP *The Situation is Excellent* on March 15, 2020 — a maneuver that now seems akin to dropping an album on the same day that your neighborhood is getting nuked. The good news, according to Krimston, is that the Miss New Buddha album has done so well on Bandcamp's digital download front that a vinyl edition is now in the works. As live shows are an actual possibility in the coming months, Krimston must begin to coordinate his schedule so that all the bands he's currently playing in can count on him being available for their gigs.

"That has definitely proven

to be an issue in the past," he explained. "I have multiple things that I'm committing to, and it's hard to juggle them. For the most part, it's doable because we're all sort of in the same friend circle and we're all very communicative with each other. We're pretty good about lining that stuff up, but I've had to choose certain projects over other projects in the past which I hate doing. Sometimes I just have to decide one route or the other."

All that being said, he refers to the logistical conundrums as "a good problem to have." "I'm slowly getting better at juggling it. I've ironed it out a little bit," he concluded.

Besides *The Situation is Excellent* and *Bushwhacking* (which are both out now), Krimston is currently at work on debut LPs by Crasher, Somme, and Band Argument, and another debut (this time an EP) by Glow & The Dark. He is already getting moving on a follow-up to *Bushwhacking*

and playing on what will become the second Future Crooks album and the fourth Weatherbox LP. He expects all of these to be available "within the next year or so."

So, if you notice Krimston dragging a bit during a gig in the hopefully near future, give the kid a break. Playing in eight different bands will do that to you.

— Dryw Keltz

## Giraffe culls the herd

A surprise new song and video from costumed rockers Steam Powered Giraffe appeared online this month. "Fart Patrol" is their first new release since last year's ambitious 1896 album, which came with a separate acoustic incarnation. The lighthearted track finds the three steampunk robots harmonizing happily about how "If you're tootin, ya better be scootin, 'cause all that butt flutin's gonna clear the space, the fart patrol is just doing their duty before your doodie tooties



get all over the place." The video streaming on YouTube includes a spoken word interlude during which the trio wonders among themselves if a song about farts will be good for their careers.

That career has so far included long stints as a house band at the San Diego Zoo (as well as playing the Wild Animal Park and Legoland California,) producing music for and appearing in the SteamWorld Heist video-game, and being mentioned on the cartoon TV series *Animaniacs*. They've spent the pandemic releasing acoustic and rehearsal videos, as well as a 13th anniversary livestream featuring five acoustic songs and guest starring former robot members Erin Burke (Upgrade) and Sam Luke (Hatchworth). Singer David Bennett, whose robot character is known as The Spine, has been releasing solo music sans makeup and under his own name, including a cover of "Snake Eater" from the video game Metal Gear Solid 3, as well as a single and music video for a song called "Bring On To Me."

Several music videos are online with tracks from the 1896 album, but those featuring two individuals formerly associated with the group have been re-edited to remove their presence. The revised uploads include an explanation from the band that the two men had been accused of behaving inappropriately with fans. We won't identify them by name in this column, but both had been appearing onstage with the band as well as in videos. The group explained with

the re-uploads why the two were edited out of the group's newest music videos. "This is in response to issues brought to the band about [a former member] from victims. [This member] hasn't been in the band since the end of February 2020"

"The band only found out about [his] behavior on Tuesday June 30th after some people contacted band members privately directly through social media and the band's email. The evidence is far from unfounded. It's all damning and there is no ifs, ands, or buts about it. The evidence is overwhelming and there was no way we could turn a blind eye to what these people came forward with, nor would we ever had we known sooner... the band was led to believe by



Steam Powered Giraffe: two former members are even creepier than they look.

[the former member] that he was just 'a nice guy with no ill intent' anytime we called him out on being overly friendly with fans, and how that could be taken by people. Little did we know that was just surface level behavior, and it ran deeper than that.

"The evidence presented to us... shows him having inappropriate interactions with fans. We do not have a statement from [him], he has denied everything when we contacted him...the evidence

presented to us in private is not something the band can turn a blind eye to and it's clear as day to us. The band does not condone his actions."

When their concert technical director left the band, they reported, "Someone came forward with an incident about our sound technician... and we followed up with the sources. The band does not condone these actions and we are no longer working with [him] because of them."

The technician released his own statement that said in part "The fact of the matter is that I have hooked up with fans during past Steam Powered Giraffe shows. As a result of my actions, I have left emotional scars in my wake. To anyone who has suffered in any way due to my actions, I

acknowledge that your feelings and emotions towards me are valid, and I apologize for the hurt that I have caused you.... I am making the decision to resign from my position of employment with the band. I will not be working with Steam Powered Giraffe again."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at [SDReader.com/blurt](http://SDReader.com/blurt)

## CONTRIBUTORS

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

# LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

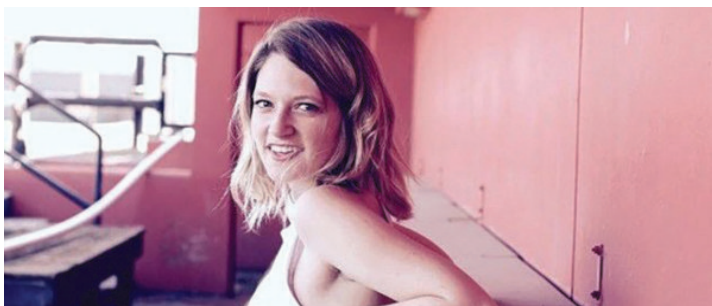
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## EVENING'S EMPIRE

