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PAGE 12

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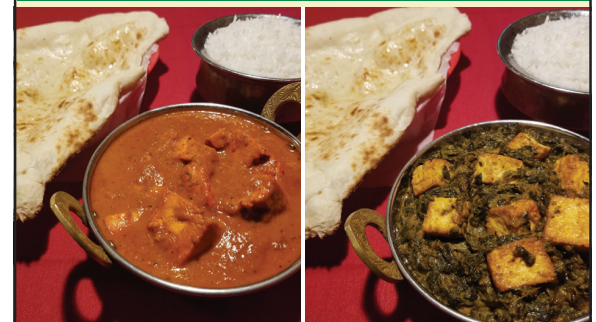
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

NORTH PARK Median-ocre

Civic scuffle over scuff marks on street structures

Recently, several North Park dwellers have reported accidents on University Avenue, a couple of blocks east of Texas Avenue. Bob LaRose, who lives close to Morley Field, emailed Councilman Stephen Whitburn on November 9, writing that University Avenue, “the street, is being left with ambiguous and misleading lane indications, causing people to plow into the median and/or parked cars. A number of cars have already been seriously damaged, and luckily, so far, no one that I know of



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB LAROSE

They call them medians because they're not well done.

the car driven by LaRose, 75, and his wife, Joan, 71. The couple has lived in North Park for 17 years. “There’s been a lot of reported accidents there,” LaRose said to me on November 21. “You can see a lot of scuff marks on the unfinished median where tires have hit them.” Joan took pho-

“Medians... are a pedestrian benefit because they can serve as a place of refuge for pedestrians who cross a street mid-block or at intersections.”

has been hurt.”

On November 22, I spoke to a Jack’s Muffler employee; the shop is on the corner of Mississippi and University, about three blocks west of the questionable set of medians. “I’m like, ‘What the hell was that?’” recounted the employee, who heard a crash. “As I was leaving work after 5 pm a few days ago, I saw a black or blue car on

tos of the new medians as her husband drove eastbound on University past the muffler shop, Louisiana Street, and then Caliber Collision on the corner of University and Arizona. The medians LaRose spoke to me about are in front of Caliber Collision (A North Park local heading westbound on University stopped, took two photos of the same “problematic”



Bob and Joan LaRose: “We really did not need a median on the road too narrow for it. I don’t really care what city planners say.”

top of the median. I believe the people that live in this area do not know that they put a new median in, and they don’t expect all of a sudden to have this median to come up.”

There are 18,637 average-daily-traffic cars and trucks that travel down University past Jack’s Muffler Services — including

median from the opposite side of Joan LaRose’s vantage point, then posted the images on the NextDoor app with the caption, “You can see where many vehicles’ tires have scuffed the median.”)

Joan LaRose continued, “This ‘road improvement’ stretches from Florida east to the 805. The lanes will be very narrow, one for a bus/bike lane and one for the flow of traffic. We really did not need a median on the road; it’s too narrow for it. I don’t really care what city planners say. They won’t drive on it daily. If you drive this, you’ll see scuff marks all along this new median because it sneaks up, and the lines in the road throw drivers off. Perhaps that will improve when the road is paved and re-marked, but in the

meantime — watch out!”

J.M., from North Park warned his Next-door neighbors on November 8: “Hazard! Please be careful driving on University with the new medians! These come out of nowhere and aren’t lit or otherwise marked. I nearly hit one yesterday evening, while going only about 25 mph. Swerved to miss it, which could have caused an accident in itself. I just drove by, and a truck had totally wiped out on it and was broken down, stuck on the far side. Poor guys. These were a bad idea to begin with from a traffic standpoint, and now they’re just plain dangerous.” Someone from Hillcrest corroborated J.M.’s claim: “I saw the kid in the truck you mentioned. He was on top of the median. I almost did the same, and then a car was trying to merge into my lane at the same time.”

On November 10, Ryan Darsey, director of community engagement from the office of Councilman Whitburn, emailed

LaRose. “Hello Bob [LaRose], thank you for reaching out to our office regarding these concerns. I did get a few calls on this yesterday, and I immediately reached out to advocate on behalf of our residents and their concerns. Today the contractor will begin adding additional measures to help with the visibility of the new improvements, which will include temp striping and additional signage.”

LaRose said that construction of the new University Avenue medians started about two months ago; he sent me a photo that Joan took on November 12. “Still visible were some of the old lane lines that, if followed, would lead drivers to plow right into the median,” he explained to me.

“They need to add lights there,” suggested the Jack’s Muffler worker. “Those orange cones are not enough.”

The Federal Highway Administration’s website states that adding a raised median costs taxpayers about \$15,000 to \$30,000 per 100 feet, depending on the site conditions, design, and whether the median can be “added as part of a utility improvement or other street construction project.” It continues, “Medians... are a pedestrian benefit because they can serve as a place of refuge for pedestrians who cross a street mid-block or at intersections. They provide space for street trees and other landscaping, which, in turn, can help reduce speeds.”

MIKE MADRAGA

PARKLAND

Choking the Bear

Park advocates lament lane addition proposal for the 52

Marian Bear Memorial Park is a riparian oasis in an urban landscape. When you’re there, it’s sometimes easy to forget you’re in the city. A canopy of large old syc-

continued on page 3



PHOTOGRAPH BY IRVIN GAVIDOR

“Even within the existing footprint, it’s still three more lanes of pollution, more runoff, more traffic.”

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

mores provides shade. San Clemente Creek trickles quietly along the canyon floor. Then a truck rumbles by to remind you that you're in a relatively narrow strip of green space, wedged between University City and Clairemont Mesa alongside Highway 52 between I-5 and 805,

For several decades, the freeway and the



The park is named for Marian Bear, who fought to preserve the creek by having the 52 built on a hillside and not in the canyon.

park have coexisted here, representing a commitment by city planners to protect San Clemente Canyon as a vital part of the Rose Creek watershed. But now, SANDAG is proposing additional traffic lanes on SR 52 where it runs

“But even within the existing footprint, it's still three more lanes of pollution, more runoff, more traffic,” said Friends of Rose Canyon director Deborah Knight, who works to preserve local green spaces and habitat. Knight says that more noise will discourage migratory birds and wildlife from using the vital canyon corridor, and more runoff will further degrade the quality of the water that flows from the canyon into Mission Bay.

On a recent overcast Monday afternoon, a who's who of environmental organizations

gathered on the bank of San Clemente Creek: The Audubon Society, Marian Bear Recreation Council, California Native Plant Society, and Friends of Rose Creek. They mobilized when they learned about SANDAG's plan, starting with circulating a petition. One signer commented, “Why are we investing in more infrastructure for cars?!?! Expanding our freeways at the expense of our remaining open spaces is not the answer to traffic that San Diego needs.”

Elementary school students

from Whitman and Hawthorne can walk to the park on field trips — descending through adjacent canyons to reach the stream and put their hands in the water. At night, deer, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, and a whole cast of

“Expanding our freeways at the expense of remaining open spaces is not the answer to traffic that San Diego needs.”

alongside the park. And because the plan isn't final yet, some locals want Mayor Todd Gloria to use his SANDAG board vote to oppose it. Almost 4000 people have signed the petition to Save Marian Bear Park.

The draft for the 2021 Regional Plan, which guides growth until 2050, includes adding three managed lanes to the 52 between the 5 and the 805 (and all the way east to the 15), to encourage carpooling. Additional transit connector lanes to the 5 and the 805 would carry new Rapid buses 870 and 890, which might be filled with commuters who opt out of personal vehicles. “The goal is to provide a compelling option to driving, while maximizing current infrastructure,” said Coleen Clementson of SANDAG. For the part of 52 that parallels the park, she said, “there is no intention to go beyond the existing footprint [of SR 52].” Computer modeling with all the inputs from projected transit projects in the 2050 plan shows a greenhouse gas reduction of 20.4 percent per person, said Clementson, slightly better than the state-mandated target of 19 percent below 2005 levels.



They speak for the creek: a veritable who's who of environmental advocates showed up to oppose the road expansion.

comply with laws that protect large, connected habitat preserves.

Clementson answered that reconfiguring the 52 could result in improved wildlife corridors and further preservation of habitat, much like the I-5 improvement project in Carlsbad, which included wetlands restoration. But before any ground breaks on the 52

continued on page 6

UNDER THE RADAR

Audit hotspot UCSD is again suffering an auditor's unflattering scrutiny. This time, it's State Auditor **Elaine Howle**, who has released a report accusing the school of failing to apply for millions of dollars of minority and Covid-19 federal emergency relief. UCSD's omission, the document notes, comes during a time of steep tuition hikes to fill the university's gaping financial holes. In their November 18 report, auditors say that UCSD lost out on a big chunk of education aid for its minority students because it had

previously failed to obtain so-called Minority-Serving Institution status. “UC San Diego has met the demographic requirements to be designated as an [Minority-Serving institution] for the past ten years; however, it has never pursued the designation, which may have cost it more than \$600,000” in federal funding, and much more in the future, per the report. UCSD's chief of staff for the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion told auditors that the qualification remains delayed because the school had “not yet developed a strategy for helping its Asian American and Native Pacific Islander student population.” He stated that “UC San Diego established a task force in the fall of 2020 to develop recommendations for supporting this population.” Adds the report, “To ensure that UC San Diego can provide additional educational opportunities and expand the campus's capacity to serve its minority students, it should apply for [Minority-Serving Institution] status during the next available application cycle.”

Making things worse, the document adds, UCSD deliberately did not apply for grants from

the Federal Emergency Management Agency — which would have significantly augmented the university's relief funds — because it required too much staff work. “UC San Diego's Campus Budget Office director indicated that FEMA's claims process puts a large administrative burden on campuses to gather all of the required documents, such as invoices and receipts associated with each expense.” But the stakes are high: “Expenditures that appear to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement [are] over \$40 million,” the report says. “To put the amount of these funds in perspective, we estimate that these funds would be the equivalent of the planned \$534 tuition increase of all four years of education for two classes of 9000 entering freshmen.”

In an October 29 letter to Howle, UCSD chancellor **Pradeep Khosla** did not dispute the findings and pledged to do better in the future. “We agree with the recommendation to apply

for [Minority-Serving Institution] status and are already planning to do so for the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 cycle. We understand that the call for applications typically occurs in the Winter, so we will apply for the upcoming FY2022 cycle when the application window is available.” He also promised to apply for FEMA cash. “In light of FEMA's most recent September 2021 COVID-19 Public Assistance Guidance, we will review expenses incurred in response to the pandemic and submit eligible expenses for reimbursement.”



Elaine Howle is just trying to help UCSD help others, people.

Atkins corral A longtime darling of the state's horse racing business, California Senate Pro Tem **Toni Atkins** of San Diego got \$11,200 from Thoroughbred Owners of California for her Toni Atkins for Lt. Governor 2026 committee on November 19. The former city council Democrat has long enjoyed the favor of the Del Mar track, showing up for fundraisers and racing meets thanks to free passes and turf club tick-

ets. “The new President Pro Tempore of the Senate is a longtime fan of racing,” California horse racing industry lobbyist **Robyn Black** wrote in the May 2018 edition of *California Thoroughbred* magazine. “Senator Toni Atkins is a regular, studying the horses in the walking ring before each post at Del Mar.” Other recent donations to the Atkins 2026 election fund include \$5000 on November 16 from Ace American Insurance Co. of Philadelphia. Also, the California Apartment Assoc. PAC gave \$8100 that day. And on November 3, the **Elon Musk**-run electric car maker Tesla came up with the same. Last month, Musk announced he was moving Tesla's headquarters from California to Texas, complaining of long commutes for his workers to affordable housing,



Toni Atkins: getting race funds from fellow race fans

a big cause with Atkins, whose spouse Jennifer LeSar runs a public housing consulting business. “We're taking it as far as possible, but there's a limit how big you can scale it in the Bay Area,” Musk said at the time. “Just to be clear, though, we will be continuing to expand our activities in California. This is not a matter of leaving California?...Democrat **Shirley Weber**, the former San Diego Assemblywoman appointed by Gov. **Gavin Newsom** to the post of California Secretary of State, continues collecting for her election bid next year. Ghost Management Group LLC., the Orange County-based pot industry proprietor, gave \$5000 on November 22. The Weedmaps publisher has long been in the legal crosshairs of federal law enforcers.

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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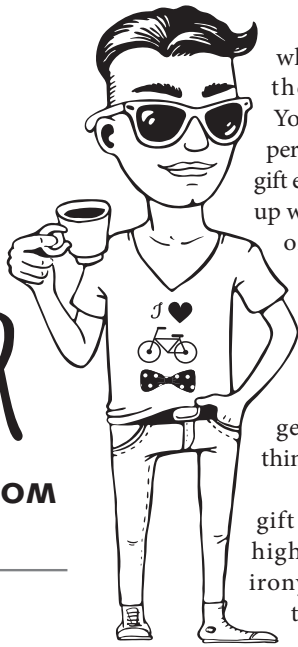


Dear Hipster:

As I'm sure you and everyone else remember, this time last year was a bummer for a lot of people. It was obviously a bummer in the big picture (you know, the whole "raging pandemic" thing we are all trying hard not to think too much about anymore), but there were also a lot of little things that fell by the wayside, and which we may not have even noticed at the time because they seemed small in comparison. One of the biggest downsides for me at this time in 2020 was missing out on holiday parties. It would appear that holiday parties are back with a vengeance, at least for this year, but my holiday skills have gotten super rusty. For example, I used to be so good at picking a gift for the white elephant at my work, but this year I am coming up with nothing. Even though I should feel inspired at this return to something like my old normal life, the inspiration I used to feel isn't coming naturally to me like it once did. I feel like I have lost a certain hipster innocence and irreverence that empowered me to select appropriately ironic gifts. Is it me, or has the world just lost its magic a little bit? How do I get the fire back and get back up to snuff on my gift-giving?

— RACHAEL

I have seen some amazing white elephant gifts in my day. I once attended a party where someone gave away an 8-track player and a box of tapes from the '70s that featured music you probably couldn't find any-



where these days except the Terminal Passage YouTube channel. I have personally participated in a gift exchange where I ended up with a bottle of fake pee on something like the second round, and not for all my wiles could I convince anyone to steal it away from me so that I could get something — anything — else. Good times. The art of humorous gift giving is among the highest forms of hipster irony. You have to strike the perfect balance of cheeky humor: not too

absurd and random that it makes no sense, but still clever enough to amuse. You're constrained by situational appropriateness in most cases, and almost always by budget.

In past years, I could have given you half-a-dozen solid suggestions for pop-culturally savvy gifts. But it seems much harder now, and I am not really sure why. I suspect it has something to do with how people have insulated



LOVE/PFAFF/GETTY IMAGES

Perfect white elephant gift!

themselves from each other, which cuts down on social interaction and makes humor harder, because humor is so often situational, and we are short on situations these days. Thus, you may be right — the world has lost a little of its magic, because we all stopped paying attention to the little

conventions and traditions that keep life interesting. The past two years have indeed taken a heavy pop-cultural toll. But that doesn't mean all hope is lost. Put yourself back in the frame of mind you had in, say, December 2019. Remember those days? Personally, I would have gone out and pounded the pavement, doing a little spontaneous detective work. Visiting odd shops and stuff to see what I could find. I think you just need to be spontaneous about it. Let the moment find you. If all else fails, one of those knit winter caps with deer *in flagrante delicto* on it never ceases to amuse.

— DJ Stevens

LETTERS

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

Animae's beefy booze

Seriously? Bourbon infused with beef fat? Just from an environmental and cost perspective this is absurd ("A5 old fashioned: Wagyu fat-washed bourbon," Downtown San Diego, November 15). I commend the idea of using multiple "parts", but the carbon footprint and expense of importing Wagyu beef really smacks if the face of climate change. And the damage done to the environment by feeding and raising cattle has been documented to be enormous. And the ethical concern of eating animals just makes this drink offensive.

Yes, calling it "beefy" is a put-off. I feel we all need to be a bit more thoughtful and a lot more responsible for our Earth and other living beings. This drink just seems a bit too indulgent for our times. By the way, this is the first letter I have ever written to the Reader! The topic was so offensive, I had to say something.

Stacie Canan
La Jolla

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

"Bike paths, bike lanes, cycle tracks, vehicular bicycling, sharrows, road diets, e-bikes"

Cover Stories November 24

Blakespear is destroying Encinitas with her corruption and incompetence. Those bike lanes are not safe. 10 foot wide vehicle lanes instead of the normal 12 ft wide are not safe. Vehicles are swerving into the wider bike lanes because 10 ft wide is too narrow for

larger vehicles. On Willow-spring no bike riders use the new wider lane because they can see vehicles entering the bike lane.

I have never seen a mayor so bent on destroying the city she lives in, from the narrow vehicle lanes, to attracting vagrants to the area increasing crime to levels never before seen, to pocketing developer money and promoting density at the beach (possible the dumbest thing I've ever heard) to ignoring her constituents and acting like a petulant queen. Hopefully the district voters will realize that her own city can't stand her and don't vote for her for state senate. Blakespear is a disaster.

—steve333

"Symphony silent on reasons for renovation" Classical Music November 26

My take is that this lack of transparency is far from "interesting"; it comes across as arrogant and elitist, with a bunch of high-flown rhetoric. You say that the details of the work haven't been revealed. Why? The usual and best explanation for that sort of thing is that there is something to hide.

With all of the wealth that the Jacobs family endowed the Symphony a decade or more ago, there isn't a lack of funding for just about anything it wants to do. If managed properly that funding should keep the Symphony "in clover" in perpetuity. (OK, maybe only a century.) The board may now be feeling flush, due to the big run-up in stock prices that has occurred in the past few years. BTW, that won't last.

If the Symphony reveals the details of all this "renovation" an interested observer might start looking at just who will be doing the work, and how much they will be paid. Potential for conflict of interest? That always lurks in the background.

— Visduh

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improvement project, Clementson said, an environmental impact report will be conducted. Details will be worked out in the future, she said, after 2035 and before 2050.

Deborah Knight was not placated. “Come 2045, much of the plan will be built out. And our urban population will be far denser, and Marian Bear Park’s open space even more valuable for both people and wildlife. It will then fall to San Diego’s future mayor and other elected officials to assess: do we need these three additional highway lanes badly enough? And is building them worth the damage to Marian Bear Park?” Added Frank Landis of the California Native Plant Society, “The city says it’s committed to CO2 reduction. It’s hard to say how adding three lanes of traffic reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”

This is not the first fight San Diegans have put up a fight for San Clemente Canyon. The park itself wouldn’t exist if not for the efforts of activist Marian Bear, a Clairemont Mesa resident who in the 1970s succeeded in having the 52 moved from the canyon floor to the hillsides above it, all in an effort to preserve the creek.

“So the city has a tradition of protecting this park,” Knight said. She wants San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, and San Diego City Council President Jennifer Campbell — all of whom sit on SANDAG’s board of directors — to simply delete from the regional plan the three additional lanes of traffic on the 52 between I-5 and I-805 before they vote on it in December. “They can’t say they don’t know about it,” Knight said. “It will be on their watch if it goes in the plan.”

LEORAH GAVIDOR



The view may be priceless, but the course is going to get pricier

LINKS

Golf gains But post-covid traffic boost not enough to halt hikes

The city’s three municipal golf courses closed on March 21, 2020 due to covid-19. When they reopened two months later, they found themselves busier than ever.

rounds played, according to John Howard, the city’s assistant golf operations director.

Balboa’s nine-hole course had the highest increase at 79 percent. Mission Bay was up 54 percent, rising to 102,000 rounds. “Rounds equate directly to revenue,” Howard told the environment committee last

“These increases are primarily due to the facts that the cost of goods are going up, wages are rising, and there are continued supply chain issues.”

Despite initial losses due to the closures, in 2021, the courses at Torrey Pines, Mission Bay, and Balboa Park bounced back in spectacular fashion. (Unlike some other forms of recreation, golf made it easy to socially distance.) Compared to the year before, the Balboa Park and Mission Bay golf courses saw especially high increases in

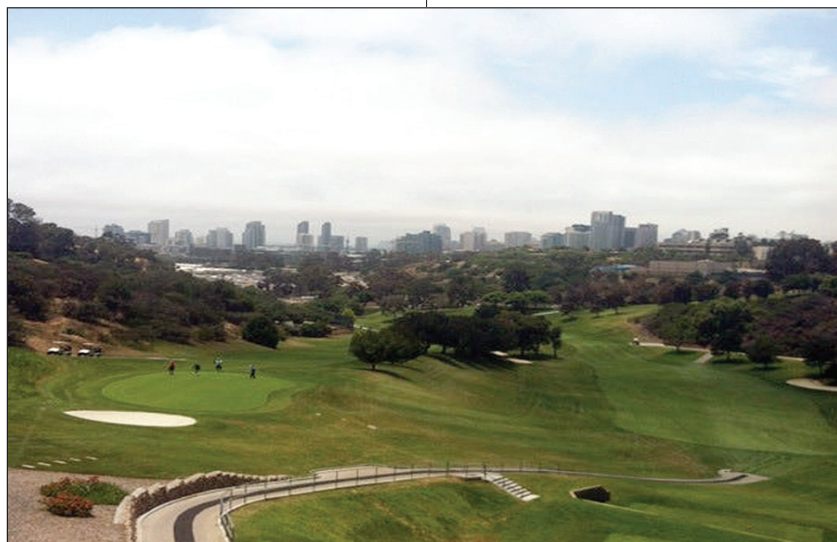
week in a triennial update on the golf business plan. “Unfortunately, we don’t believe these increases are going to be sustainable.” Further, a serious staffing shortage now threatens the gains. And the costs to run Balboa and Mission Bay courses have gone up \$1.7 million dollars since fiscal year 2019, Howard said. “These increases are primarily due to the facts that the cost of goods are going up, wages are rising, and there are continued supply chain issues.”

The golf enterprise fund, created by

the city council in 1991, is separate from the general fund, and excess revenue goes into capital improvements. Things like new irrigation systems that let course operators control the flow of water. Another improvement: in order to help meet the city’s climate action goals, the courses are looking at transitioning their low-horsepower motorized blowers to all electrical.

The cost of providing services is recovered through user fees. But even though the net income to the golf fund for 2021 was over \$9.9 million, the budget will have to be stretched to keep up the current service levels in 2022. Fewer players are expected to use the courses as pandemic fears wane and other recreational options are chosen. Hence the proposed fee hikes for all courses — three percent for residents and five percent for non residents — kicking in January 1, 2022. Residents will pay about \$1 more to play and non-residents, anywhere from \$4 to \$13, depending on the course and time of day. But there will be no increase to the junior monthly ticket or resident I.D. card.

SHEILA PELL



Balboa Park golf course. “This course will challenge your ability to keep the ball in the narrow fairways.”



Footgolf tournament at Mission Bay Golf Course.

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Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news



The Nuremberg Code on Permissible Medical Experiments: "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person...should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion."

