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Politicization and polarization — page 10



Just keep looking up — page 8



Deli with a Roman-Jewish twist — page 27

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	30
Cannabis	36
Classifieds	29
Health and Beauty	15
Help Wanted	33
Legal Solutions	5
Music	22
Research Studies	11
Restaurants	27

NEWS & FEATURES

Neighborhood News

Gas clerk dragged and dumped, sidewalks cracked and crumbling.....2

Golden Dreams

A scary true story from the library4

Unreal Estate

A modern mansion in La Jolla6

San Diego in Books

“In a Desert of Pure Feeling” from *The New Yorker*9

Anti-Social Contagion

Covid’s community casualties, by Siobhan Braun10

Sheep and Goats

Anchor Baptist Church, San Diego17

Puzzles.....34

News of the Weird.....35

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures,
Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness16

Outdoors

The wolf moon rises.....18

Theater

New this week: *A Christmas Carol*20

Movies

Opening this week: *The Whale*.....21

Music

Blurt: Nefarious Creatures and the return of the concept EP.....22

Local Five: San Diego acts you ought to check out24

The Gonzo Report: No KISS, but plenty of cool at

Full Contact rock shop.....25

Immortal Beauty: Our annual visit from Depressed Disney Dad...26

Restaurants

Best Reuben in the county?.....27

Drinks All Around

Polite Provisions’ Christmas Cricket.....28

Roam

Feeling the call of the void32

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

Fill and kill

Gas station attendant killed over \$38

In the early morning of November 15, Berenice Rebolledo got an unexpected call from an unknown person asking if she was Ruben Valencia's wife. The person told her that something had happened to her husband while he was working the night shift at an Arco gas station, and that someone would go to her house to talk to her.

Rebolledo couldn't wait; she called one of Valencia's co-workers to ask about him. "I felt like everything fell down inside of me. She told me that my husband was dead. I just remember I got out of my house and ran over

to get away without paying the equivalent of \$38 USD for gas. He then fell in the middle of a high-speed boulevard, Libramiento Sur, and lost his life amid the onslaught of cars in a section of the road that has no proper public lighting.

Valencia and his family were relatively

pay with cash. This policy forces the clerk to pay from their own pockets when they are robbed or short-paid by drivers. Valencia had been through a similar situation before, Rebolledo says, and the company was garnishing his weekly wages in order to pay off the amount he owed. "That's totally unfair," she says. "My husband was really honest and such a good worker, a wonderful human being, and a great father for the four children he left behind. They gave us 30,000 pesos (\$1500 USD) and nothing more, because they have no life insurance for their employees. What am I supposed to do with that? Anyways, no money will give us

Ruben back; the only thing he was always worried about was to give the kids everything they needed."

A worker from the same gas station who preferred not to be identified said that the other clerks started raising funds and had gathered up to 89 thousand pesos (\$4680 USD). "We are doing it on our own and with help of customers. Nothing is coming from the company. We wanted to get organized, but we can't afford to be fired and have no job. We want justice for our co-workers and accountability from the company."

The company's operation director, Gabriel Arellano, stated to local news outlets that Valencia had not followed their security protocols, which require taking money before dispensing gas.



Valencia was dragged for several yards when a customer attempted to flee without paying.

UNDERFOOT

Sidewalk straight talk

Dear property owner: cracked concrete is your problem

Over one recent weekend, the city received 350 sidewalk service requests. But because the city has only two concrete maintenance crews, it's no surprise there's a backlog of 9000 requests for concrete repairs, mostly sidewalks. San Diego's 4600-mile pedestrian network is an important part of its climate action plan. But the paved paths last only 50-80 years, and many are nearing the end of their lifespan, while some of the system's older walkways — in communities like Banker's Hill, Golden Hill, and Mission Hills — date to the 1800s. A sidewalk assessment completed in 2015 found more than 85,000 locations with major cracks and other

defects. Maintenance crews repair about 300 locations each year.

The current estimate of sidewalk need is \$185 million dollars, based on 37,000 locations known to be in need of replacement,



"People are always shocked when they hear that," says council member LaCava.

according to Patrick Hadley, deputy director of the transportation department's streets division. The city had previously reported needing \$100 million, but that was based on older costs of \$2000 to \$3000 per location. Inflation and rising wages have now pushed costs up to about \$5000 for each location. Funding for replacement includes \$5 million dollars received in 2019, and another \$4 million in fiscal year 2023. At the current level of funding, based on the \$185 million dollar need, completing all known repairs will take approximately 20 years, staff said.

