

SAN DIEGO

VOL. 46 | NO. 40 | OCTOBER 7, 2021

Reader

CASA CRYPTO

A week
with the
Bitcoiners
in Baja

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Blight at the beach PAGE 6 ■ A sound bath in the desert PAGE 12

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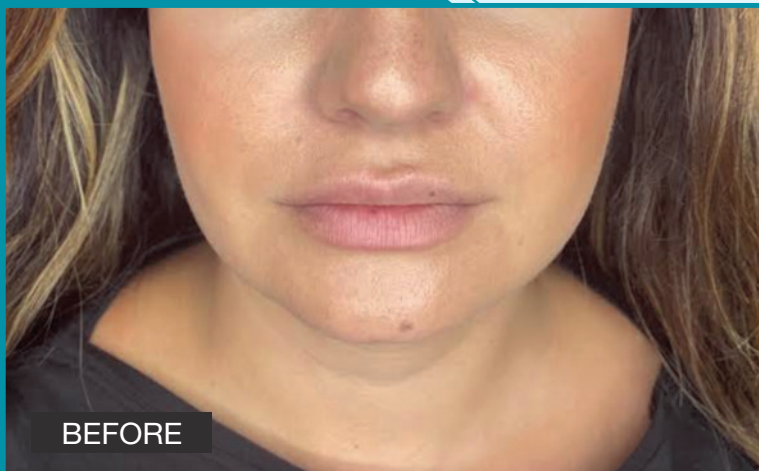
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ANZA-BORREGO

Operation Bighorn

Marine helicopter gets to the guzzler

For California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Janene Colby, the day of the bighorn sheep emergency water drop started at 1 am. In the wee hours of Saturday, August 28, Colby and two Anza Borrego Desert State Park employees set out in a pickup truck from base camp at Fish Creek Wash. After an hour's drive to the end of a rugged dirt road, they could go no further by truck. They then got out and started hiking up to their destination: the Whale Peak artificial wildlife water system (also known as a "guzzler"), one of hundreds of tanks in the Southern California wilderness that collect rainwater for desert-dwelling fauna. Due to maintenance issues and this year's extreme drought, the Whale Peak guzzler was out of water, and the endangered sheep that depended on it were in danger of death due to dehydration. Colby and her crew were there to meet a Marine Corps helicopter that was bringing a refill.

Months ago, when she discovered that several of the Anza Borrego guzzlers were dry, Colby, who has worked with bighorn sheep for 17 years, had to figure out what to do next. Government agencies are obligated by the recovery plan for bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges to take action to protect the animals, which live only in Southern Cali-

fornia and number under 1000. About 200 of those live in Anza Borrego. They are cautious animals that won't frequent water holes away from the rugged terrain in which they find safety. In some places, like Whale Peak, guzzlers are the only viable water source.

But, by design, the guzzlers are in hard-to-reach places where the sheep (and other species who rely on them) won't be bothered by humans. Delivering water to the guzzlers is a complicated and costly undertaking — and, since they're supposed to fill with rainwater collected by a passive process, not part of regular park maintenance. The Whale Peak water drop operation was possible only through collaboration with several non-governmental organizations — and a volunteer from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers with a connection to the Marines. "The Marines at Camp Pendleton were ready and willing to help us get water into the guzzlers," said Colby. "However, they only had one day and one helicopter, so we made the decision to haul water to the Whale Peak guzzler."

At 4:30 on the afternoon of Friday, August

"They only had one day and one helicopter, so we made the decision to haul water to the Whale Peak guzzler."

27, the UH-1Y helicopter and its crew arrived at base camp to meet the team setting up temporary water tanks, about ten flight miles from the guzzler. California senior wildlife biologist supervisor Jeff Villepique, who has overseen similar operations in the Mojave and San Bernardino and Riverside counties, advised volunteers from Desert Wildlife Unlimited and Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, along with Anza Borrego employees. Trucks carrying water donated by the California Wild Sheep Foundation and the nearby U.S. Gypsum Mine filled the dip tanks.



Gulping at the guzzler, thanks to the USMC.

The crew camped overnight. On Saturday, everyone had to be up and ready long before dawn heralded the day's 100-degree temperatures and drafts from mountain heat made flying the helicopter difficult. By 5:30 am, preparations were underway for the first flight, and by 7, the helicopter had put an

PIPELAND

Jack up vs back up Sewage flows downhill, but prices climb

San Diego's sewer rates haven't gone up in ten years. Now, the city is playing catch up via a four-year string of rate hikes they say is needed to maintain the aging system and fund the Pure Water project. The city says the increase was long overdue. But so are the unpaid water bills of thousands of lower income San Diegans. (California's pandemic water shutoff moratorium was set to end September 30.) "Our workers have brought in overdue bills ranging from \$800 to \$3000 dollars, said Norma Sanchez, with the San

empty receiving tank in place near the guzzler. Then the helicopter returned to base camp, where the crew attached the expandable "Bambi" bucket and dipped it into the full tanks. By 7:30, the first load of water was in the receiving tank, draining onto the rain mat that collects water for the guzzler, and flowing from there into the pipes that feed the guzzler tanks. After four hours, two helicopter fuel runs to El Centro, and seven drops, 1400 gallons of water had been delivered to Whale Peak guzzler. By noon, the helicopter was headed back to Camp Pendleton.

Though it's known that bighorn sheep can be displaced by low-flying helicopters, Villepique said he has been on water drops where they've come back to refilled guzzlers within an hour. "Sometimes they'll actually watch," he said. "We'll see them hanging around, at a safe distance, waiting for us to leave."

This time, said Colby, "When the sun came up, I did see a few ewes on the slopes about ¼ mile distance from the guzzler. The sheep were working their way across the upper slopes while foraging. No doubt when the helicopter arrived, the sheep moved out of the area for the day. However, they likely returned the next day to find water in the guzzler." Next month, the team will be able to check a remote camera on the guzzler to see how many sheep came to take a drink. The supply will probably last for about two months. Hopefully, more rain will arrive this winter.

LEORAH GAVIDOR



They can keep it clean, but they can't keep it cheap.

Diego Workers Benefit Council, which represents low paid workers. "Over 11,200 San Diegans each owe more than \$1000 dollars alone in overdue water bills," she told the city council two weeks ago, before they approved a wastewater rate increase that will start at five percent in January 2022. From there, sewer rates just keep rising; up to four percent in 2023 and 2024, and up to three percent in 2025. Water rates will increase three percent,

continued on page 6



Helicopter approaches site before dumping bucket into guzzler.

Jail failures found in medical checkup

Audit rates Donovan's overall care adequate, but notes problems with timeliness, cleanliness

The 3786 or so inmates at California's Donovan Correctional Facility on Otay Mesa, a half mile from the Mexico-United States border, are getting generally so-so medical care, says a new audit by the state's Office of Inspector General, with plenty of room for improvement remaining. The newly released Medical Inspection Report, dated July of this year and revised September 7, rates overall medical services at the prison complex as Adequate, landing it between Proficient and Inadequate on a three-tiered scale, according to findings by the auditors, consisting of "a team of physicians and nurse consultants." The group "reviewed 72 detailed cases" at the prison, involving 1004 "patient-related events. After examining the medical records, our clinicians conducted a follow-up on-site inspection in December 2020 to verify their initial findings."

Though Donovan got good marks for the condition of its medical records system and response to medical emergencies, including quick handling of "opioid overdoses," the prison was cited for a litany of failures in other areas, including so-called medical management. "There were lapses in managing new medications, chronic care medications, hospital return medications, specialized medical housing medications, and transfer medications," the audit says. In particular, the prison



How can they clean up their lives if you don't clean up their prison?

for patients admitted to specialized medical housing, for patients transferring within [R.J. Donovan], and for patients laying over at [R.J. Donovan]."

Protecting the institute's medical supplies from would-be miscreants was found to be problematic. The "medical warehouse did not have an effective system for maintaining control of sharps (needles used to administer medications) in the warehouse; it did not account for its inventory of sharps; it did not track the sharps that were removed from the warehouse. Specifically, the clinic's health care manager reported that nursing staff can walk directly to the sharps supplies in the warehouse, remove any number of needles from any boxes, sign for the needles in the warehouse logbook, and leave. Warehouse staff did not consistently dispense needles to health care staff; staff could help themselves."

Regarding inmate access to care, "Our clinicians reviewed 139 clinic provider appointments and identified six deficiencies, the report says. "[R.J. Donovan] performed inadequately in both compliance testing and case review. In case 1, the patient underwent a surgical procedure on his great toe, and a provider requested a clinic provider appointment in 14 days; however, the appointment occurred more than one month later. In case 53, the patient had knee pain and requested to see his provider, and a nurse requested a clinic provider appointment within 14 days; however, the appointment did not occur. One month later, the patient submitted another request to see his provider for knee pain, and the provider saw the patient then. Multiple clinics and the medical ware-

house contained expired medical supplies, emergency medical response bag logs either were missing staff verification or inventory was not performed, and staff did not regularly sanitize their hands before or after examining patients. The [Office of Inspector General] rated this indicator inadequate. One clinic had examination rooms that lacked visual privacy for conducting patient examinations

continued on page 22



Negative Maintenance Finding: Food Items Stored with Medical Supplies.

"did poorly managing patients on tuberculosis medications. Patients were not receiving their TB medications timely. The institution did not complete monitoring at all required intervals. In addition, the nursing staff did not appropriately conduct TB screening timely. Patients did not always receive their chronic care medications within the required time frames. There was poor medication continuity for patients returning from hospitalizations,

UNDER THE RADAR

Soon-Shiong's hat-passing scheme

San Diego Union-Tribune en Español, a free weekly broadsheet, has long struggled to gain traction after its predecessors, *Hoy*, and for years before that *Enlace*, were shot down by corporate economizers. The latest incarnation dates to early 2019, when the *U-T* folded *Hoy* less than a year after Los Angeles billionaire **Patrick Soon-Shiong** bought the San Diego paper and sister *L.A. Times* in June 2018 from Tribune Publishing for \$500 million. "Welcome to the first edition of *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in Spanish," wrote *U-T* editor **Jeff Light** in a February 23, 2019, message. "The decision to align more tightly with the *Union-Tribune* in English reflects our conviction that San Diego is a single community." Most stories, Light continued, "will be translated from those published in English in our main newspaper, but there will also be original and exclusive material reported and written in Spanish."



Patrick Soon-Shiong may be rich, but he's not above asking for a little help.

That March, *U-T* Readers Rep **Adrian Vore** reported that the publication was being "distributed to 70,000 addresses in the South Bay and North County. In addition, 30,000 appear in racks in the South Bay." Now biotech maven Soon-Shiong, who has been keeping both the *Times* and *U-T* alive with his own money, is doing some high-tech hat-passing for the San Diego paper's Spanish edition in a house advertisement questioning the section's future. "We rely on advertisements from local businesses," says the display ad's headline, as translated from Spanish. "Dear Readers, We Request Your Help." Alluding to the covid-19 pandemic, the pitch continues, "To provide coverage of local news, city govern-

ments and things to do — and to highlight uplifting stories in our communities — we rely on advertisements from local businesses. Some have been closed, and although they are opening little by little, our advertising has been seriously reduced." Concludes the message, illustrated with an image of an older man reading the paper while a white-haired woman nearby uses a smartphone: "This is where your help comes in. To ensure that the

San Diego Union-Tribune en Español continues to be healthy and robust, your contribution, in any measure, is now more important than ever." A link to *PressPatron.com*, the crowdfunding New Zealand-based website that is collecting the *U-T* donations from the public, brings up a message from section editor **Lilia O'Hara**: "Your financial contribution will help ensure that we can continue our mission to provide local journalism that makes a difference in the community; reporting on news, arts, entertainment, and culture."

Friends in low places

Clean Up California, **Kevin Faulconer's** Ballot Measure Committee to Recall Gavin Newsom, one of the ex-San Diego mayor's three funds backing his failed bid to recall Democratic Governor **Gavin Newsom**, didn't waste time shutting down. The guillotine fell September 23, per state filings. Getting chunks of the remaining cash balance of \$9,650.14 were San Diego-based Agenda Setting LLC, run by ex-Faulconer mayoral aide **Aimee Faucett**, with \$1000; and Kansas City's

Axiom Strategies, home of the ex-mayoral chief of staff **Stephen Puetz**, \$2500...Assembly Democrat **Lorena Gonzalez**, who announced on Twitter that she emerged from a September 11 bilateral mastectomy with "no cancer left," picked up a total of \$19,400 six days later for her 2022 reelection bid, courtesy of the Standing Committee on Political Education of the California Labor Federation. Her husband, county supervisor

Nathan Fletcher, gave \$5000 of cash left in his Democratic Central Committee 2000 election fund to the San Diego Democratic Party on September 7. Five days before that, the Deputy Sheriffs' Association of San Diego PAC came up with \$2500 for the county's Republican Party... The Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Issues Committee kicked in a cool \$250,000 to the San Diego Alliance for Traffic Relief, Reliable Transit & Jobs on September 13. That's the group led by labor and business lobbies campaigning in favor of a ballot measure to boost county transactions and use tax by a half percent, designating the money for infrastructure projects...According to a September report by SANDAG, the San

Diego Association of Governments, San Diego county crime is soaring. "The violent crime rate of 3.64 per 1,000 population was 7% higher than it was ten years ago and the second-highest rate it has been in the ten-year comparison period," the document says. But murders were down slightly. "There were 48 homicides in the first half of 2021, lower than the 54 reported in 2020 but higher than the 38 reported in 2019." Also, "There

were 532 rapes reported to law enforcement in San Diego County in the first half of 2021, more than the number reported in the first half of 2020 (433) when the stay-home order was in effect, but around the same number as in 2019 (when there were 539)."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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



Lorena Gonzalez beat cancer, now she's gearing up to beat her opponents.

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Dear Hipster:

One cannot help but grow up in America without being sold on the virtue of individualism, personal liberty, and the right for “you to do you,” as it were. At the same time, I feel like mainstream Americans are some of the most conformist people on the globe, because they’re so quick to pile on whatever is trending at the moment. How is it possible for people to profess a commitment to their individualism, yet at the same time display such conformism? I just don’t get it. I figured you would have some input on this matter, because being super hipster often involves taking the idea of being quirky and individualistic to its logical extreme, yet even the hipsterest hipsters tend to conform themselves to some vague hipster stereotype.

— TIFFANY

The problem here is that most people try to individuate themselves through consumption, i.e. expressing themselves via the things they buy, as opposed to the things they create. This approach towards individuality is ultimately doomed to fail. You can think about this in terms of pumpkin spice lattes, if seasonally delicious metaphors are your kind of thing. ‘Tis the season, after all, and nobody can resist the pumpkin spice.

If you’re anything like anybody, you probably love the pumpkin spice. But imagine if you were able to get pumpkin spice 24/7/365. Would you tire of it? Would the novelty wear off for you? Of course



it would. Sure, you can try to convince yourself that you wouldn’t want a pumpkin spice flavored beverage in the middle of summer simply because it’s a “fall drink,” but you know that’s probably not accurate. This is America. People stride down the frozen streets in the middle of winter in places like Chicago and New York, desperately sucking on iced coffees. You can get a turducken in the mail any day you want one, and not a day goes by when you can’t waltz yourself down to the local grocery store and get everything you need to make a pumpkin pie and a strawberry shortcake at the same time. In fact, the only reason you, me, and the rest of the world perceive pumpkin spice as a “fall” flavor is because our corporate overlords permit us to partake of that orange nectar only during the fall and winter shopping seasons.



Literal thirst trap?

beverages, precisely engineered to maximize consumer desire.

This is why you can’t ever successfully express individuality through consumer culture. You’re always buying someone else’s vision. In case you were wondering, why the embittered rant about pumpkin spice beverages and corporate marketing strategies? Well, if I had simply told you that our desires are actually shaped by market forces (as opposed to market forces being responsive to our desires), you might not have believed me. But when the message comes packaged in a pumpkin spice-flavored metaphor, well, nobody can resist the pumpkin spice.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

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

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

Gentle Vista man shoots abusive wife in back of head”

Cover Stories September 29

Eva, A standout piece of reporting once again. This is such a sad story, yet it is true. For more years than I care to recall, we’ve lived next to a dysfunctional couple, one where she would be hurling obscenity-laden comments at him on an almost daily basis, and outside where the neighbors could hear it all. Yet they are still married, although they are alienated from their offspring. Sounds so familiar. One can wonder why Andrew Smith didn’t just get up and leave years ago. If he had, he might have kept his sanity, and freedom. After reading your account, I’d have predicted that the jury would convict him on a lesser count, or even have voted to acquit. Ya’ nevah know about juries.

— Visduh

“The solution to an unhappy marriage is a divorce.” This is true. Both of them had been married before. With children. If you can leave a marriage with children, you can leave a childless marriage. Society does have more sympathy for an abused woman than an abused man, and rightfully so. Men are physically stronger - usually. This was a large man and a large woman. Come on. His 911 call is all about him. “Hi, I have a problem.” That’s something you say to customer service when you order online, and they sent the wrong product. Not when you shoot and kill your

wife. “I will never be able to sleep in my own bed again.” Once again, all about him. Where’s the compassion for his wife that he just shot and killed? Or her son who is left without a mom? First degree murder. That might sound harsh to some. I didn’t hear the evidence, but the jury obviously thought it was premeditated murder. He grabbed some cash to give to her son, grabbed his gun and shot her in the back of the head. Hmm. This is a very sad story.

—Socks3742

“Scott Peters squeezes money from Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb”

News Under the Radar September 29

Scott Peters had seemed a practical middling Democratic alternative to past right-wing conservative Republican candidates for his seat in the U.S. Congress. Once elected, Peters did not offend. He expressed cool detachment from President Obama’s agenda at hometown garden-party fundraisers in La Jolla, and in recent Tea Party years of Trump Republicanism, Peters seemed acceptable and was comfortably re-elected by his comfortable bi-partisan constituents. But reform-minded voters -- and there are more of them now than in years past-- got a wake-up call mid-month when Peters balked and refused to support the longstanding Democratic goal of lowering America’s sky-high prescription drug prices for its citizens.. (Drug company campaign contributions reported here got in the way of this needed social change.) Peters actually joined the Republican opposition along with fellow DINO Representative Kathleen Rice of New York (the sister of our ex-Gov. Jerry Brown!) to block this issue. Peters’ constituents will not forget his abdication of responsibility next election. We’ll see if the Congressman sticks to his ludicrous position that astronomical drug prices underwrite pharmaceutical innovation.

—monaghan

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due to the County Water Authority having raised rates for imported water. Workers say their wages can't keep up.

Council members blamed the past administration for leaving them the dirty work of raising rates, which should have happened as small increases over time rather than a "shock event." A wastewater cost of service study hasn't been updated since 2007. And a recent study the city conducted on sewer rates found that without increases, there won't be enough revenue for necessary wastewater and recycled water services between 2022 and 2025. All wastewater from San Diego and several surrounding municipalities goes to pump station 2 on Harbor Drive, then to the top of Point Loma, where "gravity takes hold," the city says, as the sludge moves into the treatment plant. The city is using pumps that are about 29 years past their expected useful life. A burst pipe or broken pump could back up the entire system and spew raw sewage into waterways.



Point Loma wastewater plant.

"The rent is too damn high, wages are too damn low," said councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera. "Unfortunately, we have to properly fund our infrastructure," which will save ratepayers money in the long run. "We're also going to be addressing a very inequitable way residents have been subsidizing industrial customers for decades now." The increases will affect different ratepaying classes differently. Single families, for example, represent over 80 percent of customers, and their rates will see the greatest climb, increasing as a whole by 16.7 percent, said Lisa Celaya, assistant director of public utilities. "Conversely, the multifamily class will decrease as a whole by five percent."

Robert Campbell, a consultant for CalWest apartments, disputed the city's calculations, saying the water rate doesn't properly account for outdoor water use, which will result in overcharges. CalWest has 12 multifamily complexes within the city. Most tenants are low income, and get their utility bills



Who says it's expensive to live right on the beach?

from CalWest separate from their rent. Single family customers are billed during their lowest water use, the winter monitoring period, Campbell said. But no such distinction is made for multifamily customers in calculating outdoor irrigation that doesn't return to the system. "This disadvantages multifamily residents to the detriment of mostly the low income."

Councilmember Raul Campillo encouraged everyone who needs help with unpaid water bills to go to the San Diego Housing Commission website to apply for assistance with past utility bills. "The money is there right now." And Ceyala said the city is also actively working with the state, and anticipates additional funds to address any past non-payments. More information on that will be available in late fall or early winter.

SHEILA PELL

THE BEACH

Bye-bye, beach bums PB resident says goodbye to all that as mayor shrugs off complaints

In Ocean Beach, the lack of any code enforcement, compassionate or otherwise, continues to fuel the health and safety concerns of the those who live there. Here are a few of those concerns: homeless encampments on the beach and on the bluffs, litter strewn everywhere, unavoidable human feces and urine crusted on the sidewalks and walls. Vendors without permits are free to set up at the foot of Newport at Abbott to sell, among other things: weed, edibles, "magic" mushrooms, glass pipes, alcohol, Jell-O shots, haircuts, food from the bed of the truck or water from a dirty cooler at their feet. No health department checks. No permits. No taxes. These vendors feel free to block red zones and public and beach access, because apparently, the City is still working

on an ordinance. "They are now blocking sidewalks and pathways for wheelchair and handicap accessibility," Brian M. observed. "It's pushing pedestrians, including children, into the street just to walk by. If the City is deeming it legal, then it needs to be done right. They can't block public pathways." There have been numerous conversations with Mayor Todd Gloria, City Council President Jen Campbell, and their staff about these problems in District 2. The community was told earlier this year there would at least be a vending ordinance put in place. Still crickets on that issue. They simply repeat the statement: "We need to do more outreach." Keep in mind, this is not community outreach they're talking about, this is strictly vendor outreach, so the city can draft an ordinance that fits what the vendors want.

Meanwhile, the Ocean Beach Town Council hosted its annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, October 2nd at 7 am. The annual fundraiser was not held on the pier this year due to pier damages; instead it was held Veterans Plaza. Smack dab in the middle of where the unpermitted vendors and encampments have taken over. Yet the town council needed to jump through hoops to get the permit they needed to host their event.



Base of OB pier.