"Wind" Storm Grammys issue statement defending nomination of local activist's metal rant

"We won't restrict the people who can submit their material for consideration. We won't look back at people's history." That was Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason, Jr. last week, defending the Academy's nomination of both Louis CK and Marilyn Manson for Grammy awards, despite the fact that both have been accused of abusive behavior by multiple women. Now, Mason has been forced to reaffirm and expand on that position in light of the "Heavy Metal Single" nomination given to Matt Baker's August rant against the San Diego County Board of Supervisors regarding mandates for covid vaccines. The speech, colloquially known as the "Wind of Time" rant, was turned into a heavy metal anthem by YouTuber Andre Antunes. It was later retitled "The Nuremberg Variations," due to Baker's claim that the Board was in violation of the Nuremberg Code, which was created by a war crimes tribunal

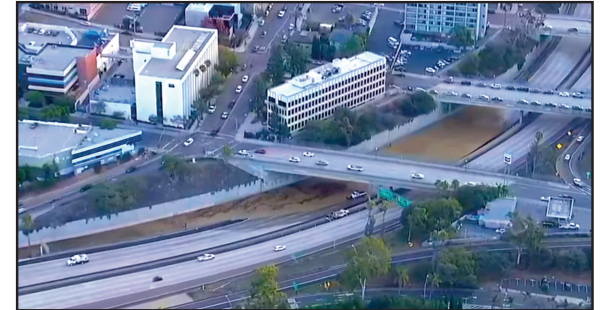
following World War II in light of various Nazi atrocities. Released as a single, it quickly sold more than 7 million copies, and has been streamed over 100 million times on Spotify.

"Clearly, Mr. Baker has touched a cultural nerve," read Mason's statement. "And heavy metal has always had as its mission the touching of that nerve, the furious rallying of the out-cast and those who are despised by so-called 'civilized society.'" The Establishment told Matt Baker that his time had expired. Clearly, that was not actually the case. Society has tried to censor metal before, deeming it a threat to morals and decency. The Academy didn't yield to the Powers that Be then, and we're not about to start now. This is heavy metal, people. You may not agree with Mr. Baker's ideas, but you can't argue with his lyrics and performance. And that's what we're nominating."

Puddle Pedagogy Mayor explains decision to educate commuters by flooding portion of I-5

Last week, thousands of San Diegans endured major traffic delays following the flooding and closure of a portion of I-5 North near the downtown area. At the time, blame was placed on a ruptured water main, but since then, details have emerged that paint a more complicated picture. "The fact is, the city made a deliberate decision to rupture the main," said Mayor Todd Gloria today, in an apparent effort to get out in front of the story. "But we had good reason for doing so. It is crucial that everyone get behind President Biden's effort to Build Back Better. That effort includes the repair and replacement of our aging infrastructure, and the ruptured main should make it clear just how important that infrastructure is. But more importantly, it includes a reconsideration of the way we live, and an imagining of ways

we can improve that — not just Build Back, but Build Back Better. It's obvious that our reliance on fossil fuels has got to change. Put simply, gasoline-powered cars contribute to global warming, which in turn contributes to the rise of sea levels worldwide. We



Mayor Gloria: "This is just a hint of what coastal cities like San Diego are in for if we don't get a handle on global warming."

felt there was a powerful lesson of their morning commute in dramatic fashion. We must do better, San Diego!"

The Yoda Code

"Anger, fear, aggression. The dark side are they."



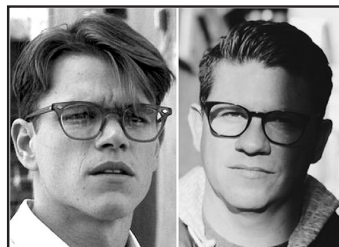
Protest sign displayed over San Diego freeway in wake of Not Guilty verdict for Kyle Rittenhouse, who was charged with murder after shooting and killing two people in Kenosha, Wisconsin during the riot that followed after Jacob Blake was shot by police there.



Protest sign after alteration by syntactically challenged Jedi master to reflect confidence in America's jury system and rule of law.

WHO PLAYS WHO

SAN DIEGO MEDIA EDITION



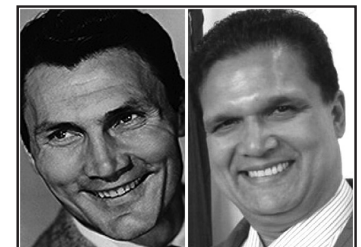
In *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, **Matt Damon** plays an ambitious outsider who longs to break into the glamorous life, despite the costs.

Writer and magazine lover **Troy Johnson** says he "invested everything" into purchasing a majority interest in *San Diego Magazine*.



In *The Farewell*, **Awkwafina** struggles with the ethics of revealing a life-or-death piece of information.

NBC Booking producer **Irene Byon**, formerly of NBC-7, allegedly sent a freelancer to follow the Rittenhouse jury bus.



In *Contempt*, **Jack Palance** played a rich and powerful man who declares, "I don't believe in modesty! I believe in pride!"

Powerful operator **Fat Leonard** recently released a podcast, despite being under house arrest and awaiting sentencing for bribery of Navy officials.



Before he became a political activist, Harvey Milk was stationed with the Navy in San Diego.

Champagne for the Milk

On the morning of November 6, a foghorn could be heard blasting a sound of oceanic proportions across the General Dynamics/National Steel and Shipbuilding Company's San Diego dry docks. Seconds earlier, the foghorn's bellow had been preceded by the crash of a champagne bottle as it was broken across the double-hulled bow of a new, 746-foot T-AO refueling vessel. And with that, the

The late Harvey Milk is widely regarded as the first out, gay man in America to be elected to public office. Before that, he served in the US Navy as a lieutenant. Milk stayed in the closet until he was 30, but eventually came out as a gay man in San Francisco. There, he lost multiple races for public office before finally winning election to the Board of Supervisors in 1977. A year later, he was shot and killed — along with San Francisco Mayor George

Mascone — by former fellow supervisor Dan White. In the months before his assassination, Milk won several battles against discrimination, not least among them the defeat of an initiative that would have barred gays from being employed by public schools.

Longtime local LGBTQ+ activist Nicole Murray Ramirez said the symbolism of the naming was important, "because it acknowledges our contributions to society, to governing, and to our fellow Americans. The letter writing worked. We, the Imperial Court System, flooded the Navy with letters." While Ramirez agreed that "this is about Harvey, who was himself a veteran," he added, "but more than that, it's about veterans and active-duty service members serving today."

At the ceremony, Secretary of the Navy Carlos del Toro spoke to an audience of about 235. "Take care of the people you lead, but

more importantly, fight for them," said del Toro. Then he addressed Stuart Milk, Harvey's nephew and president of the Harvey Milk Foundation. "That's what your uncle did." Secretary del Toro lamented the fact that Lt. Harvey Milk was essentially kicked out of the Navy for being gay, and that generations of other sailors and

service members likewise had been expelled from the military. (Milk had been stationed here in San Diego, serving in the submarine corps as a diving instructor.)

Stuart Milk also addressed the crowd, and expressed gratitude for the Navy's decision to name a ship after his uncle. He noted that the Navy had recently offered to convert his uncle's "less-than-honorable" discharge status to "honorable." The family declined the offer. "Uncle Harvey did not set out to have a ship, a school, a street, a park or anything named after him," Stuart said. "He did have a dream, however. The

and circumspect. "I think we have to extend grace to everybody," he said. "When I was coming up, it was lesbians and gays. Now we have transgender and intersex folks who are saying, 'I want to be seen and I want to be heard.' We're all learning; we all stumble. My hope is that we continue to show them grace and invite people to be a part of this inclusive process that is our country." (It is perhaps worth noting that the christening bottle was swung by Paula Neira, a transgender woman and a one-time Navy officer and clinician at Johns Hopkins, who was in the building when Milk was assassinated.)

"Uncle Harvey was forced to resign because he was gay. It's important to teach that we have evolved."

son of a Navy family...one of his dreams was for service members to serve with authenticity, and not be forced to hide who they were or who they loved. Uncle Harvey was forced to resign because he was gay. He underwent two weeks of intense interrogation, and it's important to teach that we have evolved."

While the ceremony was a joyous and celebratory affair, several veterans from the local LGBTQ+ community and others who had come from distant parts of the country were not allowed inside the gates, despite the fact that there were empty seats. One of them was Frank, a 91-year-old gay veteran who had served in wartime. "I was thinking of Frank, frankly," said Ramirez when asked how the ship-christening had made him feel.

At a press conference following the christening, Secretary del Toro explained, "Unfortunately, I think [that] was because of the covid restrictions that were placed on the ceremony itself." He encouraged people to get vaccinated, "so we can get back to a normal world where we can encourage far greater participation in ceremonies like this. When she comes in service in the July-August timeframe, maybe we can have a couple of more big ceremonies if the covid situation is under control."

Still, at least one high-profile San Diego politician took time to meet and be photographed with the veterans who were excluded from attending: Mayor Todd Gloria, who is gay. Asked by this reporter if people in the LGBTQ+ community are too tough on leaders like del Toro who are working to right the wrongs of the past, Gloria was empathetic

Stuart Milk concluded his remarks by mentioning a letter that he received from a 15-year-old gay youth in Kuwait, a nation which hosts U.S. Navy ships at one of its ports. "In Kuwait, it's still illegal to be LGBTQ+; in 70 countries it's still illegal...punishable by death in a dozen. But in Kuwait, they don't even have to have the death penalty. They have a thing called 'honor killings.' Families will kill a child who comes out. So Khalil had planned his own suicide so that his parents did not have to go to the trouble of killing him. But he heard about the U.S. Navy Ship Harvey Milk. He wrote to us and said, 'I'm sitting here in port in Kuwait waiting for the U.S. Navy ship to come and I've put aside my plan for suicide.'" ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY "BIKE MIKE" PHILLIPS

Local LGBTQ+ activist Nicole Murray Ramirez says the naming is about both Harvey Milk and "the veterans and active-duty service members serving today."

United States Navy officially launched its first ship honoring a publicly gay individual: the USNS Harvey Milk. With an eerie quietness the huge "oiler" slid smoothly into the bay, the red, white and blue streamers tied to her towering bow waving in the gray skies. Far below, a crowd of celebrants applauded.



PHOTOGRAPH BY "BIKE MIKE" PHILLIPS

The 746-foot T-AO oiler is the second of the new John Lewis class of replenishment ship.

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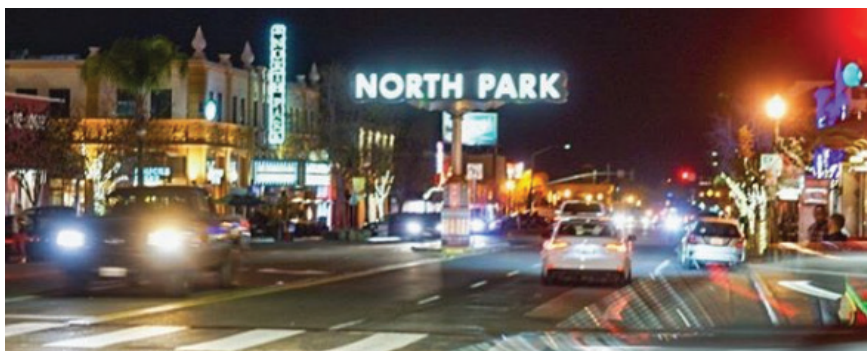


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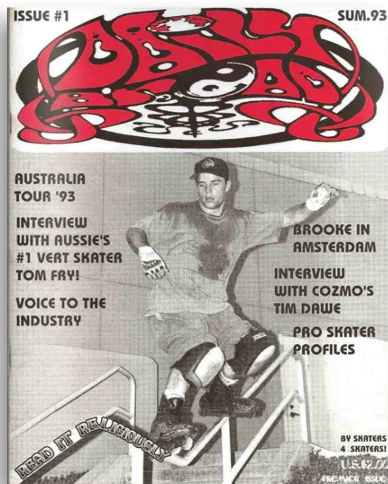
On a Saturday morning in mid-September, I drove to the Park de la Cruz skatepark in City Heights to meet up with a crew of skaters. The sun was shining bright, but it felt like the first break from oppressive heat in quite a while. As a result, the concrete playground was crowded for an early session.

I set up camp near a deep bowl on the park's western edge. My days

Angie Walton was a sponsored skater in the earliest days of what would become known as aggressive inline skating, but she is probably best known for the magazine she founded, *Daily Bread*.

of risking bodily injury on a skateboard at one of these locales have long since passed, but even if I had brought my beat-up jammer, I wouldn't have fit in with this group. I was surrounded by a pack of rollerbladers.

One of them, Danny Lopez, was attempting a grind on a curved ledge feature near the bowl that had caught the attention of the other bladers. While the ledge's steel-plated edge seemed to be the only surface that could be utilized for grinding tricks, Lopez had scoped out a smaller edge below it that ran the entire length of the feature. This second edge seemed to be there for purely aesthetic purposes. No skateboard, BMX bike, or scooter could use something so small — only be an inch or so in depth — for grinding. But there was Lopez, hopping into the



COURTESY OF DAILY BREAD MAGAZINE

Daily Bread magazine became the go-to publication for the aggressive inline skaters, and likely helped give blader culture a true sense of unity and identity.

air and locking one soul plate (the flat, plastic plate located between your feet and the wheels on rollerblades) onto the top edge, while simultaneously locking the soul plate on his other foot onto the smaller, shallow edge beneath the main one. As he performed his long grinds, it seemed as if he had unlocked a hidden

feature of the skatepark, one made just for bladers. The other rollerbladers worked the ledge with various grind variations before they gravitating toward the bowl. "Tall" Paul Hubbard used his size to tear into the bowl with a degree of power that made him entertaining to watch. He wasn't the smoothest blader,

but the sketchiness of his style, combined with the strength of his riding and unruliness of his beard, gave his grinds and airs an added degree of thrill. The bladers had the bowl nearly to themselves; there was only one skateboarder trading off turns with the inline crew. Everybody played nice. It was strange to see the

rollerbladers outnumbering the skateboarders, because I had been convinced that this type of aggressive rollerblading had basically gone extinct at some point during the past decade. The truth is, it's still around, though far removed from the sport's heyday in the late-'90s and early-2000s. Back then, it was more

visible in pop-culture via the X-Games and films such as 1993's *Airborne*. These days, it is much more underground. If you were a random visitor at the park on that day, you might have been fooled into thinking that San Diego was in the midst of a rollerblading revival. But this is not the case. These bladers just tend to arrive in force. "I feel like if we roll in large numbers, that's when we kind of become a threat," longtime rider (and Lopez's girlfriend) Dawn Everett explained. "We tried to do a competition at the Linda Vista skatepark about a year ago, and the skateboarders were just not having it. They were very vocal, telling us that we weren't welcome, and some of them were like 13-year-old kids — but there was like a whole gang of them. I live right next to this



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park, so I'm like, 'I see you. You skate this park every single day. You can't let us have a contest for a few hours?' It was pretty ridiculous."

Everett was already a sponsored rollerblader when she won a National Inline Skate Series (NISS) competition in Santa Monica in the mid-'90s. She was still in high school, and her rollerblading career took off. She was able to travel, compete, and get paid. "The money was good when I was skating," she recalled. "For one year, I think with competition earnings and what I got paid by my sponsors, I made like \$25K — as a 17-year-old. And that's just me as a girl. The guys were getting paid so much more than that. It was ridiculous."

After high school, Ev-

erett stopped competing and became more of a self-described "soul-skater" while she was attending college at Point Loma Nazarene University. "There was just too much pressure," she said. "Without all that pressure, I was free to keep skating and keep learning." Post-college, Everett moved to Northern California. She would often go blading after dropping her son off at school, but stopped around 2005. When she moved back down to San Diego around six years ago, she reconnected with some older riders she knew from her PLNU days. When her ailing knee isn't acting up — which she said is "a good part of the time, now that I'm older" — she rides with this local crew. If her knee is aching, she can often be found film-

ing other riders. "Everyone likes getting their clips, my boyfriend especially," she said. "I always try to make sure I don't miss his tricks."

Daily Bread days

Like Everett, Angie Walton is another longtime rider who has to limit her time on skates these days, due to a body that no longer fully cooperates. "Somedays I can't even walk on my foot at all," she said. "The last time I put my skates on, we took a trip to Laguna Beach. We tried to skate, and I just ended up in so much pain that we had to sort of hobble back to the car and put sandals on so I could give my heel a break."

Walton was a sponsored skater in the earliest days of what would become known as aggressive in-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Opie Tran is yet another old-school skater who currently hangs with the San Diego bladers. Before he went off to college circa 2003, he worked at *Daily Bread* for a short spell.

line skating, but she is probably best known for the magazine she founded — *Daily Bread*. It became the go-to publication for the aggressive inline skaters, and likely helped give blader culture a true sense of unity and identity. It's not too far-removed from what *Thrasher Magazine* arguably did for skateboarding. "It started with a handful of people here and a handful of people

in Australia," Walton explained. "It started with people who didn't give a fuck about being uncool, and who put them on, fell in love, and that was the end of that. They didn't fit in with skate dancing. They didn't fit in with hockey. They came from skateboard roots. They came from BMX roots. And they just found something they liked and did it. I'm very proud that's the roots, because

that's the nerds. That's the people who are truly creative and passionate, and just are not doing it because it's cool."

The earliest issues of *Daily Bread* were produced in Venice Beach, but by 1995, Walton had moved the magazine's operations down to San Diego. The city became a mecca for the aggressive rollerblading scene during the magazine's run, and Walton cites 1999 as a particularly epic year for the rollerblading industry. The magazine had global distribution and was being shipped to subscribers in Iceland, Germany, Japan, Korea and South Africa.

Four years later, *Daily Bread* got rocked by an industry sales slump, combined with the rise of digital media. "Everyone was getting hit hard with the recession, and skate sales were declining. When people were kind of feeling the heat, the first thing they would do is put down their hobbies and their extraneous purchases. All the companies were feeling it. Then here's the internet, where they're getting charged \$100 for an ad, and why are they gonna

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pay \$2400 for a full-page ad in a magazine? People were just hurting. Our ad sales went from like \$100,000 an issue to like \$30,000 an issue, and I had to figure out a way to survive on that, because our print run was enormous — it was global. Our print bill alone was like \$40,000. Add payroll onto that, and you're close to \$100,000."

Opie Tran is yet another old-school skater who currently hangs with the San Diego bladers. Before he went off to college circa 2003, he worked at *Daily Bread* for a short spell. "I was doing ad sales, so basically my job was to call up random companies and random pros and stuff like that, and ask for money," he shared. "I just remember it was really depressing. I was like, 'Man, none of

these people want to pay up.' You could tell that blading was pretty much on the way out." After 13 years in print, *Daily Bread* ceased operations on June 6, 2006.

Stop, no more hammers time

While attending Long Beach State, Tran became interested in music and stepped away from rollerblading. By the time he returned to San Diego circa 2007, he had picked up biking to stay fit. But after getting laid off from a job as a preschool teacher, Tran started tutoring autistic children. One of his students happened to live across the street from the skatepark in Paradise Hills. "I remember thinking that I should go blading, because there was a skatepark right there," he said. "So, one day I skat-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Gene Galang has never left the sport for any extended period. In his eyes, the decline of the rollerblading industry in the 2000s resulted in a collection of remaining core skaters whose dedication to the sport was unparalleled.

ed there by myself, and as I was leaving, Gene [Galang] came up to me and was like, 'Hey, are you leaving?' and then I ended up skating with him. I remember when I was skating with him,

I was like, 'Damn, this guy is amazing. He's one of the best skaters I've ever met.'

Tran, who had grown up skating with a small crew of friends in south-east San Diego, was sur-

prisingly isolated from the '90s blading explosion here. He stressed that his skate posse at that time was "never good" and "sucked. We would just skate little tiny things. To us, we were just in

our own little universe, so we didn't really have anyone to compare to except for random videos we saw. It was more just to hang out."

Galang introduced Tran to skaters whose skills were leaps and bounds above his own. "I would have asked for any of their autographs back in the day," Tran said. He started to ride with them regularly, and was progressing more in his mid-20s than he ever had before. "I did my first legit hand-rail when I was 30," he said. "When I met Gene is when I started getting good. Now, I feel like I'm the best I've ever been."

Gene Galang has been skating for over 25 years. He was present, along with Tran, at the skatepark the morning I ventured out to meet up with the bladers. Unlike Tran

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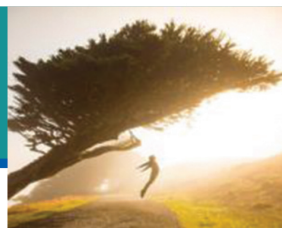
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and Everett, he has never left the sport for any extended period. In his eyes, the decline of the rollerblading industry in the 2000s resulted in a collection of remaining core skaters whose dedication to the sport was unparalleled. “That’s what made it cooler,” he said. “The people I met through it were still juiced on it. They still stuck with it. I’m 39 now. A lot of my friends dropped off and stopped doing it, because life gets in the way. But I met so many more people. It didn’t decline for me at all.”

Galang’s body is still intact, even though he was part of the 2000s era of rollerblading known for an abundance of “hammers” — large jumps, grinds and drops with amplified injury potential. “During that time, people were going nuts and hucking themselves everywhere,” he said. “For a certain time, that was it. All we wanted to do was one-up each other and find the biggest stuff to jump off of and find the biggest rails. It was crazy.” He doesn’t go as big as often these days,

but he added that, “once the adrenaline is going, I can still get down.” But he does note that “I have to stretch for like 40 minutes before I skate now. You can’t just get up and go anymore.”

Also capping his freedom to skate these days: a family. You would think the homemade skatepark he built in his backyard would have solved this problem, but no. “I call it the Dojo, and I don’t even get to skate that because the kids are always trying to play, too. So they’re in the way. I even gotta schedule skating for myself. You should see my setup. I have everything back there. I still need to make time for that.”

Big Wheel Wednesdays
When we spoke, Galang mentioned a weekly rollerblading ride through Balboa Park known as Big Wheel Wednesdays, organized by another local blader named Steven Badger. The ride was actually halted for a long while due to covid, but is now going strong again. As opposed to skating parks or street spots where bladers will



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

The terrain on Big Wheel Wednesdays may not be as difficult to navigate as bowls and half-pipes, but Steven Badger did mention some “small hill bombs” and areas with faster downhill that might intimidate novice riders.

attempt tricks on a specific feature repeatedly, Big Wheel Wednesday is

more akin to a run down a ski slope. You can do a grind on a ledge or jump a staircase along the way, but if you miss, the group isn’t stopping and turning around so you can try again.

“I try to structure it less like an aggressive session and a little bit more urban/recreational; if everybody is at least intermediate or better, we just blast through it,” Badger said. “We’ll get done within an hour. I would say our average is about four people that show up. But, I think three weeks ago we had 10 people show up. Sometimes, we’ll get a roller skater or two. And there are some people that are typically aggressive skaters who are just there to roll on the big wheels.

Actually, that’s kind of the core.”

The terrain on Big Wheel Wednesdays may not be as difficult to navigate as bowls and half-pipes, but Badger did mention some “small hill bombs” and areas with faster downhill that might intimidate novice riders. He said there are usually alternative routes for people who aren’t comfortable doing these downhill sections, especially since they are often riding them at night. “When I do this, I tell people, ‘Wear your pads, and get a headlamp or a flashlight so you can see what’s happening, because it is going to be dark at some point if it’s not dark when we start.’”

Even though his roots

are with aggressive skating, Badger’s enthusiasm for big-wheel rides is palpable. At the height of the covid lockdowns, he took advantage of downtown’s barren streets and sidewalks to create his own personal rollerblading utopia.

“I didn’t do much aggressive skating during covid because I had a bunch of family that was high-risk, including my wife,” Badger explained. “I was actually skating with a mask on, and I stayed away from the skateparks. But I went into downtown at night when it was completely a ghost town. I would go at 10 pm and just skate and then get back before midnight and nobody was out at all. It was eerie. No cars. Almost no people, not even transients. It was crazy. Right down the middle of the street, or on the sidewalk — it didn’t matter. The cops weren’t even there.”