However, that figure will shrink, because many of the thousands of locations will become the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, thanks to state and highway codes. "People are always shocked when they hear that," Councilmember Joe LaCava said at a recent meeting of the active transportation and infrastructure committee. After all,

continued on page 8

"My husband was really honest and such a good worker, a wonderful human being, and a great father for the four children he left behind."

to the gas station." The station was located in the same neighborhood they lived in: El Pacifico, an industrial area about nine miles southeast of Tijuana's downtown. There, she heard how Valencia died. According to information from the prosecutor's office, he was dragged by a vehicle for several yards when trying to stop a driver who was attempting

new to the city; he was a policeman in the state of Morelos and came to Tijuana to save money. He planned to return and fix up the family home. Now Rebolledo is struggling to pay for the transportation of her husband's remains.

Gas stations in Tijuana hire clerks to charge customers, who most commonly



Valencia's fellow clerks have raised almost \$5000 for the family. "Nothing is coming from the company."

IVAN MOLINA

UNDER THE RADAR

VA's shooting suicides San Diego's Veterans Administration Health Care system has fallen short in its efforts to deal with the growing number of loaded guns in the hands of suicidal patients, according to a newly released audit. "In 2019, an average of approximately 17 veterans died by suicide each day, with 69 percent of veteran deaths by suicide due to self-inflicted firearms injury," says a November 17 report by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "Further, although non-veteran firearm-involved suicide deaths decreased from 2001 to 2019, firearm-involved suicide deaths rose 3 percent among male veterans and 13 percent among female veterans." Making the problem especially critical, the report says, is that "approximately 85 percent of individuals who attempt suicide with a firearm die from their injury, and the time interval between deciding to act and attempting suicide may be just 5 or 10 minutes. A study of 135 individuals who died by suicide found that individuals storing a loaded gun or publicly carrying a gun was associated with a four-fold increase in the likelihood of death by suicide."

But prying loaded guns from reluctant patients' hands isn't easy. The study notes that while the VA program seeks only to provide counseling regarding safe gun use and storage, many patients fear revealing their at-home weapons stashes to government workers, suspecting that the guns will be unjustly seized. "Most clinicians reported that educational and cultural barriers such as mistrust of authority or government systems, fear of infringement of Second Amendment rights, and reluctance to give up means of self-protection were factors that might impede patient disclosure of firearms access." To deal



VA San Diego: trying to teach veterans about gun safety.

with such reluctance, VA workers are supposed to undergo a so-called Lethal Means Safety Education and Counseling course, but the program has fallen short, with San Diego having only 86 percent worker compliance, well below the minimum 90 percent threshold, the document says. "Given the prevalence of firearm-related suicidal behavior among veterans and the effectiveness of diminished access to firearms in the reduction of suicide, suicide risk assessment, and safety planning should include both firearms access information and discussion of safe storage," the

audit notes. "Safe firearm storage," per the document, includes "storage in a gun safe or lock box; and storing the firearm unloaded and separate from ammunition."

Casualty at sea It was a quick U-turn for the amphibious warship USS *John P. Murtha*, which was forced to return to its home port of



No smooth sailing without lube: USS *John P. Murtha*

San Diego after just a week at sea, due to "an unspecified maintenance issue," reports the website *USNI.org*. "Ship spotters saw the 25,000-ton warship entering San Diego harbor on Tuesday." The *Murtha* left San Diego on November 9 for its deployment as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group. The turnaround was quick, with the *Murtha* leaving again on November 17. "A spokesperson from Expeditionary Strike Group 3 told *USNI News* that the *Murtha* suffered a casualty in the ship's lube oil system that was repaired. The spokesperson did not have additional details on the casualty."

The *Murtha* has been certified as a recovery ship for NASA's unmanned Orion spacecraft, set to splash down off the San Diego coast on December 11 following its orbiting of the moon, but "it's unclear what San Antonio-class ship the Navy will use to recover the Orion capsule," says *USNI*. "As soon as Orion splashes down in the Pacific after its lunar mission, a team of divers, engineers, and technicians will depart the ship on small boats and arrive at the capsule," reads a NASA news release from November 9, 2021. "Once there, they will secure it and prepare to tow it into the back of the ship, known as the well deck. To ensure Orion is stabilized while in the water, engineers will attach it to an assembly that acts as an oversized fishing reel that can be adjusted pneumatically to secure the capsule while inside the well deck of the ship." According to a July 17, 2021, *Ars Technica.com* dispatch on the water return, "Orion's recovery procedures are rated to accommodate winds of up to 25 knots and a wide range of seas. Astronauts will also have access to a life raft, life preservers, and other basic survival equipment."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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U.S. NAVY PUBLIC NOTICE Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Encroachments Along Miramar Pipeline at Naval Base Point Loma (Clairemont Mesa Area)