On September 18, Gloria and Campbell attended the Think Blue and I Love a Clean San Diego beach clean-up event at Saratoga Park. Prior to the photo-op, they had all the homeless removed from the park. During the event, a resident named Mark approached Mayor Gloria in an effort to address the crime and homeless encampments in the parks and beaches. "I asked Todd how we could help with crime and homeless encampments in Saratoga Park. His reply? 'Get vaccinated!'" Mark shared on Facebook.

"I witnessed most of this conversation," Brian replied. "It was disappointing to hear how defensive the mayor got and how dismissive he was about Mark's simple questions and concerns for the park and our neighborhood. His first response was definitely an aggressive

continued on page 8



"They could be dead, but we just walk past."

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‘Get vaccinated!’ Unfortunately, this has been a growing problem since before covid. When other neighborhoods were brought up, his response was that the residents there would say the same stuff. At one point, he mentioned that another neighborhood had already said these things to him. My impression was that he didn’t want to hear it again, which he should be open to hearing it from every neighbor. When Mark mentioned police officers he’s been in contact with, he kept saying to keep getting ahold of them. It was never ‘I’ll look into it’ or ‘I’ll get more involved.’”

On September 11, a man named Kevin broke down his reasons for moving out of Pacific Beach via a post on Nextdoor. His sentiment is echoed in other parts of San Diego that the city seems to ignore. “After 12 years in PB I’m leaving. This place has become an open-air insane asylum. PB has been great for the last decade+, but the crime and public drug use has become too much. I used to feel safe walking the boardwalk in the evenings. It’s not as bad as some places, but it’s gradually feeling less and less safe. Last week at about 6 pm on a Thursday, I saw a heroin addict taking a dump in front of Chase Bank right on Garnet. He just dropped trou and let it fly. We just walk on by. I can’t go for a walk without being accosted by a drug addict. My bike was stolen and it’s only a matter of time before my car window gets smashed. These are the mentally ill and drug addicts that have refused the available help and have chosen to prey on us while checking out of society and openly using drugs on the streets. They’ve created organized bike stealing rings and are getting more violent. These are not people that are just down on their luck and need a job and an apartment. They need help. There is help available and they have refused it. How crazy is it that we are conditioned to walk past human bodies lying on the sidewalk, sand, and trails? They could be dead, but we just walk past. We should be calling 911 on every single one for medical assistance. It’s depressing. The police are really good about following up on items reported in the ‘Get it Done’ app, but their hands are mostly tied by our feel-good policies.”

Corey Bruins, Ocean Beach Town Council president, expanded on the city’s priorities: “As long as events like the Pier Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair have existed, we’ve only been required to go through the Parks & Rec permit process. This year, we were informed by Parks that we would also be required to go through the extensive, cumbersome, and overly bureaucratic special event permit process. Our volunteer events chair, Stephanie Kane, is tens of hours deep in this extensive process. All the while, taking a wander through the Veteran’s Plaza grass area (which is where both our Pier Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fairs are taking

place this year), one might guess that an event permit had been pulled for the unauthorized vendor fair happening many days each week. As we all know, this is not the case. SB-946, the statewide legislation that regulates street vending practices, went into effect on January 1, 2019, and despite many promises since then, the city is still yet to pass a street vending ordinance.”

DELINDA LOMBARDO

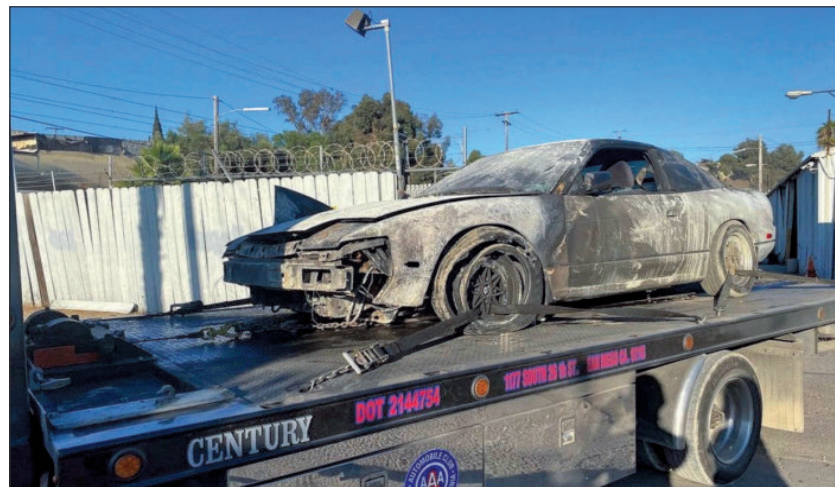
PARADISE HILLS Hot car burns 240SX blows up after three million views on TikTok

On September 16, someone wearing a dark hoodie and carrying a red gas container walked up to Mervynn Fernandez’s 1990 Nissan 240SX near the Paradise Valley neighborhood on Dillard Street. “He poured gas on it and lit it on fire at 2:50 am,” Fernandez told me on September 26. “I’m still a little stressed over the situation, so it’s hard for me to talk about it.” Fernandez, 24, sent a video clip from his surveillance camera recorded early that Thursday morning. In the clip, the suspect lights what appears to be a rag, then throws the burning piece towards Fernandez’s vehicle, which is covered with a gray car cover. For a couple of seconds, a fireball fills nearly half the image frame. “The neighbors heard three loud bangs from the engine exploding. My neighbor does fire sprinklers in buildings and fire extinguishers with a company called FireWatch, and he tried putting out the fire with at least eight fire extinguishers while his wife was on the phone with 911.” Shortly after, Fire Truck Number 51 pulled up to Fernandez’s residence, about two miles east of where the I-805 passes over Division Street. In a 619newsmedia video posted online, a fireman can be seen extinguishing the fire while another firefighter opens the hatchback with the jaws of life tool. Nine fire extinguishers can be seen on the ground.

“The San Diego Police Department and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department showed up and knocked on our door,” Fernandez continued. “I woke up and saw my car covered in flames as the firefighters were working on put-



“The neighbors heard three loud bangs from the engine exploding.”



The flames were fast and furious.

ting it out. I thought it might have caught on fire by itself over something electrical, maybe.” Fernandez and the first responders reviewed the footage captured by the camera mounted atop Fernandez’s driveway, where he repairs and installs parts on cars “as a side hustle for neighbors and friends” while simultaneously caring for his ailing father inside the house.

Twenty-four-year-old college student Julia, Fernandez’s live-in girlfriend, was inside the house sleeping that morning. Her vehicle was parked around eight feet away from the burning 240SX. “My vehicle was not damaged,” she said, “but we did have to relocate our cars and have them in storage for fear that they might try to attack us again.” Julia and Fernandez suspect the arsonist is the driver of or (or passenger in) a white Hyundai that drove by their house at 2:40 am, ten minutes before the 240SX burned. “The footage was unclear to see the people,” Julia said. “We sent it and [additional] footage from our neighbors to the investigators; they are still actively working on the case.”

Nissan 240SXs, which were produced from 1989-1999, became popular vehicles to build after *The Fast and the Furious* was released in 2001. In the film, Michelle Rodriguez plays

Letty Ortiz, a driver who pulls up to Toretto’s Market & Cafe in her magenta-colored 240SX in the film’s opening scene. Later on, her 240SX smokes a Mazda RX-7 in a race. Fernandez’s 240SX, which sports a set of old-school Work wheels and a Tein coil-over setup, was already gaining traction on social media before it burned down. “My brother and his



Fernandez’s car was already building traction on social media.

girlfriend at the time wanted to borrow the [240SX] for social media content,” Fernandez explained. “I let them borrow it for a day, but they kept pushing to borrow it longer. Four days passed, and I took the car back, and they argued.”

“This person was using the 240SX for social media fame,” said Julia. “They got three million views on her video with the 240SX on Tik-Tok. Mervynn took the car back because of the way she would [allegedly] treat his brother.”

“One week later after the breakup, my car burns,” Fernandez said. “Not sure if I’m allowed to talk about how far cops are in because it might jeopardize the case.” (Per 619newsmedia: “The ex reached out via DM and stated she was in LA at the time.”)

“We were not prepared for the emotional toll and financial toll that this would have on us,” Julia said. “We also have to pay attorneys’ fees, and they charged us a total of \$900 to take out and move his 240SX from the tow place.” Fernandez’s friends set up a GoFundMe campaign to help him repair the car.

MIKE MADRIAGA

1621 29TH STREET | SOUTH PARK, 92102

CURRENT OWNER: Grant family | LISTING PRICE: \$1,595,000 | BEDS: 3 | BATHS: 3 | HOUSE SIZE: 1275

UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

The turn of the twentieth century marked a significant shift in homebuilding trends across the United States. Backlash to the Industrial Revolution and the packed, grimy cities it created — particularly in the Northeast — was starting to take hold. Buyers with the income to discriminate were tiring of the Victorian-style homes made possible by the advent of factories' mass-producing bricks and other building materials, including some of the ornate (if increasingly



Who wooden want to live in a house like this?

common) concrete flourishes that decorated the facades of structures from the late 1800s.

Enter the Craftsman movement, wherein new

homes were designed and built on-site by local tradesmen who worked with artistic zeal to prove that humans, not machines, were the decid-

ing factor in bestowing warmth and character upon a home. The trend took hold in the early 1900s and continued through the 1920s, when

the Great Depression — and later, the outbreak of war — dictated the construction of the cheaper, more utilitarian housing that largely continues to this day for all but the most expensive of custom residences.

Because cities on the west coast were experiencing a massive influx of growth, and because the milder climate was more conducive to wood-frame construction in an era before advanced insulation techniques were available, Southern California in particular became home to a large portion of these Craftsman-style abodes. Let's pop over to check out an example: 1621 29th Street, which according to the Zillow listing is a "gorgeous historic Craftsman in the heart of South Park" dating back to 1916.

Located on a quiet

street just two blocks east of Balboa Park, the home has real curb appeal, with mature landscaping, including some hedges to provide a little privacy for the old-fashioned front porch. The river rocks lining the porch stairs and the chimney are an attractive touch, as are the second-floor dormer windows. There's a narrow driveway off to one side for off-street parking, though the shrubbery makes it seem like it would be hard to fit a car there. Still, the listing does say there's an electric car hookup in the space.

Inside, we're immediately met by the living room with a dining area just beyond, and it's striking how much less space people were able to live with 100 years ago. While the standard-issue stucco boxes of the 1990s and 2000s rou-

continued on page 22



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The Integratron: exactly where it needs to be.

A tool for soundness

The situation of so many structures in Southern California feels haphazard: buildings plunked down here or there by whim or whimsy. But the Integratron really belongs in its place: an auspicious spot in the Mojave Desert town of Landers. The day of my visit is the last healing sound bath before the annual summer vacation, and according to the brief talk given by the crystal bowl player,



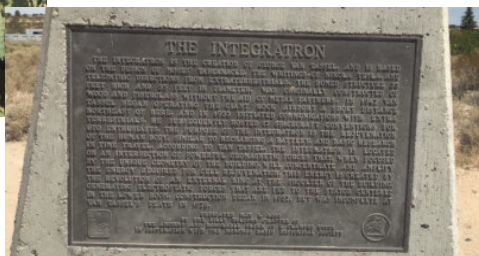
Welcome, friends!

there are a variety of reasons for this place's power. For one thing, there is the proximity to the powerful Giant Rock up the road — believed by the Integratron's creator George van Tassel (1910-1978) to be both a native sacred site and point of contact with Venusian aliens. There's also its placement on an energy-rich "geomagnetic vortex," at the intersection of numerous ley lines — straight paths between significant structures and landmarks — and over three coalescing aquifers, one of which reaches north all the way to Mt. Shasta. (Dowsing rods helped choose the exact location.) But for some people, the power of this place is evident simply from the way it feels.

Originally, the Integratron was supposed to harness and transform that power in dramatic, measurable fashion. We are told a bit about the original equipment for high-voltage healing that this time machine and tabernacle was supposed to house, involving a current of electricity, blasted into the building via a conductive rod that is the only piece of metal

the Integratron contains. Van Tassel's never-completed plan, a mixture of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial technologies, was aimed at creating an electrified rejuvenation process for participants. This anti-aging mission was encouraged by his space contacts, who related to him that humanity's advancement in wisdom would require a lengthening of the human life span by at least several decades. The engineering plans disappeared, perhaps mysteriously, at the time of Van Tassel's death.

The energies on offer in Landers today are different. They come in the form of the Integratron's sound baths, which marry the tones of quartz bowls with the remarkable effects of the dome's acoustic properties.



Moses, Tesla, and E.T. helped with the design.

The shape of the room intensely amplifies the tones, which requires that the bowls be sounded very gently. It's louder than I would have expected, but not at all agitating. Lying on the ground on a mat in this place, you really do feel like the sound is covering you, soothing you. "Bath" is not the wrong word; sounds are waves, after all. I could be persuaded that this is indeed good for me.

At least a few attendees ignore the warning that the experience is so relaxing that those given to snoring should adopt snore-proof positions. Their snoozing rumbles soon float around in the dome beneath the singing of the crystal. The bath lasts around 45 minutes. When it ends, we are asked to stand in the center of the room, on a spot where anything spoken is supposed to have a special force, and to summon a deep wish.

Papa Smurf goes electric

I've wanted to interview local health practitioner Ryan Smith (www.santesmeth.com) ever since an observer at one of his presentations told me, with admiration rather than scorn, "He is like a mad scientist." Smith himself has compared his vocation to that of Papa Smurf — a helper and an investigator with a strong independent streak who works outside

also noted that levels of voltage vary within us, and we need a certain amount of it to rejuvenate our cells. Optimal voltage, he argues, will grant us optimal cell replacement, part of the constant work of staying alive. Suboptimal voltage will force our body to recreate cells in a less powerful and vital way.

My interest is of an unscientific sort, but there's just something appealing about the

An observer at one of his presentations told me, with admiration rather than scorn, "He is like a mad scientist."

the dominant paradigm. His California cool does not hide his infectious enthusiasm for his subject: the mysterious forces at work in balanced, vibrant, human well-being. He takes the unseen and subtle aspects of the human organism seriously, even if he employs some far-out sounding hardware — biomodulators, tuning forks, scalar energy pendants — in his ministrations.

Sitting on a La Mesa city bench, Smith told me how his explorations in the alternative health world convinced him of the existence of energetic fields that can be attended to and harnessed. He impressed me most when at one point he offered to demonstrate "muscle testing" on me. As directed, I formed a circle with my ring-finger and thumb, holding them firmly together. "Be strong," he encouraged me. "You're strong. You're like a rock." Perhaps invigorated by this flattery, I was able to keep finger to thumb as he tried to pull them apart. Then he asked me to hold my other hand over my navel, two fingers extended in a "scout's honor" gesture. For some reason, using no more force than before, he was suddenly able to separate my fingers with ease, despite my best efforts to resist. He called it a simple demonstration of the way that the body's energetic flow can be manipulated. Curious.

Smith is big on energy; one of his practice's central concerns is the electrical voltage that we all carry within our bodies. He explained this by invoking important triumvirate: voltage, alkalinity, and oxygen. Cell voltage, he explained, is related to alkalinity — "PH is a measure of voltage" — and "alkalinity dictates how much oxygen can be dissolved in the system." Smith

idea of electricity in our bodies. Even a person disinclined to care about the practical applications here can still appreciate the poetic dimension: the notion that the energy inside us connects us somehow to lightning, to the shock we get from shuffling across



Ryan Smith: student of the body's more mysterious forces and energies.

a carpet, to the power that propels a Tesla and keeps an iPhone running. I can feel it expanding my sense of myself as I write this, at least a bit. Our electricity reminds us that we are joined to the world around us. We are not just individuals; we are conductors of currents. ■

Deep look at local architecture

A Perfectly Sanitary, Labor-Saving House

I'm a Boomer, and I'm tired of all the plastic. But Arts and Crafts zealots may have trouble finding furnishings and fixtures from the period, he warns. "Antique shops here are pretty devoid of it, because it's been gobbled up so quickly. I believe a lot of Arts and Crafts furniture is locked up in the John Wayne generation's closets. And I think a lot of them just don't know what they have or what it's worth." **NOV. 4, 1999**

Unfashionable Castles

This Stick/Eastlake house, which stood at the southeast corner of Second and Fir, was designed by Comstock and Trotsche for John Sherman, a cousin of General William Tecumseh Sherman. From 1892 until 1965, the home was inhabited by sisters Bess and Gertrude Gilbert, who held receptions there for internationally famous entertainers. **JULY 1, 1999**

When the Bungalows Came to Town

I drive down East Plaza Boulevard and at first pass a series of contemporary commercial buildings — a red Monterey-style Boll Weevil restaurant; a glass, postmodern McDonald's Play Place, a Spanish-Revival,

earth-toned Family Loompya Seafood Market—and then I encounter a procession of bungalows. They are no different from their other National City brethren — modest, weather-beaten, with bars on their windows and doors. **AUG. 28, 1997**

Invasion of the Tall Buildings

Perhaps the most significant structure erected downtown during this era was the 13-story San Diego Trust & Savings Bank built in 1928 at 530-540 Broadway, the 240-foot Italian Renaissance Revival structure became the county's tallest commercial office high-rise. Its massive pillars, marble floors, and heroic arches emanated luxury and power. At a time when most buildings' elevators traveled 300



3553 28th Street. A few, influenced by the era's Far East fixation, have door frames that resemble Japanese torii (temple entrances).

feet per minute, the Trust & Savings Bank Building's elevators ascended at an ear-popping 660 feet per minute. **MAR. 30, 2000**

City of Boxes

Before the 1950s, El Cajon had been a sleepy valley of citrus groves and vineyards.

But a population stampede prompted developers' bulldozers to raze the croplands to make room for hundreds of new families. Between 1950 and 1960, El Cajon's population increased by 623 percent. It became the second fastest-growing area in the state. **JULY 22, 1999**

Read full articles from the archives at sandiegoreader.com/news/from-archives

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Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Ad-vantage Padres

Budweiser Zero renews sponsorship in wake of late-season collapse

"Really, we couldn't be happier," said Bud Zero brand manager Sid Craven following the Padres disastrous conclusion to their 2020 season. "A full season in the basement would have meant minimal exposure for our brand. But that red hot start got everyone's attention. So the eventual, gradual collapse provided real drama — the kind that grabs eyeballs and gets national cov-

erage. Even after the division title was nothing more than a dead dream, there was still talk of a wild card spot going into the final week or two. And then, oh boy, that late-season eighth inning against LA. Poor Emilio Pagan giving up three homers and a double before getting pulled. Three homers! He trended on Twitter as having had a night to forget! EVERYONE saw the post-



Manager Tingler: "I mean, I guess I'm happy for the sponsorship dollars and the free Bud Zero, but I have no use for a non-alcoholic beer right now. I need a beer that will help me forget this season. non-alcoholic beer would provide exactly zero of what I'm looking for. Which I guess is the point."

game interview with Tingler and Pagan, with our logo right on either side of their heads. That's brand synergy, people. The Padres delivered ZERO of their potential and remain

the Major League Baseball team with the longest streak of ZERO championships, just like we deliver ZERO alcohol in every delicious can of Budweiser ZERO!"

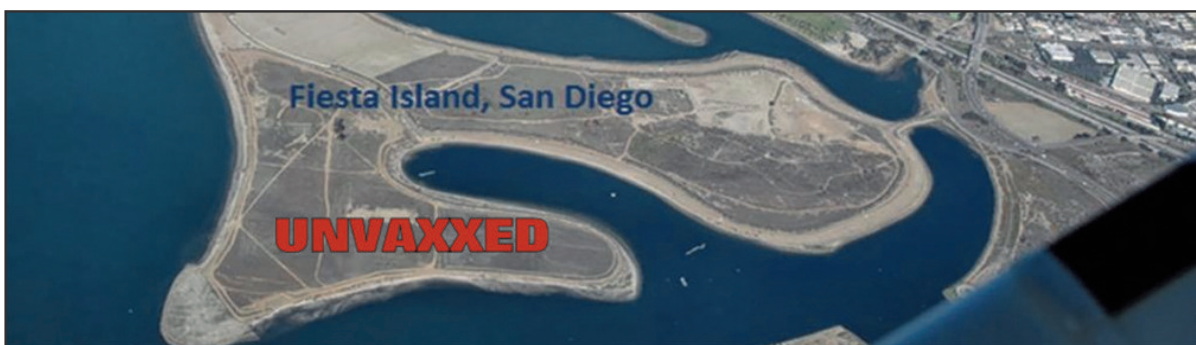
Putting the GO in GOP

San Diego Convention of the California GOP reveals new strategy

"We can still save Texas!"



Max Whiteman, addressing the California Republican Convention last week at the unveiling of the organization's new logo: "If you tilt Texas a little to the right — get it, to the right? — the state looks kinda like a P. So we think the logo works. Anyway, it gets the message across concerning our new strategy: CA GO Texas. Get the hell out of Dodge and go do some good. There was a little while during the 2020 Presidential election returns where Texas was actually blue. Can you imagine? Keep still and hold tight, and you may not have to. All these Silicon Valley companies pulling up stakes and heading to Texas for the economically friendly environs — you think they're suddenly going to start voting Republican? Right now, they have New York and California, and we have Texas and Florida — but not by much. We lose either of those, and we're history as a party. I'm not saying you have to give up the California dream. Go ahead and hang onto your real estate as an investment, and rent it to some nice Hispanic family. All our data says they're starting to come around to our side as the left goes bonkers. Maybe in three, four election cycles, it'll be safe to come back. But for now, *vamos!*"



Health Supervisor Wutan: "The best part is, the wretches can still get medical treatment from all the health care workers we're firing for not getting vaccinated. We're not monsters."

Corona Cay

Portion of Fiesta Island to serve as Colony for the Unvaccinated

"It worked for Hawaii!" "Over 150 years ago, the island nation of Hawaii found itself in a crisis: an outbreak of the horrific, highly contagious, and then-untreatable disease of leprosy," says San Diego Health Supervisor Winifred Wutan. "The authorities did what they had to do to protect the population: they isolated the infected on the island of Molokai. The lepers suffered, but the island was saved. Those who refuse to get the covid-19 vaccine are infected with something even more dangerous

than leprosy: misinformation about a deadly pandemic and the near-miraculous cure that is available to anyone who wants it. As a result, they are getting infected and dying at higher rates than the rest of the population, and as such, they pose a grave risk to the public health I am sworn to protect. Starting November 1, anyone failing to prove vaccination will be taken to an isolated region on Fiesta Island and quarantined there until they make the free choice to get the vaccine and rejoin civilization."