Evening's Empire is an alternative rock band fronted by Rock 'n' Roll San Diego honcho Shannon Woods, aka Shannon Sabin of the reformed Dinettes, alongside guitarist Sam Strohbehn and bassist David Skolnik. They released their first single "Movies" last May, in advance of their July album *Alive For Us*. Another single appeared near the end of the year, "Lay Low," with all proceeds donated to KIND (Kids In Need of Defense), an organization devoted exclusively to helping and representing children of immigrants and refugees. "Living in a border city, the stark differences of life here vs across the wall are glaringly present," says the band. "We believe that how we treat

those most in need reflects who we are, what we stand for, and the America we strive to be. Every day, we see people making choices to save themselves and their families from life-threatening situations, poverty, and oppression. We do not support the government's inhumane treatment of these families." The group recently performed an acoustic set for Palapalooza online, featuring two original songs planned for their upcoming album, "She Can Save" and "Tonight." The latter song can be heard in the new film *Eat Wheaties*, due for release April 30. It's directed by Scott Abramovitch and stars Tony Hale and Elisha Cuthbert.



## ANNA VAUS

The daughter of local Grammy-winning artist Steve Vaus, Anna Vaus grew up in San Diego before moving to Nashville to make her mark as a country music singer-songwriter. Her *Saving This Kiss* EP was released in 2013. Three years later, while still a student at Belmont College of Entertainment and Music Business, Vaus was selected as Miranda Lambert's first-ever recipient of the Women Creators Fund scholarship. The award provided Vaus with more than \$40,000 in scholarship funds beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year. Over the next few years,

several singles were released, including "Champagne Problems" and "In Bloom." Her upcoming sophomore EP co-produced by Grammy Award-winning songwriter Luke Laird and due this summer, has already spawned a hit single for "Girl In A Bar," which was recently cited in *Rolling Stone's* "must-hear" country picks of the week. A video for the track was directed by her college film student brother Jacob Vaus and shot on an outdoor set in a Poway parking lot outfitted to look like a pre-pandemic bar.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KLAYMAN



## ALLISON ADAMS TUCKER

Multi-lingual vocalist Allison Adams Tucker was raised by classically trained musicians, studying violin, flute, dance, and voice while still in elementary school. She attended high school in Solana Beach before attending a Christian school in Indiana and earning her BA in Linguistics and Music. After travelling abroad to Japan and Spain for a few years, she returned in 2000 to San Diego, where her debut CD *Come With Me* was nominated Best Jazz Album at the 2009 San Diego Music Awards. The album was co-produced by local jazz guitarist Peter Sprague, who also had her sing on his all-vocal full-length *Calling Me Home*.

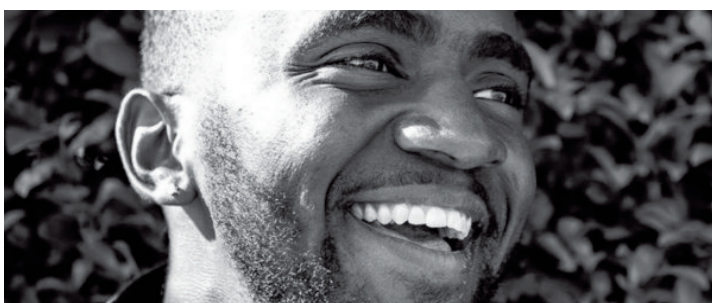
She toured the world several times, recording one album in France, *April in Paris*, which dropped in 2014 on on Herbie Hancock's annual International Jazz Day. Tucker will be among the performers on April 30 for this year's International Jazz Day livestream event featuring 16 artists performing in 10 cities around the world, including L.A., San Francisco, and New York, as well as cities in Brazil, England, and Japan. Performers include Marcus Miller, Lang Lang, Igor Butman, Youn Sun Nah, Alune Wade, Ethan Capone, Josh Nelson, Rebecca Kleinmann, and Ian Faquini.



## PETER SPRAGUE

Jazz guitarist Peter Sprague began playing at age 12, studying with San Diego guitarist Bill Coleman. He formed the jazzy Minor Jazz Quintet with like-minded schoolmates before embarking on a year of study at the Interlochen Arts Academy, taking lessons from Pat Metheny in Boston and performing with Chick Corea's band. Sprague began his recording career in the late '70s, with several releases on the Xanadu label (*The Path*, *Message Sent On the Wind*, *Bird Raga*), before moving to the larger Concord Jazz Records, which released *Musica Del Mar* and *Na Pali Coast*. He has since acquired the rights to all of his albums and

made them available via his own label, SBE, which stands for "striving-to-break even." Sprague originally moved with his family from Cleveland to Del Mar at age eight and has become a fixture in the local jazz scene, along with brother Tripp (sax and flute) and father Hall T. Sprague (percussion). He has released collaborative albums with Leonard Patton (*Dream Walkin'*) and Randy Phillips (*Sparks and Seeds*), and his Spragueland studio is a longstanding favorite among local musicians. Sprague will perform during the San Diego segment of the International Jazz Day livestream event on April 30.