Badger is another rider who is a holdover from the 1990s/2000s era of rollerblading. But his trajectory is unique. He grew up in Spring Valley and was blading recreationally for four or five years before he got into the aggressive style of riding. He joined the Air Force after high school and was stationed in England from 1997-1999. On a whim, he ended up taking his skates overseas. Over the next two years, he would not only ride skateparks all over England, but also at parks and skate spots in France, Italy, Switzerland and Holland. “It’s the closest I feel I could have gotten to pro without all the benefits of being flown out there myself by a major company and getting paid to skate. I just had to pay my own way,” he said.

Badger took a stab at

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competing and going pro when he came back to the States. He was competing in amateur Aggressive Skaters Association (ASA) events and made it to the finals in 2003, where he placed 51st out of 100 skaters at the championships. “It kind of made me think, ‘I’m good, but I’m not quite that good.’” He stopped competing, but kept riding until he hung up his skates around 2007. When he got back into the sport in 2016, there was a bit of a learning curve. “I’ve gotten a lot of stuff back, but some of the more difficult things I can’t do — like the big spins on quarter pipes or just over launch ramps. But there are some things that I have gotten better at now than I used to be. I think it took maybe six months to get to a reason-

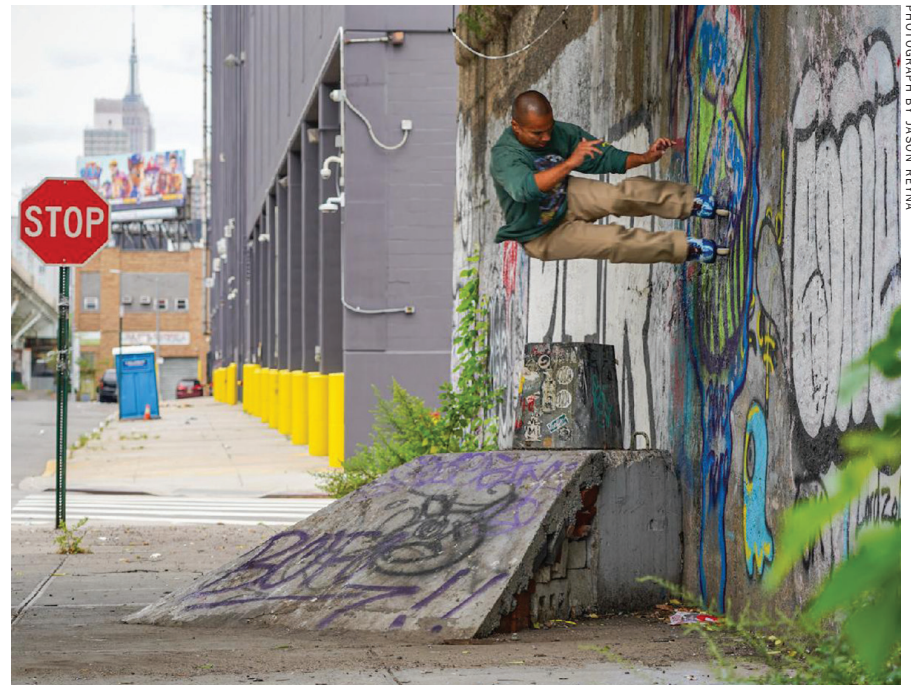
able, ‘Oh yeah, I suck still, but at least I can air over the coping, and I’ve got most of my safety grinds back, so this is cool.’” That was after two years as a couch potato. “I was roughly 170 before, and when I back got on my skates, I was like 195. For me, that’s pretty big. I’m still at like 185 or something right now, but I’m more lean, and I’ve got more leg muscle.”

Lately, he has started a new big wheel night ride that begins at Liberty Station, weaves through downtown, and even includes the added bonus of a downhill bomb inside the Hilton parking garage. “It’s a fun route because there are hardly any streetlights and it’s mostly flat, so I don’t have to worry about going uphill. I love going downhill; I don’t like going up.”

Them’s done good

When we spoke, Angie Walton was adamant that the current aggressive skating movement no longer needs her. “People are always telling me, ‘Do *Daily Bread* again,’” she explained, “and I’m like, ‘You don’t understand. You don’t need me. You need you to do what I did as a passionate skater. You need to do it for yourself now.’ I’m not that thing anymore. I can’t even put my damn skates on! I’m not gonna sit here and be the voice of an industry when I have no right to be.”

Jon Julio may not be starting a new, aggressive rollerblading print publication, but the longtime skater is now running his own rollerblading company. Skater-owned companies are a surpris-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON REVNA

Jon Julio was mulling taking a job with the postal service when he took a trip to China to explore options for manufacturing his own skates.

ing rarity in the world of inline skating. It may have something to do with the fact that the sport was so young when it exploded

in the '90s; there were no prior-generation skaters around to run the business side. Much of the '80s skateboarding explosion

was driven by companies such as Powell Peralta and Alva, which had '70s pro-skaters (Stacy Peralta and Tony Alva, respectively)

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providing their operations with automatic street cred and a direct line as to how skaters actually thought. Today, most of the bladers I spoke to for this article mentioned Julio's company, Them, as a beacon of hope for the industry.

"He was a pro back in the '90s, and he has a lot of respect from everybody in the world," Badger explained. "A part of the reason why his company has made it is because he has been in the industry for so long. He was a teenager back in the '90s. He's always been good, and he is still good to this day. He's very business conscious and he's very good at marketing. So when he decided to put the company together, people jumped on board very fast, even though what he put out was an old-mold skate from the '90s that he just sort of refurbished and made his own. He has since made a lot of upgrades and improved on it dramatically, but he's got a lot of respect in the community, so his company took off real quick."

Julio was mulling taking a job with the postal service when he took a trip to China to explore options



Pro-Division winner Montre Livingston doing a misty flip over a truck at the 2021 Blading Cup in Santa Ana.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRANDON SMITH

blood into the local fold. But how to spark interest? Walton spoke highly of Mushroom Blading, a YouTube channel that she feels is "an excellent voice for the industry." Badger mentioned a YouTube skateboarding channel, Braille Skateboarding, that often features rollerbladers as having great crossover potential. "The world is going toward YouTube and all the online things like Instagram and Tik Tok," Badger said. "That's the way of the future for people to find this stuff, and I know it has helped for sure."

Then there's the Blading Cup, Jon Julio's annual competition in his home base of Santa Ana. He used to struggle to raise \$3000-\$4000 for the prize pool. This year, the winners are leaving a bit happier. "It's the biggest skating event in North America," Julio said when we spoke. "This is going to be our biggest event ever. We've raised about \$40,000 just for the event, and we are still two months out. It's gonna probably be the biggest prize pool we have ever raised. The biggest thing is that the roller-skating industry is also involved. Three or four of the biggest brands in roller-skating are sponsoring the event, so we're going to have a pretty eclectic group of people out there. A good mixture of both industries."

for manufacturing his own skates. He found a facility that could make it work, and then came back to the U.S. to attempt to fill pre-orders. "I had put the product that I made samples of online on my e-commerce site, and we raised \$150,000 within three days," he said. "With that money, I was able to fulfill what we needed to do to get our first production of skates here, keep the lights on, and get the ball rolling to launch

the company."

That was 2018, and Them has been doing fine ever since. There was a noticeable uptick during the holiday season of 2019, but business really exploded when covid hit. "We were like, 'Oh God, no one is gonna wanna shop or buy anything. Everyone is gonna be paranoid and take care of their money,'" Julio said. "It was the opposite. Everyone wound up being

home, and everyone was figuring out, 'What can I do at home that I can do with my family?' or 'What can I do individually as a person that I can still be outside?' People being at home injected a lot of money back into skating. It actually helped." Even the supply-chain gods seemed to be on Them's side. "I somehow lucked out and we actually received a really big [shipping] container that got us through a year, through covid," he said. "It arrived in April or May [2020.] We really haven't looked back since that delivery."

In Julio's eyes, the industry is back on track and the future looks even better. "I

joke around with a couple of friends of mine — 'Rollerblading just started last year. This is the first year. It's just the beginning.'"

A boost would certainly help, since the actual number of active aggressive rollerbladers in San Diego is undeniably low. Tran estimates it's at least 100, while Badger thinks it's lower — "at least 30 active aggressive skaters." Either way, neither seem like large numbers for a city that was at one time an industry epicenter.

Most of the current riders are '90s and 2000s veterans who are now in their 30s and 40s. Perhaps this new industry uptick will bring some young

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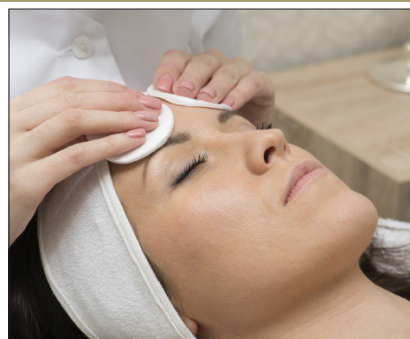
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“That’s a thing I said with my shoes on.”

I met up with a crew of bladers at the Paradise Hills skatepark a couple of days before the Blading Cup was set to go down. (This was the park where Tran first met Galang for those keeping track, and Tran even pointed out the apartments across the street from the park where he was working as a tutor on that fateful day.) It was much more of a throwback to '90s skateparks than the concrete-intensive City Heights park. A wooden mini-ramp, wooden quarter pipe, wooden funbox with some wooden rails... wood, wood, and more wood.

Badger showed up for the session and seemed right at home in the wooden wonderland. He was hucking spins over

the gap of the funbox like 2003 had never ended. He spent some time in the air over the quarter pipe as well, and left a slick of sweat on the mini-ramp after he missed a connection on a grind and slid on his back down one of the walls.

Galang was in attendance, even though a cracked sprinkler head had soaked his Dojo and derailed plans for us to all meet up in his backyard. His stylish grinds on the quarter pipes were a highlight of the session, and his effortless grinds on the ledge on top of the funbox were notable as well. Like so many skateboarders and surfers who look at home no matter what they’re doing on their boards, Galang has the gift of great style.

I noticed Tran was working grinds on the

ledge on top of the funbox. I tried to talk him into doing a particular trick for a photo op, the same way that Stacy Peralta might have tried to convince Lance Mountain in 1984 that riding your skateboard off the roof of your house would become a classic moment in the *Bones Brigade Video Show*. He wasn’t buying it. “Sometimes I’ll go around and see a skate spot, and it’s the most amazing thing, and then I’ll come back later on with my skates on and it’s nearly impossible,” Tran explained. “I have to remind myself, ‘That’s a thing I said with my shoes on.’ If I’ve been drinking, it gets a little heightened from there. I just have to check myself sometimes and remember there are things I say when I have my shoes on, and there are

things I say when I have my skates on, and they don’t always match up.”

Lopez was skating at Paradise Hills as well but called it a bit early due to some close calls. He was trying to keep his body intact for the Blading Cup, where he would be competing in the open competition. He made it up to Santa Ana with Everett in full health and competed in the open as planned. “There were five people per heat for five minutes,” Lopez explained. “We had 120 people, so we had to get through 120 people on Saturday. The top eight people would advance to the final. So, there were a lot of younger kids just hucking their bodies and doing crazy things.” He didn’t advance, but he enjoyed the opportunity to show off his skills to the crowd. After his session,

he was blindsided by spectators who complimented him on his riding. “It kind of stunned me,” he said.

Meanwhile, Everett was busy keeping tabs on all the skaters, since she was serving as one of the judges for the event. It’s also notable that Everett was the first female judge for the Blading Cup since its inception. “The ‘bladies’ [ladies] competition is where I feel like I was the most helpful, which is how it should be,” Everett said later. “They weren’t going to advance the girl from Chile [Catherine Reyes] into the finals, and I put my foot down and was like, ‘She did enough. The tricks she did were hard. We need this high level in the finals.’ So, they put her through and then she won first place.”

Julio later said that each day of the event drew an

estimated 1000 spectators, many of whom could be seen viewing the competition from a nearby, multi-level parking garage. The prize pool, \$23,100, did turn out to be a record high for the competition, and it was split by the those who finished in the top three of the various events. The winner of the pro division, Montre Livingston, pocketed the largest chunk of it: \$10,000.

“The city was really excited with how smoothly it went,” Julio explained. “It boosts the economy up with all the businesses around here, so they’re very happy with the overall success and would like to do it again, so we’re going to do it two times. We are going to do one in the summer and one in the winter/fall like we did this year.”

—Dryw Keltz

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A PEOPLE'S CUBAN CHRISTMAS TALE

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WHERE: Onstage Playhouse, 291 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. onstageplayhouse.org

Friday | 3

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Female-fronted reggae rockers Hirie's sophomore album *Wandering Soul* debuted at number one on the iTunes Reggae Chart and climbed as high



HIRIE

as number 39 overall on iTunes. The album also topped *Billboard's* Reggae Album Chart, and hit number ten on the Heatseekers Albums Chart.

Opening act Tribal Theory won a San Diego music award for Best World Music Album for their debut full-length *Hell of a Night*.

WHEN: Friday, December 3, 7 pm

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WHEN: Every day, 4 pm to 10 pm; Saturday, December 4 through Sunday, January 2.

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

Kringle Mingle event along Aberdeen Drive from noon to 5 pm. Also: pictures of Santa in his sleigh from 1 pm to 4 pm.

WHEN: Sunday, December 5, 3 pm to 6 pm

WHERE: Cardiff Town Center, San Elijo Avenue and Birmingham Drive, Cardiff by the Sea. cardiff101.com

Sunday | 5

OUR LADY PEACE

Canadian rockers Our Lady Peace have been around for nearly thirty years, fronted since their inception by poetic falsetto singer Raine Maida. The tour bringing them to Solana Beach this week will preview their upcoming tenth studio album *Spiritual Machines 2*, a sequel to their original full-length released in 2000.

WHEN: Sunday, December 5, 8 pm

WHERE: Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. bellyup.com

TASTE OF CARDIFF

Come to downtown Cardiff for local food, drinks, and live music. During the event, your vote will help name the winner of the Taste of Cardiff Golden Fork Award. Sip Stops, hosted by a local business, will offer you samples of North County's beer, wine, and kombucha. Taste of Cardiff is part of Cardiff's larger holiday extravaganza. Don't miss the



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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

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 small mammal. 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, December 8, 5pm; \$10. 6 and up. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajito Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

ART

First Friday Art Walk Artemis Fine Art Gallery will participate in the La Jolla First Friday Art walk Fridays, 4pm; through Friday, December 3, **free**. Artemis Fine Art Gallery, 1152 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Frozen in Time Art Exhibition The San Diego Watercolor Society presents "Frozen in Time", juried by award-winning artist, Scott Prior. Enjoy over 95 ready-to-hang original paintings by members. There will be an Opening in the Gallery Dec 3, from 5-8pm. The paintings can also be viewed and purchased online. Thursdays, 11am; Fridays, 11am; through Sunday, December 26, **free**. San Diego Watercolor Society, 2825 Dewey Road #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Holiday Vintage & Maker's Market SD Vintage Collective presents Home for the Holiday, an outdoor market featuring SoCal vintage curators and makers. Kids 16 and under are free. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Sunday, December 5, 9:30am; **free**-\$3. Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade, 2875 Dewey Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Impermanence Exhibition Opening The show highlights the work of four featured artists. Each artist will express, through varying mediums, their personal interpretation of what Impermanence means to them. Sunday, December 5, 2pm; **free**. PHES Gallery, 2633 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

Jewels of the Season Ornament-Making Workshop The Timken is offering a virtual holiday art workshop inspired by our Jewels of the Season installation, to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home. To purchase tickets over the phone, call Alexandra at 619-550-5955. Wednesday, December 8, 4pm; \$75-\$95. <https://bit.ly/3xvea1v>. (ONLINE)

OUTDOORS

Solar halo, corona, sundogs and colorful liquidambar

Atmospheric Ice-Crystal Effects are often observed, starting this time of year, because of the frequent appearance of high clouds made of tiny bits of ice. The most familiar of these optical effects is the 22°-radius halo, or ring, around the sun or the moon. Less often seen is a "corona" (a colored disk around the sun or moon — not the same as the solar corona seen during total eclipse), "sundogs" (colored arcs left and right of the sun), the sun pillar (a vertical column of light above the rising or setting sun), and a host of other rare and inconspicuous optical phenomena. All of the optical effects mentioned are a consequence of sunlight or moonlight refracting through or reflecting from the tiny facets of ice crystals in cirrus and other types of high clouds.

Liquidambar Trees, or sweet gums, the deciduous trees gracing front yards, parks, and campuses throughout the San Diego area,



MOST LIQUIDAMBAR IN OUR AREA REGAIN THEIR LIGHT GREEN FOLIAGE BY LATE FEBRUARY.



SOLAR HALO IN SAN CLEMENTE

have been putting on an exceptionally colorful show. The leaves of some varieties turn to purple or red; the leaves of other varieties fade to golden yellow. Still other varieties hold on to their green leaves until sometime in December. Most liquidambar in our area regain their light green foliage by late February.

Very Low Tides early this month coincide with good times of the day for tidepooling: Thursday, December 4, at 3:43 pm (-.87 feet); Friday at 4:30 pm (-1.15 feet); Saturday at 5:21 pm (-1.17 feet); and Sunday at 5:17 pm (-.97 feet). Very high tides will also occur within that string of days: Thursday at 9:02 am (+7.05 feet); Friday at 9:36 am (+7.29 feet); Saturday at 10:14 am (+7.31 feet); and Sunday at 9:55 am (7.08 feet).

Comet Leonard Passes M3. Comet Leonard (C/2021 A1) will probably brighten to 6th magnitude by Thursday night. It will be high in the east before the very first light of dawn, crossing the Canes Venatici/Bootes border. North Americans looking on late Thursday night will find it less than 1° below the 7th-magnitude globular cluster M3. Quite an interesting visual comparison to be made, and think photo opportunity!

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.

Sand Mandalas by the Buddhist Monks Creation of a Sand Mandala by the Buddhist Monks from Gaden Shartse Monastery: For four days, Buddhist Monks from Gaden Shartse Monastery will create a sand mandala. Suggested donation at the door: \$20. Masks required. Wednesday, December 8, 10am; PHES Gallery, 2633 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

gauge columnist Richard Lederer will offer a program of Christmas humor and history about the holiday and will also sign his new *Treasury of Christmas Humor*. Registration is recommended for this event. To register, visit online and click on the event title. Wednesday, December 8, 7pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Robin Preiss Glasser at La Jolla Riford Libray Warwick's presents a ZOOM APPEARANCE LIVE FROM HER STUDIO by Robin Preiss Glasser as she discusses her new book, *Grand Jeté and Me*. Saturday, December 4, 3pm; **free**-\$17. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Brené Brown Random House invites you to join #1 New York Times bestselling author Dr. Brené Brown for a special, one-night-only event to launch *Atlas of the Heart* on Thursday, December 2, at 5:00pm PST on Zoom. Thursday, December 2, 5pm; \$30-\$34. warwicks.com/event/brene-brown-2021. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Meg Waite Clayton Warwick's will host Meg Waite Clayton as she discusses her new book, *The Postmistress of Paris*. Wednesday, December 8, 4pm; **free**-\$27. warwicks.com/event/clayton-2021. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Author Livestream: Michael J. Fox Warwick's, in partnership with Flatiron Books, is honored to launch the paperback release of Michael J. Fox's New York Times bestselling memoir *NO TIME LIKE THE FUTURE*. Tuesday, December 7, 4pm; **free**-\$27. warwicks.com/event/fox-2021. (ONLINE)

Zaneta Varnado Johns Book Signing & Poetry Reading Join Zaneta Varnado Johns, Colorado's 2-time bestselling author and poet, in-person for a live book signing and poetry reading. Johns is the author of *Poetic Forecast: Reflections on Life's Promises, Storms, and Triumphs*, her debut book of poetry. Saturday, December 4, 11am; **free**. Road Runner Sports, 5553 Copley Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Brain Balance Achievement Centers Workshops Navigating Boyhood: How to Raise Kind, Calm, Cooperative Sons. In this workshop, you'll gain new insights

into the inner workings of your son's brain and learn exactly what it takes to fulfill his basic needs so that he stays confident, connected, and cooperative throughout his childhood. RSVP online. Tuesday, December 7, 8pm; **free**. <https://bit.ly/3l1v0d1>. (ONLINE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Author Talk & Performance: Jeeyoon Kim Classical pianist Jeeyoon Kim will discuss her new book, *Whenever You're Ready: How to Compose the Life of Your Dreams*, and perform a few musical pieces. This event will be recorded and available on the Library's Facebook and YouTube pages following the presentation. Thursday, December 2, 11am; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Richard Lederer Holiday Event *San Diego Union-Tribune* lan-

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Independent Filmmaking Learn the skills you need, including storyboarding and editing, to express your point of view during this introductory class. Monday, December 6, 4pm; **free**. sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/independent-filmmaking. (ONLINE)

Internet Programming & Web Design Students will learn how to design and build their own websites using HTML and CSS. Students will also learn how to change the look and feel of their website using Cascading Style Sheets. By the end of class, each student will have created their own web page! Saturday, December 4, 1pm; **free**. Linda Vista Library, 2160 Ulric Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Mahjong: Beyond the Basics 4 Week Course Players must have a basic knowledge of the game. Classes will include understanding the complex hands on the card, changing sections, rules & penalties of the game, winning strategies, defensive play and more. 2021 mahjong card required. Monday, December 6, 10am; \$100-\$125. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Slimy Sea Creatures Students will observe sea stars, sand dollars and moon snails, to name a few. Students will also consider what kind of invertebrate they would like to be. They will test their knowledge by playing a game that rewards those with the best mastery of vocabulary from the class. Saturday, December 4, 2pm; **free**. sandiego.librarymar-

ket.com/events/virtual-slimy-sea-creatures-12. (ONLINE)

Smart Ways to Fight Food Waste Solana Center's experts host a webinar where they will walk you through some easy steps on how to prevent food waste at home and various options for composting unavoidable food scraps to divert them from the landfill. You will receive the Zoom link to join upon registering. Thursday, December 2, 6pm; **free**. https://bit.ly/318mGqW. (ONLINE)

Squid Dissection Things may get a little inky as students work together to dissect a real squid. Students will develop scientific research skills as they learn about squids and other animals that make their homes in ocean ecosystems. Monday, December 6, 4pm; **free**. sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/virtual-squid-dissection. (ONLINE)

Style A Picture Perfect Charcuterie Board Experts from Gelson's will be hosting a virtual "Build Your Board" class, providing insight and instructions on crafting a buzz-worthy and Instagram-ready charcuterie board. Thursday, December 2, 6pm; \$49. gelson.com/events/view/build-your-board-an-online-learning-class. (ONLINE)

iPhone/iPad for Beginners 6 Week Course Join the online world using your iPad & iPhone. This class is designed for beginners. Wednesday, December 8, 12:30pm; \$20-\$90. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

COMEDY

A Very Merry Fu*king Holiday Show Host Herman the Elf takes you on a tour full of show stopping musical numbers, improvised carols, interactive comedy, sketch comedy, and seeing Santa finally get canceled. Sunday, December 5, 7pm; \$15-\$20. 21 and up. Finest City Improv, 3746 Sixth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Comedy Night: Trenton Davis Guests: Kash, Josh Francis, Colton Harpie, Alan Moore, Kat Thomas, host Alex Petit. Friday, December 3, 6:30pm; **free**. Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls by Christopher Durang A collection of 5 hysterical one-acts by Christopher Durang. Thursday, December 2, 8pm; Friday, December 3, 8pm; Saturday, December 4, 2pm and 8pm; \$32-\$40. 18 and up. Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Bl., Suite N. (ROLANDO)