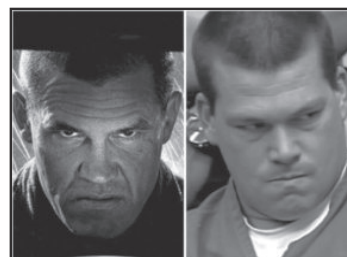
WHO PLAYS WHO

SVP PLACEMENT EDITION



In *The Hunger Games*, **Donald Sutherland** plays President Snow, a man who has no qualms about sacrificing children for the amusement of the deprived.

Sexually violent predator **Douglas Badger** has been diagnosed with sexual sadism, and has been convicted of child molestation and forced oral copulation.



In *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For*, **Josh Brodin** plays a man so sexually besotted that he commits murder.

John Albert Gardner, a convicted rapist, child molester and murderer, killed Chelsea King in Rancho Bernardo in 2010.



On the show *Billions*, **Paul Giamatti** plays a dogged lawyer who won't give up his quest to beat the bastards of the world.

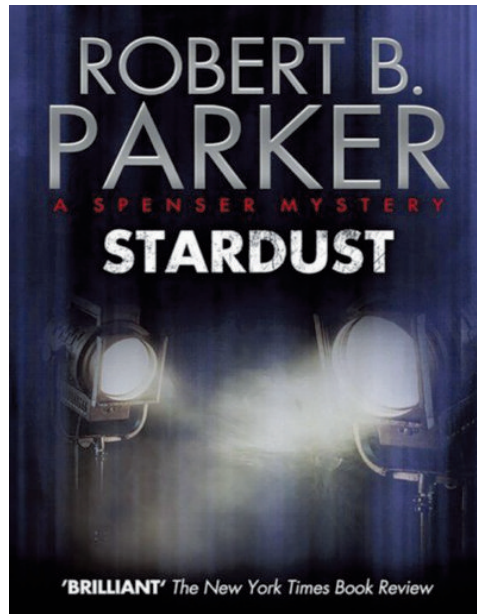
Chelsea's father **Brent King** is a longtime activist who doesn't think Badger should be housed just a short distance from where his daughter was killed.

Stardust

MINDY HAD GOTTEN ME a hotel room at the Hyatt Islandia in Mission Bay, and I pulled in there around 3:30 in the afternoon with the temperature at eighty-six and the sky cloudless. They assigned me a room in one of the pseudo-rustic cabanas that ran along the bay, as a kind of meandering wing to the tall central hotel building. I stashed my bag, got a list of addresses and my city map, and headed back out to work.

San Diego, like San Francisco, and like Seattle, seems defined by its embrace of the sea. The presence of the Pacific Ocean is assertive even when the ocean itself is out of sight. There is a different ambient brightness where the steady sunshine hits the water and diffuses. The bay, the Navy, the bridge to Coronado seemed always there, even when you couldn't see them....

I had supper in a place near the hotel,



on the bay, that advertised fresh salmon broiled over alder logs. I went in and ate some with a couple of bottles of Corona

beer (hold the lime). It wasn't as good as I had hoped it would be; it still tasted like fish. After supper I strolled back to the hotel along the bayfront, past the charter boat shanties and the seafood take-out stands that sold ice and soda. Across the expressway, gleaming with light in the murmuring subtropical evening, the tower of Sea World rose above the lowland where the bay had been created.

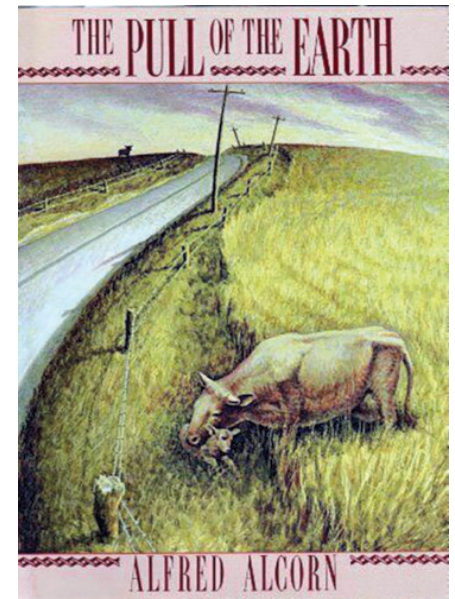
The Pull of the Earth

"I THINK I'M PREGNANT."

"How do you know?"

"I just know."

He took her hand and held it firmly, the flats of his fingers pressing against her palm. For what seemed a long time he said nothing. Then his words came in a low hot whisper and he bent toward her, pressuring her with his hands and his eyes. "Let's get away from here. Just pack a few things.



I've got some money. We can take the car."

It was utterly impossible, of course, and the only thing left to do. She heard herself

continued on page 46

"Across the expressway, gleaming with light in the murmuring subtropical evening, the tower of Sea World rose above the lowland where the bay had been created."

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The Ugly Old Goat had planned and paid for the whole event using ten Bitcoins. He thought it was apropos, seeing as his initial investment in Bitcoin had been to purchase ten coins.

CASA CRYPTO

I don't think we should mention that we were at a Bitcoin conference," whispers Trey as the Border Patrol agents search my car. I shrug, because I don't think it matters. Bitcoiners are so paranoid. But I am a people pleaser, so when the agent asks why I was in Mexico, I say, "For vacation." It's not a lie. I came to sit by the pool and take a cultural dive into the Bitcoin subculture. When asked the same question, Trey says he was a speaker at a convention. His wife and daughter tagged along to

A week with the Bitcoiners in Baja

relax. Trey is wearing a burnt orange t-shirt and gray sweatpants that hit mid-calf. He is bearded and bed-headed. He has the vibe of a guy who smokes good weed. His wife Jill bounces their two-year-old daughter Daisy soothingly on one hip, but that's not stopping Daisy from screaming her head off. I watch as Border Patrol agents

examine the contents of a cooler in my trunk. Trey leans over and casually asks, "How thoroughly do you think they will search your car?"

My mind starts to reel. I think back to a few days ago, sitting at the Torre Lucerna's swanky pool with Trey's wife.

"How did you and Trey meet?" I was curious

how an average-looking guy scored a smoke show like Jill. She has shampoo commercial hair and legs for days. Meanwhile, the only swagger Trey possesses is his intellect and a swoon-worthy British accent.

“At an ayahuasca retreat,” she answered causally.

I could not help but laugh. “Seriously?”

“Yeah,” she shrugged.

Now I am wondering, Are there drugs in my car? Can you even buy ayahuasca in Mexico? Do they have some tucked away in one of their suitcases?

We have been pulled over to a secondary checkpoint on this Sunday afternoon because of our passports: one from the US, one from the UK, and two from Canada. “You can’t just leisurely enter the United States during a pandemic,” said the pint-sized agent upon seeing them. “Drive up. He is going to have to deal with this.” We were guided into a large, covered parking lot crawling with border agents and detection dogs, then told to pop the hood and the trunk and exit the vehicle. A swarm of agents descended upon my dusty SUV.

I am going to kill my husband for this. I did not want to come on this trip. When I reluctantly agreed, my only stipulation was that someone drive back across the border with me, because he was planning to stay for an additional three weeks to go diving and exploring along the coast of Baja. A couple of days ago, I happily agreed to drive back with Trey and his family. I did not know until our drive that they were covid-doubting conspiracy theorists.

By way of explaining his concern over the Bor-

der Agents searching my car, Trey adds, “We have Ivermectin and...” I interrupt him before he can say more. I know from our conversation on the way here that another Bitcoiner made them fake vaccine cards. They also bought fake masks. I didn’t even know that was a thing. “They sell them in Canada too, but I found a Mexican company that makes a better one. They have tiny holes all throughout that are invisible to the naked eye,” Trey had explained that the reason they were driving into the US was to take a flight from San Diego to Washington. If they drove across the border back into Canada, they could avoid covid testing.

“What’s the big deal?” I asked, “It’s just a swab.”

“It’s a violation,” Trey spit through clenched teeth.

Now, I try to reassure him, even as I overhear an agent ask a colleague, “Do they seem shady to you?” I turn my head away, too anxious to hear his response. “It’s fine,” I say to Trey as we watch agents rummage through my glove box — though I do not know if it is in fact fine. “They don’t care about that. I think they just want to make sure we are not smuggling in people or cocaine.” Inwardly, I am scripting the angry phone call I will make to my husband and his dad when this is all over. Come to Mexico for a Bitcoin conference, they begged me. It’ll be fun! My husband hounded me to attend for over a year. It was his dad’s conference. In the Bitcoin world, his dad goes by the handle The Ugly Old Goat. He had planned and paid for the whole event using ten Bitcoins. He thought it was apropos, seeing as

his initial investment in Bitcoin had been to purchase ten coins. The Goat had done something similar two years ago and titled it “The Workingman’s Bitcoin Cruise.” The headliners at that first conference had not been nearly as impressive, and he had lost quite a bit of money on the endeavor. This time around, the price for admission was steeper, the hotels were swankier, and Bitcoin celebrities were hosting the panels. The entire package included a two-night stay at a 5-star resort winery in the overly instagrammed Valle de Guadalupe, a three-night stay at Torre Lucerno hotel with an ocean view in Ensenada, and lastly, two days at the Horsepower Ranch for an off-road adventure. The price tag was \$13,995 for the 7-day VIP package. A 10% discount was offered to anyone paying in Bitcoin.

Trey had spent the car ride back to the border explaining Bitcoin to me in simple terms. He covered everything from Elon Musk’s obsession with “Shitcoins,” to why the only cryptocurrency worth a damn is Bitcoin, to the concept of Bitcoin as a living, breathing entity. I learned more in that two-hour car ride than I did at conference, but maybe that was just me.

While the border agents search, I note that the sky is unusually overcast for this time of year. I prattle on about June gloom and May gray and how the summer months in San Diego are really from August through October. I am convinced that calmness while solve our current predicament. I don’t want to turn around and drive Trey and Jill back



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The entire package included a two-night stay at a 5-star resort winery in the overly instagrammed Valle de Guadalupe, a three-night stay at Torre Lucerno hotel with an ocean view in Ensenada, and lastly, two days at the Horsepower Ranch for an off-road adventure. The price tag was \$13,995 for the 7-day VIP package.

into Mexico. The rest of the Bitcoiners are in San Felipe by now. It's a long drive there, and I would have to turn around and drive back to the border alone. The only Spanish I speak, I learned in high school from an

Illinois-raised instructor who never set foot in a Latin American country. I maintain the Zen-like belief that my staying cool and collected will lead the agents to open the large metal gate and allow all four of us into

the United States. I just want to go home.

Finally, they open the gate. As we cross in the the US, Trey says, "Now I need to move to the States. Clearly, America does not want me. She's like a girl playing hard to get, and I have to have her." His wife giggles from the back seat. All I can think is that Bitcoiners are fucking nuts.

My husband Eric's obsession with Bitcoin began in 2010. He fell down an internet rabbit hole and never came out. He con-



During a break between panels, a man with owl-shaped spectacles says, "When you think about the greatest human inventions, we have fire and Bitcoin, and hopefully one day, teleportation."



sumed books, watched YouTube videos, and read countless articles on Bitcoin. During those early years, which I like to refer to as the Dark Days, Eric spoke about cryptocurrency incessantly. He began to spread the good news of Bitcoin at every social event we attended. Satoshi Nakamoto was his economic Jesus. He cornered people at parties, believing it was his civic duty to inform the masses on the subject. Listeners' eyes glazed over, and it got to the point where, when we invited friends over for dinner, they would ask, "Can this be a Bitcoin-free evening?" Our friends were simply not interested. To this

day, only one of them has ever invested in Bitcoin. A close friend installed a ceiling fan in our home. In exchange, Eric gifted him a percentage of Bitcoin — \$100 worth, I believe. This friend called a few months back in a panic, because he saw how much value it had gained and wanted to get to it, but couldn't figure out how. "Whatever you do, don't sell!" Eric shrieked into the phone, "It'll only go up!"

But while our friends politely edged away, Eric did find a receptive ear: his father. It happened late one Christmas Eve. We had attended church, eaten dinner, and opened presents. Eric and his dad

had consumed copious amounts of tequila. Eric was prattling on about cryptocurrency. They were yelling, but not because they were angry. It's just how they communicate. Instead of waiting for each other to finish speaking, they yell over on another. It has taken me years to get used to this.

"Bitcoin is right up your alley," Eric told his dad.

The Goat nodded. He reached into his pocket for a lighter. He held it over his shot of tequila and lit it on fire. "Watch this," he said, gleefully turning toward where I was sitting on the sofa reading a book, desperately trying to tune them out. He motioned to his flaming drink. He tilted his head back and gulped it down. He laughed with childlike delight. His belly shook. His blue eyes sparkled with excitement. "I'll do it again!" he shouted, "This time, record me!" I did, and promptly sent the footage to a group chat I have with my girlfriends. I captioned it, "Just another average Christmas!"

That Christmas Eve discussion had quite an impact on The Goat. His father had been a banker. When The Goat was 15, his dad had introduced

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him to the Austrian economist Ludwig Von Mises at the Hyatt Fremont in Kansas City. The Goat said it was a pivotal life moment. In the '80s, The Goat had started a company called The Gold Standard. He minted gold coins with famous economists' faces on them. Rich people bought them. I don't know very much about that company, other than that it was extremely lucrative and that it went down in a blaze. The Goat served an 11-year prison stint for money laundering. The first time I met him was in the visitor's room at Texarkana Correctional Facility when I was pregnant with his grandson.

The two-story office building that housed The Gold Standard had once been a bank, and there was a fancy old-timey vault in the basement. As a child, Eric and his brothers had played down there, mesmerized by the sleek round contraption and the metal bars encapsulating the room inside. While visiting Kansas City last winter, Eric drove past the building to see what had become of it. He was both surprised and amused to find it was now a Scientology headquarters. "My dad is really going to get a kick out of this," he laughed, and snapped a photo. We parked our rental car and went in. Eric explained to the woman behind the front desk that this had once been his dad's office. She loaded us up with scientology pamphlets and let us look at the vault downstairs. We posed for a photo.

"I bet Tom Cruise's money is socked away in there," I whispered.

"If he was smart, he'd have Bitcoin," Eric whis-

pered back.

The Goat took to Bitcoin wholeheartedly. In 2013, he spent all he had, and then some, \$1000, to buy 10 Bitcoin. He over-drafted his bank account with the purchase. Before long, he started trading in Bitcoin. He turned a quick profit. By 2017, he was a millionaire, and listed among the top Bitcoin traders in Mexico. At the time, he lived in a small village outside of Ensenada called El Zorrillo, which means The Skunk. The village was run down. Many of the homes had been built by hand. Most were dilapidated. When The Goat started making money, his wife Maria wanted to remain in that village. She loved it there. Her family lived there. Previously, she and The Goat and her three young children had lived in a beachside community near Tijuana. Maria hated that spot: too many rich gringos. So they built a compound in El Zorrillo on the top of the hill. The view was stunning and surrounded by mountains. The house was a showy cement mansion surrounded by poverty. They had a fenced in dirt lot attached to the property where they kept a rotation of menacing dogs chained up to look after their collection of overpriced trucks and desert toys.

We visited a few times. Maria's mom always made handmade tamales outside over a rustic fire. Once, I brought my kid's hand-me-downs. Maria handed them out to the neighbor kids like she was Mother Teresa. These visits made me feel uncomfortable. I felt like a stereotypical pampered American, visiting a massive house surrounded by devastating poverty.

I wondered how to say, "I did not vote for Trump," in Spanish.

The Goat and Maria have since moved. They now own five properties, or rather, Maria owns five properties, because Americans are not allowed to own real estate in Mexico. Two of those properties are used solely for Bitcoin purposes. One, which The Goat refers to as "The Bitcoin house," boasts two state-of-the-art recording studios filled with fancy equipment where he broadcasts YouTube videos to a meager following. For the broadcasts, he uses his handle The Ugly Old Goat, and even wears a goat mask in many episodes. His wife often joins him in the recordings. They call her The Goat Lady. He posts his videos on Facebook. His average viewership is around 15-20. His YouTube channel sees more traffic — around 300 views. A couple are at 600. The Bitcoin house has four bedrooms upstairs and a master suite downstairs. It is set up in dormitory style, women's rooms on one side, men's on the other. He hosts Bitcoin authors, bloggers, and YouTubers, plus Clubhouse and Twitter users with hefty followings. Some of them stay for months at time, mooching off his hospitality. Many of the guests appear in his YouTube videos.

A second of The Goat's homes is walking distance to the beach in Ensenada. It is called The Bitcoin Institute. He trademarked the title.

"Is it a Bitcoin school?" I ask him as the conference draws near.

The Goat lets out an annoyed sigh. "I don't know," he shouts, throwing up his arms up in



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I attempt some Spanish. He chuckles at the attempt, and says, “You are in Mexico!” before opening the gate. Our villa overlooks a pond. In the distance, hot air balloons dot the sky.

frustration. His mood is always frantic. “You explain Bitcoin to me, and I’ll explain the Institute. Just come down and see it for yourself!” He is exasperated.

“Are you going to teach classes?” I press.

“Probably,” he mutters.

“But you don’t speak Spanish,” I tease.

“It doesn’t matter!” He bristles, “A lot of people [going to my conference] are thinking about moving to Mexico. I figured I can start this little Bitcoin Institute. We can start having classes. There are six bedrooms in the house. I don’t have the

answers to this thing!” He raises his voice again, annoyed at my questions. “I’m offering an opportunity. It’s beyond my expertise. Maybe it won’t happen. It’s okay if it doesn’t. I’m not in it to make a fortune.”

It is just weeks until the conference, and the Old Goat is more frantic than usual. He is tying up loose ends and panicking over low ticket sales. He records commercials for the event on his YouTube channel, then posts them on Facebook and Twitter. They look quasi-professional. He is wearing a puka shell

necklace, a poncho, and a camouflage hat bearing the Bitcoin logo. His energy is over the top as he describes the lodging and namedrops his guest speakers. Because I love my father-in-law, I agree to attend his conference. More than anything, I am curious about the subculture into which he has so fully immersed himself.

When Eric and I arrive at the first hotel of our stay, I am blown away. The drive is nearly two hours past the border, down gravel, pothole-laden roads. I am certain that we will bust a tire. The se-

curity guard working the front gate speaks to us in Spanish and laughs when we answer in English. He speaks more slowly. I attempt some Spanish. He chuckles at the attempt, and says, “You are in Mexico!” before opening the gate. Our villa overlooks a pond. In the distance, hot air balloons dot the sky. I take a video of the oversized living room, dining room, kitchen, master suite, and bathroom with hot tub. I send it to my sister. She responds, “Looks like a video from Robin Leach, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.”

The first two days are quiet. There are not many attendees. Two workshops are taught, one by Giacomo Zucco, titled *Running a Bitcoin*. The cost of admittance is \$1000. The other, by Jimmy Song, is called *Programming Bitcoin*. The price tag on that class is \$4000. Mr. Song’s class is hosted in our suite’s dining room. There are only five students. The Goat has secured a spot for Eric, and my husband is pumped! Another student is a 16-year-old girl who has flown in from Houston. She is dressed all in black, and reminds me of a mini Steve Jobs. The only exception to her monochromatic look is a sleek pair of slim-fitting white Nike high tops. Another student is a young man in his mid-twenties; he wears a leather fanny back around his waist and the same dark brown cargo pants and beige button down shirt on both days. He mentions that his company, Cash App, paid for him to attend. He is excited to meet Jimmy Song. He has read all of his books. “It’s crazy to me that there are not more people here taking this class,” he says

after the first lesson. “It is such a great opportunity.”

I sit in the other room on a sofa. I am pretending to read *A Moveable Feast*, but I am listening to Jimmy. Maybe I can absorb some of what he is saying. I feel like I should feel more grateful than I do to be in the presence of someone whom everyone else finds impressive, but I am bored. Once Song mentions transaction parsing, I am lost. I Google it to gain understanding, but it is all gibberish to me. I go back to my book. Over the next seven days, I will finish four novels. I went into the week with every intention of learning more about cryptocurrency, or at the very least of having deep conversations with Bitcoiners. Instead, I feel like a visitor to some kind of experimental commune: confused and a little alarmed.

On Tuesday, the Conference moves to a sky-rise hotel in Ensenada. The interior is decorated old Hollywood-style: lots of glass and gold. All sorts of characters show up for that. There are people who have traveled from all over the world: Sweden, Brazil, Scotland, Germany, Italy, and on and on. The Old Goat organizes a dinner outside on the patio, facing the pool, to welcome guests. It is set up like a wedding reception: white tablecloths and delicate gold chairs. The Goat Lady is wearing a gown. She spins in a circle and the fabric dances around her. The conference participants are buzzing with excitement. I overhear a man at the table behind me whisper, “Oh, my god, that is Knut Svanholm. He wrote, *Bitcoin: Sovereignty through Mathematics*. Just as excitedly, he adds, “There is

Tone Vays! I follow him on Twitter.” As I look around, I note that the tables are mostly filled with men. Out of around 40 people, I count 5 women.

The next morning, the panels start in a large conference room adjacent to the pool. Subjects include: *Will Bitcoin become the World Reserve Currency?*, *What is Competition in Currencies?*, *Covid Orange Pill*, *Thank God for Bitcoin*, *Beyond Bitcoin*, and *The Future of Self: Sovereignty in the Digital Age*. This is not a conference for Bitcoin newbies. I bring a notebook to jot down interesting ideas, but instead, I find myself writing down some of the more outlandish quotes I hear uttered. During a break between panels, a man with owlish spectacles says, “When you think about the greatest human inventions, we have fire and Bitcoin, and hopefully one day, teleportation.” Another guy says, “Asking someone to explain Bitcoin is like asking, ‘What is gravity?’ I mean, I can give you a basic definition, but it’s so much deeper, so much more complex!”

In the end, I find myself skipping out on most of the panels. It is largely over my head. Besides, I have heard these ideas and arguments countless times in my own living room, exchanged and hashed out between father and son.