## DURELL ANTHONY

R&B singer Durell Anthony was born and raised in Kansas, attending Benedictine College on a vocal scholarship. After receiving his Bachelor's degree, he pursued careers in both counseling and education. A summer job in San Diego as a fitness counselor led him to relocate to California in 2010, where he joined the Black Belt Jones Band. He later became a member of the Mighty Untouchables, as well as leading his own R&B band, the Durell Anthony Collective. His single "Dreams" was released in 2018, followed by an EP in 2019 and "Speechless" in 2020. He once

appeared on an NBC Elvis Presley TV special. "I was a part of a small group singing backup for Yolonda Adams and Carrie Underwood," he told the *Reader*. "Elvis performed a special in 1968, and this special was a 50-year anniversary tribute to that. We performed a couple of his gospel songs." Anthony recently competed on the television talent competition *The Voice*, where he earned accolades from John Legend and Kelly Clarkson for his performance of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On."

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](http://SDReader.com/music).

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido:**  
Friday & Saturday, 6pm — Monster Energy Outbreak Tour.

**Coyote Bar & Grill:**  
Thursday & Sunday, 6pm — Miss Demeanor.

**El Cajon Harley-Davidson:**  
Saturday, 11am — West of 5. Free.

**Grand Ole BBQ Flinn Springs:**  
Saturday, 1pm — Jeff Berkley.

**Online Internet Events:**  
Thursday, 7pm — Belly Up Livestream: The Sully Band.  
Thursday, 7pm — Big Thief: Noonchorus.  
Thursday, 6pm — Caamp: 5th Anniversary Livestream. \$23-\$43.  
Thursday, 1:30pm — Chris Barron Livestream. Free.  
Thursday, 3:30pm — Chris Blue: Shoot for the Moon. \$15-\$50.  
Thursday, 6pm — Prep: Paper World. \$15-\$62.  
Thursday, 5pm — Sarah Jarosz: World on the Screen.  
Friday, 6pm — Ashnikko: DemiDevil - the Livestream.  
Friday, 4pm — Hollywood Undead: Unhinged.

Friday, 12pm — International Jazz Day Livestream. Free.  
Friday, 5pm — We Were Sharks New Low Visual Album Experience. \$5-\$25.  
Saturday, 11am. Tuesday, 5pm — Danika & The Jeb Livestream. Free.

Saturday, 12pm — Devin Townsend Quarantine Project Livestream.  
Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 2pm — It's a New Day Virtual Concert. Free.

Saturday, 12pm — Melvins TV: Volume 3. \$5-\$55.  
Saturday, 2pm — Staind Livestream.  
Saturday, 3pm — Travis Shallow: Shallow Chateau. Free.  
Sunday, 5pm — David Cook at Ocean Way Studios. \$30-\$45.  
Sunday, 6pm — Sam Lewis: Live at 3rd & Lindsley. \$8.  
Sunday, 1pm — The Dollyrots Livestream. Free.  
Monday, 11:30am — Sonia D

# IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

## Depth of sound

There are many famous orchestras around the world. We've all heard of the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics. We all know about the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Concertgebouw.

The United States used to have a "big five," with San Francisco, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York. The Los Angeles Philharmonic now makes it the "big six."

What about some orchestras without the big brand name that have a place in the world-class? Let's take a look at three such orchestras.

The Staatskapelle Dresden is, in my opinion, the best sounding orchestra in the world, yet one must be baptized as an aficionado to have heard of the Dresdeners. The orchestra was founded in 1548 with the help of Heinrich Schütz. In the 19th Century, Dresden

had music directors such as Carl Maria von Weber and Richard Wagner. No other extant orchestra has such luminous composers in its history.

The mid-20th Century saw Dresden isolated in East Germany during the Cold War. This could have something to do with the orchestra's obscurity relevant to its quality.

Again, to those immersed in classical music, Dresden is no secret. However, I can only wonder how well attended a Staatskapelle Dresden concert would be if they ever had a tour stop in San Diego.

The same could be said of a Budapest Festival Orchestra tour stop in our fine city. Who's ever heard of The Budapest Festival Orchestra?

The BFO is, hands down, one of the greatest orchestras in the world. It was founded in 1983 by Iván

Fischer and Zoltán Kocsis. Fischer remains the orchestra's music director to this day. I attribute much of the BFO's success to Fischer's leadership, musicianship, and ability to communicate the essence of the music being performed.

Our third orchestra is the *Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks* or, as it's known in English, The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Obviously, the name is in the way for most of humanity.

Founded in 1949 in Munich, the BRSO has been ranked as high as number one in world orchestra surveys. The 2010 *Gramophone Magazine* rankings had the BRSO at number six, ahead of Cleveland and just behind Chicago.

There have been some illustrious names, such as Eugen Jochum, Rafael



The Staatskapelle Dresden is the best sounding orchestra in the world.

Kubelick, Sir Colin Davis, and Lorin Maazel, associated with the BRSO. However, the conductor many deem responsible for the BRSO's rise is the recently deceased Mariss Jansons. In the 2023-24 season, Liverpoolian Sir Simon Rattle will take over as the music director in Munich.