Sam Tripoli As seen and heard on *Tin Foil Hat* podcast, *Dying Laughing*, the *Church Of What's Happening Now* with Joey Diaz, *Your Mom's House* with Tom Segura and Christina Pazsitzky, *The Past Weekend* with Theo Von, and the *Duncan Trussell Family Hour*. Thursday, December 2, 8pm; Friday, December 3, 8pm; Saturday, December 4, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; **free**. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Smarty Plants Presents The Bad Bad Show The Bad Bad Show encourages comics to get as dark and weird as they want to. This month's edition features Gary Petersen, Christina Catherine Martinez, Bryan Vokey, Nicole Becannon & more! Sunday, December 5, 7pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Trevor Noah Friday, December 3, 7:30pm; Viejas Arena, 5500 Canyon Crest Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

DANCE

Dance to the Holidays Dance to the Holidays features Celebrity Pros

from *Dancing with the Stars* performing with finalists from *So You Think You Can Dance*, *American Idol*, *The Voice*, and *America's Got Talent*. Saturday, December 4, 8pm; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

Envision Dance: Resilience Presented by the Envision Dance day classes, "Resilience" celebrates the human gifts of perseverance, creative expression, and community. Thursday, December 2, 4pm and 7pm; Friday, December 3, 4pm and 7pm; \$8-\$15. Canyon Crest Academy, 5951 Village Center Loop Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Voices for Children Volunteer Information Session Foster youth may feel isolated and alone as they have been removed from their homes and may be separated from their friends and family. Volunteers can advocate for the support they need to thrive during this season. With just 10-15 hours a month, you can be a reason a youth has to celebrate. Register online. Saturday, December 4, 10am; **free**. 21 and up. speakupnow.org/volunteer/. (ONLINE)

Warwick's Livestream: Tea-time Recommendations Join Warwick's booksellers and publishing reps for their latest book recommendations on Facebook Live. Monday, December 6, 4pm; **free**. warwicks.com/event/tea-time-211206. (ONLINE)

FARMERS' MARKETS

Escondido Certified Farmers Market Local, organic and delicious produce from certified farms. Tuesdays, 2:30pm; through Monday, December 27, **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Little Italy Wednesday Mercato Little Italy Wednesday Mercato occupies three blocks on West Date Street between Kettner Boulevard and State Street including the Piazza della Famiglia. Wednesdays,

9am; through Sunday, December 26, **free**. Piazza della Famiglia, 523 West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Promenade Market Enjoy crafts, coffee, and street food. Saturdays, 10am; through Saturday, December 31, **free**. Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Street Food Market Lane Field Park Market is a street food market showcasing 20+ food vendors, as well as boutique coffee, with live music from 12:30pm until 2:30pm. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Saturday, December 31, **free**. Lane Field Park, 1009 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

FILM

San Diego International Children's Film Festival The 17th San Diego International Children's Film Festival showcases short films and animation from around the world, good for all ages, toddlers through teens. Filmmaker and animator appearances. Saturday, December 4, 10am; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

FOR KIDS

Dance Pants Party Recommended for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary-school age kids, this simple dance program will feature "The Wheels on the Bus," "Baby Shark," and more. Weather permitting, this program will be held outdoors. For outdoor programs, masks are recommended but not required. For inside programs, masks are required for unvaccinated individuals ages 2+. Thursday, December 2, 10:30am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Exploring the Science of Harry Potter Students will explore the science and magic of the world of Harry Potter through video clips, presentations, discussions, activities and artwork. Topics include genetics and trait prediction (parseltongue, giants, squibs), acid/base chemistry (Marauder's Map), fantastic beasts and herbology. Monday, December 6, 4pm; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Annual Light Shows Winter Wonder Lights, ongoing holiday light shows and magical snowfall, will be featured every Friday and Saturday. The festive show will be spread throughout the main areas of The Forum, so guests can enjoy the show while distancing. Friday, December 3, 5pm; Saturday, December 4, 5pm; **free**. Forum Shopping Center, 1923 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

Free Magical Snowfalls with Music & Lights Enjoy magical snowfall, accompanied by choreographed music and lights. The magical snow transforms the courtyard near the Koi Pond into a holiday wonderland. Children get free headbands and "magic" glasses to watch the snow falling in rainbow colors. People can also pose with life-size Santa, the Snowman, Elsa, and Olaf cut-outs, located throughout the shopping center. Thursdays, 6pm; Fridays, 6pm; Saturdays, 6pm; Sundays, 6pm; through Sunday, December 19, **free**. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Holiday Bonfire & Visit with Santa The Lemon Grove Historical Society will participate in the 24th annual Holiday Bonfire sponsored by the City of Lemon Grove. Complementing the City's free hot chocolate and cookies, singalong, pony rides and huge bonfire will be the historical society's annual Christmas Open House in the Parsonage Museum and visit with Santa in the H. Lee House beside the huge Christmas tree. Friday, December 3, 4pm; **free**. Treganza Heritage Park, 3200 Main Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Holiday Family Festival Santa will arrive on the Holiday Express Train and listen to children's wishes and pose with them for parent picture-taking. Families can ride on the Holiday Express Train and Santa's elves will make balloon creations. Children, ages 12 and younger, can make a holiday decoration at the craft station. A magical daytime snow will fall at 1, 2 and 3pm Saturday, December 4, 12pm; **free**. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Holiday Giant Picture Frame Setting Come pose for a holiday photo in the giant picture frame setting. A professional photographer will be available to take "picture perfect" photos of friends and family members using each family's camera or mobile phone. Sunday, December 5, 4pm; **free**. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Holiday Market at North City Get ready to eat, drink and be merry at the annual San Marcos Holiday Market at North City. Shop for holiday gifts, decorations, pre-packaged food and treats, and hot food from over 100 local artisans and crafters. Sunday, December 5, 10am; **free**. Union Cowork San



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Marcos, 251 North City Drive Suite 127. (SAN MARCOS)

Little Italy Tree Lighting & Christmas Village Experience a magical evening filled with festive décor, seasonal vendors, a tree lighting ceremony, live entertainment and music, horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday treats, visit from Santa and more! Saturday, December 4, 4pm; **free**. Piazza della Famiglia, 523 West Date Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Snow 'n Glow Holiday Festival Trade in your flip-flops and board shorts for some snow boots and mittens as Jack Frost freezes the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Enjoy the 1 million enchanted lights, live entertainment and delicious tasty eats. Adults and kids will be able to play in the freshly made snow and go tubing in real snow. For tickets and more information, please visit snownglow.com/. Saturdays, 4pm; Sundays, 4pm; Mondays, 4pm; Tuesdays, 4pm; Wednesdays, 4pm; through Sunday, January 2, \$13-\$38. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

The Holiday Market Enjoy local and European-themed artisan shops, magical lighting displays, seasonal food and beverage, Santa and other holiday characters and more. Live entertainment will be featured on the Sycuan Stage in Gallagher Square during select nights. 7-days a week, 4pm; through Friday, December 24, \$10-\$14. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

LECTURES

Dharma Talk Dharma talk on Impermanence with Buddhist Monks from Gaden Shartse Monastery: Suggested donation at the door: \$20. Masks required. Wednesday, December 8, 7pm; **free**. PHES Gallery, 2633 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

Sierra Club Sierra Talks: California Indian Basketry Ikons of the Florescence: North American Indian tribes produced many of the finest baskets. The ones woven by several of the tribes located in Central California and Western Nevada are considered perhaps the best of the best, true masterpieces with both artistic as well as symbolic markings. Friday, December 3, 7pm; **free**. facebook.com/sierracclubs/. (ONLINE)

NATURE

Hawk Talk Stop by the Visitor Center Lobby on the first Sunday of each month to meet local falconer, Bob Gordon, and his feathered friend, "Huxley" the Harris's Hawk. Get up close and personal with this majestic bird of prey, while learning all about what makes it so special. Talk with a Hawk. Sunday, December 5, 9am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

King Tides Project at Rose Creek Salt Marsh & Estuary

Join the Friends of Rose Creek to document the King Tides in the Rose Creek Salt Marsh and Estuary adjacent to Mission Bay High. Bring your app enabled device and get set up to be a community scientist helping to project what sea level rise in our community will look like. Saturday, December 4, 7:30am; **free**. Mike Gotch Bridge 2600 N Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Bazaar MAKE Projects and International Rescue Committee's Small Business Development Center 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar featuring over 15 local refugees and immigrant-owned businesses. Explore global street food and listen to live music. Saturday, December 4, 10am; **free**. IRC Make Projects, 3725 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

FIST Combat Pro Wrestling FIST Combat hosted by @dirt-yrnmcdonald. Saturday, December 4, 7pm; \$20-\$25. OB Rassel House, 4861 Newport Avenue Unit C. (OCEAN BEACH)

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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.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

Tower 13: *Monday*, 4-10pm half off all tequilas

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.

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

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero: *Tuesday*, 3pm-5pm: \$8 well drinks, \$10 craft cocktails, \$2 off all draft beers. Three tacos for \$13 all day.

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.

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

BOOZE NEWS

BY MATTHEW FLYNN

Six-pack recycling hack

If you've ever bought a four- or six-pack of local craft beer cans, you've most likely encountered the solid plastic, colored carriers that hold together the majority of local canned brews. Those carriers are made by **PakTech**, a Eugene, OR, company; and, although they are made from 100% PCR (post-consumer recycled material) and are 100% recyclable, actually getting the tops recycled has proven to be a challenge. Although Pak-Tech will accept used carriers for recycling, they only accept them by the whole trailer load — something not entirely feasible for small- to medium-sized breweries.

Tom Kiely, General Manager

of **Thorn Brewing** and Slow Beer Chair at **Slow Food Urban San Diego**, was curious about how the carriers were recycled when simply tossed in a blue recycling bin. Kiely was put in touch with Steve Weihe, San Diego County's Recycling Specialist. Says Kiely, "I gave Steve a handful of PakTechs, and he ran an experiment with the MRF at EDCO to see how well PakTechs sort when they're thrown into mixed recycling bins, like blue trash barrels or bigger blue dumpsters. Turns out, not well. As in, 80% of them were diverted to landfill."

Weihe connected Thorn with Ed Fitch and **Cactus Recycling**, which purchases recyclable materials from organizations and sells them back to creators. Fitch and Weihe toured Thorn's brewery and found material that could be recycled in addition to the plastic tops, including shrink wrap and grain bags. For his part, Kiely shared the pair's findings with the Slow Beer Committee, and reached out to local breweries to drum up interest in starting what would ultimately become SD Brewcycling Collaborative. The response was overwhelming: according to Kiely, "about 15 breweries totaling 250,000 bbl/yr worth of production" expressed interest. Kiely continues, "In addition to the breweries, I was introduced to Fio & Romi

Borkert of **The Bountiful Bag**, who have been working on brewery waste upcycling for a few years and have a relationship with **Misadven-**



SAN DIEGO BREWCYCLING COLLABORATIVE

San Diego craft beer goes green

ture Vodka. Then Morgan Tenwick, Director of Quality at **Juneshine**, connected me with their Sustainability Lead (and now head-brewer) Luke Suttmiller, and he offered-up Juneshine as the host site where we could have each brewery send their grain bags, shrink wrap, and corrugated cardboard."

Phase 1 of the collaborative is underway, con-

sisting of: one large local brewery, **Port Brewing**; a small local brewery, **Thorn**; a very small brewery, **Nickel Brewing**; and Juneshine. Each brewery isolates their grain bags, shrink wrap, and corrugated cardboard, then drives them to Juneshine where all of the recyclables are combined, baled, and shipped for reuse. More breweries will be added in Phase 2, set to begin in January. Breweries interested in being part of the project can email hello@thebountifulbag.com, and individuals looking to recycle their PakTechs can send email to tomk@slowfoodurbansandiego.org.

On the beer front, Thorn is gearing up to make its popular Michelada more accessible to people throughout the county. Combining Thorn's Barrio Lager with its in-house mix consisting of tomato juice, lime juice, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, ponzu sauce, and clam juice, Michelada is being kegged to ship out to local bars and restaurants. This spring, cans of Thorn Michelada will start appearing in regional grocery stores — and now you know who to ask about responsibly disposing of their PakTech carriers.

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

ENCINITAS

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

KENSINGTON

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

LA JOLLA

Spiro's Mediterranean Cuisine: *Daily*, 3-6pm: \$2 off wine and beer.

LA MESA

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

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

LAKESIDE

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

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: *Daily*, 4pm-7pm: \$3 shot of select liquor with your first drink. 4-7pm: \$1 off domestic beer, 50 cents off cocktails.

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

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

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

NORTH PARK

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

OLD TOWN

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

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

PACIFIC BEACH

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.

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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Blue Line poke bowl

This is the start of a whole new way to see the county

This. Is. Fabulous.

Talking about the new Blue Line.

We're zinging up where no trolley has gone before. New stations with unknown names like "Tecolote Road," (Turns out "Tecolote" means "owl" in Nahuatl) and "Clairemont Drive."

And right where the in-spiring Mormon temple needles heavens on the right, we cruise to a stop. "Nobel Drive." It's one of those stations that's built up in the air, at the fifth level of a brand-new parking structure. And looking down to the street and a Marshall's store, I see a row of food places I've never seen before. Crumbl (a bakery just opening), a new Kebab Shop, and next to that, Padadak Korean Chicken. Then, a Jamba Juice, and at the other end, this — huh? Poki One N Half? Whatever, it's a poke place. It'll do fine. Give me time to chomp before the next Blue Line trolley

on the shoji distilled rice spirit, and can have as much alcohol as a strong beer. But like, say, Cutwater's canned drinks, it looks like it could be kinda sweet and fruity while packing a punch.

Whatever, I wimp out and ask for a Sapporo beer (\$3.95).

Now, gotta work out the "How To" part of this food. "First choose your bowl," say the instructions on the wall. I go for the small. You still get two scoops of fish plus all sorts of sides for \$11.99. Three

scoops cost \$12.99. Five scoops are \$14.99 (plus you get a bigger bowl of sides). They also have a Poki burrito stuffed with three scoops of fish for \$12.99.

That's it. Nice and simple. Except it's not. Back to the wall: a bunch of instructions tell you how to navigate all the fishy options. And there are plenty. So step one, choose your base.

Brown or white rice.

And salad, chips, or half and half. Step two, choose your add-ons, like avocado, or imitation crab meat (free!). Step three: choose your fish. Choices are salmon, tuna, albacore, minced lobster, shrimp, octopus, scallop, or spicy tuna, most of them raw. Step four, choose your heat: from mild to "fire" poke sauce. Step five, choose your toppings, from seaweed salad to ginger to wasabi to crunchy garlic. On and on. Also, you can get extras like miso soup (\$1.95), or the Chu-Hi J Pop (\$4.95).

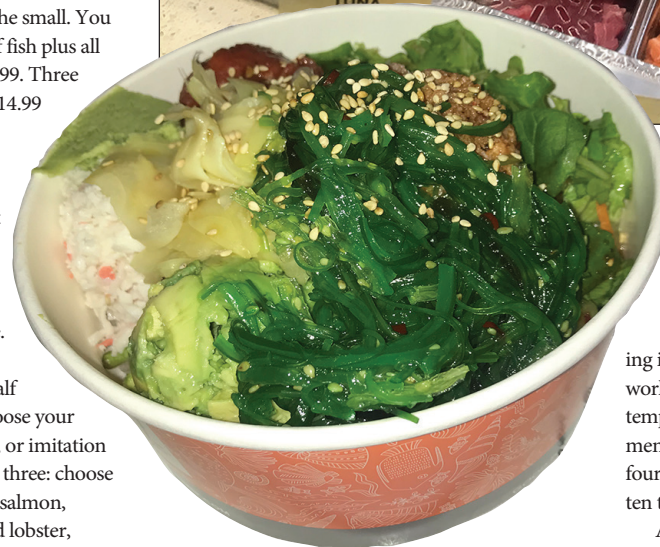
So, *whew*, you get through all those decisions, you just wanna sit down and glog something cold and fizzy. Foodwise, I chose rice (they had only white tonight), with salmon and minced lobster as my two proteins, and the fire-hot level of poke sauce, because I know they always tone things down spice-wise for us gringos. I take my tray, which holds my beer and round cardboard bowl, and head out into the cool, looking up at the Blue Line in the sky.

I was right to go hot-hot for the sauce. It's not really that hot. And yes, I do ask for some soy sauce. The original mixture tastes good, but leaves me craving the extra salty bite. From Tracy's look, I ain't the first. I mean, no complaints. There is plenty of flavor anyway. The salmon has a nice garlicky taste, or is that the lobster? Hard to tell, because everything tends to get mixed in together in the confines of the bowl.

But of course, the thing is, this is mostly healthy healthy healthy stuff compared with your standard fast food franchise fare. And Poki One N Half is a small chain that started up here, and now operates eight poke places around the county, including further up the Blue Line at UCSD. Because the fact is, poke (most spell it



Chopped up fish is what Poki's all about



Seaweed and sesame seeds

this way and pronounce it "poh-kay") is one of the great native Hawaiian dishes. Nothing to do with imported "Hawaiian" foods like Spam. Or even Japanese "tako" poke. And just like the choices on the wall, Hawaiians like to mix things up. Fish, vegetables of the sea (like seaweed), a bit of soy. And given how the general drift of fast foods — specially in this new shopping development — is towards healthy, Asia, and Pacific, this

sure looks to be the future. Of course, the main thing is to look for freshness, because it counts with fish more than anything. And this does taste good and fresh.

And guess what? The line just keeps on coming in behind me. Most look like students or office workers buying food to take home. I'm already tempted to come back, because within that simple menu is such a huge range of choices. You've got four bases, seven choices of seafood, and around ten toppings. Possible variations? You do the math.

As I head out and up towards the new trolley level station, I realize this is the start of a whole new way to see the county. The new Blue Line kinda sneaks into places like here in Nobel Drive, giving you a totally new take on areas you thought you knew. Can't wait to get back aboard and travel north.

One thing bothering me: What does "Poki One N Half" mean exactly? Tracy mutters something about how you get extra in your choice, but honestly I don't get it. Don't matter. I'm hooked anyway. Poh Kay? OK! ■



New trolley stop is right next to Poki, and the Mormon super church



What the name means: hard to decipher; food choices: hard to get wrong

takes me south.

By the time I finally work out how to ride this danged elevator, dusk is already starting to throw its cloak over that streetscape below. Lights of the eateries flicker on. Down at street level, it's a toss-up between Padadak Korean Chicken, the Kebab Shop, and Poki. Poki wins by a nose, mainly because they get me curious over a drink they call "Chu Hi J-Pop." What da...? "It's like an alcoholic pop soda drink," says Tracy, one of a team behind Poki's long, curved counter. Turns out Chu Hi is part of a new drink craze out of Japan. It's based

The Place: Poki One N Half, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive, Suite #109, 858-291-8855

Hours: 11am-10pm, daily

Prices: "Chu Hi J-Pop," \$4.95; Sapporo beer, 3.95; Small bowl poki (two scoops fish, sides), \$11.99; three scoops, \$12.99; five scoops, \$14.99; poki burrito (with three scoops of fish), \$12.99;

Buses: 30, 201, 202

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Trolley: Blue Line

Nearest Trolley Stop: Nobel Drive

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Budda busts out

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

Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food is getting a food truck

"We got a tiii-iiip!" sings out the cashier, after the customer at the front of the line drops cash in the jar.

"We got a tip!" sings back the makeshift kitchen crew, in unison and on beat. "We got a tip! We got a tip!"



A chicken tenders combo with beefy beans and cheesy macaroni.

They're dancing a little, and it's catchy enough that the rest of us are sure to put money in the jar to keep the good vibes going. We've gathered on a residential City Heights sidewalk, because

this pop-up kitchen tent is dishing out succulent fried chicken, shrimp, and catfish from the front yard of a beige house on the corner of Thorn Street. A banner on the tent reads, "Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food."

The crew is made up of family and friends of Michael "Budda" Price and Lily Nachampasak, the couple behind the small business. Both lost their jobs early in the pandemic, and were brainstorming ways to pay the bills. Price, who's gone by the nickname Budda since he was a kid, had never cooked professionally, but his food had a well-established reputation among friends and neighbors, for whom he enjoyed cooking on weekends and holidays.

So, one day in May 2020, Nachampasak announced via Instagram that they'd be taking orders for plates of fried chicken to pick up from their home in La Mesa. By the end of the day, they'd sold out, to the tune of 40 pounds of chicken. The next week, they tried it again, and sold out again. And it just kept going like that. They finally realized they should give the business a name when strangers started showing up, asking where to pick up food from Lily and Mali. Because, at this point, Nachampasak was still taking orders with the Instagram handle she shared with their daughter.

Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food was born. They invested in gear for the pop-up kitchen, and started irregular service out of a family member's yard. Before long, they were being invited to serve food at music festivals, night markets, and block parties.



City Heights pop-up serves fried chicken and other soul food dishes from a residential front yard.

And as of this week, they've bought a food truck. By December, in addition to popping up at local events, Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food will be hitting the road. Instagram will remain the best way to track their appearances, including a drive-thru set-up running into the evening from December 3 to 5.

I highly recommend stopping by. Chef Budda's fried chicken is seasoned to perfection, and about the crispiest I've tried in Southern California. His wings may be even better. He's just as adept at sides including a cheesy macaroni, potato salad, and savory rice and gravy. And if it's any indication, one of the many tipping customers tells the crew, "My eight-year-old says your catfish is the best thing she's ever eaten!" Combos featuring a protein and two sides run \$18-20.

As for the Blasian side of the menu, that's owed to Nachampasak's Lao background. Early on, they were offering such dishes as papaya salad, sticky rice, and curry. But to better meet pop-up demand, they simplified, sticking with the soul food items, plus chicken egg rolls. Happily, Nachampasak tells me we can look forward to those items, and more, returning to the menu once the food truck gets going. Which got me thinking: could there be a better cross-cultural food pairing than papaya salad and chef Budda's fried wings? I guess we're going to find out.

by Ian Anderson



Egg rolls represent a Lao-influenced menu that will be offered by the new Chef Budda Blasian food truck.

Encinitas Vegan Food Popup Pizza, nachos, grain bowls, Chinese, comfort food, cheeses, donuts, ice cream and more. Saturday, December 4, 12pm; **free**. Seaside Bazaar, 459 S. Coast Hwy. 101. (ENCINITAS)

Gospel Brunch Hosted by Sister Nun-of-the-Above (Tootie) with the Sisters of Sequin. Each entree includes unlimited Mimosas, Champagne, or Bloody Marys. Sundays, 12pm; through Thursday, June 30, Lips Restaurant, 3036 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

Grand Opening Grand Opening special Buy One, Get One deals. Friday, December 3, 10am; **free**. Board & Brew Poway, 13501 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Tropical Holiday Celebration Try the Jingle Bird; explore the Candy Cane Forest; see who's Noggy or Nice; and hop on the Peppermint Express. Try one or more of these seven seasonally themed cocktails. Saturday, December 4, 11am; **free**. 21 and up. Cutwater Spirits, 9750 Distribution Avenue. (MIRAMAR)

Turnback Tuesdays Retro show, hosted by the fabulous Paris Sukomi Max, with a night of all your favorite hits from the past. Drink and food specials all night long. Tuesdays, 8pm; through Thursday, June 30, Lips Restaurant, 3036 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

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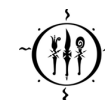
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blurt the inside track



Kyle Mcmillan: led by the Creator to make a space for creators.

Divine dance hall Kyle Mcmillan has lived in San Diego continuously since 1993, and he's been involved in local music for almost that entire time — as a musician, booker, and manager. Now he's opening a new all-ages club, Bridges, in Clairemont Mesa, and he's adamant that a higher power inspired him. "I'll have to say God led me to open up. While managing the Irenic, I always maintained a great relationship with the promoters I was working with. When I heard the Irenic shut down, I prayed and sent out an email to the promoters, letting them know I was still interested in hosting shows with them. When I got the greenlight from them, I started to get to work, to establish my own thing, and that's how Bridges came about. I partnered with my buddy-pastor Lance [Sherwood] at Communion Church, and we started our journey together as a church-event and concert venue. At the moment, my twin brother Kendrick McMillan is managing the venue, but I handle the day-to-day business side of things."