I don’t think I was alone in my boredom. During the first day of the conference, The Goat, who was moderating a panel, fell asleep onstage — head down, chin resting upon his chest and droplets of drool falling from his mouth. Hours before that, he had addressed the room from the brightly lit

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TONE VAYS / TWITTER

I overhear a man at the table behind me whisper, “Oh, my God, that is Knut Svanholm. He wrote, “Bitcoin: Sovereignty through Mathematics.” Just as excitedly, he adds, “There is Tone Vays! I follow him on Twitter.”

stage after he and Maria had walked down a red carpet reminiscent of the Oscars. Maria was wearing a beautiful gown. Behind them, projected on a large screen, was a photo of the two of them sitting on a leather sofa on what appears to be an imitation of a late night TV show studio, complete with cityscape background. In it, they were holding hands and looking into each other’s eyes. Maria’s long blond extensions reached below her waist. She wore

a summery floral dress and The Goat wore jeans and a white button-down with a bandana around his neck. It felt like a *Saturday Night Live* skit. “This is my beautiful wife,” he said to the small crowd of around 30 people. I got the sense that he wanted her to be eye candy. While it is true that she is beautiful, it still felt gross. She is the same age as me, nearly 30 years younger than he is. It did not help that the VIP lanyard I was given to wear at the confer-

ence all week read “Mrs. Eric Jones” instead of my name. When I pointed it out to the woman working the swag table, she said, “Maybe The Ugly Old Goat did not know your name?”

Over breakfast the next day, Knut, a panelist from Sweden, asks how I am faring. “It’s not exactly a conference for lay people,” I answer. “I tried to absorb what was being said, but my grasp of economics is minimal.” He nods. “At the very least,” he says, “you would need

to understand the basics of the Austrian School of Economics to follow.” With that I focus on my *huevos rancheros*. Knut gets started talking about Carl Menger. Eric, who is sitting next to me, nods happily. He is loving every second of the conference. Alone in our hotel room, I Google “Austrian School of Economics” so that I don’t appear to be a complete idiot the next time I talk to Knut. But it’s no use.

The rest of the week feels much like summer camp. Bitcoiners gather each morning in the hotel restaurant for the buffet-style breakfast. They pull up chairs to sit next to one another. They have deep conversations and inside jokes. Connections are strong and bonds are forming. Eric is in heaven. I feel like an interloper. By the time the conference is

moved to its final destination at the Horsepower Ranch, I have moved on to my fourth book. I find a spot outside on a wooden bench in the shade. Mountains loom in the distance. Jimmy Song’s tribe of children can be seen chasing after the ranch’s cattle dogs. I start to feel like a piece of furniture, as if I am melding into the scenery at the ranch. I become a fixture in every room I occupy, one of the leather chairs, the wallpaper, a crack in the wall. I feel insignificant. While I am sitting near the pool late in the afternoon, Jimmy Song approaches and comments on my book, *Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything*, by Joshua Foer “That’s a great one,” he says.

“You’ve read it?” I respond, looking up from

my book, desperate to talk about something other than Bitcoin. He has already walked away.

From my reading bench, I often hear Eric inside the lodge, laughing that machine gun laugh of his. Since the conference started five days ago, we have barely had a conversation. In the evening, he attends the parties his dad throws. I attend those same parties for a few minutes, and then go back to my room, usually to Google things like “the blockchain” or “shitcoins,” so I have something to talk about with these people.

On Friday, two nights before the conference wraps up, The Goat hires a cover band to perform classic rock songs. During a set break, the Bitcoiners take over their instruments. An Italian Bitcoiner acts as lead singer, the Bitcoin Mechanic takes

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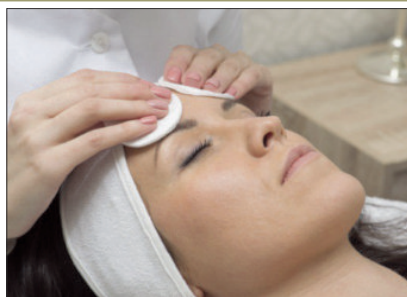
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over on bass, another guy sits at the drums, someone else takes keyboard, and Knut plays guitar. He moves around like an '80s rocker. The crowd goes crazy, and a bystander proudly shouts, "There is nothing Bitcoiners cannot do!" Surprisingly, they are better than the hired band. They stop performing only out of courtesy to the other musicians. When the band covers The Beatles, The Old Goat skips around the dance floor, swaying his body and flailing his arms. A guy leans over and asks Eric, "Is your dad on acid?" The machine gun laugh fires in response. Mid dance, The Goat begins convulsing and falls to the ground. The Bitcoiners circle him in a panic, whereupon he leaps to his feet and laughs, "I got you guys, I'm not that old. I just pulled a James Brown on your asses!"

When the band leaves, A karaoke machine is rolled out. The Bitcoiners begin belting out Linkin Park songs; someone drunkenly sings "Gin and Juice." I take that as my long-overdue cue to head to my room. Eric does not make it back until around 1 am. "They are playing poker, and I can't keep up with those high rollers," he says before rolling over and falling blissfully asleep.

By the time Sunday rolls around and it is time to head back home, I have come to a fuller understanding of my complicated relationship with Bitcoin. It took my journey to Mexico and a full week with these fanatics to reach it. Here is the thing: I don't trust it. I see it as play money. I view it as gambling, and Vegas is my least favorite place on earth to visit. Everything is too flashy, the people are sad, and it stinks of cigarettes. I come from a blue collar family. I am not impressed by wealth unless it comes from hard work.

I don't think Bitcoin will replace traditional banking. I don't see the public conforming to cryptocurrency anytime soon. But in my family, saying that out loud is blasphemy. If I hint at it, I can expect an hour-long lecture. On top of this, while I am so proud of my father-in-law and the life he has managed to carve out for himself, I am certain that Bitcoin will bankrupt my father-in-law. He spends money like water, and he is too generous. He has been known to give Bitcoin away at will to friends, family, acquaintances, and even his wife's plastic surgeon, as a tip for a job well done. Because of this, it is hard for me to take Bitcoin seriously.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 9

tinely topped 2000 square feet, this home, in what has always been a solidly upper-middle-class neighborhood, clocks in at just 1275 square feet of living space — at least in the main house. But that's still plenty of room for a nice living area, where a custom stone mantle frames the fireplace (reportedly re-lined by a professional restoration firm). Cofered-beam ceilings with their original wood add a touch of class, and a long swooping archway defines the set-aside for the dining room. The built-in wood-enclosed glass-door China cabinet is a feature we're unlikely to see in a modern home; ditto the window bench at the end of the room.

The kitchen is utilitarian, though it seems the original-looking cabinets (maybe not, as the listing says they've been custom-designed) have

been equipped with a new solid countertop and farmhouse-style sink. Of course, the requisite chef-quality appliances have been added for the "seamless blend of old and new" that the listing promises will "offer the best of modern living while retaining handcrafted vintage character."

The main bedroom isn't huge, but it does have a nicely upgraded bath. And the second bath, while seeming a bit dated, does come with a handsome vintage two-tone clawfoot tub. Upstairs, we get to see the finished loft area. It's unclear whether this is included in the original square footage, as it's described as "bonus" space, but it could make for a cozy office or, given the low ceilings due to the slant of the roof, a kids' bedroom. Those same low ceilings, however, seem a little off-putting in the context of the extra half-bath that's been wedged in up here. Still, it's a bonus.

Outside, you can "relax



Even the outdoor spaces are cozy.

and entertain in the magical backyard with outdoor fireplace, barbecue, dining patio, sparkling blue saltwater pool with fountain and spa." The garage has been converted into a "pool house" that looks like it's being used right now as a home gym.

While the home retains a lot of its original look both inside and out (and is thus eligible for Mills Act designation and the attendant property tax breaks that come with it), there's still a lot of modern technology. Aside from the remodeled kitchen and bath, the home has a solar array, whole-house sound system

with speakers both inside and out, newer plumbing and electrical, and an upgraded HVAC system.

Public records list the owner of the 29th Street Craftsman as Kimberly and Joseph Grant, who purchased it in 1997 for a reported \$147,000 and have presumably performed most of the upgrades and restoration to the home since then. It's only been offered for sale once in the last two decades: a \$154,000 listing in 2002 drew no takers.

This week's South Park bungalow was first listed for sale in late September; its asking price of \$1,595,000 remains unchanged to date. ■

Returning, then, to that car ride back to the border with Trey, Jill, and Daisy. To Trey, doing his best to both explain Bitcoin and convert me to its cause. I am charmed by his poetic and whimsi-

cal descriptions of an otherwise mundane subject, but I don't waiver in my fundamental indifference.

Finally, he asks with a sigh, "Do you have Bitcoin?" "Just one," I say.

He lifts an eyebrow in surprise, "One...as in a full Bitcoin?"

"It was a gift," I shrug.

He lets out another sigh, heavier than the first. "In a couple of years, you will be a millionaire. Do you get that?!"

I shrug, because I don't believe it.

He shakes his head in disgust, conveying the judgment that I will be the least deserving millionaire in the world.

He is right.

—Shirley Jones

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

and had confidential medical records that were accessible to unauthorized individuals,"

Keeping prison clinics microbe-free was also cited as a challenge. "The staff restroom and medication room in administrative segregation, Housing Unit 6, were not being properly cleaned," says the report.

"The staff reported the Prison Industry Authority Healthcare Facilities Maintenance program cleaned the area as a courtesy once per week. However, there had been no additional cleaning beyond that done for the courtesy visit. As a result, we noted that the medication room floor and staff restroom vents were in an unsanitary state with

accumulated grime."

Other negative maintenance findings called out during visual inspection by the audit team included Water Damage on Medical Warehouse Ceiling, Dirty Vents in Staff Restroom, Unsanitary Medication Cart Drawer, Medication Cart Drawer Containing Soiled Gloves, Medications Stored on Floor, and Food Items Stored with Medical Supplies.

In a June 24 response attached to the report, Terra Adams of California Correctional Health Care Services wrote that her agency "acknowledges" the inspector general's findings. "Your efforts have advanced our mutual objectives of ensuring transparency and accountability in CCHCS operations."

Matt Potter



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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



P.O.D.

Thursday | 7

P.O.D.

P.O.D. kicked off their career with a relatively unknown Christian label, Rescue Records, and released two albums between 1994 and 1997.

Their mainstream debut full-length, 1990's *The Fundamental Elements of Southtown*, spawned the hits

"Southtown" and "Rock the Party (Off the Hook)." A follow-up studio album, *Satellite*, included "Alive," a rock radio hit that became MTV's number-one-played video of the year. Playing alongside will be All Good Things, From Ashes to New, and Sleep Signals.

WHEN: Thursday, October 7, 7:30 pm

WHERE: House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. houseofblues.com

Friday | 8

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Peruse indoor art and crafts booths to find jewelry, ceramics, seasonal décor, kids clothing, photography, oils, sculptures, woodworks, Halloween accessories, blown glass, and ornaments. The Fargo Brothers will perform.

WHEN: Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, October 10, 10 am to 4 pm

WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar.

harvestfestival.com/del-mar

Saturday | 9

LA JOLLA ART & WINE

Over 160 artists will show their paintings, sculptures, jewelry designs, fine



glass, ceramics, woodwork, mixed media, and photography. The wine and beer garden will host over 40 international wineries, local craft breweries, and distilleries. Check out the hands-on Geppetto's Family Art Center, the two-day silent auction, multiple pet adoption stations, and a lineup of live entertainment and music.

WHEN: Saturday, October 9, and Sunday, October 10, 10 am to 6 pm

WHERE: La Jolla Village Square, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla. ljawf.com

Sunday | 10

DROPKICK MURPHYS AND RANCID

Celtic punk rockers Dropkick Murphys are celebrating a quarter-century together by releasing their first studio album in four years, *Turn Up That*



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8: THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Dial. Meanwhile, Berkeley, California's Rancid is preparing to drop its tenth studio album early next year. Also playing will be The Bronx, previously known as Mariachi El Bronx, an LA

Monday | 11

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

Dr. Alcee Chriss, an organist and keyboardist from Fort Worth, TX, will play a concert featuring works by Wagner, Bach, Rachmaninoff, and Schumann. Admission is free of charge and outside food and drinks are welcome. The finale for the Organ Festival will be an October 30th Halloween silent movie night with organist Mark Herman. Herman was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive this honor. The movie is yet to be announced.

WHEN: Monday, October 11, 7:30 pm.

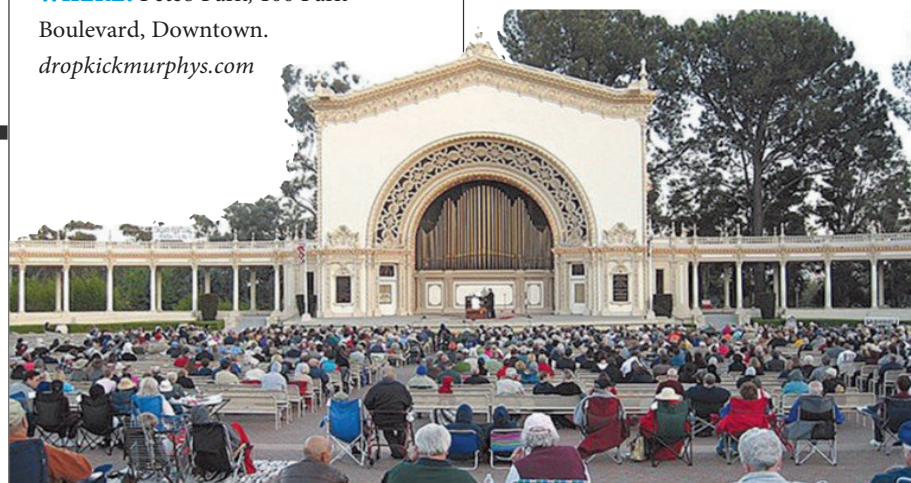
Through Saturday, October 30. **WHERE:** Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park. spreckelsorgan.org



punk group touring in support of their sixth full-length, *Bronx VI*.

WHEN: Friday, October 1, 9 pm

WHERE: Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard, Downtown. dropkickmurphys.com



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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Animal Care Camp Kids get unique hands-on activities from our professional animal care staff to give campers experiences with the different aspects of animal husbandry. Spots are extremely limited, so register today! Saturday, October 9, 9am; \$200. 9 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Paws and Pages Struggling readers can improve their fluency skills by reading to animals! So grab your favorite book and get ready to read to and interact with a reptile. An animal interaction is included in the program, but the primary focus is on reading. Make sure to bring your own book from home! Wednesday, October 13, 5pm; \$10. 6 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

An Obsession: New Works by Mary Jhun Mary Jhun was born in Cavite, Philippines in 1989 and moved to the States in the mid-'90s. Her struggle with English and making friends as a kid was what pushed her need to draw when she was in elementary school. Saturday, October 9, 5pm; **free**. Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline Street #104. (LA JOLLA)

Art Glass Guild Fall Show & Sale The Art Glass Guild will be hosting their Fall Patio Show and Sale. Saturday, October 9, 10am; Sunday, October 10, 10am; **free**. Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Escondido Art Association Artists' Reception The public is invited to the monthly Escondido Art Association artists' reception.

OUTDOORS

Dense ground fog – not the summer marine layer

Dense Ground Fogs are a trademark of the onset of autumn along San Diego's coastal strip. Fog materializes during the night and early morning hours when moist marine air that has settled in valleys and low areas is chilled below the dew point. These ground fogs are distinct from the low overcast ("marine layer") that usually blankets the coastal zone on late spring and summer mornings.

Spider Webs, decorated with myriads of tiny dew droplets, are a beautiful sight on foggy autumn mornings. Look out for Orb Weaver webs in San Diego's wild canyons, park areas, or in your own backyard. The spiders are fully grown and in abundance in the fall, and weave large, circular webs that can span several feet. These large spiders look scary but are harmless.

October's Highest Tides, will occur the morning hours of the 7th, 8th and 9th, peaking at 6'7" on the 8th. Low-lying coastal areas might experience some flooding.



COBWEB COVERED IN DEW DURING HEAVY FOG.

Meet the artists, and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All artwork in the gallery will be ten percent off. Saturday, October 9, 4pm; **free**. Artists Gallery, 121 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Open Studios Tour The Julian Open Studios Tour is a great way to spend the day in the mountains surrounded by art. Bring a carload of friends, view and shop artwork, and, if you like, enjoy lunch among

the oaks and pines. Included for the first time is a writer's workshop where bestselling true-crime author Cathy Scott lives and works. Saturday, October 9, 10am; \$10. Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street. (JULIAN)

The Harvest Festival Find jewelry, ceramics, seasonal décor, kids clothing, photography, oils, sculptures, woodworks, Halloween accessories, blown glass, orna-

ments, and other original works, make shopping an adventure of discovery. Friday, October 8, 10am; Saturday, October 9, 10am; Sunday, October 10, 10am; \$2-\$9. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Author of the Month: J. Michael Niotta Join Author of the Month J. Michael Niotta for a discussion and signing of his book, *The Fight Abroad & the Fear Back Home: Italians of the California Coast During WWII*. While Italian Americans served bravely in WWII, their immigrant relatives and loved ones stateside endured awful treatment back home. Executive Order 9066 not only incarcerated Japanese Americans into concentration camps, it also classified some immigrant Italians as enemy aliens subject to property seizure, curfews and travel restrictions. Saturday, October 9, 2pm; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Weekends With Locals: Henry Herz As part of our ongoing Weekends with Locals Program we will be hosting Henry Herz, author of *I Am Smoke*. Sunday, October 10, 12pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Weekends With Locals: William Lanouette As part of our ongoing Weekends with Locals Program we will be hosting William Lanouette, author of *The Triumph of the Amateurs: The Rise, Ruin, and Banishment of Professional Rowing in the Gilded Age*. Sunday, October 10, 2pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Intro to Electronics Put electric circuits to use as you build a light-sensitive nightlight, sound-effects board or pocket flashlight. You will learn how to interpret circuit drawings and how to use capacitors and transistors in fun projects. Monday, October 11, 4pm; **free**. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

SnakeSmart Many people have ophidiophobia or a fear of snakes for a variety of reasons, which is why we're offering SnakeSmart workshop to help you overcome your fear of snakes. The snakes and other reptiles that are involved in this program are not venomous, and you can choose whatever level of interaction you're comfortable with! Ages 5 and up. If you have any questions, please contact us at 858-756-4117 ext. 318 or education@animalcenter.org. Sunday, October 10, 1:30pm; \$30. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Space Out The lure of space exploration offers a powerful way to ignite students' interest in science, technology and engineering. This class guides students on a tour of our solar system and beyond, and then lets them plan their own mission to a distant destination. Saturday, October 9, 1pm; **free**. Linda Vista Library, 2160 Ulric Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Tuesday, October 12, 4pm; **free**. University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)



FORT ROSECRANS CEMETARY WITH FOG ROLLING IN.

The New Moon is on Wednesday, October 6 and will be only 9% visible by the week's end. The sunrise and sunset continue to get closer together until Daylight Savings Time, which is on November 7 this year. The sun rises at 6:47 am today (Oct 7) and sets at 6:24 pm. The daylength will be under 11 hours by the end of the month.

Now that it's October, Deneb has replaced Vega as the zenith star of early dark evening (for skywatchers at mid-northern latitudes). Accordingly, Capricornus has replaced Sagittarius as the zodiacal constellation low in the south. This year, of course, Capricornus is overwhelmed by its two bright temporary residents: Jupiter and Saturn. The Great Square of Pegasus balances on its corner high in the east through much of the evening. Away from the Great Square's left corner extends the main line of Andromeda, three 2nd-magnitude stars about as bright as those of the Square and spaced similarly far apart. (The three include the Square's corner.) Spot Venus low in the southwest as early in twilight as you can. Then look lower right of it by some 12° (about a fist at arm's length) for the thin crescent Moon. Binoculars help.

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

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COMEDY

Gaslamp Comedy Open Mic & Happy Hour Tuesday, October 12, 7:30pm; **free**. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Joe (Mr. D) Dombrowski As seen and heard on Good Morning America, the Ellen DeGeneres Show, Pickler & Ben, and BuzzFeed. Thursday, October 7, 8pm; Friday, October 8, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, October 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Harvest Hafala Belly Dance Showcase Enjoy a beautiful Middle Eastern Belly Dance Showcase featuring group and solo performances by members of the Arabina Dance Company, Salimpour Collective San Diego, Lucia & Sands of Arabia and the Qabila Folkdance Company. Donations accepted at the door. Saturday, October 9, 1:30pm; **free**. City Heights Per-

formance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Pa'ina San Diego and Bo Napoleon The Rahiti Nui dancers will be performing and vendors will be on hand. Sunday, October 10, 2pm; \$15-\$20. Pacific Islander Beer Company, 8665 Argent St., Suite B. (SANTEE)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

SDGS 75th Anniversary Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the San Diego Genealogical Society on Zoom. You will need to be a member in good standing at the time of this event. Saturday, October 9, 10am; casdgs.org. (ONLINE)

Treganza Extravaganza Double-Header The Lemon Grove Historical Society continues its History Alive series as part of the celebration and dedication of Treganza Heritage Park, the cultural landscape newly named for the pioneer Treganza family, which influenced every aspect of local life and established enduring institutions like the historical society. Friday, October 8, 7pm; **free**. 18 and

up. H. Lee House Cultural Center, 3205 Olive Street. (LEMON GROVE)

FUNDRAISERS

Big Kahuna Beachfest The San Diego Big Kahuna Beachfest and Fundraiser is a sports and costume fundraiser for keeping San Diego beaches well-maintained and beautiful. Saturday, October 9, 7am; 18 and up. South Mission Beach Sports Park, 1 North Jetty. (MISSION BEACH)

HALLOWEEN

Fallbrook Scarecrow Days Businesses and residential areas will be displaying scarecrows of all genres. Main Street is adorned by pumpkin head scarecrows. Scarecrows can be seen marching along South Mission Road. On Saturdays, Kids Corner will be at The Farmers Market from 9:30 -1:30. Kids can create a scarecrow craft, write a letter and mail to Mr. & Mrs. Scarecrow and will receive a letter back with a surprise. Saturdays, 8am; Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, October 31, Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce, 111 South Main Street. (FALLBROOK)

LECTURES

Blue Whales in the Northeast Pacific Feeding ecology, migratory patterns, and physiology of blue whales in the northeast Pacific: The American Cetacean Society presents their monthly speaker series event via Zoom. The October speaker will be Geraldine Busquets-Vass. Wednesday, October 13, 7pm; **free**. acssandiego.org/upcoming-speaker.php. (ONLINE)

Scripps Research Front Row Lecture Scripps Research neuroscientist and associate professor Supriya Srinivasan, PhD, leads a team that uses state-of-the-art molecular and genetic tools to investigate how our genes, gut-brain communication and other factors are implicated in metabolism and longevity, and how disease can develop when our internal balance goes awry. Wednesday, October 13, 1pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3mn2icQ>. (ONLINE)

NATURE

California Native Plant Festival The California Native Plant Society-San Diego Chapter's first annual California Native Plant Festival will feature a variety of native plant-themed activities for both kids and adults, including speakers, artists, vendors, exhibitors, and live music. Saturday, October 9, 9am; **free**. Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Fall Festival of Gems At this family-friendly swap, discover gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry treasures, and more. Visit vendors featuring everything from rough stone to finished jewelry. Food will not be offered. All CDC and government guidelines followed. Sunday, October 10, 9am; Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum, 123 West Alvarado Street. (FALLBROOK)

SPECIAL EVENTS

San Diego Stamp Show Professional stamp dealers will be on hand to evaluate and appraise stamp collections and may offer to buy your collections for cash on the spot. Friday, October 8, 10am; Saturday, October 9, 10am; Sunday, October 10, 10am; **free**. San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. (LA JOLLA)

SPOKEN WORD

Storytelling Things that go bump in the night. Storytellers of San Diego are there spinning Spooky Tales to Tell in the Dark. Ages 12 and up. Hosted by David Schmidt in support of Eclipse Chocolate Bar and Bistro. Thursday, October 7, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. storytellersofsandiego.org/. (ONLINE)

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FALLBROOK SCARECROW DAYS

~ OCT 1-31, 2021 ~

Scarecrows have arrived for the 10th year!