How does the San Diego Symphony stack up to these not-so-well-known heavy-hitters? According to The League of American Orchestras, San Diego is a Tier One Orchestra, a Top 20 American orchestra based on payscale. The quality of the San Diego

sound as recorded versus one of these three would be negligible to the average ear. Of course, to the average ear, all orchestras sound about the same. The average listener doesn't always hear phrasing, accuracy, or dynamic range. This makes most orchestras sound about the same to them. But watch the YouTube video of Dresden playing *Eine Alpensinfonie*. There is a depth of sound texture you may be able to hear that is the result of the accuracy of their tuning. One doesn't always hear such accuracy in San Diego — or any other city, for that matter.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at [SDReader.com/classical](http://SDReader.com/classical)

Livestream. Free.

Tuesday, 5pm — Adeline: Live from Relix Studio. Free.

Wednesday, 6pm — Cinco De Mayo with Los Lobos. \$20-\$55.

Wednesday, 1pm — Lisa Loeb Livestream. Free.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**Ariel Quartet: Beethoven Cycle, Part 3** Characterized by its youth, brilliant playing, and soulful interpretations, the Ariel Quartet has quickly earned a glowing international reputation. They return to ArtPower for two concerts this season, as they perform the complete Beethoven Cycle, in honor of the composer's 250th birthday in 2020. This

concert marks the third of a five-concert series. Program: Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet in A Major, op. 18, no. 5; String Quartet in E minor, op. 59, no. 2; String Quartet in B-flat Major, op. 130, no. 2 Thursday, April 29, 10am; \$10-\$25. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive.

**Ariel Quartet: Beethoven Cycle, Part 4** Distinguished by its virtuosity, probing musical insight, and impassioned, fiery performances, the Ariel Quartet returns to the stage at ArtPower for the fourth installment of a five-concert series performing Beethoven's complete string cycle. The evening program includes the first string quartet Beethoven ever wrote, opus 18, no. 3; as well as opus 131, Beethoven's personal favorite

string quartet. Program: Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet in D Major, op.18, no. 3; String Quartet in F Major, op. 59, no. 1; String Quartet in C-sharp minor, op. 131, no. 14 Friday, April 30, 8pm; \$9-\$60. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive.

**La Jolla Music Society: Joffrey Ballet "Under the Trees' Voices"** JOFFREY BALET: Under the Trees' Voices by Nicolas Blanc. Friday, April 30, 5pm; Online Internet Events, All over the world from.

**San Diego Opera Spring Festival** San Diego Opera announces a Spring season of safe, socially-distanced, drive-in performance. April 25, San Diego Opera will present the first of four performances of Rossini's

classic comedy *The Barber of Seville*. Additional performances are April 27, 30, and May 1. These performances will also feature the San Diego Symphony and San Diego Opera Chorus and will be a car and family-friendly 90-minute production. Friday, April 30, 7:30pm; Saturday, May 1, 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. Friday, April 30, 7pm; Saturday, May 1, 7pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**7 Mile Kitchen:**  
Saturday, May 8 — Rick Harchol. Free.

**Arrowood Golf Course:**  
Friday, May 7 — Cowboy Jack. Free.

**Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:**  
Sunday, May 16 — Courtyard Concerts: Sonia De Los Santos. \$15.

**Emerald C Gallery:**  
Saturday, May 8 — Amelie Simpson and Baxter Simpson. Free.

**Ferry Landing Marketplace:**  
Sunday, May 16 — Miss Demeanor.

**Kensington Club:**  
Friday, May 21 — Planet of Zeus and Fatso Jetson. \$15.

**Ko Underground:**  
Friday, May 7 — Klub Therapy.  
Friday, May 21 — Klub Therapy.  
Friday, June 4 — Klub Therapy.

**Landing:**  
Saturday, May 8 — West of 5. Free.

**Moonlight Amphitheatre in Brengle Terrace Park:**  
Friday, May 21 — Music of Woodstock.  
Sunday, May 23 — Magical Music of Disney.

**One Paseo:**  
Friday, May 7 — Amelie Simpson. Free.

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# First name: Oscar

It's been over a year since most of us have set foot inside a theatre. Instead, we've spent the past 13 months streaming instead of screening, and so the idea of handing out movie awards seems unduly hypocritical even by Academy standards. If ever there were a time to remind audiences that it is once again safe to return to the multiplex, it's now. Why then did the Board of Governors choose a change of venue, from the Kodak Theatre to Union Station?

Fortunately, tear gas wasn't used to disperse

## MOVIES

the homeless for a photo-op featuring Academy President David Rubin holding a copy of Andre Bazin's *What Is Cinema?* backward and upside-down.

This year's ceremony was nothing if not inconsistent. Several receivers made it clear that in the case of multiple winners, only one was allowed to speak. Some of the nominees were introduced with snappy thumbnail bios, slightly more personal than those afforded a bachelor on *The Dating Game*, while other, below-the-line talent, like makeup designers, were signified by name only. Illustrative clips from nominated films, generally a show staple, were sparsely sprinkled throughout. And what's with the "first name basis" acceptance speeches? Winners would rattle off, "I'd like to thank Jim, and Bill, and Mary..." without divulging their co-workers' last names. There could be dozens of variations on Jim & Bill & Mary. Why not personalize it? Think how impressive it would look on their showreels!

This year's "Honesty is the Best Policy" award went to Andra Day. During a running time-padding round of music trivia, emcee Lil Rel Howery asked if the title tune from *Purple Rain* was a winner, a nominee, or not in the running. In a moment of blinding integrity, Ms. Day dared to question Academy taste with, "It's a brilliant song, so it probably wasn't even nominated." The segment ended with Glenn Close picking up the late Cloris Leachman's mantle by shaking her *tuchas* for the camera.