So while God may have had a hand in the matter, networking helped, too. "I met Lance in, I believe, 2015, while managing the Irenic. He came to do some recordings in the studio I built out on the campus there. I reached out to an amazing artist by the name of Haley Montgomery. I remembered she was connected to some churches that were interested in doing community events and concerts. That one phone call changed my whole life. She said, 'Kyle, get over to this new church that's getting built,' and what do you know, it was Lance's church. Lance saw the work I was doing at Irenic while he was doing that recording project, and he was like, 'Yes, bring all that over to my church.'"

The Bridges club serves no alcohol, but Mcmillan plans on providing "some of San Diego's best food, coffee, and dessert vendors at every show." He also promises to have four highly-trained and certified guards at every show, monitoring the stage, crowd control, and outside grounds. Capacity

runs to 225 seated, 425-450 standing.

As for the name, "Lance and I sat around talking about names to call the venue. He started talking about how he wanted to bridge the gap between the church and the music community in San Diego. He wants his facility grounds to be [a] hub for young creatives and creators. He wants people from all walks of life to feel comfortable, loved, and welcome when they come to shows. I immediately said, 'That's it, Bridges is the name,' and that was that. The message behind the name matters the most, because I feel the same way, about church and the music community."

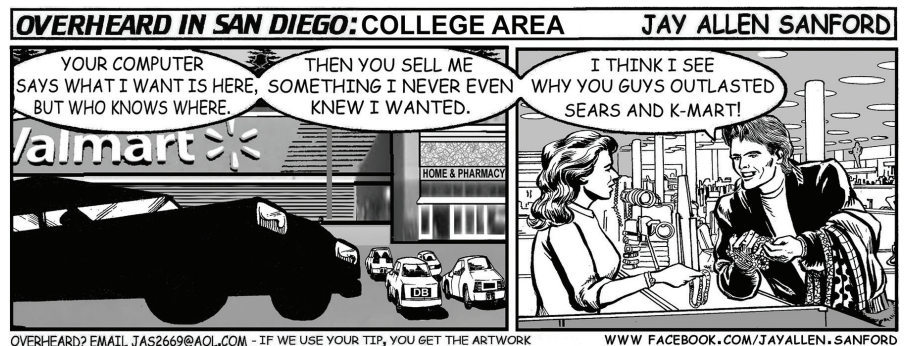
All-ages clubs can be difficult to navigate legally,

but Mcmillan avows that he didn't have much trouble in that department. "Getting the permits actually wasn't a challenge. The officer connected to that community was actually excited that something like this is coming to the area. After this pandemic, people are going to want a safe space to relax and enjoy some great music and community with friends and family."

— Andrew Hamlin

Seven years of Six String

North County concert impresario Kenneth Rexrode had zero experience in the music business when he was approached nearly ten years ago by a local country-music singer. "His name was Tony Suraci, and he wanted me to help produce an 'outlaw country' show. That idea eventually evolved into The Highwaymen," a tribute band playing the music of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson. "Tony taught me the music side, and I went to work promoting, booking and co-producing the show. Over the last nine years, the



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show has performed at The Belly Up over 20 times."

After getting that taste of music promotion, Rexrode was hooked. "A couple of years later, I had this dream of another type of show, one that would mix theater along with the music. It would be set in a 'living room,' with each show having a different story, while showcasing San Diego talent, including Whitney Shay, Gregory Page, and others. We have had six versions of the Six String Society show since we started seven years ago. It's been quite a journey since our first show at 98 Bottles, with 35 people in the audience. Obviously, we started with the guitar, but it has evolved into lots of other things over the years. It's expanded in lots of ways, including cruises around the Bay."

Like everyone else in the entertainment business, the Six String Society was hit hard by covid-19, eventually shutting down for 16 months. But they recently came back with "HalloGras," a floating show which combined a Halloween and Mardi Gras cruise (which had been cancelled twice) featuring nine bands. "It's a three and a half-hour cruise out of the Bahia Resort on a vessel with three levels and 500-person capacity. There's music happening on all three levels. We've done seven of them now, and they've turned into special events."

Next up for the organization is an ancillary production called "Pianotastic," which will serve as a fund-

raiser for The Piano Project, another Rexrode idea which delivers donated pianos to schools and other public places. "That concert is coming up on December 4. It'll be held at the Star Theater in Oceanside. Obviously, it's gonna be piano-centric. The headliner is going to be Brockett Parsons, who has been the keyboard player for Lady Gaga for the last 11 years. He's the co-creator of this beautiful circular instrument called the piano arch. Additionally, we'll have the Taryn Donath Trio featuring Laura Chavez, plus [frequent Six String guest] Jody Bagley on Hammond organ. Host-

Society shows — we like to bring all the acts back at the end to play together. It's a great way to bring people together through music."

Rexrode is careful to note that "we are observing the CDC guidelines brought down from the State. So of course, we're checking for proof of vaccinations. Things can always change, but that's the requirement at this point. If they can't prove they've been vaccinated, they need to wear a mask."

Biggest lesson learned in the nine years since starting the Six String Society? "Take chances, believe in myself, trust the performers, and



Post-pandemic promoter Kenneth Rexrode is ready to ride.

ing the show will be Robert Parker; he's kind of an ambassador of goodwill and humanity as well as a hell of a piano player. Opening the evening will be a koto player named Reiko Obata. She'll come back at the end with Brockett Parsons. That's another feature of Six String

just focus on making each show great. If I do that, everything seems to fall into place."

— Robert Bush

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

LOCAL *five*

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



LOCAL NATIVES

According to a November 20 online message posted by pop-punk rockers Local Natives, “We covered a few songs for and were in last night’s episode of *The Shrink Next Door* streaming on Apple TV+. To celebrate, we’ve released a new EP of ‘80s covers, three of which are in *The Shrink Next Door*, all of which are streaming everywhere. A special cassette version is available this Friday at independent record stores for Record Store Day.” The band is seen on the show performing three ‘80s covers at the PEN Gala,

where Ike (Paul Rudd) uses Marty’s (Will Ferrell) money to buy expensive auction items for charity. The band also appears as extras in a bidding scene. “Thank you [director] Michael Showalter for inviting us into your ‘80s dream world and getting us to cover Michael McDonald. Getting to watch legends Will Ferrell and Paul Rudd film in person was incredible, let alone be alongside them in a couple scenes.” The *Music from the PEN Gala 1983 EP* features songs made famous by Roxy Music, Gerry Rafferty, Michael McDonald, and 10cc.



NICEY NICE WORLD

Marcelo Radulovich (Playground Slap, Me Me the Moth) and Jim Call (The Penetrators), founders of Nicey Nice World, like to make experimental music featuring unusual instruments such as the hurdy gurdy (made famous by sixties folk icon Donovan in “Hurdy Gurdy Man”) and the theremin, popular in science fiction film soundtracks from the ‘50s through today. The group has a new album called *Nonsectarian*. “The half-baked tracks were recorded in 2014,” says Radulovich. “They consisted of eight electronic compositions I created with my iPhone using an app called Kaossilator by Korg. I presented these tracks

to the lads, they came in and played along to them, added a great organic musical quality. At that time, the band consisted of Mike Watson on fretless guitar, Barney Firks on fretless bass, and Nathan Hubbard on drums, with Jim Call and myself always present as founding members of the band. Took me a few years of on and off work on these songs to get them to this stage, something like a finished product. All this covid stuff has turned the world upside down, so there won’t be a release show or party. Just putting the album out there because I think a lot of people would enjoy hearing this music.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE SHERMAN, COURTESY SULLY SULLIVAN



THE SULLY BAND

Sully Sullivan (Sully & the Souljahs) was six when he first picked up a nylon-string guitar and played the opening chords of “Sitting on the Dock of the Bay” with his dad. An all-American football player in high school and a theater buff at college, he tried his hand at a music career in LA, and instead spent the next three decades moving up from Price Club cashier to self-made entrepreneur to local radio/TV personality, eventually making his way back to the stage and recording studio. Winners of a Best Live Performer trophy at the 2020 San Diego Music Awards, The Sully Band’s debut album *Let’s Straighten It Out* is due March 11 via Belly Up Records. Recorded at Henson

Recording Studio in Hollywood (formerly A&M Studios), the album was tracked in five days, with “mostly-live” renditions of ten classic ‘60s and ‘70s soul, blues, and R&B tunes. Songs curated by Grammy Award-winning producer Chris Goldsmith (Blind Boys of Alabama, Ben Harper) include Billy Preston’s “Nothing From Nothing,” Jackie Wilson’s “Higher and Higher,” and “Hallelujah, I Love Her So” by Ray Charles. Local soul singer Rebecca Jade duets with Sullivan on “When the Battle Is Over” by Mac Rebennack (aka Dr. John) and Jessie Hill, and young Fallbrook guitar sensation Anthony Cullins plays on “If You Love Me Like You Say” by the late Albert Collins.

COURTESY THREE ONE G



DEAF CLUB

Deaf Club features Justin Pearson (The Locust, Dead Cross, Planet B), Brian Amalfitano (ACxDC), Scott Osment (Weak Flesh), Jason Klein (Run with the Hunted), and Tommy Meehan (The Manx, Chum Out!). The band, which says they “approach music as an opportunity to confront our collective sicknesses,” recently released a cover and video of Killing Joke’s “The Wait” as a benefit for Fair Fight, an organization founded by political lightning rod Stacey Abrams. Other current music videos include a long form performance of their entire upcoming full-length *Produc-*

tive Disruption, and they collaborated with clothing brand Brain Dead to release limited test pressings of the album. Additional promotions have included a handful of shows in Southern California, including under a bridge in DTLA lit by the spotlight of a police helicopter hovering overhead. A single called “Planet Bombing” is now available from Productive Disruption, which is due January 6 via Pearson’s local Three One G label on limited edition vinyl, with 700 “persecutor color” copies and 300 “pyrolysis color” LPs, as well as a limited run of 100 cassettes.

STEVE POLTZ

Occasional Rugburn Steve Poltz’s 14th solo album (and first new LP in over two years), *Stardust & Satellites*, was produced by Oliver Wood and Jano Rix of The Wood Brothers and is due February 18 via Red House Records. Regarding its lead single “Conveyor Belt,” Poltz says “My mom passed away, and then a year later my dad crossed over. I started thinking that I was next on the conveyor belt in a factory on the wheel of time. Next thing I know, I grabbed my guitar and this song appeared to me like a gift. It didn’t exist and then, voila, there it was. It’s all a

mystery to me. I’m lucky to be a conduit.” The album came together during the pandemic shutdown, as Nashville roots rockers The Wood Brothers (with Poltz’s former neighbor Chris Wood) frequently joined him for socially distanced outdoor hangs, and Poltz ended up recording a new song with Wood and Jano Rix called “Frenemy.” Poltz is on tour and will be joined by the Wood Brothers for a run that kicks off January 25 in New York, followed by his annual two-day 50th Birthday Bash at the Belly Up on February 18 and 19. The second night features guest Oliver Wood and a Rugburns reunion performance.



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 — The Reverend Horton Heat. \$25-\$44.

Friday, 8pm — Queen Nation. \$24.

Sunday, 8pm — Our Lady Peace. \$35-\$62.

Tuesday, 8pm — Venice. \$24-\$42.

Wednesday, 8pm — Leonid & Friends: Chicago Tribute. \$37-\$39.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

Friday, 7:30pm — The Encinitas Guitar Orchestra Christmas Concert. Free.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 8pm — Vitriol and Unidad Trauma. \$12-\$16.

Saturday, 8pm — Nekromantix and the Delta Bombers. \$25.

Tuesday, 8pm — GOST and True Body. \$13-\$15.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Off With Their Heads and Supercrush. \$14.

Wednesday, 8pm — Wand. \$15.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Saturday, 8pm — Scary Gary Show and Lovemask. Free.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, 4pm — San Diego City Soul Club. \$12-\$15.

First United Methodist Church of San Diego:

Sunday, 7pm — Choral Concert. Free.

Holding Company:

Wednesday, 6:30pm — Rebirth Brass Band. \$21-\$45.

House of Blues:

Friday, 8pm — Lanco. \$25-\$65.

Saturday, 8pm — Alfie Templeman. \$15.

Sunday, 7pm — Pouya. \$29-\$60.

Wednesday, 7:30pm — The Locust and Sonido De La Frontera.

Jolly Joker Tavern:

Friday, 8pm — Sonic Moonshine. Free.

Friday, 8pm — Sonic Moonshine. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — David Donner & the Dynamites. Free.

Kraken:

Sunday, 8pm — Miss Demeanor.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, 7:30pm — Lindsey Buckingham.

Monday, 7:30pm — Mary Chapin Carpenter, Marc Cohn, Shawn Colvin.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Branded. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Friday, 9pm — The Whole Shabang.

Saturday, 9pm — 8 East Band. Free.

Music Box:

Saturday, 8pm — The English Beat.

Navajo Live:

Wednesday, 6:30pm — Big Blues Jam.

Thursday, 7pm — Open Mic: Elephantricity, solos, duos, bands & jams.

Tuesday, 8pm — Kick-Ass Karaoke.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, 7pm — Hirie and Tribal Theory. \$27.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Blue October and Yam Haus. \$30-\$55.

Sunday & Monday, 6:30pm — Courtney Barnett and Barteas Strange. \$57-\$75.

Olive Peirce Middle School:

Friday, 7pm — Back to the Garden: Sounds of the Laurel Canyon.

Pal Joey's:

Friday, 9pm — West of 5. Free.

Ritz Theater:

Thursday, 7pm — Ramones Tribute Show. Free.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Through Being Cool ft. Empty Streets. \$12.

Friday, 8pm — Okey Dokey. \$17.

Monday, 7:30pm — Hovey Benjamin. \$12.

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Jack Symes and Hot Moms Club.

Wednesday, 6:30pm — Comeback Kid and No Warning.

Soma:

Friday, 6pm — Tres Legados. \$24.

Saturday, 7:30pm — Waterparks. \$30.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground:

Sunday, 4:30pm — Slack Key 'Ohana.

Star Theatre:

Saturday, 7pm — Six String Society: Pianostatic.

Tio Leo's:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Chickenbone Slim. \$7.

Viejas Arena:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Christian Nodal and Gera MX. \$29-\$149.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 8pm — Mike Pinto. \$15-\$20.

Friday, 9pm — Shakedown String Band. \$8.

Saturday, 8pm — Oceans and Zeptune. \$10.

Sunday, 4pm — West of 5. Free.

UPCOMING SHOWS

American Legion Post 416:

Friday, Dec. 10 — 8 East Band. Free.

Balboa Theatre:

Tuesday, Dec. 14 — Pink Martini

Featuring China Forbes.

Thursday, Dec. 16 — Bela Fleck.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, Dec. 9 — Robert Cray. \$42-\$74.

Friday, Dec. 10 — The Spazmatics and Lies N' Roses. \$18-\$32.

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Marc Broussard.

Sunday, Dec. 12 — The Slackers and the Aggrolites.

Monday, Dec. 13 — Thievery Corporation.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 — Thievery Corporation.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 — Mariachi El Bronx.

Friday, Dec. 17 — The Gin Blossoms.

Sunday, Dec. 19 — X and Soft Kill.

Monday, Dec. 20 — Men At Work.

Tuesday, Dec. 21 — Men At Work.

Wednesday, Dec. 22 — Men At Work.

Thursday, Dec. 23 — Cash'd Out Christmas.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, Dec. 9 — Exhorder and Take Offense. \$25-\$28.

Friday, Dec. 10 — Red Jumpsuit Apparatus and Eyes Set To Kill. \$18-\$22.

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Antichrist Siege Machine and Crematory Stench. \$15.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 — Hostilities and Overexposure. \$12-\$15.

Thursday, Dec. 16 — Authority Zero and Bossfight. \$15-\$20.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Trish Toledo. \$20-\$25.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — Shred For Dime. \$10.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Friday, Dec. 10 — Carols by Candlelight Country Concerts. \$18-\$94.

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Carols by Candlelight Country Concerts. \$18-\$94.

Saturday, Dec. 9 — Golf Alpha Bravo.

Friday, Dec. 10 — Shane Hall Band. \$12-\$15.

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Fu Manchu. \$15-\$18.

Sunday, Dec. 12 — And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 — Spice Pistols Fire Fundraiser.

Sunday, Dec. 19 — Kelly Finnigan & The Atonevents.

Cowshed Bar and Grill:

Friday, Dec. 10 — Friday Night Ho-Down.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Holiday Tiki Exotica Fest. \$10-\$15.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — Spray Allen ft. Eric Wilson & Wade Youman. \$10-\$15.

Fast Times:

Friday, Dec. 10 — West of 5. Free.

Holding Company:

Thursday, Dec. 9 — Baby Bash. \$27-\$50.

House of Blues:

Wednesday, Dec. 15 — Atreyu and Crown the Empire.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Sebastian Bach.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — Blake Rose Noah Kahan.

Sunday, Dec. 19 — G Herbo and Lil Zay Osama.

Thursday, Dec. 30 — Black Label Society and Prong.

Jolly Joker Tavern:

Friday, Dec. 17 — Cadillac Fringe. Free.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — 2lil2late. Free.

Kraken:

Thursday, Jan. 6 — She Say So. Free.

Legacy International Center:

Thursday, Dec. 16 — Christmas City USA. Free.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Christmas City USA. Free.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — Christmas City USA. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, Dec. 10 — Still Around. Free.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Nemesis. Free.

Friday, Jan. 7 — Miss Demeanor.

Moose Lodge Escondido:

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Country Music Party.

Museum of Making Music:

Friday, Dec. 10 — San Diego Sound Project: Kathryn Schulmeister. Free.

Music Box:

Thursday, Dec. 9 — Sharon Little and Ash Easton. \$12-\$15.

Friday, Dec. 10 — Paul Oakenfold. \$29-\$52.

Saturday, Dec. 11 — Balkan Bump and Red Giant Project.

Sunday, Dec. 12 — She Past Away, Forever Grey, Luna Negra.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Jungle Fire and Mitchum Yacoub.

Saturday, Dec. 18 — Don Carlos.

Sunday, Dec. 19 — Christmas with The Beatles.



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SAT. DEC. 4

NEKROMANTIX

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FRI. DEC. 10

THE RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS

Eyes Set To Kill, Dead American, The Wildfires Projekt, The Undertaking

FRI. DEC. 17

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TUE. DEC. 7

GOST

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SAT. DEC. 11

ANTICHRIST SIEGE MACHINE

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SAT. DEC. 18

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THUR. DEC. 9

EXHORDER

Take Offense, Extinction A.D., Plague Years, Cancer Christ

TUE. DEC. 14

HOSTILITIES

Overexposure, Legions, The Keeper

SAT. JAN. 8

HAUNT

Saber, Old Man Wizard

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San Diego Reader December 2, 2021 29

Wednesday, Dec. 22 — The Human Experience and Kr3ture.
Thursday, Dec. 23 — Sensi Trails and MDRN HSTRY.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Saturday, Dec. 11 — Tinkersmith. Free.

Observatory North Park:
Saturday, Dec. 11 — The Garden.
Sunday, Dec. 12 — Lettuce and Chris Karns.
Monday, Dec. 13 — CHVRCHES.
Tuesday, Dec. 14 — CHVRCHES.

Old Town Temecula Community Theater:
Thursday, Jan. 6 — Prince Again: Prince Tribute. \$20-\$25.

Panama 66:
Sunday, Dec. 12 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:
Saturday, Jan. 8 — Java Joe's Reunion Show. \$25-\$30.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Saturday, Dec. 11 — John Mayall and Walter Trout.

Poway's Irish Pub:
Saturday, Jan. 8 — West of 5. Free.

Quartyard:
Friday, Dec. 10 — Beach Bunny and Miloe. \$20-\$24.

Ritz Theater:
Sunday, Dec. 12 — The Romeros 60th Anniversary. \$70-\$120.

San Diego Civic Theatre:
Monday, Jan. 3 — The Go-Go's.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Dec. 9 — Dani Bell & the Tarantist. \$15.
Friday, Dec. 10 — Bury Your Dead and Ov Sulfur. \$25.
Saturday, Dec. 11 — Katzù Oso.
Sunday, Dec. 12 — Tennis System.
Tuesday, Dec. 14 — 3LH and Los Saints.
Thursday, Dec. 16 — Craig Owens.
Saturday, Dec. 18 — Mock

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Symphony silent on reasons for renovation

The San Diego Symphony has announced its winter-spring 2022 concerts. The Symphony is offering 31 performances from January 15 through May 28. Presented as "Hear Us Here," the season will give the San Diego Symphony the opportunity to bring its music to a wider audience, with concerts performed at nine venues in the city and across the county.

The Symphony is traveling because of renovations to The Jacobs Music Center at Copley Hall. Chief Executive Officer Martha A. Gilmer said, "Our 'Hear Us Here' season is a new way for us to fulfill our constant mission: to make the music of the San Diego Symphony a part of everyone's life, and

to provide a shared sense of pride and belonging. As we renovate Copley Symphony Hall to be an even more gracious and welcoming home, we will bring the unmatched thrill of live classical performance closer to people in every corner of the San Diego area, north, south, east, and west."

The nine venues for the "Hear us Here" tour are the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, the Civic Theatre in Downtown San Diego, the Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center: Baker-Baum Concert Hall in La Jolla, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park on San Diego Bay, and The Village Church in Rancho Santa Fe. Individual performances will also be presented at

the Joan B. Kroc Theatre at Salvation Army Kroc Center in La Mesa, the PHAME Performing Arts Center at Patrick Henry High School in Del Cerro, the Poway Center for the Performing Arts in Poway, and the Southwestern College Performing Arts Center in Chula Vista.

What hasn't been announced are the plans for the renovations at Symphony Hall. I first heard rumors about the project back in early September. I casually spoke with a few people, but no one had any concrete information about what the plans entailed. One thing is for sure, we're not talking about a fresh coat of paint.

I would think that an undertaking of this magni-



Hear Us Here

Introducing our 2021-22 Winter/Spring Season Classical masterpieces performed on stages throughout San Diego

During the remodel, the Symphony will perform throughout the county. tude would have been made public sooner rather than later, unless The Symphony is trying to avoid any public pushback from those who would prefer Symphony Hall to remain in its current configuration. There has been no official announcement of funding. The only comment thus far is the above quote from Martha Gilmer, which is vague, to say the least. What changes are being made to make Symphony Hall more "gracious and welcoming?" The interior of the hall is already gracious, and the style represents San Diego well. Better seats would certainly be more welcoming, but I haven't heard if new seats are in the works. The lack of transparency is interesting. The only option, for now, is to wait and see. Information about the "Hear us Here" tour is available at www.sandiegosymphony.org.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Orange.
Sunday, Dec. 19 — The Spill Canvas (Acoustic).

Soma:
Thursday, Dec. 9 — Hot Flash Heat Wave.
Saturday, Dec. 18 — Kip Moore.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground:
Friday, Dec. 17 — Slack Key 'Ohana.

Steele 94:
Saturday, Dec. 18 — Hee-Haw Party.