- * NEW - Wizard of OZ & Ring Around the Rosy Displays
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HAPPY HOUR

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

BAY PARK

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

CARLSBAD

20Twenty at Westin Carlsbad: *Tuesday-Friday*, 4:30-6:00pm: \$2 off wells, signature cocktails, and wines by the glass. \$10 off cheese and charcuterie.

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, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap, vodka soda, select wine by the glass, \$7 skinny margarita, select signature cocktails.

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

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY MATTHEW FLYNN

Original 40 brews up something special with a local favorite

The past year hasn't been easy for San Diego beer-bar lovers, who have seen local watering holes such as **Toronado**, **Small Bar**, and **Hamilton's** close their doors for good. Happily, relative newcomer **Original 40 Brewing** in North Park, has survived — and is thriving, thanks to the expertise and Prodigal Son-style return of local brewer Cosimo Sorrentino.

After an award-winning stint at both **Monkey Paw** and **South Park Brewing**, Sorrentino sought to expand his horizons, ultimately ending up in Copenhagen. There, he collaborated with a fellow expat, chef Matt Orlando, on his **Broaden & Build** project. He explains, "I wanted to go somewhere with a younger beer scene where I

could introduce new flavors to other brewers and consumers, as well as collaborate with a new set of influences to increase my knowledge. San Diego had over 150 breweries, so I was not

local and regional access to some of his favorite ingredients, such as White Labs California Ale Yeast, which he has used since his days of home brewing. The yeast boasts a versatility that allows

with the quality and consistency. The grain shines through in more subtle beers like our Baja Soul Mexican Lager, but we have also experimented with some of their more unique grains like we did in our Mendel Red which uses Triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye, as a base malt, providing a body and flavor profile I had never experienced before."

Looking ahead, Original 40 will soon release the sour Blackberry Blueberry Lemonade Stand, along with fresh batches of Glowing Sunset and Juice Maze (a double dry-hopped hazy). Also coming up is a collaboration with Bill Batten of **TapRoom** for a World Beer Cup Gold Medal recipe of Ashes from the Grave (an

American brown ale with smoked malts, maple, and hazelnut, which old Monkey Paw patrons will remember), and a San Diego Pale Ale collaboration with Ensenada brewery called **Hola, San Diego**.

Original 40 will also have multiple variations of its Imperial Stout Base (including cans of Mexican hot chocolate coconut vanilla flavors) ready for San Diego Beer Week in early November.

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



Original 40's colorful lineup



Brewer Cosimo Sorrentino tests his latest concoction

worried about leaving a void in the market. I had not even considered Europe until I spoke with Matt Orlando and was offered the opportunity."

After returning to San Diego, Sorrentino was offered the brewing spot at Original 40 after Chris Gillogly left to join the team at **Newtopia Cyder**. Sorrentino's skill and reputation earned him the trust of owners Steve and Patricia Billings (who also run **U31** in north Park), and he has the freedom to experiment. As a result, about half of his brews are one-off specials. And now that he's back on his home turf, Sorrentino has

it to be used in Original 40 brews ranging from IPAs to clear ales and sours. On the hops side, most of the beers feature the usual suspects: Simcoe, Citra, Mosaic, and Eukanot. However, more recently, Strata hops have been added to the brewpub's Glowing Sunsets West Coast IPA to provide an additional dankness alongside the citrus and berry notes.

Original 40's most notable relationship is with its malt provider, Washington's Skagit Valley Malting. Sorrentino expounds, "We use them nearly exclusively and have been very pleased

with the quality and consistency. The grain shines through in more subtle beers like our Baja Soul Mexican Lager, but we have also experimented with some of their more unique grains like we did in our Mendel Red which uses Triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye, as a base malt, providing a body and flavor profile I had never experienced before."

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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.

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.

KENSINGTON

Kensington Brewing Company: *Wednesday-Thursday*, \$1 off pints from 4-6pm *Friday*, \$1 off pints 3-6pm

LA MESA

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

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

LITTLE ITALY

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

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

MISSION HILLS

Cardellino: *Wednesday-Sunday*, 3-6pm: Drink specials and discounts on small bites and pizzas.

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

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.

OCEANSIDE

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

OLD TOWN

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

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

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

PACIFIC BEACH

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

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

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

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 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.

SAN MARCOS

Churchill's Pub and Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells. *Sunday*, All day: \$1 off appetizers, drafts, wells.

SOLANA BEACH

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

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.

Rare Society: *Wednesday-Sunday*, 5-6pm: \$5 drafts, \$8 select wines and select cocktails. \$16 half-dozen oysters, \$32 one dozen oysters, other food specials.

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KOA OK!

Who knew this world-within-a-world was here, right where the Sweetwater River actually looks sweet and clean and countrified?

The green islands break up the windblown sheets of water. It looks like an archipelago seen from a plane.

But we're only on a bridge, 15 feet above the Sweetwater River.

That's just the start of the whole unreal thing here. You cross the Sweetwater like you cross the Rubicon. On the northern side, cityscape, on the southern side, dragons, lakes, trees, and hey hey: for the next ten minutes, anyway, food. Because this is a kind of fantasy land you stay at — in your tent, a cabin, or your RV. Games, pool, nature, the whole nine yards. It's ten minutes to one. I pass the sign just across the bridge. "San Diego KOA Resort." Turns out KOA stands for Campgrounds Of America.

Gal at the office says I might still be in time. "The 'Sand Castle.'" A couple of minutes along the road," she says. I head right down. Only things I have to worry about are people in F-350s towing their massive caravans back out to The World, or yellow T-shirted staff bouncing along in yellow, leaf-loaded golf carts, or kids on bikes heading for the pool. It's green, clean, and above all, quiet.



KOA's front door: beneath the concrete, a verdant world flows

"If you're quick," says the woman behind the little window, Jana. I'm standing at one end of this collection of tree-lined tables and a driftwood palapa. I walk in under aqua, yellow, orange umbrellas. All I can hear are the shouts and laughter of kids in the pool on the other side of a big green hedge. Gotta check the menu quick. As usual, didn't have time for breakfast, and it turns out brekky stops at 11 am. This being winter hours, we're down to lunch, and just until one. Lessee. Oh, I should go with my first instincts here, because for \$5, they have two battered and fried fish tacos. That would take care of business. But natch, wandering eye, and I'm seeing sandwiches from \$12-\$14; burgers, \$13-\$15; salads, \$11-\$14; fish and chips, \$13; and oh, another deal: hot dog and French fries, \$7.

"Our pulled pork sandwich is especially

good," says Jana. "We cook it and pull it ourselves." Menu says "Pulled pork, Carolina BBQ sauce, topped with coleslaw and served with fries, \$13." I'm almost tempted by the bacon and blue cheese burger for \$15, or the "grilled cheese [sandwich] for adults," with

bacon or ham, plus American and provolone, \$12. But an awful lot of carbs there, plus Jana's waiting, and I can see she's trying not to yell "Make up your freakin' mind! I've got dishes to wash, money to count!" Actually, what she says is, "Our pizzas are pretty popular. We get fresh pizza dough from a local pizzeria, we hand-stretch each pizza, we make our own pizza sauce." Dang. Wish I loved pizzas better. They cost from \$11 for a cheese 10-inch to \$26 for their 16-inch signature "Boss Hog," loaded with bacon, pulled pork, cilantro, Carolina bbq sauce, and onions.

Jana says she loves it here. "I was a cake



Jana

we then pull it the next day," says Jana, "and then when someone orders the sandwich, we add the Carolina bbq sauce and reheat them together. So the sandwich has that Carolina vinegari-ness, but there's also our home-made cole slaw dressing. It is very sweet, so they mix well together." The salad is nice and fresh. It has bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes, and black olives today. And croutons. I'm wondering: will this place



Good honest salad. Main thing: it's fresh



Entrance to Café

be dead, once fall sets in? "No way," Jana says. "We're sold out on the weekends pretty much until the first of the year. It's our Fall Fest, every Saturday in October. Kids love it! Pumpkin carving, the whole nine yards. We're packed." Turns out they're open year-round. "Business is very good. Even better since covid, actually. Because when there was nothing else you could do during lockdown, people would come here."

She leaves me to chomp into my pulled pork sandwich and marinated fries and slaw. She's right about those two sauces mixing. It's luscious.

I sip on my nutty Campfire Amber. Who knew this world-within-a-world was here, right where the Sweetwater river actually looks sweet and clean and countrified? Guess all I need now is a tent, and someone to share it with.

Actually, all I need right now is a 20-minute siesta. That Amber was great, but it makes sleep feel like the only option. Next time, I'm gonna come early and have that Big Hot Mess breakfast (\$10), a scramble of eggs, potato, bell peppers, onions.

And definitely down it with a regular coffee. ■

The Place: Sand Castle Cafe, at SD KOA (Campgrounds Of America), 111 N. 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, 619 427-3601 ext. 1107

Hours: 8am-1pm Monday to Wednesday; till 7pm Fridays; till 5pm Saturdays; Sundays, breakfast only, 8-11am
Prices: Two fish tacos, \$5; hot dog and French fries, \$7; pulled pork sandwich with fries and cole slaw, \$13; Boss Hog Port Side pizza, with bacon and pulled pork, 10-inch, \$15, 16-inch, \$26; western burger with onion rings, bbq sauce, bacon, fries, \$15; fish and chips (3 pieces), \$13; carne asada fries, \$14; KOA BLT, \$12; garden salad with crispy chicken, \$14; grilled cheese for adults (sandwich with bacon or ham), \$12

Bus: 961

Nearest bus stops: Sweetwater Road & North 2nd Street, or at 30th and L

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Real talk? Real good

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

The Empanada Spot stars in Chula Vista

The Empanada Spot; 1223 3rd Ave C-1, Chula Vista. The *Michelin Guide* has cast its latest cursory glance at our city, and a handful of quite good restaurants across town are now basking in attentions bestowed by a car tire manufacturer. I know it's meant to be a big deal, and I'm truly glad more local establishments have been deemed worthy, but Michelin's cartoon tire-man mascot literally appears on the book's cover. I'd expect people to be skeptical if, say, the Pillsbury Doughboy came to town to tell us which craft breweries to admire.



Castilla de puerco — a filling of pork rib meat and roasted poblano pepper.

Anyhow, while reservations become harder to come by at newly starred (and “bib gourmand”-ed) restaurants, I'm going to steer you in a different direction. To Chula Vista, and to a small, generically named counter shop just getting started in a nondescript strip mall, one too far south on Third Avenue to be part of downtown Chula Vista's resurgence.

The Empanada Spot pretty much just does the one thing: empanadas. It's not the only local business to go this route, and frankly, empanada-making cultures aren't the only ones to make

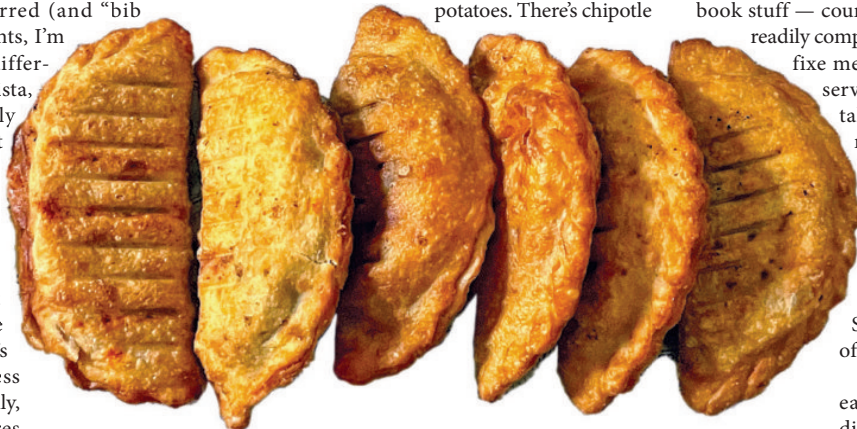
the whole savory hand pie concept work. Samosas, pierogis, Cornish pasties, calzones, knishes, and any number of dumpling traditions have long proven that folding meat, cheese, and/or vegetables into a pocket of cooked dough is a relatively easy way to please just about everybody. How complicated can it be if Hot Pockets can accomplish the same thing with a cardboard sleeve and a microwave?

But even the Pillsbury Doughboy could tell you that not all turnovers are made the same. And this humble shop makes the best empanadas I've tasted in San Diego.

It caught me off guard how good they were. I pulled into Empanada Spot's parking lot with something of a “let's get this over with” attitude. My expectation was to gorge on all the empanadas I could eat, call it a perk of the job, then write a few hundred words — maybe about a convenient, new cheap eats option for denizens of the South Bay. Or, if it proved too mediocre for that, cut my losses, write nothing, and pretend I never heard of the place.

Hey, kind of like the *Michelin Guide* used to do with San Diego! But the folks behind Empanada Spot didn't open during a pandemic behind mediocre. Their success starts with a perfect, fried pie crust: flaky, light, and crispy at the edges, yet moist and chewy where it meets the filling.

Priced at \$3.25 apiece, empanada options start with “the OG,” which offers a somewhat traditional picadillo filling of beef, olives, and potatoes. There's chipotle



A collection of braided, near-perfect empanadas from upstart The Empanada Spot.



Don't underestimate this obscure counter shop in Chula Vista.

chicken, a pizza-inspired pepperoni with marinara, shrimp and cheese, bean and cheese, chicharrons, and the vegetarian *rajas*, which adds sauteed onions and corn to cheese and roasted chilis.

It's tough to go wrong ordering them all — especially with a pair of outstanding salsas to spice them up. But if you want to make sure you go right, make sure to include the *costilla de puerco*: pork rib and roasted poblano chili. I could spend 40 bucks on a dozen of those, skip the dessert, and be just fine.

That said, a peanut butter and jelly empanada proved to me that dessert empanadas also do the trick. You can get one with nutella alone, or paired with bananas or peanut butter, along with options dubbed apple pie, strawberries and cream, or churro cheesecake.

Real talk? Some might not consider this guidebook stuff — counter service empanadas don't readily compare to exquisite sushi or a prix fixe menu brought to your table by servers who can regale you with tales of elevated cooking techniques and desirable ingredients. And in California at least, Michelin doesn't seem interested in recommending anything as pedestrian as empanadas to high-falutin tourists who would gaze upon San Diego only through the lens of its guide.

But for those of us living and eating here, who enjoy a little diversity and a little value, and don't require our street food to

be pedigreed, The Empanada Spot makes an excellent new addition to the local restaurant landscape.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Friday Feels Friday Feels presents live tunes, food, and drinks every Friday night. Fridays, 6pm; through Friday, October 29, Village at Pacific Highlands Ranch, 13490 Pacific Highlands Ranch Parkway. (CARMEL VALLEY)

La Jolla Art & Wine Festival Over 160 artists from across the U.S. and Mexico will feature their creations in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, jewelry design, fine glass, ceramics, woodwork, mixed media, and photography. The wine and beer garden is host to over 40 international wineries, local craft breweries, and renowned distilleries. Other festival highlights include the hands-on Geppetto's Family Art Center, a two-day silent auction, multiple pet adoption stations, and an all-star lineup of live entertainment and music. Saturday, October 9, 10am; Sunday, October 10, 10am; free. La Jolla Village Square, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Wine & Charcuterie Pairing Indulge in a Wine and Charcuterie pairing special. Sip select glasses of wine start at \$10 and indulge in the chef-curated cheese and charcuterie boards for \$15. Each charcuterie board will come with either one meat and one cheese or two types of meat and two kinds of cheese. The revolving menu changes weekly. Wednesdays, 4:30pm; through Wednesday, November 3, \$10-\$25. 21 and up. 20|Twenty at Westin Carlsbad, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Wine Tasting & Live Music Weekends Enjoy estate-grown wines, hayride tours of our groves and vineyards, family fun, yard games, and live music all day. Food and Charcuterie Boards available for purchase, but outside picnics are also welcome. Shade and outdoor seating are provided, or BYO blanket or chairs. Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, November 7, free. Rancho Guejito Vineyard, 17224 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)



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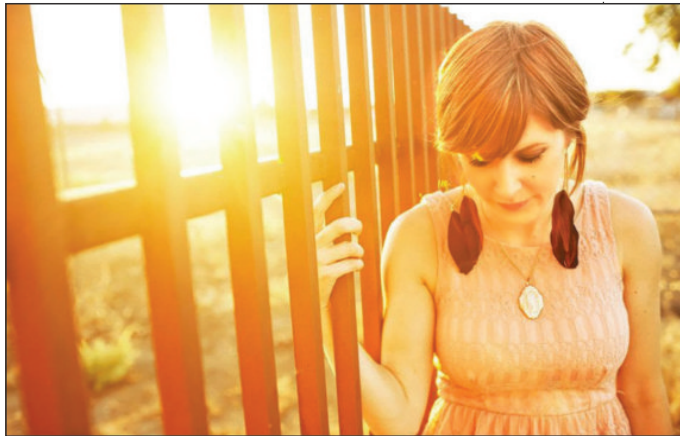
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blurt the inside track



Gayle Skidmore has weathered The Netherlands.

Dutch treat Singer/songwriter Gayle Skidmore describes herself as “a San Diego native, an East County girl.” She has long loved Sarita’s and La Posta, and says she basically grew up at the Living Room on El Cajon Boulevard. But more recently, she has immersed herself in a decidedly different culture. “I have lived in The Netherlands for five years now,” says Skidmore, who is recording a new album, *Hiraethan Echoes*, in her new home. “I first visited in the fall of 2015, when I went to go see my then-boyfriend” — now her husband. “My first impression of The Netherlands was that it was very cold, both weather-wise and socially. I found it difficult to connect, as, unlike San Diego, people do not really chat with strangers. It’s a very different kind of life than what I was used to. I live very close to a lovely heather field, and there are lots of trails through the woods by the house. There are lots of quaint villages, and I really enjoy the vibe in the 9 Streets [neighborhood] in Amsterdam.”

It’s a long way from Spring Valley, where Skidmore grew up. She remembers her first official show at a café, age fourteen. “Afraid to look up from my little notebook of songs, I’m not sure how I made it through. The host of the evening made fun of my last name, which made me

stubbornly decide not to take a stage name. I’m not sure why I ever felt like performing again, but I did.”

Weezer, Led Zeppelin, Lisa Loeb, Suzanne Vega, and Fiona Apple stirred her yen for writing. Her album *The Golden West* appeared in 2017, but the music she’s making overseas got a big boost from, of all things, a Dutch songwriting contest. “I was given a free day at Wisseloord Studios for my Groene Hart win, and was paired with Fieke van den Hurk as my engineer. I was given the option to work with a producer there, but chose to work with an engineer instead and crank out some piano tunes. All of the piano pieces were performed live, and so they have a different feel than some of my other recordings, where I’ll go back again and again to really perfect something. I like the raw feel of these tracks. Fieke was a joy to work with, and we ended up becoming friends. She is incredibly talented and enjoys looping her accordion. I love local and independent music, and feel like it’s more energizing to follow artists like that.”

Mind you, she’s still adapting to her new home. “The music scene seems to be more focused on Top 40 pop/singer-songwriter music. Food-wise, oh man. The Dutch really enjoy fried things like *frikandel speciaal*, a deep fried meat topped with raw onions, curry ketchup, and mayonnaise. I don’t do

mayo. Traditional meals include things like *stamppot*, which is usually boiled kale and potatoes mashed together without much spice and sometimes topped by a sausage.”

“Many people I know have had the same friends since high school. They enjoy scheduling appointments months in advance with friends, and have many rules for social engagements. When I took the *Inburgerings Examen*, to get my status as a permanent resident, I had to learn the appropriate time to visit a friend, when to eat dinner, what to say on each special occasion, and many other rules. Thank-

fully, I’ve met some free spirits there, and I have awesome neighbors. They got excited about my Bob Ross painting night, where I dressed as Bob Ross and we all followed a tutorial, so I think they’re pretty cool.”

And she has kept busy. “For the past three years, I’ve been releasing a lot of tunes on Patreon. In 2019 and 2020, I released a song every week. My plan is to polish up all of these 104 tunes and add to them. I’ve divided them into albums, and will start with my *Gills and Wings* album, followed by a few new original Christmas tunes. The songs from *Hiraethan Echoes* are the first batch of these releases. Once I’m done with all 104, I’ll work on the next few hundred.”

— Andrew Hamlin

Whitman’s warehouse

When studying for his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi. SDSU percussion lecturer (and Ropeadope Recording artist) David Whitman took one piece of his instructor’s advice to heart. “He said, ‘If you want to play, get a van!’ And then everyone laughs, of course. But when you land in the real world, you find out it’s really true.”