With Steven Soderbergh acting as executive producer, the event tried hard to replicate the look of cinema. Note the opening credit sequence, a first in Academy history, if I'm not mistaken. The swirling camera moves tried hard to emulate Max Ophuls, and damn if the telecast didn't look as though it was shot on film, thanks to Soderbergh's choice of filters. The presentation order was also out of whack. The Best Picture award is always the last to be bestowed, but this year the show closed with Best Actor. It's been hinted that the reason

behind the shift was the near certainty that Academy voters would honor the late Chadwick Boseman. And the Oscar went to... Anthony Hopkins, who was not in attendance. The show ended with a whimper, not a bang. Where are Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway when you need them?

Other variations included the apportioning of two Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Awards: one to the Motion Picture Television Fund's Bob Bietcher, the other to Tyler Perry. Rather than a producer's daughter or anonymous FSOT (Future Starlet of Tomorrow) personally handing out the Golden Doorstops, they sat waiting on the podium. If Halle Berry's Emo Howard Phillips bob was a spiteful attempt to settle an old score, chalk one up for her hairdresser. Shorn of clips and musical numbers, the show still came in at a lumbering 3 hours and 20 minutes. What did we learn? Maybe having an orchestra on hand to cut short long-winded acceptance speeches wasn't such a bad idea after all.

My 2020 New Year's resolution was to stop calling out films or actors simply because they took home Oscar gold. Who cares? Stop me if you've heard this one: Red Buttons received an Academy Award, Alfred Hitchcock didn't. Art shouldn't compete. I rest my case.

This week sees my second stab of Pfizer. I fully intend on spending the entire month of May inside Reading Cinemas Grossmont Center. Won't you join me?

—Scott Marks

### Video on Demand New Release Roundup

**The Midnight Sky** — George Clooney's relationship with sci-fi fantasies has been spotty at best. A finely condensed Cliff's Notes abbreviation: *Solaris* was Steven Soderbergh's aesthetically bountiful endeavor to distill Tarkovsky for the masses. Theatre ushers loved the film, as low audience turnout left little to clean up between shows. *Gravity* was an Awards-season favorite, raking up 7 Oscar nominations — including one for Sandra Bullock — but Clooney's jocular spaceman was shut out. I'm in the minority when it comes to enjoying *Tomorrowland*, a tentpole picture that collapsed at the box office. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the film lost close to \$150 million, making it hard to understand why Clooney would want anything to do with another film that finds him trekking through a CG universe playing opposite a young girl, who in



**My Octopus Teacher: Underwater art exhibition or camouflage?**

this case is near-mute by intention. (Was it because Bullock took home an Oscar that this time Clooney chose to direct an intergalactic adventure that pits him against an easily upstageable youngster?) 2049 reveals a post-apocalyptic universe, with a bearded Clooney starring as a terminally ill scientist who refuses to join his fellow astronauts in abandoning the base. With the earth's population wiped out, Clooney tries to contact interplanetary craft to warn them to steer clear of home, and he finds a ship returning home from Jupiter that's about to be damaged by a meteor shower. A subsequent attempt to do repair work and the rocket ship karaoke that ensues deserve a spot on the cutting room floor. (They could have clipped 30 minutes, and no one would have noticed.) SPOILER ALERT! The entire film hinges on a cheat: with Clooney nowhere in sight, the audience watches as a young mother learns that her daughter Iris (Caolinn Springall) made it to safety on an earlier flight. This brief moment is intended to establish the young stowaway who Clooney later finds hiding in the kitchen as a corporeal being. Not even M. Night Shyamalan could have sensed a way out of this deceitful ploy. 2020. — S.M. ★

**My Octopus Teacher** — If ever an underwater adventure doc cried out for IMAX 3D, it's this, but for now, let's be thankful that we had a chance to visit this kingdom of strange and exotic animals. The emphasis here is on the vulnerability of life. Craig Foster is a South African documentary filmmaker and co-founder of the Sea Change Project. You've heard of Spider-Man's arch foe, Doc Ock? How about an oc-doc, possessed of such humanity and awareness that it turns out to be the definitive (only?) film on the subject? An octopus is an anti-social

animal that spends most of its life trying not to be seen, a trait that makes this documentary an even more astounding achievement. There is no way that Foster and the writing-directing team of Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed could have set out to tell this story. By their nature, films of this kind are shoot-now-figure-it-out-later affairs that rely greatly on patience, persistence, and luck; hide a camera, let it run, and hope that something of interest will float past the lens. Perhaps

it's the filmmakers' shared ability to think like mollusks, but I'll be damned if this octopus doesn't take direction. So does Foster. When faced with intervening and potentially saving the animal from the jaws of angling Pyjama Sharks, Foster refuses to risk interfering with "the whole process of the underwater forest." Difficult though it might be, the filmmakers never attribute anthropomorphic qualities to their subaqueous superstar. 2020. — S.M. ★★☆☆

## MOVIES@HOME

Oscar-nominated movies... at home!

— Scott Marks

### CRIP CAMP (2020)

The big yellow bus delivers us to Camp Jened in the summer of 1973.