Tango Del Rey:
Sunday, Dec. 12 — SD Troubadour 20th Anniversary/Holiday Fundraiser. \$10-\$100.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, Dec. 10 — Sister Speak and The Rad Trads. \$12.
Saturday, Dec. 11 — Hang Zeros and Asteroids & One Hot Planet. Free.
Sunday, Dec. 12 — Kim Wilson's Blues All-Stars.
Thursday, Dec. 16 — Whiskerman and The Cedar Shakers. \$10.
Friday, Dec. 17 — Universe

Peoples. \$8.
Saturday, Dec. 18 — Carrie and Z Boys. Free.
Saturday, Dec. 18 — Dubbest and Fayuca. \$12-\$15.
Sunday, Dec. 19 — Dark Alley Dogs. Free.

Wisteria Cottage:
Sunday, Dec. 12 — Holiday Family Hullabaloo. Free.

tion that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives — especially those of kids facing adversity. Saturday, December 4, 12pm; A Reason to Survive (ARTS), 200 E. 12th Street.

Author Talk & Performance: Jeeyoon Kim Classical pianist Jeeyoon Kim will discuss her new book, *Whenever You're Ready: How to Compose the Life of Your Dreams*, and perform a few musical pieces. Kim is renowned for delighting audiences with her combination of sensitive artistry, broad emotional range, professional technique, and innovative concert experiences. A native of South Korea, Kim has inspired a passionate fan base from around the world at venues like Carnegie Hall, the Chamber Music Society in San Francisco, and the Stradivari Society in Chicago. She credits her success as an accomplished performing artist and award-winning music educator to key disciplines, practices, and mindsets that she lives every day. In *Whenever*

You're Ready, she gives readers a personal glimpse into her life, shares wisdom and insights she's gained from her experiences, and shows people how to achieve personal and professional success. Registration is encouraged but not required. This event will be recorded and available on the Library's Facebook and YouTube pages following the presentation. Thursday, December 2, 11am; free. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue.

San Diego Opera: Arturo Chacón-Cruz San Diego Opera debut: A native of Sonora, Mexico, tenor Arturo Chacón-Cruz, has established himself in recent years as a leading tenor with exciting appearances in renowned theaters and concert halls across the globe. He has sung over 60 roles in more than 30 countries. Friday, December 3, 7:30pm; \$45-\$160. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Art of Elan: Young Artists in Harmony The culmination of the ten-week Fall 2021 Young Artists in Harmony program, this concert will feature the world premiere performances of the compositions created by Fall 2021 program participants, performed by Art of Elan musicians. For the past seven years, Art of Elan has offered its Young Artists in Harmony composition program in partnership with the nationally recognized A Reason To Survive (ARTS), an organiza-

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ON STAGE IN SAN DIEGO

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Matthew Lickona unless otherwise noted. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

The 1940s Radio Hour

It's December 21, 1942 at the Hotel Astor, and the producer of *The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade* is trying to keep America's war-weary spirits up while contending with a drunken lead singer, a delivery boy who dreams of his moment in front of the mic, a second banana who longs to sing the big ballad, and a sound effects man who chooses a fighter plane over Glenn Miller.

LAMPLIGHTERS THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 19

AZUL

Memories of Yadra's childhood in Castro's Cuba come flooding back as Alzheimer's sets in, inspiring her daughter Zelia to connect with her heritage. With her wife by her side, Zelia sets out on a journey to excavate family secrets and discover a love that led her mother's beloved *tía* to remain in Cuba. Spanning two countries and three generations, *Azul* fuses music and memory to explore a romance for the ages and the true language of love.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 19

A Christmas Carol

We may be done with covid, but it seems covid is still not quite done with us. Lamb's Players Theatre was all set to put on "a big celebration of great music from Lamb's Christmas shows through the decades. Unfortunately, the show was too big for these covid days. We are moving all our celebrations to 2022!" In its place is this "little turn from our *Festival of Christmas*," director Kerry Meads' adaptation of Charles Dickens holiday ghost story, "surrounded by the gorgeous music of the season," that the company first produced way back in the '80s.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 26

A Christmas Carol

Artistic director Sean Murray: "As we rehearsed to bring our *Christmas Carol* back for you, I often reflected on the uncertainty and isolation so many of us patiently rode out...Like Old Scrooge, we found ourselves isolated, hunkered down, and just getting through it all... It's a fractious time out there, and our annual reconnection to the story of one man's reconnection with his community, his family, and his humanity is just the story and lesson we need to hear again and again. It can literally hurt to be, as Scrooge says, as solitary as an oyster."

CYGNET THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 26

Cleue

On a dark and stormy night, six oddball guests, plus a butler and a maid, assemble for a dinner party at the house of Mr. Boddy. When their host turns up dead,

it's clear that no one is safe! Soon the guests are racing to find the killer and keep the body count from stacking up. Join Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, and Colonel Mustard as they race to out-game each other and stay alive. Lovingly based on the original cult classic film from 1985, itself inspired by the Hasbro board game.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 12

Dashing Through the Snow

It's four days before Christmas in Tinsel, Texas, and a parade of eccentric guests arrive at the Snowflake Hotel to get their holiday cheer on. It's frankly more than innkeeper Trina can handle. The publicity notes call it "more fun than a joyride in a one-horse open sleigh!" Directed by Samantha Goldstein.

POWPAC THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 5

Dr. Suess's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

No matter how much you may adore the song-and-dance antics of *Heat Miser* and *Cold Miser*, in the end, there will be only two animated Christmas specials that endure: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and this one. And this one is the clear favorite when it comes to a stage adaptation, so there's that. The Old Globe's signature holiday production returns after a year of being forced to go audio-only. This time 'round, Andrew Polec dons the green skin of a Christmas-hating critter whose heart is two sizes too small.

THE OLD GLOBE, THROUGH DEC. 31

Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show

What's a modern theatrical production to do with a story most everybody knows by heart? Playwrights Steve Rosen and Gordon Greenberg (Greenberg also directs) have decided that if some familiarity is good, then more is better, and set Scrooge's story right where the theater stands today. They keep the setting in olden-days 1919, the better to preserve the mutton-chop facial hair, the top hats, and the lack of furnace heating. But they're happy to go present-day for the sake of a joke. They're happy to go all sorts of places: meta, silly, clever, even weird. But while you can play Tiny Tim for laughs by making him a puppet with a live, adult human head — just one clever bit of prop work in a production that makes the absolute most of a few crates, chairs, ladders, and window casings — there's only so much humor a show, even a feel-good show, can get from the plight of a dying child. Or, for that matter, from the haunting of an old man's loveless heart. It's to the cast's great credit that they are able to execute the massive shifts in tone when the rim-shot rat-a-tat of jokes must give way to the story's pure feeling without giving the audience emotional whiplash.

THE OLD GLOBE, THROUGH DEC. 26

Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)

In their quest to present something seasonally appropriate that is somehow not *A Christmas Carol*, three actors — the same trio who performed in the 2018 original presentation — run through short versions of every holiday tale they can recall, plus some suggested by the audience. "Consider this a family holiday party where everyone is invited," says director David Guthrie. "We've even brought the crazy uncle." You might learn something from the seasonal survey, but that isn't the point here. The point is to

have a good time at the theater after too long away.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 19

For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls

The Roustabouts Theatre Co. presents Phil Johnson directing Christopher Durang's (*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All to You*) collection of five one-act plays: *Mrs. Sorken*, an introduction to theatre given by a woman who has misplaced her notes; *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, a sendup of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*; *Nina in the Morning*, about a wealthy woman mourning the things that money can't buy (beauty and youth); *Wanda's Visit*, in which a married couple recount an encounter with a terrifying ex-girlfriend; and *Business Lunch at the Russian Tea Room*, in which a playwright must face the seductive temptations of The Hollywood Adaptation.

MOXIE THEATRE, THROUGH DEC. 4

A People's Cuban Christmas Tale

"A Christmas Carol is a moral tale, a reminder not to forget to be human and kind while we chase the carrot. Dickens' England was in the middle of the Industrial Revolution and Dickens could see the dehumanizing effects of people working in factories while the factory owners made immense profits," says playwright, Herbert Siguenza about his new play. In 2020, following a spate of hate mail aimed at the community support for Black Lives Matter at OnStage, Artistic Director, James P. Darvas and the Board of Directors made a conscious decision to be part of the American Theatre BIPOC Movement for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive theater community that fully affirms and celebrates all artists, especially BIPOC artists who have too long been silent out of fear of retribution. Siguenza, who is well-known within the theatre community as Founder of Culture Clash and *A weekend with Pablo Picasso* at the San Diego Repertory Theatre says "I adapted this classic moral and cautionary tale to remind us that there is always an alternative to greed and that we must find a drastic change within ourselves and our systems in order to survive into the next century." The production includes 10 actors and a four-piece Cuban band bringing the traditional sounds of Cuba to this adaptation of a well-known story of Christmas loss and forgiveness.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 19

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 19

She's At The Library

Every year, La Jolla author Dori Salois watches the film *It's a Wonderful Life* with her family. And every year, she hates it when Clarence the angel yells, "She's at the library!" Laments Salois, "As if that's somehow terrible. And the way they depict Mary swooning as George approaches. This is a fun little feminist take on Mary's life without George and what happens when he shows up." "This" is her new Christmas play, a tweak on the classic film that finds Mary waging her own war to keep Bedford Falls from becoming Pottersville when this fellow George shows up, saying that she's his wife and the mother of their four children. Zuzu's petals!

POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 5



Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show: Mirth amid the misery.

to the yellow house

Paris: City of Lights. Also city of hard truths. Women may find themselves forced to commodify their sexuality, and then find themselves no longer able to commodify their sexuality. Artists may find they need to produce salable work in order to succeed, and then find they lack the ability to produce that salable work. But it's all worth it, because...wait,

is it worth it? Well, Van Gogh lived and worked there, and we know how great he was! Except Kimber Lee's play is about a time when he wasn't so great. He barely even seems promising — not so much tortured and misunderstood as petulant and incapable. Director Neel Keller mounts a handsome show (the projections on the movable frames do wonders to convey the city and its spaces, and the

light effects are mesmerizing), and the actors know their business, but oh, the mundanity of the artist's life when we don't get a sense of the art they're living and dying for. That may well be the point here, but it forces a reliance on broad-ish humor and jargony arguments about color to keep things lively.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, THROUGH DEC. 12

"Excellent performances, beautiful costumes, and projections!"

— BroadwayWorld



to the yellow house

BY KIMBER LEE DIRECTED BY NEEL KELLER

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

February 1886. Vincent van Gogh is broke again. Trailing past-due notices and annoyed innkeepers, he arrives unexpectedly at his brother's doorstep in Montmartre determined to make another fresh start.

TICKETS START AT \$25! NOW – DECEMBER 12

Paco Tolson as "Vincent"; photo by Rich Soublett II.

PHOTOGRAPH BY

San Diego Reader December 2, 2021 31

CURRENT MOVIES

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

Benedetta — It's been five years since Paul Verhoeven's (*Showgirls*, *Black Book*) last feature, and what better time than the holidays for him to question faith in his true-life adaptation of Judith C. Brown's *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy*. I know where I'll be on opening day. 2021. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

C'mon C'mon — Shot in America European-style — 1.66:1 aspect ratio and in muted shades of black-and-white — director Mike Mills (*Beginners*, *20th Century Women*) is clearly banking on Academy highbrows sweeping their votes in his direction. And who better to front such an ostentatious operation than Joaquin Phoenix in his first film since overacting translated to acclaim in *Joker*. Though nowhere near as flamboyant as his Cesar Romero retread, Phenix's Johnny makes one question the quality of a performance in which every



Ghostbusters: Afterlife: Don't call us.

finger tip to the forehead or quick flit of the eyes is calculated to awe. Rather than disappearing inside his character, Phenix continually draws attention to himself, even when he's playing the part of a low key journalist travelling

cross-country collecting interviews with teenagers. The 9-year-old nephew they saddle him with (Woody Norman) is insufferably precocious. One bright ray: it's always a pleasure to watch Gaby Hoffman. This is a case of "don't do as I say." Seriously, don't take my word for it. Chances are your heart-tugs will far outpace my yawns. 2021. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert — My interest was piqued thanks to a friend's family who adores C.S. Lewis almost as much as I do Jerry. They guided me through a couple of *Narnia* sequels, but their everlasting zeal failed to translate when it came to this ill-staged big screen bump-up. Alas, I am at my most reluctant when asked to endure canned theatre that at times borders on radio. Max McLean is the James Whitmore of Hal Holbrooks: the one-man stage adaptation that he wrote and starred in was the basis for this 73-minute biopic. Veteran T.V. director Norman Stone's work lives up to his last name. Rather than nail a camera to the floor, Stone "opens up" the material with McLean taking to the streets where he spouts his lines while charging the camera. There's a great film to be made of Lewis' conversion from doubter to one of the devoted. This isn't it. 2021. — S.M. ● (REGAL SAN MARCOS)

Encanto — The latest from Disney posits a magical house, in a magical town populated by magical people save one. Mirabel is a misfit, the Marilyn Munster of Encanto, destined to save her family and humanity as we know it. 2021. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Ghostbusters: Afterlife — We open on gadgets, effects, and a chase filmed in jiggly close-up that makes it impossible to discern what's going on. The image eventually stabilizes, which is more than can be said for an insufficient script that too often relies on CGI patchwork to draw attention to its lack of plot. Ivan's relinquishing the directorial reins to son Jason caused a friend to snark, "They hired the wrong Reitman." One intentional laugh: death by s'mores for a kamikaze team of Stay Puft Marshmallow men. McKenna Grace's (*Troop Zero*) star is on the rise and if this helps to catapult the talented young

actress to better things, it was worth the trouble. When the story's a drag, and things start to lag, who ya gonna call? Aykroyd, Murray, and Hudson? Nah! They're always on call. Never before has a computer generated a "tribute" as sickeningly mawkish as a "ghost" that closes the picture. Is there life after *Afterlife*? If so, I pray for the surviving trio of Ghostbusters, lest the studio make bank off another celebrity corpse. Rest in peace, Harold Ramis. 2021. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

House of Gucci — Let the grand guignol begin as Ridley Scott goes to camp. The focus is on a notorious clan piloted by a gaggle of pricey lookalikes. Offscreen, Scott's a stitch, but the director has never allowed his funny bone a chance to ride roughshod until this undeniably tame and humorless dragging of his toe through a farcical stream. The result is just this side of soul-crushing. The subject of fashion affords Scott the opportunity to squeeze a few chuckles out of the outlandish threads, but the laughter begins to evaporate the moment the costumes start out-performing the high-priced stars playing dress-up. A comfortably numb Adam Driver looks more Yves St. Laurent than he does Maurizio Gucci. And a question to admirers of Lady Gaga's overacting: did you watch it without sound, or is the singer's voice not part of her acting process? Gaga's Italian accent is pitched somewhere between Beaky Buzzard's frantic mother and Natasha exclaiming, "Quick, Boris! Throw safe on moose and squirrel!" Even worse is Jared Leto, who clearly honed his accent by watching hours of interviews with Michael V. Gazzo on "Merv!" In the end, Scott can't hold it together, as evidenced by a final hour that ranks among his worst. 2021. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

King Richard — Potential sponsors looked upon Richard Williams (Will Smith) as just another tennis-father, a man whose pride and determination blinded him to the likelihood his daughters Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena (Demi Singleton) had a better chance of managing a Dick's Sporting Goods than they did becoming the reigning Queens of the clay court. Reinaldo Marcus Green's (*Monsters and Men*, *Joe Bell*) biopic is more interesting off the court than on.

After enduring countless pummelings while trying to dissuade a gangbanger from making salacious comments concerning his underage daughter, fate has a way of settling the score in a most fortuitous and unforeseen manner. The film adopts a unique take on the sports biopic, focusing less on the athlete and more on the coach, in this case the girls' father who in his mind had a surefire plan for success. Proudly unaware of all things sports, it didn't take a tennis savant to quickly catch on that Serena was going to ace every match. So much for kicking dramatic suspense out of bounds. And what chance was there of an unvarnished portrait with the subject alive, his daughters producing, and the most beloved actor this side of Tom Hanks playing him? Still, this held my interest far more than I feared. 2021. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Power of the Dog — Two calves butt heads just long enough for momma cow to move in and drive them apart. Even Hitchcock couldn't have directed cattle to perform with such unrehearsed ease, yet it's a wise director who sees in this happy accident a foreboding preamble for the tension to come. Montana, 1925. Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Phil, a hare-triggered cattle rancher who considers his partner/brother George (Jesse Plemons) a bit of a dim bulb, and rightfully so. George answers to "fatso" and while the mountain range outside his front door packs more wisdom and personality than he, there's a method to his blandness. George's unexpected marriage to a local cook (Kirsten Dunst) — she comes with a callow teenage son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) in tow — acts as a springboard for Phil's hostility. It's been 12 years (!) since last we saw a feature from Jane Campion (*Sweetie*, *The Piano*). While this may not spark the emotional connection found in her best work, the performances are uniformly attuned to their surroundings and it's shot in a part of the world where there is no such thing as a bad angle. Leave it to Campion to find the best. 2021. — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City — Produced under the banner of Paul W. S. Anderson's Constantine Films, Johannes Roberts's reboot is less interested in Anderson's surprisingly seductive horror franchise than it is exploring the beginnings of the video game that spawned it. We passively observe the action from the various characters' points-of-view. With guns drawn, the survivors round wide corners mindfully stalking the halls of the Umbrella Corporation in search of jump-scars and shoddy effects. All that's missing is a DualShock controller built into each reclining theatre seat. Add to that a uniformly frightful cast led by Kaya Scodelario (*The Truth About Emanuel*, *Crawl*). As Effy, the cigarette-wearing bourgeois tough in the British series *Skins*, Scodelario was young and cocky enough to let her attitude do most of the heavy lifting. Her subsequent work in franchise films brought her here. Without effects to guide her, Scodelario can't carry a picture. Rubbish like this should never have left the PlayStation. 2021. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Wolf — Writer-director Nathalie Biancheri's twist on the werewolf story gives us a young man (George MacKay) who suffers from a rather timely malady known as species identity disorder, and who is sent to a clinic known as the Zoo in hopes that he will be able to someday live life as a human. You know, whether he likes it or not. 2021. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

MOVIES@HOME

Rather than fortify the pre-feedbag portion of Thanksgiving Day with parades and sporting events, I chose to gorge on 2-D transfers of two dozen or so impeccably restored-to-blu-ray 3-D curios. Why 2-D? The picture quality at a recent small screen 3-D demo was as underwhelming as the price tag was staggering. To paraphrase Ralph Kramden, I'm waiting for holographic TV. — Scott Marks

3-D RARITIES, VOLUME ONE

One month ago, this space waxed rhapsodic over the necessity of stereoscopic cinema. What followed was a certainty of fate: a text message from Re-Ani-

mated Records announcing the arrival of "some new stuff I think you'd like," that just this week placed in my care a copy of *3-D Rarities Vol. 1*, Flicker Alley's cavalcade of depth perception. Amazing: why would anyone



3-D Rarities: See it with or without glasses

relinquish this scarcity for resale? From anaglyphic test footage to complete Polarized immersion, the selections span the decades from the origins of cinema to widescreen exhibition. Genres covered include sci-fi, westerns, cartoons, musicals, and an A-Bomb scare film, along with other assorted documentaries. Also included: long-form commercials from Chrysler, Plymouth, and the Pennsylvania Railroad. There's even a boxing match between Rocky Marciano and Jersey Joe Wolcott. A veritable history of the medium unfolds before our eyes in a scant 147 minutes. For more on the contents, and where to find it, visit us online.

Find more *Movies@Home* reviews at SDReader.com/movies-at-home

looking for a 3rd roommate for an apartment in North Park for \$3300. Jackie (28) and I (26) are moving to San Diego from greater Boston. Please DM me a message with a blurb about yourself. bit.ly/NP-3rd-roomie

1BR/1BA UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS 1BR/1BA studio for rent; bright airy units; 1-year lease. in University Heights at Illinois and Meade (619) 280-3278

ANY SDSU ROOMS? Any rooms for rent around SDSU? PM me on Facebook facebook.com/ahmad.salem1

CAL STATE UNI SAN MARCOS For a room in Escondido: \$800 is the rent and \$150 a month for utilities, which includes heating and air, water sewer trash. Deposit is \$300. bit.ly/esco-house-04

LOOKING FOR 3RD ROOMMATE Hi!! Our names are Maria and Darlene and we are looking for a third roommate to move out with January 1st!! We are both 19 and I choose to believe we are nice. facebook.com/mafer.barrera23

PALOMAR COLLEGE / CSUSM For \$1100, we have 1 extra bedroom with a private bathroom and a large size closet available for rent. Under ten minutes away from Palomar College, California State University of San Marcos. facebook.com/ledinhlong1015

ROOMMATES OR HOUSEMATES? I'm looking for a room to rent. Open to living with any gender. My budget is \$1200 max! I'm 28, naturally outgoing but can keep to myself if I need be. Basketball is LIFE & I love the outdoors. DM my IG www.instagram.com/ThatGuyNamedDre/

SPANISH TUTORS HELP YOU PASS We can help you pass your Spanish college classes facebook.com/EspEnTusManos/ (619) 414-7736 / andycs3195@gmail.com

UCSD MED STUDENTS Apartment for rent in Mission Hills property — It's a quiet sanctuary furnished with bed, linens, high-speed Wifi, desk, chairs, dresser, chandelier, washer, dryer and parking. \$1200/month www.sublet.com/property/2694226

ADORABLE FOR STUDENTS Repost: Hi Obecians! I have a large bedroom for rent in my 2br apartment two blocks from the beach. (1250 rent +33 for water+40 for internet +electric which stays pretty low year-round) The room has two large closets. facebook.com/marty.ramsey.7737

COLLEGE ROOMMATES HOUSEMATES I'm looking for a room or roommate! I'm looking to move ASAP but no rush as well. My budget is \$1,000. Please message me if you have a room available or wanna be roommates! facebook.com/Fischer.christina7

IB HOUSE FOR SWC STUDENTS Check out this fabulous single story house in the city of Imperial Beach, a mile and a half away from the ocean and 10 minutes from Coronado Island. IB house w 3 bds + 2 bath, \$3295. House is per for students IMHO. DM the OP facebook.com/commerce/ listing/335906211651275/

ISO A PRIVATE ROOM 2 RENT ISO A private room to rent, preferably with my own bathroom, in a house or apartment. My budget ranges from \$700-\$900 including utilities. I'm 25 and have a 2-year-old neutered male cat. PLMK @ facebook.com me Thanks! facebook.com/dezertdippin250

SDSU HOUSING IN MISSION VALLEY Reposting due to error in last listing. Looking for 2 roommates for 2 unfurnished, single bedrooms with a shared bathroom in a 3BR/2BA condo located in Mission Valley. 10' x 8.75': \$700 + utilities. 11.75' x

9.75': \$850 + utilities facebook.com/michael.phan.524

SDSU ROOMMATES HERE Our budget is \$1100 each. If anyone has anything, people let me know! We are looking for an apartment or house in the SDSU College area FYI. facebook.com/ethan.chandler.79230

STUDENT SEEKING ROOMMATES Student seeking roommates facebook.com/joseph.lua.9

UCSD / MIRAMAR STUDENTS FB REPOST: \$1350 room for rent in a beautiful house with views in Rancho Penasquitos. Very close to Mira Mesa and the Penasquitos Preserve. 1/2 mile to freeway 15 and 56. Average 15 min drive to Torrey Pines beach and Delmar; 20 minutes to UCSD. facebook.com/hamid.sadre

UCSD STUDENTS Room for rent at Rancho Penasquitos for \$1100. www.sublet.com/property/4681667

#APTSNEARSDSU Check out our virtual tour and reserve today! Live with the comfort of choosing your roommates! \$99 Deposit *OAC #aptsnearsdsu #nowrenting #askaboutourspecials #lovewhereyoulive. Dorchester Apartments youtu.be/yeG1E24a64Q (619) 583-8084 / dorchester@hcares.com