After studying at both the University of Wisconsin and Kansas State University, he came to San Diego 11 years ago to finish his dissertation. “I’ve



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moved around a lot. Before I came here, I played on a cruise ship and lived in Arizona, and I just wanted to settle down. And my parents knew that I’d be writing this paper, so they kind of encouraged me to come out here. After I got my doctorate, I already had a job at San Diego State. I’ve also taught drum line there for a few years. I’ve got this broad base as a performer and teacher, and I’m kind of this utility percussion guy. Over the years, I’ve taught jazz vibraphone, jazz drum set, and classical percussion. I’m really trained as an orchestral percussionist, but at the same time, I was play-

bas and vibraphones, five timpani, and multiple gongs. I have a huge bass drum and shelves full of various drums. I do rent some stuff out, but mostly the equipment is for me as a performer. These are fine instruments, and they are well-maintained because they’re my personal instruments, you know?”

In addition to his teaching schedule, Whitman has been busy performing in the post-covid world. He recently played two shows at the San Diego Symphony’s new Rady Shell on the waterfront. “For one show, I was ‘Percussion 5’. There were

his Soul Flow quintet (Derek Cannon on trumpet, Francisco Torres on trombone, Hans Chamberlain on organ, and Justin Grinnell on bass) at the newly reopened Dizzy’s. “That was super fun. We had a really good crowd and [Dizzy’s owner Chuck Perrin] acknowledged that there was a real magic in the air.” The next night, Whitman featured in a quartet with Ian Harland on vibes, Irving Flores on piano, and young John Murray on bass, playing original music at the Jazz Lounge, the new jazz club being run by long-time jazz vocalist Leonard Patton.



David Whitman and some drums. Well, a lot, really. Hence the warehouse.

ing drums in bars from the age of 17 to 24 every night, maybe ten gigs a week.”

Whitman plays so many instruments that just having a dedicated drum room at home isn’t enough. So, for as long as he’s been here, he has rented a large room (20’ x 15’) in an industrial warehouse complex. His neighbors are a seafood wholesaler (Mainly Lobster & Seafood) and Flexible Warehouse Solutions.

“So I have multiple marim-

six guys. I played vibraphone, roto-toms, snare drum and a lot of cymbals. For the other show, I just played orchestral bells on a Bach piece.” He says the sound at the Shell is “pristine. Everybody has their own monitor, so you can play nice and lightly. You can get really coloristic, I think, and play like you would in a concert hall.”

In addition to the Symphony gigs, Whitman has played two recent sessions with his jazz groups. The first featured

He has a new album out on Ropeadope Records called *Soul Flow*. “I try to have an aesthetic with my own albums that could appeal to people who might not have even listened to jazz before. My hope is that something catches their ear, and they get it right away.”

— Robert Bush

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

LOCAL *five*

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DAVID BORGIO

UC San Diego Professor of Music David Borgo is a saxophonist who plays tenor, soprano, and a variety of other instruments from all over the globe. He cites multi-instrumentalist Dr. A.J. Racy, from UCLA, as one of his mentors in ethnomusicology. Borgo describes his new album, *The Suite of Uncommon Sorrows*, as “an eleven-part suite of original music composed in response to the tumultuous events of 2020, including the devastating covid-19 pandemic, the growing Black Lives Matter movement, and the debilitating polarization of U.S. politics that made it impossible to ad-

dress either of these adequately. Each movement explores a different ‘uncommon sorrow,’ such as *kuebiko* (a state of moral exhaustion inspired by acts of horror in the news, which forces you to revise your image of what can happen in this world), *kenopsia* (the eerie, forlorn atmosphere of a place that’s usually bustling with people but is now abandoned and quiet), *chrysalism* (an amniotic-like tranquility while a storm rages outside), *zenosyne* (the sense that time keeps going faster), and *pâro* (the feeling that no matter what you do it will always be inadequate).”



CATTLE DECAPITATION

Known for wearing masks made of beef jerky onstage, hardcore vegetarian band Cattle Decapitation “brings forth the ideas of vegetarianism with the utmost brutal approach in expression, both musically and imagery.” Co-founded in 1996 by Locust members David Astor on bass and Gabe Serbian on drums, the band later recruited Travis Ryan as lead singer. Astor then moved to drums, Serbian switched to guitar, and that lineup released two of the group’s most enduring albums, *Human Jerky* and *Homovore*. With nine full-lengths now in their catalog, the band’s *Homovore*

album is being remastered by Dave Otero for local label Three One G. It will be made available this month digitally, on cassette, CD, and in limited edition vinyl runs including 500 “Release the Gimp” color vinyl copies, and 300 “Wine of the Sanguine” color pressings. *Human Jerky* was reissued on vinyl by Three One G in three variants late last year: 500 “Unclogged” color vinyl, 300 “Ready For Spewage” color vinyl, and 200 “Cream of the Crop” color vinyl. Earlier this year, the band released a video for their song “Finish Them,” from the album *Death Atlas*.



SNOW THA PRODUCT

Mexican-American rapper Claudia Feliciano attended Mar Vista High School and Mira Mesa High School. She originally went by the name Snow White tha Product, until the Disney corporation threatened litigation, forcing her to instead go by Snow Tha Product. She studied to be a social worker at Mesa College before deciding to enter the music business, going on to work with CyHi da Prince, Tech N9ne, Crooked I, and others. She released her debut album *Unorthodox* in 2011, earning a hit record with a short song called “Holy S—.” Her tenure with Atlantic Records ended a few years later, as she diversified to

doing soundtracks with a song for *The Purge* and acting in *Queen in the South*. Most of her album or EP releases include at least one song sung in her native Spanish. By 2019, she was self-releasing singles such as “Say Bitch.” During the 2020/2021 pandemic shutdown, she launched a podcast with her brother and girlfriend. Returning to the concert stage this summer, she dusted off old crowd favorites such as the crowd-surfer’s favorite “Gettin It” and her frequent set closer “I Don’t Wanna Leave.” She has new music videos for “Que Le Gusta El Flow” and “Que Oso,” with over three million views on Youtube for the latter track.



MICHAEL TIERNAN

Before songwriter Michael Tiernan moved to town in 2003, he was performing in a Rome, Italy nightclub, attending seminary school, and studying to become a Catholic priest. Tiernan left the church at age 27 and eventually settled in San Diego. He’s releasing a string of new singles that started as quarantine custom songs created for others, including a conference theme song for marijuana periodical *MJBiz Daily*. “All of us musicians were scrambling to find ways to make income during that time, and we had no idea how long it would last. Early on, I had taken some advice from an old friend to reach out to my fanbase, as well as companies, to pitch the idea of

writing them custom songs — songs written as gifts for someone or for special occasions — as a way to keep connected during the shutdown. With my first mention of it on my socials, I immediately got a commission from a former wedding client of mine who wanted me to write a surprise song for his ten-year wedding anniversary coming up. Boom, some income. And such a new and gratifying experience in songwriting.” That song, “Forever Plays,” will be issued in mid-November. Other releases will include “Beacon of Hope,” written for an international luxury hotel association, and “Life in 3D,” created for a wedding client’s first dance.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TROY PAUL BLOOM, PROVIDED BY COLIN JONES



COLIN JONES

Singer-songwriter Colin Jones was born in San Diego, but spent most of his life residing on the other side of the globe, in Australia. He moved back to San Diego in 2017, and he’s currently living in National City. Citing influences such as Howlin’ Wolf, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, Kings of Leon, and local hero Tom Waits, his local band members have included Zack Marzoni on pedal steel and guitar,

Becky Free on drums, and bassist Julianna Zachariou. An EP called *Mama Don’t Weep*, including music from his Australian days, came out in late 2020. This year has seen the release of new singles such as “Looking at You” b/w “Anything You Say,” as well as “Marietta Ave,” and “Moonlight.” A video for the latter track is streaming online; it was shot in one long, single continuous take.

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Madison Cunningham and S.G. Goodman. \$20.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Super Diamond. \$25.
Sunday, 8pm — The Wailin' Jennys. \$45-\$79.
Monday & Tuesday, 8pm — John Hiatt and The Jerry Douglas Band. \$65-\$70.
Wednesday, 8pm — The Wood Brothers.

Brick by Brick:

Friday, 8pm — The Undertaking and Fallstar. \$12-\$15.
Saturday, 8pm — The Dickies. \$20-\$25.
Wednesday, 8pm — Vandoliers and Rob Leines. \$12-\$15.

Casbah:

Friday, 8pm — Black Midi.
Monday, 8pm — Goody Grace. \$18.
Tuesday, 8pm — Middle Kids.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Friday, 7:30pm — Jazz in the Movies/The Movies in Jazz.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, 7pm — Tiki Lounge Surf Exotica. \$5-\$8.

El Cajon Harley-Davidson:

Saturday, 11am — West of 5. Free.

Escondido Elks Lodge:

Saturday, 6:30pm — Country Dance: Nitro Express. \$12.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm — P.O.D. and From Ashes to New. \$32-\$65.
Friday, 7:30pm — Testament, Exodus, Death Angel. \$35-\$75.
Monday, 8pm — Paul Weller. \$18-\$28.
Wednesday, 7pm — Indigo De Souza. \$15.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Wednesday, 8pm — Gayle Skidmore and Minor Birds.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Air Supply. \$75.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Bleachers and Claud.

Jamul Feed Store:

Friday, 5:30pm — The Ram Sunset Sessions.

Jazz Lounge:

Saturday & Sunday, 6:30pm — LP & the Vinyl.

Jazzy Wishbone:

Thursday, 6:30pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

Kensington Park:

Saturday, 1:30pm — Adams Avenue Alive.

Little Dame Shop:

Saturday, 5:30pm — Adams Avenue Alive.

Luce on Kettner:

Wednesday, 7pm — Art of Elan: Crossfire with Nathalie Joachim. \$15.

Mission Trails Church:

Sunday, 4pm — Robin Henkel Trio.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 8pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Music Box:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Ruston Kelly and Margaret Gaspy.
Friday, 8pm — Talib Kweli. \$30.
Sunday, 8pm — The PettyBreakers. \$19.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Subatomic Sound System and Boostive. \$17.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Fruit Bats.

Navajo Live:

Wednesday, 6:30pm — Big Blues Jam.
Thursday, 7pm — Open Mic: Elephantricity, solos, duos, bands & jams.
Friday, 8pm — Cher'd.
Saturday, 9pm — Serious Guise.
Sunday, 7pm — The Upshots.
Monday, 7:30pm — Rutt Velour.
Tuesday, 8pm — Kick-Ass Karaoke.

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:

Friday, 7pm — The Doobie Brothers. \$34-\$399.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, 7pm — Beach Goons and Señor Kino. \$19-\$60.
Saturday, 7:30pm — JpegMafia.
Wednesday, 7pm — Tennis and Molly Burch. \$22-\$27.

Open Air Theatre:

Thursday, 7:30pm — TLC.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Cristian Castro.

Pacific Islander Beer Company:

Sunday, 2pm — Pa'ina San Diego and Bo Napoleleon. \$15-\$20.

Panama 66:

Sunday, 12pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Petco Park:

Sunday, 7pm — Dropkick Murphys and Rancid. \$35-\$45.



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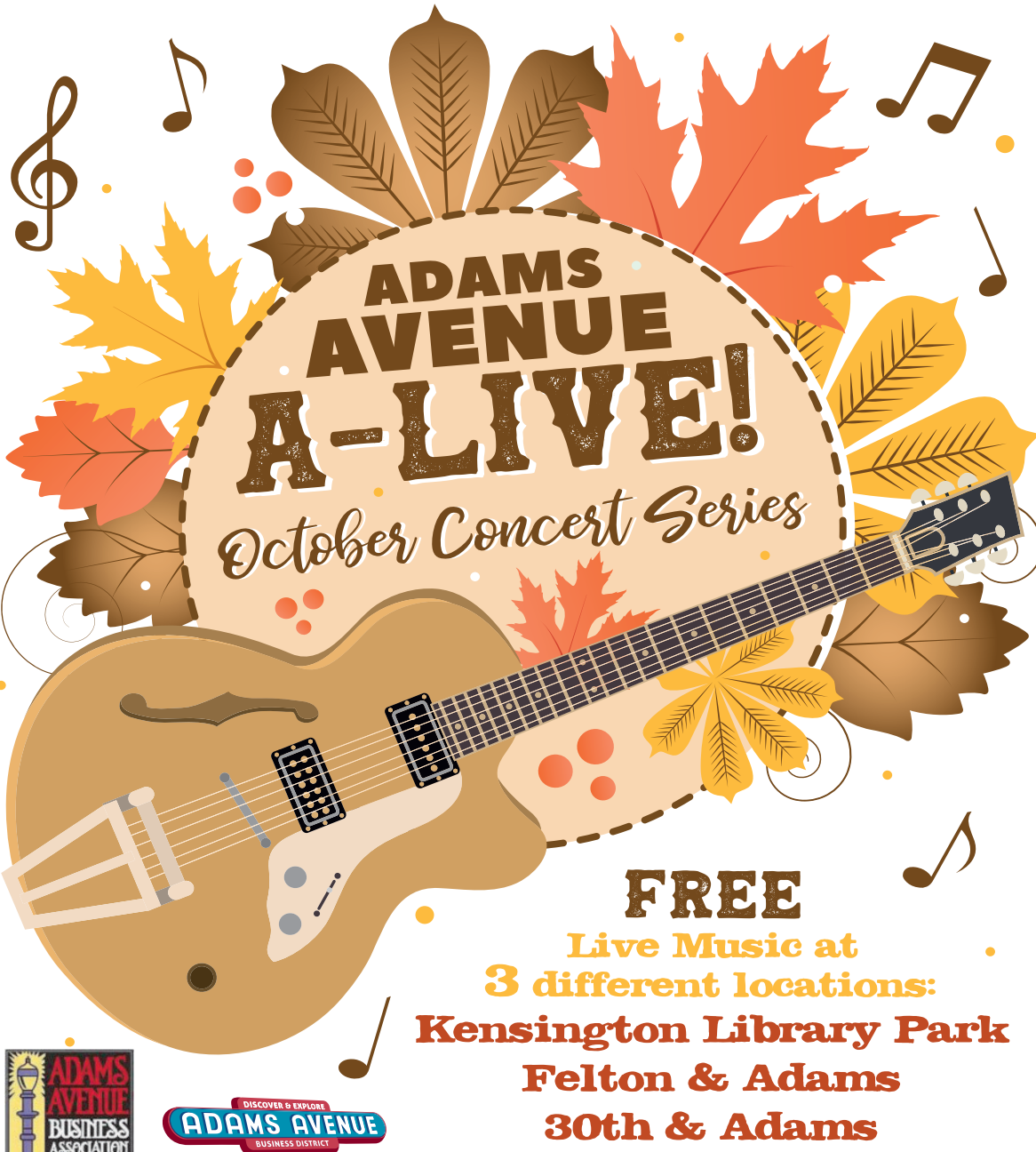
Thu, 10/7
HUMAN ISSUE
 C*nts • Cochinas Locas • Risko

Fri, 10/8
ANTAGONIZERS
 The Drowns • Slaughter Boys
 Midnight Track • Drop Shock

Sat, 10/9
THE WRITHERS
 Busted Coffins
 Butt Candy • DJ Fat Earther

Sat, 10/16 Free Show!
MIKE FEST 3
 A-Bortz • Pedal • Toxins
 Midnight Track • PunchCard

Fri, 10/22
BIRD OF PARADISE
 Good Time Girl



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Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Friday, 7:30pm — Thrash O'Lantern Local Live Band Showcase.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Indigo Girls & the San Diego Symphony.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Dead Daisies.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — Wheelwright. \$12-\$15.
Friday, 8pm — Adam Melchor. \$25.
Sunday, 8pm — Kiefer.
Wednesday, 8pm — Ways Away.

Soma:
Tuesday, 8pm — Chase Atlantic.
Wednesday, 6:30pm — Isaiah Rashad.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
Monday, 7:30pm — International Organ Festival.

Starbucks:
Friday, 5:30pm — Adams Avenue Alive.

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

Van Ommering Dairy Farm:
Saturday, 2pm — Cowboy Jack. Free.

Village Faire Shopping Center:
Saturday, 12:30pm — Adrienne Nims and Mark Danisovzsky. Free.

Welk Resort Theatre:
Wednesday, 7pm — Walking Man: James Taylor Tribute. \$25-\$38.

Westgate Hotel:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Holly Hofmann Quartet.

White Box Theater:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Foünd Dance Concert. \$15-\$25.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, 9pm — Universe Peoples. \$10.
Saturday, 9pm — Doah's Daydream. \$10.
Saturday, 4pm — The 8 East Band. Free.
Sunday, 2pm — Final Stand and Last 2 Know. Free.
Tuesday, 9pm — Zach Bellas. \$10.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Aztec Brewing Company:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Brew Game Plus 3.0.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Aztec Jazz Jam. Free.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Aztec Jazz Jam. Free.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Battle of the Bands. \$20-\$500.
Friday, Oct. 15 — Osees.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Pato Banton and New Leaf. \$20-\$23.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Men I Trust and Michael Seyer.
Tuesday, Oct. 19 — Robert Earl Keen.
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Twiddle.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Leftover Salmon.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Candlebox.
Monday, Oct. 25 — Allah Las and Frank Maston.
Tuesday, Oct. 26 — Delta Rae and Raye Zaragoza.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Lydia Loveless and Lilly Hiatt.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Dead Man's Party.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Inspired & the Sleep and Trouble in the Wind.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Halloween Heat ft. The Bella Lux Dancers.
Tuesday, Nov. 2 — Blue Oyster Cult.
Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Heartless Bastards.
Thursday, Nov. 4 — Blue Oyster Cult.

Friday, Nov. 5 — Beatles vs Stones.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Wayward Sons and Radio Thieves.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Colony House and Fleurie.
Tuesday, Nov. 9 — Reckless Kelly. \$18-\$32.

Brick by Brick:
Friday, Oct. 15 — D.R.I. and the Yucks.

Friday, Oct. 15 — Combichrist and Heartsick. \$26-\$30.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — The Iron Maidens. \$22-\$25.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — The Cybertronic Spree. \$18-\$22.
Sunday, Oct. 23 — Exumed and Creeping Death.
Friday, Nov. 5 — Raven.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Teenage Bottlerocket and the Last Gang.

Casbah:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — ford. \$15.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Hellogoodbye. \$20.
Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Nation of Language.
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Dan Deacon.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Kontravoid.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Surfboard.
Thursday, Nov. 4 — Cloud Nothings.
Friday, Nov. 5 — Blockhead and Arms & Sleepers.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Liz Cooper and Pearl Charles.
Monday, Nov. 8 — Tokyo Police Club.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Miss Demeanor.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Miss Demeanor.

Ebullition Brew Works:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Bailey Dee & The Fly-Rite Boys. \$12-\$16.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Skatoberfest. \$14-\$18.

Fast Times:
Friday, Nov. 12 — West of 5. Free.

First United Methodist Church - Escondido:
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Halloween Spook-tacular Organ Recital. Free.

Front:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Bostich + Fussible.

Galley at the Marina:
Saturday, Oct. 23 — 8 East Band. Free.

House of Blues:
Friday, Oct. 15 — X Ambassadors. \$29-\$65.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Chloe Moriondo and Shortly. \$17.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Dayseeker and We Came As Romans.
Monday, Oct. 18 — JP Saxe.
Tuesday, Oct. 19 — Payday and AG Club.
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Mago de Oz.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — Weathers.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Gus Dapperton and Spill Tab.
Friday, Oct. 29 — David Bisbal.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Black Label Society.
Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Toosii.
Thursday, Nov. 4 — Summer Salt, Breakup Shoes, Covey.
Friday, Nov. 5 — Pink Sweat\$ and Kirby.

Humphreys by the Bay:
Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Chris Isaak.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — The Cult.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Missing Persons and Dramarama.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Adam Ant.
Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Gipsy Kings.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Dwight Yoakam.
Tuesday, Nov. 9 — George Thorogood & the Destroyers.

Jacked Up Brewery:
Friday, Oct. 29 — West of 5. Free.

Jamul Feed Store:
Saturday, Oct. 30 — The Ram Sunset Sessions.

Kensington Park:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Adams Avenue Alive.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Adams Avenue Alive.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Adams Avenue Alive.

Kraken:
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Miss Demeanor.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — West of 5. Free.

Little Dame Shop:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Adams Avenue Alive.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Adams Avenue Alive.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Adams Avenue Alive.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Wardruna.
Thursday, Nov. 11 — Elvis Costello & the Imposters.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Miss Demeanor.

Mellano Farm Stand:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Cowboy Jack. Free.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Cowboy Jack.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Cowboy Jack.

Mission Bay Resort:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Tim Yancey. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, Oct. 15 — 7 Seconds to Vegas. Free.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Kistroyer. Free.

Museum of Making Music:
Friday, Oct. 15 — San Diego Sound Project: Echoes. Free.
Friday, Oct. 29 — San Diego Sound Project: Chaz Cabrera. Free.

Music Box:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Elefante & Inspector.
Friday, Oct. 15 — The Crystal Method. \$22.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Coral Bells and Jesus Gonzalez.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Brasstracks and TOBi.
Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Mrs. Henry and Thunderbeast.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Mark Farina.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Emotional Oranges.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — BarLine and Friends.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Soccer Mommy and Emily Reo.
Thursday, Oct. 28 — almost monday.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Squirrel Nut Zippers.
Monday, Nov. 1 — Perfume Genius and Hand Habits.
Thursday, Nov. 4 — Euphoria Brass Band.
Friday, Nov. 5 — The Verigolds and Saint Luna.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Maoli.
Tuesday, Nov. 9 — Gondwana and E.N. Young.

Navajo Live:
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Overheard in San Diego 25th Anniversary Party. Free.

North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — 311 and Iration. \$25-\$85.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Phish.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Dead & Company.
Thursday, Nov. 4 — Florida Georgia Line and Russell Dickerson.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Tinashe and REI AMI.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Badflower and Teenage Wrist.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Cradle of Filth and Lustmord.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Anderson East and Bendigo Fletcher.
Monday, Oct. 25 — Finneas.
Tuesday, Oct. 26 — Hamilton Leithauser and Kevin Morby.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Thrive and Touché Amoré.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Rocket from the Crypt.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Delta Spirit and Deer Tick.
Tuesday, Nov. 2 — Julien Baker and DEHD.
Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Snarky Puppy.
Friday, Nov. 5 — JJ Grey & Mofro.