The camp started in the 1950's, a time when the

disabled had no place in public schools; their inability to walk made them fire hazards. Camp Jened was a place where the outside world didn't exist and no one had to pretend. Thanks to the miracle of half-inch videotape, we are able to relive a very special moment in history: the dawn of another kind of civil rights movement. What



*Crip Camp: An inspirational tale in which crips became blood.*

holds these characters (and the movie) together is a pitch-black sensibility when it comes to humor. (They didn't call it Crip Camp for nothing.) Would you believe a hierarchy of disability? Future activists Neil and Denise Sherer Jacobson meet at camp. Denise has cerebral palsy, and when the couple decide to wed,

Neil's mother asks, "I understand why you want to marry a handicapped girl, but why can't you find one with polio?" The camp empowered

all who participated, at a time when the return to a world that wasn't designed for them seemed insurmountable. The camp's lifespan was 26 years, just four years shy of the 30 it took for the passage of a law to change public acceptance. Visit us online for more on *Crip Camp*, plus reviews of *Over the Moon* and *Sound of Metal*.

Find more Movies@Home reviews at [SDReader.com/movies-at-home](http://SDReader.com/movies-at-home)







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Bob Thomas of Ocean Beach

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Thomas's 7'4" surfboard was shaped by Tim Bessell of La Jolla. "I probably have 20 surfboards in my quiver."

"On a day like today, a beautiful day,

20 surfboards in my quiver

SIOBHAN BRAUN

really great waves, there were only two of us out there. Somebody comes and paddles out right next to me. He doesn't say a single word, nothing. He just sat there and acted all vibey. I don't get people being vibey, especially when we have the whole ocean to ourselves."

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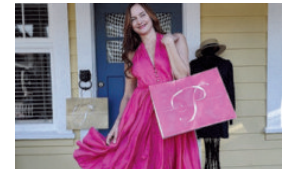
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## Government in Action

— Most citizens of Brussels, Belgium, have never seen the Palace of Justice, the largest courthouse in the world, without construction scaffolding surrounding it, as renovations on the facade of the iconic building have been mired in red tape and bureaucratic incompetence for most of 40 years, according to *The Bulletin*. In mid-March, construction crews finally started work, but not on the building; they arrived to shore up the scaffolding, which has grown outdated and dangerous over so much time. Officials assert this will allow outside renovations to finally commence and predict the scaffolding will come down by 2030. Belgians, however, are skeptical.

## Feast or Famine

— Fox Business reported on April 13 that toilet paper sales have declined to levels below pre-pandemic levels, indicating that last year's hoarding is affecting this year's sales. Marjorie Greenburgh, 62, of New Rochelle, New York, said because she has 54 rolls still stored throughout her home, "I'm not planning on buying for a while." NielsenIQ clocked the decline in sales at 33% in March.

## All in the Family

— At a wedding in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province in China on March 31, the groom's mother noticed a birthmark on the bride's hand that was similar to one belonging to her long-lost daughter. When asked, the bride's parents admitted they had found her as a baby by the side of the road and taken her to live with

them as their own – a secret they had never told. *The Daily Star* reported that upon hearing of the connection, the bride burst into tears, saying the moment was "happier than the wedding day itself." Bonus: The groom was also adopted, so their marriage could proceed as planned.

## Lost and Found

— Cybill Moore of Weatherford, Texas, was puzzled by the large basket of men's dirty laundry left on her front porch, along with a bag of laundry soap and dryer sheets, on March 26. Assuming there'd been a mix-up, she left it on the porch for a day and posted on social media sites to find the owner, with no luck, she told the *Weatherford Democrat*, so she finally just washed, dried and folded the clothes. That's when a strange man showed up at the door saying he meant to drop the laundry four houses down, where he pays a woman to clean his clothes. Moore said he was shocked that she had laundered the items for him, and now, "A lot of people have joked about dropping off their clothes for me, since I'm doing 'community laundry,'"

## Disturbing the Peace

— Neighbors around a new luxury condo tower in Brooklyn, New York, are up in arms, and up at night, because of the persistent, shrill whistle they say is coming from the building, reported NBC New York. The city has been inundated with complaints. "It almost sounds like the subway screeching, but it's constant, and it usually happens late at night," Chris Valentini said of the noise.

A representative of the developer told neighbors the sound originates from wind whipping around the new metal balconies. "This is not uncommon in new buildings," he said, "and we will resolve it."

## Wait, What?

— An anonymous New York resident seeking to marry their adult child filed suit in federal court in Manhattan on April 1 asking that laws barring incestuous marriage be overturned, Fox News reported. In court papers, the petitioner claims such a marriage is a matter of "individual autonomy" and asks to remain unnamed because "a large segment of society views (the request) as morally, socially and biologically repugnant." The petitioner is a parent of an adult child, but court documents do not reveal the couple's genders, ages, hometown or relationship. The filing does detail that the "proposed spouses are unable to procreate together." Manhattan family and matrimonial law attorney Eric Wrubel predicted, "It's never gonna fly."