EXCHANGE STUDENTS AT SDSU We are both Swedish and we'll be studying at SDSU during spring 2022 as exchange students. So we need a place to stay from the beginning of January. We are two 21-year-old girls, looking to rent a place/room for 5 months. facebook.com/ida.hertin.5/

ISO A REPLACEMENT TENANT Reposting: The house has 3 bds/2bths and access to the country club and gym, spot to park on you car. Rent and security deposit is \$1350/utilities are separate. More info on the pictures or DM/email OP, thank you for looking, facebook.com/christinav419

SDSU STUDENTS LOOK HERE Repost from FB: Hello! I am looking for a female to take over my lease of a single room with private bathroom in a 4 rooms dorm asap. It is in BLVD63 near SDSU. Possibility of living there by this week. No pets. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012703626352

UCSD HOUSING? If you're upset that you or friends can't find housing, UCSD just accepted an unprecedented number of students to make the problem worse. Please sign this petition to help rectify the issue. bit.ly/ucsdhousingpetition www.change.org/p/university-of-california-sandiego-tuition-refund-for-ucsd-students-forced-online

WILL PITCH IN \$900 I am looking for a private room to stay in starting December. Budget: \$900 a month including utilities. I currently am employed at two different places and I'm not home most of the time. facebook.com/jaqueline.sakai.9

ZOO PASSES 4 COLLEGE STUDENTS We college students get a discount at the San Diego Zoo! Pls delete this post if it is not allowed. I was just excited when I purchased my pass and had to share it! zoo.sandiegozoo.org/school-programs/student-discount

BUYING MIRAMAR COLLEGE NOTES Tell your classmates and roommates that Studocu buys your Miramar notes. Earn money while you help other students! Be quick, the offer stands only for a limited time! www.studocu.com/facebook.com/StuDocu/

COLLEGE STUDENT FRIENDLY Fellow-college students: You haven't found a place yet? Vantaggio Suites offer furnished studios, 1bedroom, and 2bedroom apartments for short-term stays. Omg, I know how difficult it is to find a place. Check

their FB for options. facebook.com/vantaggiostudios/?ref=ts

COLLEGE THANKSGIVING BREAK Book now — whether it is in Green Valley Lake or Arrowbear Lake, come stay at the cozy mountain retreat perfect for any season - Skiing/snowboarding and hiking rentals. facebook.com/GetLostInngetlostinn@gmail.com

FOR MIRAMAR AND UCSD STUDENTS Mira Mesa housemate wanted. \$1,325/month all basic utilities included (water, trash, electricity, gas, internet) and \$800/security deposit. PM a brief introduction of yourself and your work/school schedule. facebook.com/kathrynly

IN PB. CLAIREMONT, LA JOLLA Hi, I'm looking for a room or roommate! My budget is \$1,000. Looking in PB, Clairemont, La Jolla, Sorrento Valley, Mission Valley, Kearny Mesa. Please message me if you have a room available or wanna be roommates! facebook.com/Fischer.christina7

MIRAMAR COLLEGE ROOMMATES We have temporary accommodation. The accommodation is a private room and a private bath at Westbrook Apartments in Mira Mesa. facebook.com/sanjana.sanju.1420

MIRAMAR OR UCSD COLLEGE ROOMMIE 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, thank you facebook.com/danielle.clarke.9638

MIRAMAR OR USD STUDENTS I have a 5 bedroom home in Mira Mesa with one unfurnished bedroom for rent. Has a shared bathroom and it measures 20x14. Price: \$850/month w/ \$850 deposit. Click Facebook link and DM for more info. facebook.com/profile.php?id=24605975

MIRAMAR STUDENTS Moving to San Diego for work. I love the outdoors - hiking, climbing, surfing, etc. Looking for a van-boarding situation, AKA I'd pay you partial rent for a place to park my van and a few basic amenities. ISO of a spot by Miramar College. facebook.com/trinity.locker

ROOMMATE VEGETARIAN PREFERRED Apartment for rent in Rancho Penasquitos. \$1100/m 400/w 75/d. A fully furnished room in a gorgeous model home, with exclusive/attached bathroom and toilet available for rent for working professionals/students Females Only - Vegetarian Preferred sublet.com/property/4681667

USD AND MESA COLLEGE ROOMMATE Private room in bright Clairemont home with backyard terrace. Location: Mount Aguilar Drive, Clairemont Mesa East. Monthly Rent: \$900. Lease Start: December 1, 2021 bungalow.com/rooms-for-rent/san-diego

CLOSE TO SDSU I'm looking for a room near or around SDSU for \$900-\$1100 before or after utilities. Ideally looking for mature, responsible, and clean roommate(s). My sublease ends on the 29th and I'd be ready to move in by December 1-4th. bit.ly/sdsu-student-09

ISO A PLACE BY UCSD Looking for an apt 1BD1Bath to rent with my husband! We are both Argentinians moving in mid-December. My husband studies at UCSD and I teach yoga and paint. Ideally, like to stay around the university area to the south, no further than Pacific Beach. facebook.com/constanza.llapur

ISO HOUSEMATES I'm a 24-year-old male and will be moving to San Diego to start a job in Mission Valley in November. As far as being a roommate, I'm pretty easygoing. Let me know what ya got! My budget

is \$1500 facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009822840860

LOOKING FOR HOUSEMATES 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. facebook.com/eunjeong.heo.374

MESA COLLEGE STUDENT ISO ROOM Ayo, I need a place to stay, preferably near SDSU, in a place where I have my own room. I'm chill with people from all walks of life. My budget is around 1600. Please DM me on Facebook. facebook.com/jackson.sutter.315

MIRAMAR AND UCSD STUDENTS REPOSTING: Urgently looking for someone to fill a single room in a 4bd/2ba house in Mira Mesa! Rent would be \$825 a month + utilities. The house is about a 15 min drive away from UCSD and less than 5 min away from Target, Sprouts, etc. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070684745484

NEAR TO MESA COLLEGE Private bedroom 10x10 (furnished). Kearny Mesa (92123). 3 bedrooms, 1/2 bathrooms townhouse... 2 people in the house. 900\$ month to month lease, 450 \$deposit (refundable). www.instagram.com/andersoon_assis

NEAR USD AND MESA COLLEGES The Parkridge Manor is within walking distance from Mesa College and a short drive to USD. Call (858) 576-6396 for prices and availability on 1/2 bedroom apartments.

SDSU STUDENT LOOKING FOR ROOM I'm AnnaKarin and am 22. I'm currently looking for a room and roommates. Also trying to move closer to SDSU and to work (downtown). My budget is \$850 and would like some cool roommates to make friends with! bit.ly/sdsu-kar

CLOSE TO MIRAMAR COLLEGE Reposting again: Furnished room for rent in Mira Mesa near High School, Shared bathroom, kitchen, and living room. \$850 only. No pets. No couples. Message OP if you're interested. facebook.com/malouvaldez210

GOOD FOR CSUSM STUDENTS Renting a 2 bdr/1.5 bath townhouse with new appliances and AC. on Grand Avenue in Escondido. If Interested, please send a message on Facebook messenger! Available 12/1. facebook.com/26.2jim

NORTH PARK PLACE Reposting: Looking for someone to take over my lease in our apartment in NorthPark starting November 22. The apartment is a really nice 3Bedroom, 2Bath located in the heart of North Park DM OP ON Facebook facebook.com/carla.ghantous

NURSING STUDENT ISO ROOMMIE I'm Jordan, 29, and a full-time nursing student. I work from home and have 2 dogs. I'm looking for another female to rent a house within San Diego County. PLMK, thanks! Budget: \$1500 DM on Facebook, thanks! facebook.com/jordan.mcguire.3

OMG CHECK THIS PLACE OUT! A couple rooms opening at The Vibe House! Looking for nature lovers and artistic and inspired souls want a place to live while creating effortlessly. If you resonate with open space, with lots of light, & fresh produce from the garden. facebook.com/TheVibeHouseSD

ROOM 4 SDSU STUDENT 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 for more info - thx! facebook.com/kristine.leigh.12

SDSU HOUSING ON CAMPUS www.housing.sdsu.edu/ www.housing.sdsu.edu/ (619) 594-5742 / oha@sdsu.edu

SDSU MARKETING STUDENT I'm a senior at SDSU and I am looking to rent a 1 Bedroom apartment in the San Diego area. My budget is around \$800-1250/month for rent. Please DM me on FB: @ Jalen Dumphord — Thank You! facebook.com/profile.php?id=10007142185

SWC COLLEGE Hi Southwestern College students, Saw this \$800 Chula Vista place on Facebook. Direct message the owner for details. facebook.com/monica.reyes.96155

RENTALS

MISSION HILLS, \$1425. STUDIO+1BA. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 W. Washington. Agent, (619) 298-7724.

OCEAN BEACH, \$2295. 2BD+2BA upstairs apartment. Walk to beach! New stove and refrigerator. Plank flooring. Small, quiet, gated complex. Parking, laundry. No pets (service animals not considered pets). 4955 Saratoga Avenue #5. Add Realty, (619) 232-6811.

LA MESA, \$1799-2249. 3BD+2BA (\$2249) and 2BD+1BA (\$1799) apartments. Bienvenido a la privada Mt. Helix! Espaciosos. Cocina nueva. Electrodomesticos de acero inoxidable, Casa club. WiFi. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

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

NEED AN APARTMENT SHORT TERM? Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every month. Studio+1BA available. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. Includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa

Boulevard. (858) 799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

BOOK YOUR CABIN 4 THE HOLIDAYS Julian Cabins for rent. Book now for holidays and apple season (fall) Prices vary depending on dates, days of weed and which location. www.juliandlogging.com

TOWNHOUSE El Cajon, 2 Brm. 1.5 bath 1024 Sq. Ft. Avail. 01/1/22 \$2,300. mamamia1234@hotmail.com



APARTMENT WANTED! Hi, my name is DanDan, me and my two friends are looking for a 3 bedroom apartment. Our budget is about 3000\$. We need it to be furnished. We are all very organized, working professional good people, and very chill. DM @ bit.ly/sd-apartment

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



CLAIREMONT HOUSE Room available in a spacious house in Clairemont! \$1050 month-to-month rent in a 3-BR home with landscaped private yard, fire pit, laundry, parking, spacious living room, and updated kitchen. (718) 702-3592

LA MESA, \$1799-2249. 3BD+2BA (\$2249) and 2BD+1BA (\$1799) apartments. Welcome to Mt. Helix Gated Community! New kitchen. Stainless steel appliances. Spacious. Clubhouse. WiFi. Air conditioning. Laundry.

DOWNTOWN \$573-825

Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator.

Southern Hotel
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San Diego Reader December 2, 2021 35

Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR SALE Owner financing Landishome.com \$50 down no interest.

NOT FOR SALE IN CHULA VISTA! Buyer beware! Our home is not for sale! Warning to real estate professionals and to the public at large. See www.1943CaminitoDeLaCruzChulaVista.com. Complex legal dispute and court action pending. MLS # 01418493. Thank you. AmericaCommunityHousing@gmail.com

MUSIC

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

ACOUSTIC GUITAR Acoustic covers by Christopher Spanos in Rosarito — email us for updated scheduling thehackbaja@gmail.com

FEMALE MUSICIANS WANTED for rock band, send letter to 401 West Lexington Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020.

PIANO LESSONS Hi my name is Corby Stutzman and I offer piano lessons in Normal Heights. Learn the language of music playing what you love! Please see my website for more info. www.corbypiano.com corbypiano@gmail.com

BASS GUITAR \$1100 1989 "SIGNATURE" jazz bass, Maple neck, Ash body, Audere preamp,

glassy highs, excellent condition \$1100 (619) 980-6008.

WANT CLARINET LESSONS Spanish speaker/tax preparer will trade Spanish lessons for free individual tax return preparation for beginner clarinet lessons. (619) 781-2345



RARE IBANEZ RG370 \$499 We're selling a rare Ibanez RG370 for \$499. It's in beautiful Moon Shadow (metallic gray) finish. This particular series was built in their Korean facility only from 2003-2004. classifiedsbysdreader@gmail.com

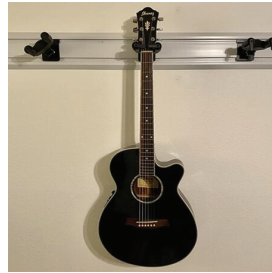
FIREFLY ELECTRIC GUITAR We're selling a Firefly electric guitar (Les Paul Copy) for \$180. Plays well, looks fantastic and sounds great. A great starter guitar, with a Mahogany guitar body and neck, rosewood fretboard, maple top, bone nut Thanks for looking. classifiedsbysdreader@gmail.com



4/4 VIOLIN BY PAN-AMERICAN Selling a 1940s/50s American made 4/4 Violin by Pan-American. It's a symphony model with very nice dark tone woods. Nicely flamed maple back and very nice

fingerboard, nearly unmarked. Asking \$300 e32cc@yahoo.com

ZAPP, MIDNIGHT STAR, STEVIE B Dance and party with the stars - only \$100 deposit and payment plans. Book at TheOldSchoolCruise.com NOW or (888) 639-8880 it will sell out!!!! facebook.com/LatinCruiseEvents



IBANEZ GUITAR We're selling an acoustic-electric Ibanez guitar for \$250. It's a great guitar for a beginner. The body is slightly smaller than your average acoustic guitar which could make it easier for kids to learn on. classifiedsbysdreader@gmail.com

CARLSBAD OPEN MIC Amplified Studios open mic every Wednesday. We have free coffee and snacks, a house band, and an engineer to make sure you sound great. 2796 Loker West Ave. Suite 102, Carlsbad. 7pm sign up, 8pm start. See you there. www.amplifiedstudios.com (802) 318-6874

BASS GUITAR \$1900 1989 Limited Edition "Signature" jazz bass, figured Maple neck, Sadowsky preamp, MEC pickups, \$1900. (619) 980-6008

I BUY OLD GUITARS and stereo turntables, call me (619) 279-7833.

AUDITIONS for lead guitar woman bass guitar woman send photo or YouTube text (619) 251-2729.

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

REGGAE POP PROGROCK FUSION professional lead/rhythm guitarist available for recordings, gigs, tours, CD/Tour credits. Passport. Vaccinated. Dale Hauskins www.bandmix.com / dalehauskins@gmail.com / (858) 401-2973

PETS

\$1000 REWARD FOR LOST DOG The poor dog was last seen in Imperial Beach on 8th Street. Please call the owner if you have any info on her whereabouts. (562) 443-2099

TEACUP YORKIE PUPPIES FOR SALE For more details simply text me at (313) 744-5921.



MICHELLE IS LONELY Our 20-year-old donkey is looking for younger donkey companions. Willing to share 119 beautiful acres in Julian. Can pay up to \$500 re-homing fee. (619) 565-3434

MISSING AFRICAN GRAY Usually makes a chirping noise or "doot-doot-doot" noise. If you see or hear of her, please call me at (760) 310-0953 or (760) 936-6073.

SURF DIEGO

Short boards are easier to maneuver

EVERLYN GRIMM



Jonathan Du: "A part of my skin peeled off."

Jonathan Du: "My board is a fish board, a six-footer. I prefer short boards over long boards; they are easier to maneuver, more for tricks. Today the surf was good for a short board."

"Once, I was surfing in LA and I hit the reef. A part of my skin peeled off and it

started bleeding.

"It's really a pain in the ass for me to put on a wetsuit, because it gets stuck to my body and [once] I was trying to take it off and ripped it. It's just hard to put on or off, so I prefer not to."

1/8 MILE DRAG RACES

Located on the Barona Indian Reservation, just 5 miles north of the Barona Casino, @ facebook. com/baronadrags/ - this 1/8 mile dragstrip is an NHRA sanctioned track. racing@baronadrags.com

BEACH BASKETBALL TRYOUTS Did you ever consider playing professional basketball in Mexico? It starts here. In ten days we have our tryouts. Email for more details. (619) 994-1944 / beachbasketball@yahoo.com

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

O'NIELL SURFING WETSUIT Like new xit 3/2 full suit \$100 h2owish@cox.net

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

SKATEBOARD HALL OF FAMERS Celebrate Skateboard Hall of Famers Billy Ruff, Dave Andrecht, Denis Shufeldt, Eric Grisham and Steve Cathey December 4th at Green Flash Brewing Co.! Skating, Food Trucks, Live Music and Beer from 4-10PM! buff.ly/2Wixf6 (858) 622-0085 / info@greenflashbrew.com

YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL Youth flag football at Morley Field. Hey neighbors - just sharing this info for any folks looking to get their kiddos into flag football! (619) 525-8262 / amagaleno@sandiego.gov

MOREY MACH 7-7 BODYBOARD This is in very good condition for its age. It does show some small cosmetic marks. Measures 42"x22"x2.5. Comes with leash. bit.ly/mach-77

POWAY SPORTS CARDS SHOWS Shows at the Poway Elks Club on 13219 Poway Rd. on 10/2, 11/16, 12/4. There's a great selection of sports cards, Pokémon, YuGiOh, Magic the

Gathering, loads of packs, hangers, blasters, and megas! (619) 900-6961

RED RUM SKATES / WITCH BOARDS All of these skateboard decks are being sold to help raise funds for permits as well as other costs for our first art and music event coming late June. They are \$80 each and available for local pickup. redrumskates@gmail.com

VINTAGE MOREY MACH 7 Selling a vintage Morey Mach 7 boogie board with an ankle strap. for \$60. bit.ly/mach-7

ROSARITO PRO BASKETBALL Here is this season's schedule for "The Beach," a pro basketball team based out of Rosarito Beach. diegoknight69@gmail.com

PING-PONG SOCCER MIX We are excited and looking to introduce the sport of Teqball to your state! Message us at: info@lateqgers.com or call us at (773) 766-6485 for further information. lateqgers.com/

RAIDER NATION IN ROSARITO If you ever head south of the border and want to hang out w/ some Las Vegas Raiders fans — come by El Patio Cantina in Rosarito. #RaiderNation. facebook.com/El-Patio-Cantina-998349437016657 elpatio@hotelfestivalplaza.com

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE Do you want to play in a basketball league south of the border? Our first game is on September 25. Email for details! Diegoknight69@gmail.com

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

VINTAGE MOREY WOODEN BOARD Very cool vintage 40" skimboard by MOREY. It has really cool orange, yellow, red, and black tribal flames and a sunset theme. Asking \$68 More

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!

SMOG CHECK

Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars
\$10 extra. 2000 & up.

\$1175

+ \$8.25 Cert.

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Most cars.

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FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair

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10 point checkout.

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Starting price,
Labor + Parts.

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Most vehicles & light trucks.
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AXLE SPECIAL

Includes Parts & Labor

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Monroe or KYB+ Labor

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per pair

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Monroe or KYB + Labor

\$95

+ Labor

*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto

6670 Miramar Rd. # C, San Diego, CA 92121-2559



858-452-9999



WANTED / TRADE

BUYING JUNK CARS (619) 372-5827

LARGE FLATSCREEN TV WANTED: I will pick up for free your large flatscreen TV if it is working or it needs repairs I will try to fix it, so you won't have to pay a disposal fee, call (760) 746-7209

ONE OLD TYPE OF TELEPHONE with its answering machine that does not need internet connection, (760) 215-5663.

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

BROKEN LAWNMOWERS I will pick up any broken gas powered equipment. (858) 367-9655

FREE PICKUP WASHER OR DRYER I will pick up you washer or dryer up free. Picking up front loaders only. Broken OK. (619) 500-4888

I BUY RECORDS all types, great prices paid. Call (619) 250-3088.

WANTED LAWNMOWER AND MORE Do you have a broken lawn mower, riding mower, pressure washer, generator or any outdoor power equipment? Please don't throw them away or take to the dump, I will pick them up. Any problem is no problem for me. Let me give your tool a 2nd chance (619) 500-6161

WE BUY USED RV'S If you have an RV you're not using because it needs repair, you don't have suitable storage, or you just want to get rid of it, we have options for you! We buy used RVs. Call/DM us today to discuss your needs! (858) 688-2213

BUYING OLD CAR BATTERIES Please give us a call at (619) 484-0767. Hablamos español or come visit us at Alpha battery. We are located 929 B South 29th Street San Diego California 92113 right off the freeway next to Jack In The Box. Thank you to your time.

BROKEN WASHERS/DRYERS Hi, we pick up unwanted broken washers/dryers at no cost, thank you. Call (619) 366-9430.

WANTED VCR'S call Ray, (858) 262-1171, leave phone number.

I BUY OLD SYNTHESIZERS All brands and models. Call me (619) 279-7833.

I BUY OLD BMX BIKES Call (619) 279-7833.

I BUY SAXOPHONES Call (619) 279-7833.

I BUY SLOT CARS Call (619) 279-7833.

I BUY STEREO TURNTABLES Call me. (619) 279-7833

WANTED CO2 TANKS Wanted clean, 5 pound, good condition CO2 tanks. Phone number is (619) 987-5682

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES Rock & roll I buy 1950's-1980's concert posters, flyers, handbills, used-unused tickets, programs. Pls call (619) 313-1580 private party.

OLD GAME SYSTEMS WANTED N64, Nintendo, Sony, call (619) 806-6703.

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

OLD DRUM SETS and cymbals. Cash paid. Call (619) 280-2075. www.ontimebackline.com

'Tis the Season for surf fishing Baja

Dock Totals 11/21 - 11/27:

1830 anglers aboard 81 half-day to three-day trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 1020 bluefin tuna (up to 256 pounds), 1 bocaccio, 58 bonito, 1182 calico bass (697 released), 12 lingcod, 109 lobster (75 released), 1 mako shark, 5 rock crab, 4437 rockfish, 61 sand bass, 326 sculpin, 60 sheephead, 1 Spanish jack, 1019 whitefish, and 152 yellowtail.

Saltwater: The season has turned to winter mode for the fleet. Though bluefin tuna from 40 to over 200 pounds are still active around the Cortez and Tanner banks within 1.5 day-range, yellowfin, yellowtail, and dorado have retreated south to warmer climes and are mostly outside of 3-day range. Long range boats working from south of Cedros Island midway down the Baja peninsula to the high spots south of Cabo San Lucas are reporting very good fishing on large yellowfin tuna and wahoo during 8- to 14-day trips. The Intrepid reported that their first long range trip of the season to the lower banks off the tip of Baja produced 11 yellowfin tuna over 200 pounds, with one fish weighing a whopping 392.5 pounds.

Though they have been slow from the Coronado Islands south to San Quintin, yellowtail fishing along the Baja coast picks up around the Vizcaino Peninsula near Bahia Tortugas, Bahia Asunción, and La Bocana. There, fish in the 15- to 30-pound range are being caught within a couple miles of shore, while further out on the banks, middling-sized 20- to 40-pound yellowfin tuna are showing with a few dorado and wahoo in the mix. That area is known as the Eastern Pacific Transition Zone, where northern cooler currents collide with semi-tropical waters and hosts a varied fishery with kelp beds and San Diego-like inshore fishing, while within 20 miles offshore, warmer currents still hold exotics. Though the inshore and coastal climes are a lot like those here in San Diego, the mid-peninsula fishing seasons are about three months behind southern California's.

This is the middle of the "high season" along Baja's mid-peninsula coast, as yellowtail, tuna, and other exotics do not usually start to show until August, and warmer water sets in from September through January. Surf fishing this time of year along the mid-Baja peninsula can be phenomenal. Sand crabs are prolific and easy to find, and while there are few surf perch, corbina and croaker can be thick. In spots where alongshore cuts develop during hurricane-driven swells in the late summer, shortfin corvina, halibut, and even bonito and smaller yellowtail feed in the winter months. The latter two can be caught on just about any lure you can cast out 50 yards or so when they are



Winter fishing blues? Fat corbinas and empty beaches await along the mid-peninsula Pacific coast of Baja.