Old Town Temecula Community Theater:
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Kawika Kahiapo & Bobby Moderow, Jr. \$25-\$40.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Sherry Williams. \$25-\$37.

Online Internet Events:
Thursday, Oct. 21 — MoMM@ Home: Women of Song — Hits through the Decades. Free.

Open Air Theatre:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Brothers Osborne and Tenille Townes.
Sunday, Oct. 17 — Willie Nelson's Outlaw Music Festival.
Tuesday, Oct. 19 — Primus and Wolfmother.
Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Rod Wave.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Erykah Badu.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Pancho Barraza.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Lord

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Sat, Oct. 9
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Sun, Oct. 10, 6:30pm
TARYN DONATH DUO

Thu, Oct. 14
FLESH ROT
Soul Devourment
Dower · Conjureth

Fri, Oct. 15
THE RUNTS
Barrage · w.g.a.f.
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Fri, 10/8 @ Soda
ADAM MELCHOR
LEXI JAYDE

Sat, 10/9 @ Casbah
BLACK MIDI

Sat, 10/9 @ Observatory North Park
BEACH GOONS
THE FAZES

Sat, 10/9 @ Soda
DEATH CAB FOR KARAOKÉ

Sun, 10/10 @ Soda
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Huron.
Thursday, Oct. 28 — Alejandro Sanz.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Khruangbin and Kikagaku Moyo.

Panama 66:
Sunday, Oct. 24 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Dan + Shay and the Band Camino.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — Marc Anthony.
Monday, Nov. 1 — James Taylor and Jackson Browne.

Petco Park:
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Taking Back Sunday and Jimmy Eat World.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Dream Eaters 2021.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — Dream Eaters 2021.
Tuesday, Nov. 9 — Playboi Carti.

Quartyard:
Saturday, Oct. 23 — The Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Plosivs.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Mystery Masquerade Halloween Burlesque Show.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Steve Hackman & the San Diego Symphony.
Friday, Oct. 22 — Chicago the Musical Live in Concert.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Chicago the Musical Live in Concert.
Sunday, Oct. 24 — Gilbert Castellanos: A Swingin' Affair.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Ofrenda: Día de Los Muertos Celebration.
Friday, Nov. 5 — Jonathan Biss & the San Diego Symphony.
Saturday, Nov. 6 — Jonathan Biss & the San Diego Symphony.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Ted Sperling & the San Diego Symphony.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Geoff Tate: Empire 30th Anniversary Tour.

Ritz Theater:
Thursday, Nov. 11 — Bob Marley in the Underworld. \$25-\$40.
Friday, Nov. 12 — Bob Marley in the Underworld. \$25-\$40.

Setting Sun Sake Brewing Co.:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — San Diego Metal Swap Meet. \$15-\$50.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — James Spaite and SHUA.

Friday, Oct. 15 — Dwarves. \$25.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Des Rocs. \$21.

Sunday, Oct. 17 — Night Beats.
Monday, Oct. 18 — Johnny Gates.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 — Riz La Vie.
Thursday, Oct. 21 — Stephan Day.

Friday, Oct. 22 — Levitation Room.
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Ruby Haunt.

Sunday, Oct. 24 — Paul McDonald and Anna Rose.

Tuesday, Oct. 26 — Black Dice.
Thursday, Oct. 28 — The Meteors.

Saturday, Oct. 30 — Snotty Nose Rez Kids.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Michael vs. Prince Halloween Party.

Tuesday, Nov. 2 — George Clanton and Magdalena Bay.
Wednesday, Nov. 3 — Mustard Service.

Thursday, Nov. 4 — Michigan

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Cut context, create confusion

Given the current circumstances, San Diego Opera is producing two mainstage opera productions this season. What is an opera fan to do with that? Two productions just aren't enough to satiate some of the most dedicated in our ranks. With that in mind, I traveled up to LA Opera on Wednesday, September 22, for their new production of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. I got on the freeway around 3:15 pm and arrived in time to make my 6 pm dinner reservation. The restaurant was about a half-mile walk from the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. I had planned to make a reservation at either LA Prime or Otium, but both restaurants were booked for the pre-opera times. If you are considering a trip north, make your reservations early.

Prior to entering the theater, I had my vaccination status checked and received

a yellow bracelet confirming that I was good to enter. However, masks were still required while indoors. An announcement reminded the audience that masks were required even when the lights went down.

Since this was a new production, I was expecting something other than the traditional setting in 15th-century Spain. This was indeed the case. I have no problem with non-traditional productions when they are well executed and support the singers and the narrative. This production was well-conceived in some ways, but the execution was inconsistent, and committed unforced errors such as the removal of context. Post-modernism and Critical Theory are based, in part, on the neglect of context. And removing context from *Il Trovatore* makes it a dif-

ficult opera to follow. I've been in the opera twice, and have listened to it umpteen million times, but I found myself struggling at times to follow both the action and the narrative in this production.

The singing from bass Morris Robinson was excellent. Unfortunately, Mr. Robinson was not a part of the principal quartet. He performed the secondary role of Ferrando. The principal cast was good-to-quite-good in their singing and stage presence. But the stage presence of every singer was sabotaged by the production. The stark set and lack of basic props gave the cast nothing to play off of — oftentimes forcing singers to move from here to there based on nothing specific in the text or setting.

Tenor Limmie Pullman performed the title role of



Raehann Bryce-Davis provided the most compelling performance of the evening in the role of Azucena.

Manrico. Mr. Pullman is an emerging artist and sang bravely throughout the evening. He is potentially a great singer, but at this point, he is still developing. The role of Manrico's rival, Count di Luna, was sung by baritone Vladimir Stoyanov. Mr. Stoyanov delivered some solid singing, but the top notes could have been more focused. Manrico and di Luna are fighting for the attention of Leonora. Soprano Guanqun Yu sang the role well, but her top notes were inconsistent, and I found her portrayal

of Leonora to be somewhat retiring as opposed to heroic.

In my opinion, mezzo-soprano Raehann Bryce-Davis provided the most compelling performance of the evening in the role of Azucena, Manrico's vendetta-obsessed mother. Her low notes filled the house and portrayed Azucena's thirst for vengeance against the house of di Luna. On the whole, I found the evening to be a solid presentation of a difficult opera. *Il Trovatore* runs through Sunday, October 10.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Rattlers.
Friday, Nov. 5 — Video Age and Shy Boys.

Saturday, Nov. 6 — Strand of Oaks and the Still Tide.
Tuesday, Nov. 8 — Eyelids and Tamar Berk.

Soma:
Friday, Oct. 22 — Mau y Ricky & Piso 21.

Saturday, Oct. 23 — Dashboard Confessional.

Thursday, Oct. 28 — Vacation Manor and Night Traveler.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Jinjer and Suicide Silence.

Friday, Nov. 5 — Pennywise and Strung Out.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — Angels & Airwaves and Bad Suns.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
Monday, Oct. 18 — International Organ Festival.
Monday, Oct. 25 — International Organ Festival.
Saturday, Oct. 30 — International Organ Festival.

Starbucks:
Friday, Oct. 15 — Adams Avenue Alive.

Friday, Oct. 22 — Adams Avenue Alive.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Adams Avenue Alive.

Thornton Winery:
Saturday, Oct. 23 — Boney James. \$85-\$160.
Friday, Oct. 29 — Twisted Gypsy.

Til-Two Club:
Thursday, Nov. 4 — High Street. \$28-\$48.

Viejas Arena:
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Alejandro Fernandez and Christian Nodal.

\$44-\$886.
Sunday, Nov. 7 — El Alfa.

Welk Resort Theatre:
Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Walking Man: James Taylor Tribute. \$25-\$38.
Wednesday, Oct. 27 — Walking Man: James Taylor Tribute. \$25-\$38.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, Oct. 14 — Shakedown String Band. \$8.

Friday, Oct. 15 — Simpkin Project and Revival. \$15.
Saturday, Oct. 16 — Sometimes Julie. **Free.**

Wednesday, Oct. 20 — Ginger Roots and The Protectors. \$15-\$20.
Friday, Oct. 22 — TV Broken 3rd Eye Open. \$15.

Friday, Oct. 29 — MDRN HSTRY and Find Indigo. \$10.
Sunday, Oct. 31 — Side Hustle. **Free.**

CLASSICAL MUSIC

San Diego Symphony:
Payare, Barnatan & Mahler
 Renowned pianist and La Jolla Music Society SummerFest Music Director Inon Barnatan performs Maurice Ravel's sublime Concerto in G on the expansive Una Davis Family stage of The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. San Diego Symphony music director Rafael Payare then leads the Orchestra in Gustav Mahler's world-shaking "Titan" Symphony No. 1. *Friday, October 8, 7:30pm*; Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, 200 Marina Park Way.

FRI. OCT. 8
THE UNDERTAKING!
 Fallstar, Lightworker, Tina Fake, Sleep It Off



TUES. OCT. 19
THE HEROINE
 The Screamin YeeHaws, Latex Grenade, Marujah

SAT. OCT. 9
THE DICKIES & THE QUEERS
 War Fever, Corporate Citizen

FRI. OCT. 15
COMBICHRIST
 (LATE SHOW)
 King 810, Heartsick, Reign of Z

FRI. OCT. 22
STARCRAWLER
 Surfboot

WED. OCT. 13
VANDOLIERS
 Rob Leines

SAT. OCT. 16
THE IRON MAIDENS
 Murder of Five, Warpath, Blameless, Crossfaded

SAT. OCT. 23
EXHUMED
 Creeping Death, Bewitcher, Enforced

FRI. OCT. 15
D.R.I.
 (EARLY SHOW)
 Re-Tox A.D., Inner Vision, The Yucks, The Thrill Killers

SUN. OCT. 17
THE CYBERTRONIC SPREE
 Essenger

SUN. OCT. 24
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Dim film blanc

The latest from Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Pulse, Cure, Tokyo Sonata*) is being pitched as an “old-school Hitchcockian thriller.” The Master has been dead over 40 years. All this slavish delineating has long since passed the point of overwrought. One longs to see the critical blurb, “A suspense thriller that owes nothing to Hitchcock” splashed across an IMDB banner ad. Until the time when the next great novelty comes along, we’ll have to make do with *Wife of a Spy*.

We open in Kobe, Japan, with the country on the verge of war. The attention to detail paid to the cut and texture of costume designer Haruki Koketsu’s staggeringly-stitched costumes is nothing short of arresting. It’s as if one could run a hand across the screen and feel the grain of the garments. It’s only fitting, then, that our first stop is a raw silk inspection center headed by Yusaku Fukuhara (Issey Takahashi). The police are in the process of carting away Mr. Drummond, Yusaku’s closest non-Asian business associate, a British spy known for leaking military secrets. The silk merchant’s love of country stops just short of

posting bail for double-dealing Drummond. But he does lament the arrest of the Brit, particularly in light of the Japanese government’s making nice with Italy and Germany.

Taiji (Higashide Masahiro), a top military official and childhood friend of both Yasaku and his wife Satoko (Aoi Yû), is assigned the case. Yasaku is at odds with Taiji, believing him to be a rival for Satoko’s affections. Taiji advises Yasaku to choose his friends wisely, particularly when they’re foreigners. His sense of nationalism is such that he browbeats Satoko for dressing like a Westerner and drinking American whiskey. (When she later shows up to Taiji’s office to ask a favor, she comes draped in a kimono.) Were it a film noir, the two storied chums would reunite in darkness, physically separated by shafts of shadows. But Yusaku’s universe is one of sunny orderliness, and it’s the glary gauze of light filtering through the Venetian blinds that keeps them apart. Kurosawa’s choice of a “film blanc” approach is called into play with enough regularity to maintain a high level of graphic interest. Taiji leaves on

MOVIES



Wife of a Spy: light springs eternal for Issey Takahashi and Yû Aoi in Kiyoshi Kurosawa’s otherwise workaday thriller.

as positive a note as possible for a fascist such as he; he’d prefer not to shut down an old friend, but business is business. He leaves, apologizing for his rudeness.

It’s to Kurosawa’s credit that the customary romantic triangle he appears to be moving us toward is meant to put us off our game. After

all, this is the guy who gave us the aptly titled *Creepy*. He’s not going to deal from the top of the deck. Or is he? You want me to issue a spoiler alert? A series of flashbacks take us through the couple’s past, starting with Yusaku’s springtime of life as a filmmaker. The 16mm spool of film that’s

foreshadowed in reel one returns to have a major impact on the plot. The director’s eye for recreating a silent film is most convincing, but as part of an original screenplay, it sputters along like the subplot of a lengthy novel condensed for the screen. The same holds true for a murder in which Yas-



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KILLS**

OCTOBER 15

IN THEATERS & **peacock**



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**IN THEATERS AND STREAMING
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#HalloweenKills

uka may have played a part. At other times, Kurosawa forces his stylistic hand down our throats: as when he places a box of feathers on a bedroom shelf for a character to toss heedlessly into the air. Stylistic moves like this demand motivation.

A military battalion marches into the train station just in time to see Yusaku off. With one assured move of the camera, and with the soldiers as his backdrop, Kurosawa draws together the spy, his bride, and their nephew. The director knows how to tangibly bring his characters together; it's the spark of excitement between leads that he can't quite ignite.

Kurosawa's ornery depraved origins won't be overlooked. The declawing of a bad guy is tastefully depicted. Even the film's weightiest dramatic reveal — Yusaku witnessing the mass burning of plague victims' corpses — is delivered in a lengthy monologue, the kind that clears things up for character and viewer alike.

Throughout the film, Yusaku questions Satoko's laying claim to the titular appellation. Yusaku's allegiance is not to his country, but to universal justice. Kurosawa's overall commitment to innovation seems parched. It's a lovely enough ride, particularly Kurosawa's emboldened use of exterior light, but when it comes right down to storytelling, not much is illuminated. Now playing at the Landmark Hillcrest Cinemas. ★★

—Scott Marks

Video on Demand and New Release Roundup

Attack of the Hollywood Cliches — Recycling corn is as essential to the narrative retardation of cinema as the regurgitation of cud is to a cow's gastrointestinal tract. Hollywood's overall abiding commitment to a lack of originality, and the consumers who lap it up like dog water, is a subject that demands far more time than this hour-long Netflix Comedy Special can spare, but it's a start. With ten writers and/or directors to its credit, the show commences on a fluky small screen trope of its own. Remember when *SNL*'s Weekend Update opened with, "I'm Chevy Chase and you're not"? The host of this special introduces himself with, "Unlike you, I'm Rob Lowe." A litany of literal redundancy flashes before us: meet cutes, maverick cops, fistfights atop moving train cars, angry desk sweeps, giving chase in high heels, baguette heels poking out of shopping bags, and jump scares are all given their due. (The last was the brainchild of R.K.O. horror/noir past master Val Lewton, whose 1942 version of *Cat People* sent audiences leaping with what came to be known



Attack of the Hollywood Cliches: "Hey, I know you! You're one of those monster-in-the-mirror cliches!"

as "the Lewton bus.") Noticeably absent are the hitman who comes out of retirement for one last kill, the lying flashback, and the certain death of anyone who beds or befriends Charles Bronson in a *Death Wish* picture. Critic Kim Newman observes that during the silent era, audiences either yawned when confronted with lengthy intertitles or laughed at the flowery prose contained within. Without dialogue to voice their emotions, characters turned to physical expression as a means of communication — hence the birth of fist-fights as a basic component of the filmgoing experience. This gives way to talk of what I like to call the deli-counter slugfest. Rather than dogpile the good guy en masse, each attacker takes their turn, as though waiting for the clerk to call their number. The one cliché they fail to marvel at is the use of special effects as an opiate to cast a soporific haze over sophomore minds quick to confuse CG codswallop with storytelling. 2021. — S.M. ★★

Candyman — When it ended, *Candyman* was one of the few horror films that found me looking over my shoulder on the walk to my car. What is the first thing that separates this from Bernard Rose's original, a film that posited as its monster a housing project located on the brink of Chicago's affluent Gold Coast area? For one thing, there's Sammy! One mention of the nauseatingly saccharine chart-topper in a 1992 horror film would have set audiences giggling. Here it acts as a faint reminder of the past. It's not the only difference. Writer-director Nia DaCosta's latest isn't so much a remake, as most sequels are, but a continuation, an update. It's the same housing project — the CG recreation of Chicago's Cabrini Green is so precise that it looks like documentary footage — with the horror emerging from a different hole in the tenement

wall. This time, it takes less than five minutes for the titular boogeyman to appear, and the handling of white guilt is much more pointed. Brianna (Teyonah Parris) is quick to state the obvious: "White people built the ghetto and erased it when they realized they built the ghetto." Giving equal time to ignorance, Brianna lives on the very gentrified spot where the infamous housing project once stood. There is even one noticeable improvement: never repeat the title five times, particularly when standing alone in a mirrored elevator. One drawback of contemporary thinking is the establishment of a seemingly upstanding character who goes south if for no other reason than two bad guys are better than one. Other than that, there's enough here to give your nerves a good rattling. 2021. — S.M. ★★★

Cry Macho — Long before drones became a cinematographer's best friend, Clint Eastwood chose dispassionately distanced aerial shots to open the show. It's how we met Mike Milo (Eastwood), another footsoldier in Eastwood's army, an outsider with a dark past he'd rather forget as he charts the rocky road to redemption that lies ahead. It's 1979, and Mike accepts a job from Howard Polk (Dwight Yoakam), the same man who one year earlier relieved him of his duties with the rodeo. Mike broke his back when a horse fell on him, and the painkillers and booze that assisted in his recovery have since blunted his senses. Polk calls in a favor: he needs Mike to remove his 13-year-old son Rafo (Eduardo Minett) from the clutches of his unstable wife and bring him across the border. Mike obliges out of what he calls "old-fashioned loyalty." At 91, Clint still fancies himself quite the ladies' man. The border agent flirts with the three attractive girls in the convertible before Mike. When asked

what his business is in Mexico, Mike replies, "I'm with them." He resists the advances of Rafo's mother Leta (Fernanda Urrejola), and we close with Mike in the arms of Marta (Natalia Traven), a sultry cantina proprietor instantly smitten by his charm. Leta, even seems less concerned with her son being kidnapped by a stranger than she is with Mike rebuking her sexual advances. She does point Mike in the direction of Rafo's

favorite hangout, a cockfighting ring. Following a threat to snap the neck of Macho, the boy's prize cock, Rafo appears from out of the shadows. Mike produces a picture of the boy when he was five, and fills his head with talk of Polk owning a hundred horses and a rodeo to go with them. Cry Macho moves at a leisurely pace, something that can't be said of Eastwood. Critics were taken aback by his ability to ride a horse and throw a punch. Eastwood pokes fun at the thought of aging gracefully. Mike earned a reputation as an animal whisperer and when the local Federale brings his pooch to be examined, Mike confides in Rafo, "I don't know how to cure old." He also whispers lies intended to convince Rafo that his rightful place is with his father. We begin to see through the regular reassurance that Polk can't wait to be reunited with his boy. And Rafo's still too young to realize that Mike didn't drag his wizened carcass across the border without expectation of recompense. Eastwood's reflections find the concept of macho vastly overrated. In the end, it's Macho who saves the day (in more ways than one). 2021. — S.M. ★★★

MOVIES@HOME

It's all out there somewhere: the Pomona preview print of

The Magnificent Ambersons; the missing reels of Eric von Stroheim's *Greed*; Lon Chaney's uncut *London After Midnight*; even the pie fight from *Dr. Strange-*

love is lounging in a corner of some remote film exchange or museum. Such was the case for Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, a science-fiction cornerstone that for years existed only in truncated form.

— Scott Marks

METROPOLIS (1927)

The catalyst for this column came from a friend's tweet, which asked us readers to name the one film that over

the years, and through all the various home video editions, we've owned the most copies of. Not all video pressings are alike, and nothing illustrated the proverb better than *Metropolis*. First came Barnes & Noble's "exclusive" VHS pressing, which appeared to have been shot with shoe polish smeared on the



The 4 E's: Erotic, Exotic, Erratic, and Emended. Motion Picture News, March 13, 1927.

lens. An upgrade to the Kino restored print was followed by a used VHS copy of Giorgio Moroder's 1984 sparkling revival. Even though I didn't

own a player, a Laserdisc was purchased to screen for my students. The 2001 DVD release that was heralded as the "definitive" version wasn't. The 2010 release runs 148 minutes. That brings the total to seven. All it would take is one persistent archivist or nosy film student to pop open the right can for me to gladly make it eight. Visit us online for more on the rebirth of Lang's gargantuan masterpiece.

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CAPOEIRA VIA ZOOM
Capoeira is a Brazilian art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, martial arts, and music. Signups are here: capoeira.tokyo/

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REIKI SHARE Oct 9, \$10pp, 9am Serra Mesa. Practitioners and Non-Practitioners Welcome. Outdoor Event. Share includes: Guided Meditation, Participant

White LighReiki Energy Mini-Session, Energy Circle. Light Refreshments. RSVP preferred. Meet-Up San Diego Reiki. (732) 233-8882 / Oracle275@aol.com

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TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES, Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, (619) 692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

ROOMMATES

FLORIDA TO SAN DIEGO My name is Indiana, I am looking to move from Florida to San Diego area, somewhere close by downtown. I'm 27 and I work from home, I'm very quiet and clean, I keep to myself. My budget is around 7-800\$ per month. DM me at Facebook @ bit.ly/indiana-sd

MISSION VALLEY ROOMMATE
Saw this on FB - Ideal roommate someone in their late 20's mid 30's needs to make 3 times the amount of rent. No security deposit just need the first month's rent to hold your spot paid in advance. Location Mission Valley. DM bit.ly/mv-roomie

PET LOVING ROOMMATES
My budget is \$900. I'm 23, work full time as a receptionist, and in my free time, I like to go to the dog beach/park with my two tiny chihuahuas. I'd love some roommates who also work full time and love pets. www.facebook.com/katrina.matese/

SEEKING ROOMMATES
Reposting: The house has 3 bds/2bths and access to the country club and gym, spot to park on your car. Rent and security deposit is \$1350/ utilities are separate. More info on the pictures or DM @ FB: [christina419](https://www.facebook.com/christina419) [leahgordon43@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/leahgordon43@gmail.com)

ROOMS FOR RENT Call (619) 869-5814

SEEKING HOUSEMATES My ideal location is as East as La Mesa, as North as Mira Mesa, as South as Chula Vista. The budget is from \$700-\$900 including utilities. 25 y/o, I work full-time as an Animal Welfare Professional and have a 2 y/o cat. FB: [dezertdippin250](https://www.facebook.com/dezertdippin250)

LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT I'm looking for a room to rent towards the end of September/early October. Open to living with any gender. My budget is \$1200 max! I'm 28, naturally outgoing but can keep to myself if need be. Basketball in life. FB/IG: [ThatGuyNamedDre](https://www.facebook.com/ThatGuyNamedDre)

MISSION VALLEY ROOMMATES I'm currently driving from Florida to San Diego! Looking for a private room/bath relatively close to Mission Valley! Under \$1000 is ideal but can be flexible for the right place! FB: [michael.nash.7509836](https://www.facebook.com/michael.nash.7509836)

\$1200 / MONTH Hey! My name is Cam. I'm looking for a room. My max price is \$1200 including utilities. If you have any questions for me, feel free to ask! DM me at www.facebook.com/cameron.fenley.9/. Thanks for looking.