## Vintage Weird

— Brian Robson of Cardiff, Wales, was 19 years old in 1964, when he accepted a job on the Victorian Railways in Australia. He almost immediately regretted his decision and started scheming about how to get back home, but he didn't have enough money for the return trip. That's when he had an idea: With the help of two Irish friends, Robson squeezed himself into a 30-by-26-by-38-inch wooden crate and shipped himself home in the cargo area of a Qantas flight. "The first

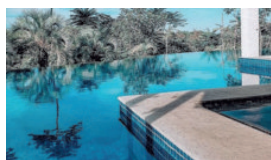
10 minutes was fine," he told CNN. "But your knees start to cramp up when they're stuck up to your chest." When the crate arrived in Sydney, it landed on the tarmac upside down. "So now I'm sitting on my neck and my head," he explained, "and I was there for 22 hours upside down," until arriving next in Los Angeles, where two airport workers discovered him. He spent six days recovering in a hospital as word of his story got out, and Pan Am airlines sent Robson home to London in a first-class seat. Robson lost touch with the friends who helped him but now hopes to find them and reconnect. He's never been back to Australia.

## The Passing Parade

— Authorities in Sri Lanka arrested Caroline Jurie, the reigning Mrs. World, after she snatched the crown from the head of Pushpika De Silva as she was crowned Mrs. Sri Lanka on national television on April 4, allegedly injuring her. Jurie, the 2019 Mrs. Sri Lanka, claimed De Silva was a divorced woman, which made her ineligible to win the pageant, but organizers confirmed De Silva is only separated, and she has been re-crowned. The new queen reported on Facebook that she went to the hospital to be treated for head injuries after the incident, and police spokesman Ajith Rohana told the BBC Jurie was charged with "simple hurt and criminal cause." Pageant director Chandimal Jayasinghe said, "It was a disgrace how Caroline Jurie behaved on the stage."

Send your weird news items to [WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com).

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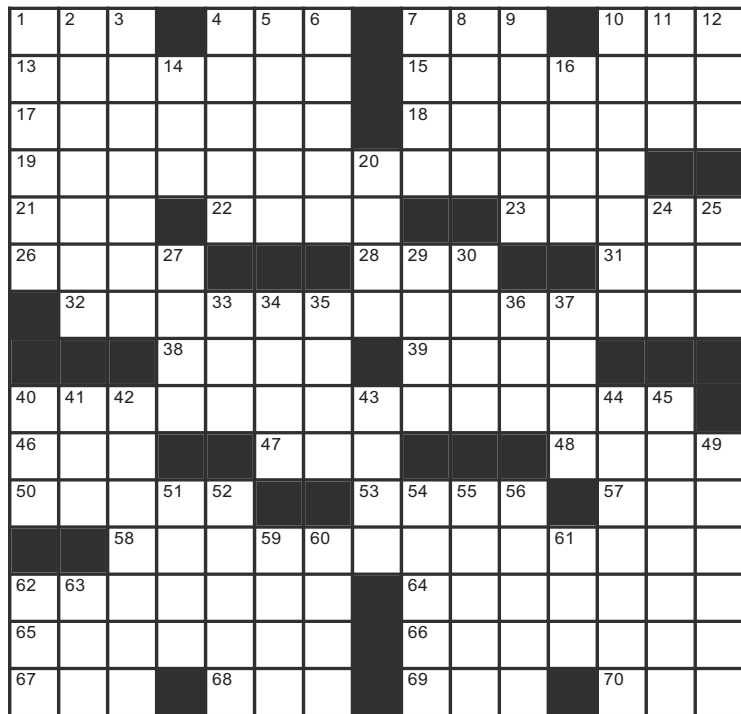
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# CROSSWORD

# Win a Reader hat or t-shirt



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### Across

1. Make a quick note of
4. Govt. org. with a drone registry program
7. Prefix with metric
10. British pop star Rita
13. Like the proverbial tree that falls in the forest
15. Perch in a pond
17. Teased
18. De Niro's "Raging Bull" role
19. Result when one puts a frozen waffle in the toaster for too long?
21. Small battery size
22. iPod model discontinued in 2017
23. "You're not the only one"
26. "... on second thought, pass"
28. \_\_\_\_ v. Wade
31. Vex
32. "Sesame Street" duo featuring the first king of England and one of the show's regulars?
38. "Am \_\_\_\_ only one?"
39. Cousin of -trix
40. Publication for people with big heads?
46. Thompson of "Back to the Future"
47. Suitable
48. Comical Carvey
50. Time's 1963 Man of the Year, informally
53. Piggied out (on), briefly
57. Tags

58. Model appropriate behavior ... or a hint to solving 19-, 32- and 40-Across
62. Subject of Newton's first law of motion
64. Deal
65. Preparing a martini for 007, say
66. Postwinter floods
67. TV character with a rippled snout
68. Green lights
69. Norm: Abbr.
70. "Da 5 Bloods" director

20. "You've Got Mail" director Ephron
24. "Either you do it \_\_\_\_ will"
25. Mike's candy partner
27. "In memoriam" piece
29. Universal donor's blood type, in brief
30. Pulitzer winner \_\_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay
33. Biblical verb ending snout
34. Perlman of "Cheers"
35. Sub (for)
36. Split \_\_\_\_ (new wave band from New Zealand)
37. Senate majority leader before McConnell
40. Horror film street
41. It might be hair-raising
42. Growth around an acorn
43. "That's not \_\_\_\_!" (parent's admonishment)
44. "A House for Mr. Biswas" author V.S. \_\_\_\_
45. Football boundary
49. Kind of, after "in"
51. Yank
52. 1:2, for instance
54. Actress Mazar and others
55. \_\_\_\_ change
56. Took a chance
59. Drop shot in tennis
60. Bellhop's burdens
61. Restaurant boss: Abbr.
62. "That \_\_\_\_ fact!"
63. Org. with Sharks and Predators