Closer to home, rockfish, sculpin, sheephead, and calico bass will be the main targets for local runs until warmer water returns in late spring. On the beach, surf perch, corbina, and halibut are still being caught on sand crabs (where found), gulp baits, and lures. While there are still a few around, fishing for halibut during low tide can be good with access to cuts not reachable during high tide. Croaker, corbina, and surf perch seem to bite better during the last couple hours on an incoming high tide. This is also the time of year to start looking for spotfin croaker in the bays, as they spawn during late fall and winter months. Bloodworms and clams seem to work best for spotfins when they are in the bays. My favorite spots to catch winter spotfin are in Mission Bay along the southeast side of Fiesta Island near the dog park and ski ramps, and across the bay between the South Shores boat ramp and SeaWorld's outflow pipe.

Freshwater: San Diego may be the home of the world's largest live-bait sportfishing fleet and a world-class saltwater fishing destination, but 'tis the season for trout in many of the county lakes. Lake Poway will be kicking off their trout season opener this Friday with 2000 pounds of fresh-stocked trout. They will be closed to fishing Wednesday and Thursday to let the trout acclimate before Friday's opener, otherwise the lake is open for fishing Wednesdays through Sundays from 6am to sunset. There is no state fishing license required, however, Poway fishing permits are required and available for \$3 to \$7 at the concession stand. For those who would like to get on the water, rental fishing and pedal boats are available. Check boating/fishing details here: <https://poway.org/420/Fishing>.

New Moon night fishing is back at Lake Jennings this Saturday until 10pm. As the lake is freshly stocked with 3,500 pounds of trout over the past two weeks, the evening bite should be good. Catfish are still around and love to bite after sunset, and bass should also be active in the evening

continued on page 41

DANIEL POWELL

comics all before 1970. No Prints or videos. (619) 890-1390.

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

GARAGE SALES

ARE YOU HAVING A GARAGE SALE? Are you having a community garage sale? Reach our thousands of readers and place your FREE ad here @ www.sandiegoreader.com/classifieds/ (619) 235-3000

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

I BUY OLDER STEREO GEAR Pioneer, Sansui, Klipsch, JBL, Fisher, Yamaha, Dynaco, McIntosh, Tannoy. Working or not ok. What do you have? Call or text pictures, (619) 279-7833.

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

CASH FOR WALT DISNEY AUTOGRAPHS, items, paper, original animation art, old Disneyland items, any type

crashing on bait just behind the waves.

If a road trip is in order and surf fishing is the goal, I'd suggest avoiding the usual winter snowbird crowds in Loreto and Mulege, and instead heading out to the mid-peninsula Pacific coastal towns where the fishing is awesome, tourism is minimal, and you can fish all day on a stretch of beach and not see another soul. With normally tranquil seas, small surf, and moderate warm weather, the Vizcaino stretch of Baja's Pacific coast is an ideal winter surf fishing destination.

Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4"x3'-0"x 8'-0", no hinges-handles, they are extra doors from my remodel, I paid \$1,500. each, selling for only \$750. each, (760) 746-7209



1995 TERRY TRAILER \$3,500 This Terry trailer is in great condition for the year. The heat, toilet, sinks, and everything works properly. Let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to check it out. (619) 838-5113

570 BOOK COLLECTION 238 hardcover & 67 softcover, about 264 cookbooks, some hardcover & some softcover, selling all for \$390, no haggle price, (760) 746-7209.

ARTIFICIAL TURF \$1.49 SQ/FT Brand new rolls of artificial turf as low as \$1.49/sq/ft: playground turf, dog run turf, kid-safe turf, high traffic turf (619) 633-8386

BOSE RADIO with cd player, \$65. (760) 224-3467

BOX OF PHONE AND MISC computer chords, over 200 chords, \$20 (619) 456-8968.



CRAB BEANIE BABY \$150 Selling a Claude the Crab Beanie Baby for \$150. This one is SUPER rare! (619) 836-5310

FENDER SQUIRE ELECTRIC GUITAR with case, \$85 firm. (760) 224-3467

HOVEROUND CHAIR good condition, needs battery, \$175. (760) 224-3467

HOYER LIFT with harness, \$175. (760) 224-3467

L97 will take best offer. Chrome mags, v6. Manuel (619) 340-8765

LOT'S OF CPAP PRODUCTS unopened, make offer. (760) 224-3467

NON SPORTS CARDS FOR SALE 400+ 1994 Marvel Masterpiece cards, 1992 Looney Toons cards, 1995 Star Trek Next Generation, 1993 Frank Bisetti skybox bloodlines, Richard Corbenn comics, cam Jim (619) 635-3997, all excellent condition.

OSCILLOSCOPES Hickok Model 5002A, used, three used oscilloscopes all for only \$150., I don't have probes, in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209

PEXTO TRIM TAB SHEAR: Model 269A, 4 inch wide blade, 18" depth, 20 gauge maximum thickness, it was used to shear small pieces of aluminum, mounted on heavy duty stand, \$375., (760) 746-7209



RUMP SHAKER 90'S RAP RECORD Selling a Rump Shaker 90's 12" rap record for \$15. petesuarez2619@gmail.com

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

FOR SALE

CAR TOP LUGGAGE RACK \$25, (619) 697-0448.

WOODEN KIDS BED FRAME and toy chest, \$20 (619) 456-8968.

1992 BUICK LE SABRE MANUALS: GM Owners Manual, GM Service Manual, GM Electrical Systems Manual, Haynes Repair Manual, Chilton's Repair Manual, selling all for only \$100, (760) 746-7209.

4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS Premium knotty alder solid wood, mfg. by Craftsmen in

SHARP AQUOS TV large 3 x 5. Can't take to new tiny house, perfect condition, make offer. (760) 224-3467

SOFA: LEAF PATTERN

FABRIC: Thomasville, has matching pillows, 76" long, 36" wide, 36" high. The fabric leaf pattern colors are: tan, brown, green, blue, burgandy & red. It's in nice condition, I can deliver locally, \$120., in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209

SOLAR PANEL GROUND MOUNT:

Universal mount holds 10 large solar panels, used when roof's aren't suitable for mounting panels, excellent, \$2,600., (760) 746-7209



STAR TREK PHASER GUN

This is a Star Trek phaser toy from the 1990s. It made a noise when I pushed the button, but the sound was not as crisp as the TV show in the 1960s! Asking \$45. No lowballers petesuares2619@gmail.com

TALL, STURDY WALKER for larger person, \$50. (760) 224-3467

THE PHANTOM STRANGER issue number one for sale. Contact Gino (760) 727-7963

THREE AIR MATTRESSES w pumps new \$20 for all 3, hexagon plexiglass aquarium w stand \$20, (619) 456-8968.

TRUCK TIRE LIKE NEW CONDITION: LT275/70R18, load range E, mounted on a ford 8 lug steel wheel, 18x8J, like new condition, \$100, (760) 746-7209.

TURNABLE WITH DUST COVER, \$25 lot's of vinyl

records too, \$1 each. (760) 224-3467

1980'S CASSETTE COMPONENT Selling a 1980's cassette component by MCS. I am asking \$25. petesuares2619@gmail.com



AQUARIDERS LEGO SET

Selling my Aquariders Lego set for \$25. It is complete with the Minifigure. petesuares2619@gmail.com

BEDAZZLED FLATS SIZE 7.5 Hi! I have a pair of bedazzled flats in size 7.5 for \$10. They are barely used. sd.fashion.head@gmail.com



BLACK PANTHER COMIC BOOK Selling a Black Panther comic book from the Enemy of the State II series — selling part 1 of 5 for \$15 (619) 836-5310

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

TWO DEHUMIDIFIERS great condition \$20, small meat smoker \$20 (619) 456-8968.

VANS HIGH TOPS WOMEN SIZE 7.5 Vans high-top sneakers for women size 7.5. Barely wore them. Asking \$15 sd.fashion.head@gmail.com

WINDOW AC UNIT works great, \$40 (619) 456-8968.



CRATE CREATURES MONSTER TOY

I'm selling a Crate Creatures monster toy for \$12. He still works when you pull his tongue! petesuares2619@gmail.com



JETHRO TULL RECORD 1970's Jethro Tull record \$25 petesuares2619@gmail.com



SHEENA EASTON VINYL Selling a 1980's Sheena Easton record for \$10 petesuares2619@gmail.com



TREACHEROUS THREE CD Gotta Treacherous Three CD from the old school. Asking \$15 petesuares2619@gmail.com

1977 LUTHER VANDROSS RECORD Selling a 1977 Luther Vandross record in VG+ condition for \$40 petesuares2619@gmail.com

I CAN BEAT MIKE TYSON When Will Smith rapped "I Think I Can Beat Mike Tyson". This is the original 1990s record for \$15 petesuares2619@gmail.com



INFINITY SPEAKERS FOR SURROUND I'm selling a pair of Infinity surround sound speakers for \$25. These are heavy duty and well made! petesuares2619@gmail.com

LEGIT MARISCOS IN ROSARITO If you ever travel to Rosarito Beach, try Mariscos Delmar for the best mariscos and fish tacos in town! facebook.com/Mariscos-Delmar-1304048629611654. WhatsApp: +52 (661) 612-3037 / Diegoknight69@gmail.com

WOMANS SKI PACKAGE: 160CM Fisher Power Core Skis, Dalbello size 8.5 ski boots, 2 sets of ski poles, black plastic ski carrying case, purchased new for over \$1,000., used for one weekend, selling for \$350., call (760) 746-7209



LEGO DUPLO SET We only built it once then put it back in the original box. Asking \$15. petesuares2619@gmail.com

MYSTERY BOXES We are liquidators and love liquidating Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond and Target items in our Mystery Boxes. facebook.com/oceansidetradetradingco familydlc@gmail.com



ODY MANDRELL STAR WARS TOY Selling a vintage 1990's Star Wars Episode 1 Ody Mandrell with Otoga 222 Pit Droid action figure set. Asking \$15 petesuares2619@gmail.com



RAVER HEART SUNGLASSES Who is ready to rave again?! Selling my heart sunglasses for \$10 petesuares2619@gmail.com

APPLIANCES FOR LESS Up to 50% discount on all products. @ Appliances for Less. 2065 S Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA. (760) 908-8908



JAY-Z KINGDOM COME CD Jay-Z Kingdom Come CD from 2006 for sale - \$15 petesuares2619@gmail.com

LEVIS DENIM SNEAKERS FOR WOMEN Selling a pair of Levis sneakers for women. They are size 7.5. I am asking \$10 sd.fashion.head@gmail.com

LUDACRIS RAP CD Ludacris Release Therapy CD for \$10 petesuares2619@gmail.com

MARISCOS AND FISH TACOS We are waiting for you with tables and chairs! Order by phone, place your order at: (619) 277-1549. We are located at 6062 University Ave, San Diego, CA and we are here from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

OG LIL WAYNE CD Got a Lil Wayne The Carter II CD for \$15 petesuares2619@gmail.com



OLD SCHOOL CONCERT POSTERS We are selling classic concert posters for \$15.00 each. 100's to choose from. They are re-issues, but look super awesome. (619) 279-7833

MISCELLANEOUS I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks fancy candle holder and a used cordless house phone v-tech (blue) all these

SMOG CHECK \$21⁷⁵

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



OIL CHANGE

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

\$17⁹⁵
+tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

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

\$129
Free Inspection

TRANSMISSION SERVICE

Includes filter, pan gasket, fluid, most cars, From + tax & hazardous materials fee

\$179

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

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

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

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Fish Report

continued from page 38

hours just before dark. Be sure to get there before 8pm when the gates are closed for entry. Fishing fees run from \$5 to \$11, and a California state fishing license is required. Boat rentals are available, and some private boats are allowed. See <https://lakejennings.org/see-and-do/boating/private-launching/> for details.

The Kiwanis Club of Santee will host the 2021 Annual Children's Fishing Derby at Santee Lakes 3 and 4 on Saturday, December 4th, from 7 to 11 am. Open to children in 3rd through 8th grades, the derby will give awards and prizes for the first fish, biggest fish, smallest fish, and for the most fish caught. Bring your rod & reel. Bait is provided. Children from 3rd through 8th grades may participate. All participants must have participant forms signed by a parent or guardian. Forms may be downloaded at <https://www.santeekiwanis.org/childrens-fishing-derby> or picked up at the Kiwanis' booth at Santee Lakes on the morning of the derby. Parents may fish with their child without Santee Lakes permit during the Derby. Preregistration is encouraged and they will hold your child's spot should the event be overbooked. Pre-registrants must appear for final registration within 30 minutes of event start.

Tight Lines and Good Luck!

Fish Plants: 12/2 – Lake Poway, trout (2000), 12/3 – Santee Lakes, trout (1500)



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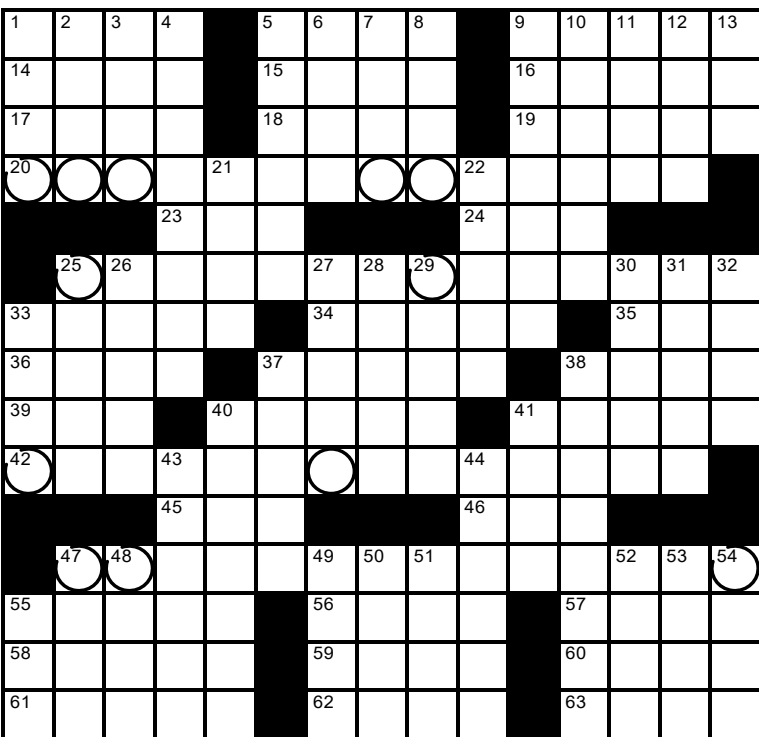
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Across

1. Make a little shorter
5. Suffix with puzzle
9. It may be blurred when yelling "#%@!"
14. Spiritual leader often pictured sitting cross-legged
15. On any occasion
16. Aptly named American Eagle store
17. "Su-u-ure"
18. Number of square feet in a square yard
19. "The Pianist" Oscar winner Adrien
20. It rebranded to its circled letters in 1994
23. "Be there in a ____!"
24. Last letters sung in "Old MacDonald"
25. It rebranded to its circled letters in 2015
33. Deep sleeps
34. Estate tax payers
35. "Milk me!"
36. "Battlefield Earth" author _____ Hubbard
37. "r u 4 real?"
38. Ski slope conveyance
39. Tall, dark or handsome: Abbr.
40. Paul : U.S. :: _____ : Italy
41. The Princess of Power, in cartoons
42. It rebranded to its circled letters in 2018
45. U.S. gymnast Raisman with three Olympic gold medals

46. First name of a film character whose letters appear in "Harrison"
47. Attention-getters for people with short attention spans (see circled letters)
55. "Peer Gynt" composer
56. Wedding promises
57. Tooth part
58. Jewish holiday when the book of Esther is read
59. _____ twist
60. "Tom's Diner" singer Suzanne
61. Longtime U.S. congressman _____ Hoyer
62. Broadway backdrops
63. Musk who, in 2021, called himself "the first person with Asperger's to host [SNL] -- or at least the first to admit it"

12. Frees (of)
13. Susan of "L.A. Law"
21. Fam. members
22. Explorer who proved that Greenland is an island
25. Through
26. Word derived from the Japanese for "picture writing"
27. Fling
28. Scientist who was friends with Mark Twain
29. Amelia Earhart, e.g.
30. Late-night TV host _____ Ruffin
31. Surf sounds
32. "Swiper, no swiping!" speaker of children's TV
33. Hammer feature
37. Mythical figure known for ribaldry
38. "What chutzpah!"
40. Like a person recovering from a bad cold, maybe
41. Bogus
43. Cried "Uncle!"
44. Gorillas beat theirs
47. In _____ (stuck)
48. Not looking good at all
49. Singles at bars, e.g.?
50. Like some threats
51. Santa's coat?
52. Père _____ (Santa Claus, in France)
53. Packed with plasticware, perhaps
54. Obsessive fan, in slang
55. One might say "Recalculating" after a wrong turn

Down

1. "Weekend, here I come!"
2. Naive sort
3. Furious
4. Bird that, despite its name, can make soft grunting sounds
5. Dennis, to Mr. Wilson
6. Like some twins and grins
7. Leakes of "The Real Housewives of Atlanta"
8. Sue at Chicago's Field Museum, e.g.
9. Silk and wool, for two
10. "Don't worry about us"
11. Top awards for Spanish Olympians

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | R | | M | O | O | S | E | | P | H | O | T | O |
| H | I | E | | A | N | Z | A | C | | H | O | P | O | N |
| A | N | D | A | L | U | S | I | A | | D | E | E | R | E |
| M | C | R | I | B | S | | D | R | S | | S | N | O | B |
| W | H | O | L | E | | S | I | T | E | D | | M | I | A |
| O | M | S | | C | A | M | D | E | N | Y | A | R | D | S |
| W | E | E | P | | M | O | O | | D | E | M | I | S | E |
| | | | | I | D | I | G | | E | S | S | O | | |
| B | R | A | P | A | D | | S | R | I | | K | E | R | N |
| W | I | N | E | T | A | S | T | I | N | G | | P | O | E |
| A | M | T | | E | L | T | O | N | | O | A | S | T | S |
| H | S | B | C | | A | E | R | | T | U | T | T | U | T |
| A | H | E | A | D | | W | A | L | G | R | E | E | N | S |
| H | O | A | R | D | | E | G | G | E | D | | I | D | I |
| A | T | R | E | E | | D | E | A | L | S | | N | A | 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@sreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
 - 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw **1** name from weekly puzzle submissions.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted via email for prize redemption.

☛ **Jerry Tubbs, Carlsbad, 8.**

Name: _____
 City: _____ Email: _____

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

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THIS WEEK'S WINNER:

Winners will be contacted via email for prize redemption.

☛ **Xuping, San Diego, 1.**

Name: _____
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Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

EVIL:

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

High Standards

— The 10-foot-tall artificial Christmas tree that the town council installed in the Grimsby town center in England left locals underwhelmed, *Grimsby Live* reported – to the point that the council had the expensive decoration removed. Snarky comments included one from a resident who said he had a bigger tree in his house, and another called it "an insult to Grimsby." The council responded that the tree cost more than 1000 pounds, but said it had been installed too early, and the traditional live tree from a nearby farm would be installed on Nov. 25. The fake tree will be reinstalled for a Christmas market.

Least Competent Criminal

— Jerry McDonald of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was with an acquaintance when he passed out from drinking. His friend, trying to help out, took McDonald's phone to text his boss that he wouldn't be in to work that afternoon. But instead, the friend found alarming texts in which McDonald detailed a plan to kill an unnamed woman and take her money: "Please kill her babe, please. I'm begging you. There's over a million in her dad's safe. I'm saying I won't get caught," McDonald had texted, according to News Channel 9-TV. But, of course, he did get caught, and now is held in the Hamilton County jail on \$75,000 bond.

Terrifying AND Gross

— Seizures are frightening enough, but seizures caused by tapeworms add an el-

ement of "eww." According to doctors in Massachusetts who recently described the case in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the otherwise-healthy 38-year-old man had had dead tapeworm cysts lodged in his brain for decades – a relatively rare form of infestation called neurocysticercosis. When these cysts become stuck in the brain, they can cause pressure, inflammation and neurological symptoms that are sometimes confused for brain tumors. But those symptoms may not manifest for years. This man's cysts caused no problems until three years ago, when he fell out of bed, "shaking and speaking gibberish," then had a two-minute seizure on the way to the hospital. Luckily, he was discharged after five days of treatment and remains in good health today.

Lost and Found

— A special bear is back home where he belongs. Stuffed bear Teddy was the first gift Ben and Addie Pascal of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, sent to their daughter Naomi before adopting her in 2016. Naomi, now 6, brought Teddy on family trips to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Croatia, Greece -- and, last October, to Glacier National Park in Montana. By the time the family realized Teddy was lost, snowfall had closed the higher elevations of the park for the season. Ranger Tom Mazzarisi found Teddy on a trail and couldn't bring himself to throw out the toy, instead keeping it as a mascot on his dashboard all winter. Nearly a year later, the Pascals' family friend Terri Hayden visited Glacier and spotted a stuffed bear in a ranger's truck. After confirm-

ing it was Teddy, Mazzarisi returned the bear -- along with a junior park ranger badge and ranger hat.

Get Down

— Cable network BET broke a Guinness World Record in Harlem by recruiting 536 people to dance in the world's longest soul train line. The line included original dancers from the *Soul Train* TV show, as well as a marching band and hundreds of local residents. A Guinness official was there to make sure participants followed the rules, including dancing "in pairs for at least 40 feet to qualify as a soul train." The group took the record from Goodyear Ballpark in Arizona, which gathered a 426-person soul train line in 2014.

Nope

— In Aswan, Egypt, recent inclement weather -- including "vicious rain, dust storms and snow" -- has forced hordes of scorpions from their usual hiding places and into homes and streets. BBC News reported that three people have died so far from scorpion stings, and 450 have been injured. The injured are being treated with antivenom. Health officials have even had to recruit doctors who were on vacation to help with the influx of patients.

Rock On

— Missouri man Kyle Scheele, with the help of friends, made a cardboard cutout of himself "jamming out with a pizza guitar" and advertising something called the "Kyle

Scheele Meal." He then placed the cutout in a local gas station and waited to see how long his prank would last. But after the fake ad went viral on TikTok, convenience store chain Kum & Go made the Scheele Meal real. It included a Red Bull and a pizza sandwich, "which is just two pieces of pizza smashed face-to-face," Scheele said. The promotion ran for about a week, with Kum & Go donating \$2 of every \$5 meal to the charity No Kid Hungry.

Do You Hear That?

— Residents of Barwell, a small English town, have been dealing with an unexplained noise for about a year. It's been described as "a humming noise," a "low-frequency droning sound" and a "horrible din" that never stops. Resident Ange Redshaw said, "At night, even lying on the pillow, you can feel the vibration, it's that loud. During the day, I can hear it over traffic noise." And now it seems to be spreading: Brian Heath, a resident of nearby Stapleton, says he has heard the "slow, rolling, rumbling sound" for a few weeks. "It's quite a heavy noise ... You can feel the pressure on your body," he said. No cause has yet been identified.

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



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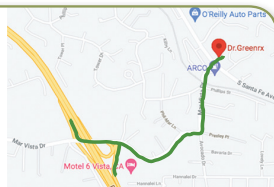
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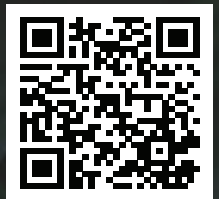
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