RETIRED MALE SEEKING ROOM TO RENT Retired male, 68, currently draw retirement benefits, social security. Interested in renting a room, kitchen privileges, plus bathroom. \$650 max, please call Tom (619) 654-8495.

ROOMMATES WANTED I recently signed a lease on a 2 bedroom place near SDSU. The complex is called Dorado Plaza, rent would be around 1100 per month starting around mid September. FB: www.facebook.com/jackson.sutter.315



MIRA MESA ROOMMATES
Does anybody have a room for rent in Mira Mesa? My budget is \$500-800. I would like to have carpeted floors, washer/dryer and it has to be cat friendly. I work 5 days a week. Plmk - DM on Facebook @ [danielle.clarke.9638](https://www.facebook.com/danielle.clarke.9638)

SPRING VALLEY \$500
Separate bedroom. Share utilities. Female preferred. Employed full-time required. Kitchen privileges. Laundry. No smoking. \$200 deposit. (619) 829-1504.

JUST GRADUATED My name is Eun Jeong, I just graduated with my master's in business analytics from Oregon and currently looking for a place to stay for a month in San Diego. My budget is \$700. FB: [eunjeong.heo.374](https://www.facebook.com/eunjeong.heo.374)

PET FRIENDLY A PLUS
Looking for a roommate, room, or studio. My budget is \$1400 max for the North Park, Hillcrest, Downtown, Mission/Fashion Valley areas. I work full time and I have an ESA dog I might bring with me so pet-friendly would be a plus! DM my IG @ [jacyesteves](https://www.instagram.com/jacyesteves)

MOVED IN FROM BRAZIL
Hey everyone! I'm 26, Brazilian looking for a roommate or possibly 2. Also looking for a 420 friendly roommate and someone that won't mind my 6-year-old pitbull she's well trained and loves to cuddle. [facebook.com/guilherme.augusto.77920526](https://www.facebook.com/guilherme.augusto.77920526)

ISO A ROOMMATE Hi my name is Sophie, I am 23 years old. I am looking for a room/roommates. I am moving from Nebraska. I room remote but will be done by 3pm everyday! I love to workout, go to the beach. DM me @ FB: [sophie.tokheim](https://www.facebook.com/sophie.tokheim) I hope we can be a good fit.

LA MESA ROOM ON 10/1 I am located in La Mesa. Rent/utilities is \$900/month. Room fits a queen size bed. Bathroom is shared with my 12 y/o son and another roommate. Access to main areas of house. FB: [kristine.leigh.12](https://www.facebook.com/kristine.leigh.12)

ROOM WANTED (FURNISHED)
Seeking furnished bedroom, private bathroom, coastal north county, kitchen/laundry privileges. I'm a quiet, clean, neat, trustworthy, responsible, respectful and considerate non-smoking former engineer, in mid-50s. \$800/month max. incl. utils. Mike (858) 779-9615

WE'RE MOVING TO SAN DIEGO Hi everyone, my husband and I are looking for a studio for \$1400 for October. We are students and would like a studio for a long stay. Message me on FB: www.facebook.com/amanda.lucila/. Thanks!

BAY PARK/PB/LA JOLLA
Posting again since it's so hard to find a place. Looking for a room OR roommates to find a spot with! Wanting to move in the next few months. My budget is around 1000. FB: [Fischer.christina7](https://www.facebook.com/Fischer.christina7). Females only, pls.

PRIVATE LADY WANTS A MALE RENTER who works and has his own life, \$650 and deposit. (619) 793-9214

ROOMMATE, SENIOR RV PARK male/female, 60+ only, senior RV Park. Many benefits. No drugs, no smoking. Furnished. \$300 monthly. ID/income required. 5PM-7PM please. (619) 627-6890 leave name/number

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SANTEE, \$750 2/2 home w/ homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. (619) 499-9663, phone calls preferred.

TINY ROOM TO LIVE PLEASE
62 year young, healthy, vaccinated, single, no family, Virgo, never married, non-smoker, clean, SoCal native, low income, male, high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in Solana Beach, Cardiff, Leucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

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

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

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+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

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

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TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE

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

\$59⁹⁵

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

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Most cars



\$34⁹⁵

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TIMING BELT

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METAL FEST IN TJ Sup friends! My band @ www.facebook.com/dominacioncfh will be playing at this fest we've been working on in Tijuana in November, its gonna be a killer lineup of bands. Hit me up for info.

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LOOKING 4 FUNK, HIPHOP ARTISTS I am a local musician who plays guitar, bass, and drums. I also do production. my Hip Hop influences are the Roots, Tribe, Beasties, etc. for rock groups, it's Sublime, Rage, Nirvana, Chili peppers. looking to jam/write with like minded artists arigneysd@gmail.com

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Bluefin still active near San Clemente Island

Dock Totals 9/26 – 10/2: 3749 anglers aboard 183 trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 2533 bluefin tuna (up to 230 pounds), 84 bonito, 132 calico bass (31 released), 489 dorado, 1 halibut, 9 lingcod, 3093 rockfish, 36 sand bass, 340 sculpin, 123 sheephead, 896 skipjack tuna, 703 whitefish, 2526 yellowfin tuna, and 928 yellowtail.

Saltwater: While bluefin tuna counts are holding steady as the bite continues near the Tanner and Cortez banks west-southwest of San Clemente Island, yellowfin and skipjack tuna numbers are rising for anglers aboard 1.5- to 3-day boats fishing 20 to 30 miles outside Ensenada and north toward the "Corner" west of Tijuana where U.S., Mexican, and international waters converge. A warmer mass of water centering around the 371 bank about 45 miles southwest of Point Loma is holding roaming schools of Yellowfin and skipjack, along with dorado and yellowtail that can be found in solid numbers around kelp paddies.

Live sardines "fly-lined," or fished with no weight, is the go-to method for these warmer water tunas and jacks, though some are caught using surface irons on top, and yoyo irons fished vertically. Yoyo irons are fished as the name implies; the angler doesn't cast far, but instead lets the heavy lure sink to the bottom or to a desired depth, retrieves by winding as fast as possible to the surface, then lets it sink back again. This up and down process is repeated until a fish is tempted to bite and then the fight is on. Surface irons are lighter and are cast far and retrieved within a few feet of the surface.

Both methods can work on a school of fish that is deep into the water column, but generally, when a school is on top, fly-lined live bait or surface irons work better, and if a school is deeper, yoyo irons or a weighted bait usually do the trick. When the fish are deeper, captains will alert anglers as to the depth and desired method once they meter a school and stop. When the fish are on the surface it is usually evident, as the water will be exploding as they feed, and anglers will fire away with surface irons or fly-lined bait as soon as the captain slows the boat and announces that fishing can begin.

Half-day boats have been concentrating on rockfish for the most part, with a few yellowtail and calico bass in the mix. Three-quarter and full-day runs cannot make the run to Tanner Bank and surrounding high spots and have mostly been



CREDIT: INTREPID SPORTFISHING

This large gulf grouper was caught by Charles Schmid off the coast of Baja.

targeting yellowtail around the Coronado Islands with decent results. Though the Baja coast is producing well, as long as the larger tuna are still biting, most vessels fishing within 1.5- to 3-day range have been heading west 100 to 120 miles for bluefin.

Longer runs of five to ten days have been heading south to Guadalupe Island or the high spots off Bahia Magdalena. "Mag Bay," as it is usually known by the long-range angling community, is one of the most diverse fisheries in the world. The long narrow bay on the southwestern edge of the Baja peninsula has several inlets between sand-bar islands that sit between the tidal flats of the bay and the open Pacific. Thick schools of baitfish draw sierra mackerel, corvina, snook and other saltwater middleweights into the protected shallows of the bay where anglers either wading or

fishing from light craft can use techniques similar to freshwater trout or bass fishing. Miles and miles of mangrove-lined channels offer excellent grouper fishing, if one can wrestle the stubborn brutes from their lairs in the exposed roots of the mangrove trees.

Outside the bay and along the coast, the semi-tropical water surges around several reefs and high spots that can produce large gulf grouper on the bottom, and yellowfin tuna, wahoo, dorado, and marlin on the surface. Given the distance and isolation from populated areas like the Baja fishing meccas of the East Cape, Cabo San Lucas, and La Paz, the Bahia Magdalena fisheries both inside and outside the bay are as yet unspoiled by heavy commercial or sportfishing pressure. The Intrepid just finished up a trip to the area with great results for the anglers aboard for the Miles and Ken eight-day charter. Fishing along the southern Baja coast as well as far offshore to the Rocas Alijos, they returned to the dock with the hold full of yellowfin, yellowtail, dorado, wahoo, and gulf grouper.

Gulf grouper grow to 200 pounds and were once prevalent in our area. From La Jolla south, they haunted the nearshore rocky reefs and kelp beds. Along with broomtail grouper and black seabass, they became a favorite target of divers and anglers in the early-mid 20th century. They were especially valued during the Great Depression, when fishing was more for providing meals than for sport and one large grouper could feed a family for weeks. The famous "Bottom Scratchers" freediving club began in the mid-1930s, diving up to 80 feet with a simple sling spear to wrestle food from the ocean during lean times. During the early years as the club grew, they had many harrowing captures of notable trophy-sized grouper and black seabass.

The club put a halt on targeting grouper or giant seabass in the mid-1950s as they saw the severe decline in population of the behemoth fishes. Today, gulf grouper, broomtail grouper, and black seabass are protected in U.S. waters, though in Mexican waters there is a one fish per angler limit allowed. All three species of grouper are considered endangered within their west coast range from southern California to Bahia Magdalena and throughout the Sea of Cortez, though their populations have been rebounding over the past several decades since protection and limited takes were legislated in both the U.S. and Mexico.

Fish Plants: None scheduled

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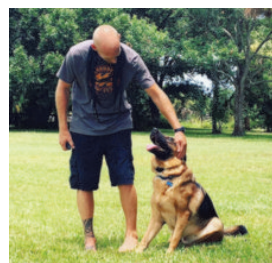
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PET SITTER NEEDED I am looking for a pet sitter for my dogs while I am at work. Ideally they would come to my house and would be supervised the entire time or better still at my apartment. Please email me on arc082@outlook.com for more details.

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Year: 1999. Mileage: 109,347.
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2004 SATURN ION \$3800
Make: Saturn. Model: Ion. Model Year: 2004. Mileage: 109,047. MPG: 23 City/ 32 Highway (619) 504-9959

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SCADA/INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN or Senior SCADA/ Instrumentation Technician \$39.26 - \$56.82 Hourly. Must be a highly skilled electrical, electronic, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Technician with knowledge of design and software programming of SCADA systems, and have experience with pressure, temperature level and flow detectors/instruments, Distribution Control Systems, and possess exceptional problem-solving skills. Military experience as a Nuclear Electronics Technician or Navy Missile Technician a plus. Please visit our website www.otaywater.gov for requirements and to apply online. Open until filled. EOE

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER: develop, test, enhance app software. Require Master degree in Computer Science plus 12 months experience as Software Eng. Dev or closely rel. In San Diego CA. Mail resume: ConvergeDirect 6650 Lusk Blvd Ste B205 San Diego CA 92121

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"Get out there every day and have fun. Don't skip school."



52-year-old Private Investigator Dave O'Connor surfs Scripps pier.

Are you originally from San Diego? No but I have lived here for 30 years. I moved here straight out of college just to surf. My girlfriend and I packed up our car and drove here from Florida. We floated right into La Jolla and stayed. We've been here ever since.

What's your favorite surfing spot? Blacks Beach. That's the whole reason we stayed in La Jolla. Scripps Pier is my second-favorite spot.

How often do you surf? I used to surf every day when I was younger, but now my body doesn't let me. I get out as much as I can.

Do you have a favorite surfing moment? Probably my first ever surf trip when I was teenager. I went to Barbados. It was great. From that moment on I started taking two surf trips a year. I have been to the Congo, Samoa, Fiji, all through Central and South America, and Africa.

Which location was your favorite? Indonesia. I don't go on two trips a year anymore. I try to do at least one though.

What is your least favorite local beach?

Probably Ocean Beach. It's just a little dirtier down there.

Advice to newbies? Get out there every day and have fun. Don't skip school.

Did you skip school? Well, yeah, I did, but don't do that.

instruments & medical devices. CARLSBAD, CA Send Resume: Aurora Spine Inc, 1930 Palomar Point Wy Ste 103, Carlsbad, CA 92008

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following position in San Diego, CA: Senior Software Engineer (ref# 5143): Utilize the "Eclipse" IDE using Java & JS development language in order to develop ITOM product called "Discovery". Mail resume to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. #5143, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

SHORT TERM DRIVE JOB OFFERED Road trip - Round trip - San Diego, CA to Miami, FL! You'll drive a Mercedes back to San Diego, Ca. for \$600 cash! All expenses paid both ways! 100% reliable only! Oct. 10th - 7 days possible. Female preferred. Kenny @ (912) 275-4411.

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SEEKING CAREGIVER POSITION. Hi, I'm a 38 yr. old male with 10 yrs experience, transportation and references. Seeking a live-in caregiver position for another gentleman. I live near S.D.S.U. (619) 689-7344. Very reasonable rates. Keith / ghf92565@gmail.com

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

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ROOM NEEDED FOR TRADE, ASAP! I'm a mature female(no kids/pets)looking for a private room/space in trade for providing domestic services such as housekeeping, cooking/baking, pet care, etc... NOT looking for a FWB situation! Must be a safe, clean, peaceful sober environment. Thx sandiegolady13@gmail.com

ELECTRO BREAKDANCE MUSIC I'm paying 50%-60% on sold eBay prices on certain electro breakdance music. So if the item sells (green) on average for \$100, I will pay \$50-\$60. Buying cassettes and records. We will meet in PUBLIC spots only (ie. Starbucks or the mall). the1pjohn@yahoo.com

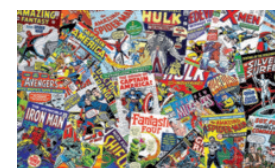
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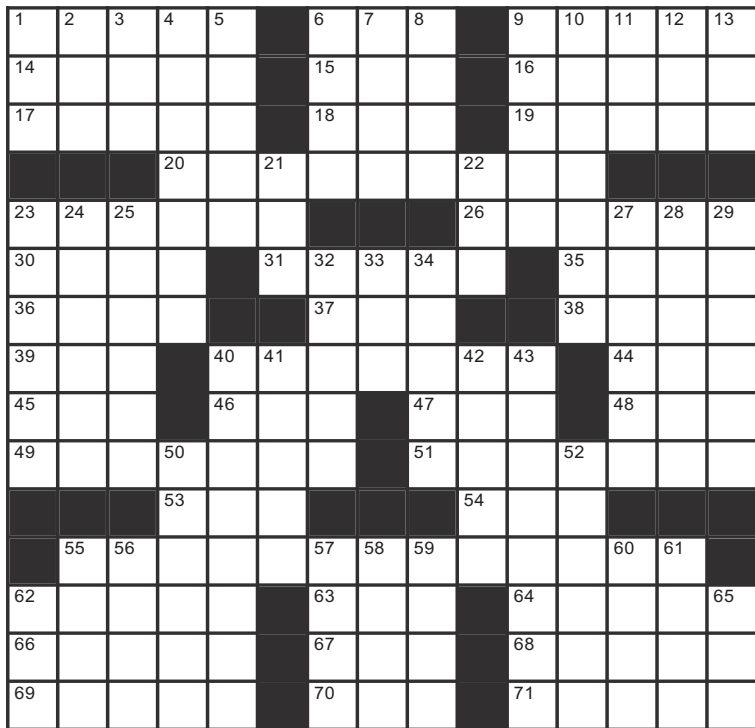
COMIC BOOK BOOKS COLLECTIONS Hello, I buy and collect comic books. No collection too large. Please send photos. sandiegosanta@yahoo.com

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Across

1. With 71-Across, popular kid's book series by Jane O'Connor
6. Like cabernet sauvignon
9. March Madness, with "the"
14. Quintet followed by "... and sometimes Y"
15. Electric guitar, slangily
16. MD you don't need an appointment to see
17. Like someone associated with a blue, pink and white flag, for short
18. Surveillance device, briefly
19. Item on a wrist
20. Popular children's book series by Megan McDonald
23. Treat leniently, with "on"
26. "Yippee!"
30. Eldest Stark son on "Game of Thrones"
31. Cling wrap brand
35. Bleak genre
36. Reddit Q&A sessions
37. Middle of Venezuela?
38. With no assistance
39. "Fresh Air" network
40. College course that might be taken by someone who read 1-/71-Across, 20-Across and 55-Across as a child (it rhymes too!)
44. Message afterthoughts: Abbr.
45. Stuff in cigarettes
46. Afore
47. Destructive 2021 hurricane
48. USS Enterprise captain Jean-____ Picard

49. Woodworker's device, informally
51. Nickname of the Mexican drug lord Joaquín Guzmán
53. Necessary: Abbr.
54. Barely squeak (out)
55. Popular children's book series by Peggy Parish
62. Author Calvin
63. Part of a journey
64. Al ____ (pasta order)
66. 1998 De Niro crime thriller
67. "You're it!"
68. Sign that indicates "Quiet!"
69. Genre featured at Tokyo's Comiket convention
70. Activist/artist Yoko
71. See 1-Across

22. Have title to
23. Endowments for the arts
24. Two notes from a tuba
25. Pizza chain in many malls and airports
27. Ado
28. Prepares for a Mr. Universe competition, say
29. Pitcher Jesse with a record 1,252 regular-season appearances
32. Ancient worshipper of Tezcatlipoca and Tlaloc
33. "Parks and ____" (2009-15 TV show, informally)
34. American Eagle intimate apparel brand
40. Video game starting point
41. Like many dinar spenders
42. Waited at a light, say
43. Attached
50. Qualifying race at the Olympics, for short
52. State capital founded during a gold rush
55. Buckets
56. ____-pedi
57. Palo ____
58. Noggin
59. Brand with a Buzzy Bee Waffle recipe
60. Aerosmith's "Love ____ Elevator"
61. Suffix for symptom or problem
62. Roth ____
65. Trick ending?

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

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

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted via email for prize redemption.

☛ **Rick Barlow, Encinitas, 1.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ Email: _____

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EVIL:

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

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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

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☛ **Michael Russe, Vista, 14.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ Email: _____

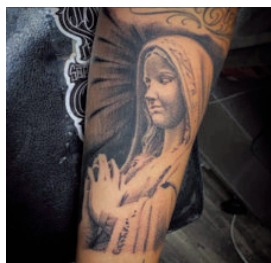
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

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Pull of the Earth

continued from page 15

ask, "Where?"

"San Diego. I've got friends there. I could get a job."

That might have been true, but Janet Vaughn, still too sober for mad dreams, was sipping her wine and thinking how she couldn't leave her new kitchen behind. That was foolishness, but she needed something trivial right then to anchor the immensity of the thing. Her mind kept opening and closing on the fact that if she was pregnant, she had no other choice but to run away with the man.

"You gotta see it. It's beautiful out there. It's warm all year round with these blue skies that go on forever..." He was pitching hard and fast, and his eyes, glinting with something of final desperation, held hers. "I mean they've got a park there, Balboa Park, that's as big as all of Boston. Just the park. You gotta see it. They've got these little canyons in it with red and purple flowers growing

up the walls and these Spanish kinds of buildings and a zoo and lawns and gardens..."

"I can't."

"Sure you can."

"Hedley..."

"Hedley ain't gonna care as long as he's got the farm. You know that. He's gonna kill himself on that place whether you're there or not."

She knew he was right despite the hustle in his voice.

"Bobby..." she started, and the tension lifted to her chest and funneled up behind her eyes and nose at the pathos of it all.

Bobby, Ellen, Mom, Mary, Joe Jr., the kids, Jessica Lee, the house, the farm, her kitchen — all the people and places she would have to leave. It was like death, this new life dangled before her by Lucien Quirk. The candle flame blurred through her tears.

"Ernestine will take care of Bobby," he said.

He was stripping her of these people, perhaps of her illusions.

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gossip would die to legend. And who, finally, would care? And San Diego. The flutterings faded and her mood swung around. It might not be all bad. She let herself dream. She imagined blue skies and white buildings and a child in the sun. She could have her Jerusalem now. And they could just do it, pack up and go, just the way they had gone out and bought the sink and the linoleum. They could have a little house near the beach with a new kitchen if it needed one. She laughed, happy with her dream, because that's what it was, a dream, and dreams are safe.

The Reader will pay \$10 for submissions to "San Diego in Books" that are selected for publication. Choices must be drawn from books or out-of-town periodicals. Include author, title, date of publication, and your phone number. Email to editorial@sandiegoreader.com or send to "San Diego in Books," 2323 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102

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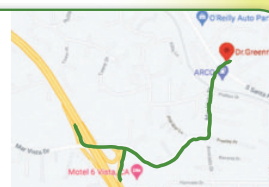


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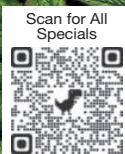
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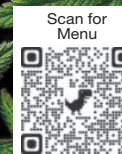


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10G for \$120
28G for \$350

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11g for **\$99**



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Live Resin**
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28g for **\$100**



Alien OG
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