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

### RULES OF THE GAME

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

### THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

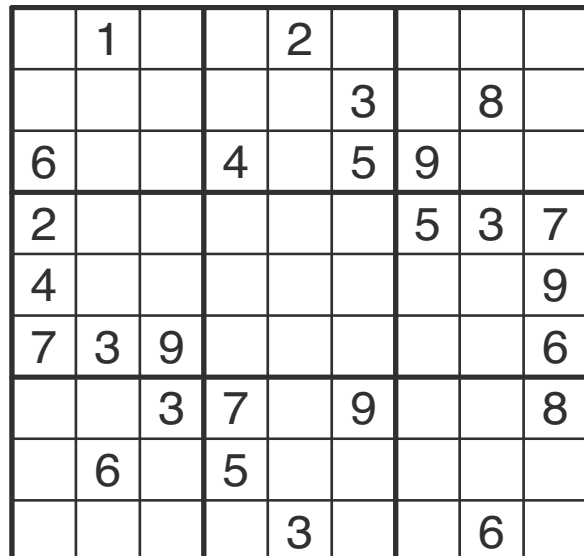
📍 **Johanna Barry, Pine Valley, 4.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# SUDOKU

# Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

### EVIL:



### RULES OF THE GAME

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

### THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted for prize redemption.

📍 **Steve Krasner, San Diego, 6.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

### EVIL:

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



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Write your ad here. Deadline: Monday, 12 noon



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**\$160 OZ**

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**OZ \$70**

**15g Top shelf for**  
**\$150**

**4g Premium Wax for**  
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**2 FOR \$50**  
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**CANNABIS FLOWER**



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**EDIBLES**



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**HONEY LEAF FLOWER**



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**STIIIZY PODS**



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Buy any 2 concentrates at menu price, get 1 more concentrate (of equal or lesser value) 40% OFF  
**CONCENTRATES**



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**300MG**

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(Mix & Match)

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or  
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**Buy 3**  
**Carts get**  
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Refer a Friend  
Get FREE  
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& 100 mg  
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**24/7**

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**\$35** Purple OG  
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(12PM-3PM)(8PM-10PM)  
FLOWER

**\$20/G** Boss Shelf for ... **\$17**  
**\$15/G** VIP Shelf for .... **\$12**  
**5 Grams** of Exotic for .. **\$40**

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**Kushy Punch** 4 for ..... **\$45**

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Loud Dream 32g \$160 excl	Blue Diesel 32g \$150 pr	Hindu Og 32g \$150 pr	Vanilla Kush 32g \$140 pr	Fruity Pebbles 32g \$120 top	Fruity Thai 32g \$110 oz pr	
Obama Kush 32g \$99 oz top	<b>VIP</b> 32g \$350 16g \$200		<b>Exotic</b> 32g \$300 16g \$160		<b>Exclusive</b> 32g \$275 16g \$140	
				<b>PR</b> 32g \$225 16g \$120		

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10% OFF Flower OZ's and 1/2 OZ's  
excludes specials  
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<b>\$25 carts</b> 3 for <b>\$60</b>	<b>\$20 carts</b> 3 for <b>\$50</b>	Buy 1 preroll Get 1 house <b>PREROLL FREE</b>

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STNDRD ..... 6 for \$100  
Kushy Punch..... 4 for \$45  
**BUY 2 DRINKS**  
**GET 1 FREE**

## OZ SPECIALS

<b>\$35</b> Purple OG	<b>\$50</b> Gorilla Glue	<b>\$160</b> V.I.P. Shake
<b>\$200</b> Small Nugs Indoor	<b>\$220</b> Exclusive	<b>\$300</b> V.I.P.

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**BOSS Shelf**  
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**V.I.P.**  
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**All Edibles**  
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**EDIBLE**  
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**5/\$90**

**Brass Knuckles**  
**5/\$90**

**Raw Garden, Cookies**  
**5/\$90**

**OG Kush, Purple Kush**  
**20Z/\$99**

**Exotic Shelf**  
**10G/\$110**

**Exclusive Shelf**  
**10G/\$99**

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**Kushy Punch**  
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1000MG  
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500MG  
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Butter Cake 28G \$80 oz

## Top Shelf

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14G \$70

## Private Reserve

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## Exclusive

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14G \$99

## VIP

28G \$350  
10G \$120

## Moon Rocks Cartridges

3G  
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## MOON ROCKS PRE ROLL

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## Stndrd

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## Jeff Session Shatter

6G  
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Blackout Brownie/  
Babylon Edibles  
1000MG 3 for

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**10G/\$130**

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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 5-31-21. \*\*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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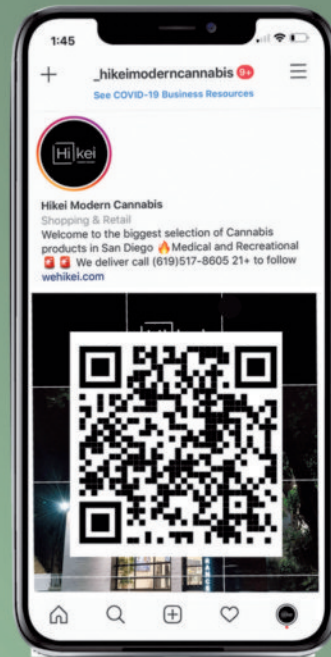


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