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the realignment of two segments of the Navy's existing Miramar fuel pipeline in the Clairemont Mesa area of San Diego. The realignment would address two areas of the pipeline easement that have been encroached upon and have inspection, maintenance, and repair access issues that can affect operations. Current fueling operations do not pose a risk to public or environmental safety.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the Navy has determined that implementation of its Preferred Alternative, Alternative 4, would not significantly impact the quality of the human or natural environment or generate significant controversy within the Clairemont Mesa community in the areas of the two encroachments. As a result, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact documents can be downloaded from the project website at www.cnrc.navy.mil/NBPLMiramarPipeline. Printed copies of the documents are also available at the Balboa, Clairemont, or North Clairemont public libraries, or upon request by contacting: Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
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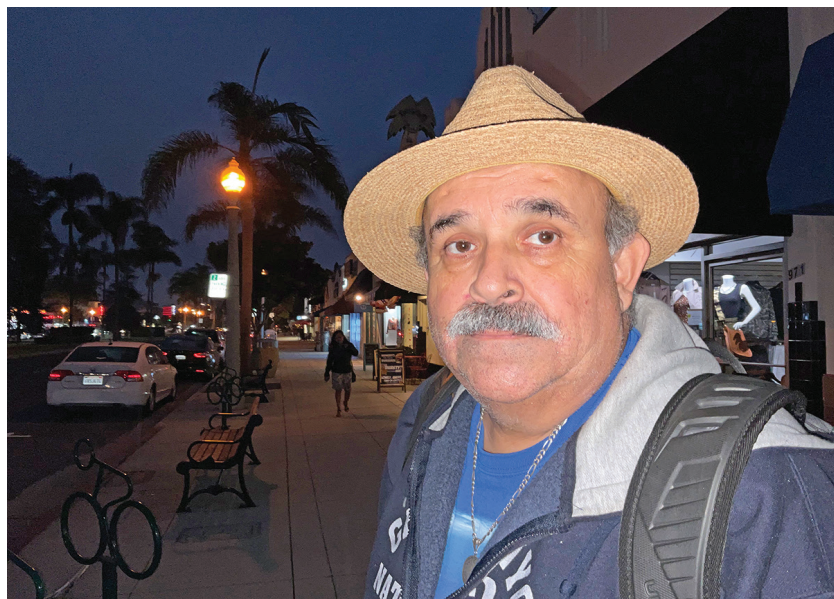
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Gregg Fajardo: "I'm there to protect the children."

The security guard's tale

Gregg Fajardo noticed the Bowie knife on the man's hip as the man sat there in the Mira Mesa library. Fajardo is telling me this in Clayton's Coffee Shop in Coronado. We both came in to grab an evening meal. There are about three of us scattered around the U-shaped counter. We get to chatting. When he tries to move, I can see he's having difficulty.

"What happened?" I ask.

"Femur. Broke it."

"How?"

"In a library. Mira Mesa. Kids' section. Long story," he says. "And nobody is really interested."

We go back to eating. "House of the Rising Sun" is playing on the jukebox, the one that you have to go up to if you want to hear something, even though Clayton's has countertop mini jukeboxes.

Oh mother, tell your children. Not to do what



The man with the knife, as photographed by security guard Gregg Fajardo

I have done...

"So how did you break your femur?" I ask Gregg again.

He puts his food down. "We just have the usual problems there in Mira Mesa. I've got nothing against the homeless. But at any library that's close to a trolley or a bus stop, you have more of these problems. So every day — until this happened — I do my rounds. I go through the stacks. I come back around. And this time, as I come back around and make my way towards the garden, I stop in front of the librarian for the children's area, the librarian's desk. And that's when I glance over and see the gentleman with the hat. He has a knife, a Jim Bowie kind of knife, hanging from his belt. So I immediately look, I click the picture [on the camera I always wear], just in case he gives me trouble, not realizing [there is a] second perpetrator. I have a list on my phone

of what the rules are, because a lot of people get combative. So I walk up and say 'Excuse me sir. How are you...?' And that's when I notice the guy to the left. He says something, but I'm focusing on the gentleman [with the knife]. I tell myself 'Be calm, don't let him know that I'm scared, or nervous.' I look him in the eye and say 'Excuse me sir. We don't allow knives in here.' I show him the phone with the rules.

"He says, 'Well is it possible that I just put the knife in the backpack?'"

"I'm like, 'Yes sir, but when you do that, that becomes a concealed weapon. I can't invite you to break the law. That would be breaking the law, sir. If you

can just, please, take that, put it in your car. Please remove it. You are in the children's area. I really can't have that knife in here, sir. Please?' And then he gets up without a problem, and he leaves. He walks towards the front door.

"Now the other gentleman? Very combative: 'WTF? This is a public place!' I pull out the picture [of the rules] and show him, because I'm not trying to make it about me and him.

leg was broken because I tried to get up and go chase the guy who pushed me, but then I felt the most excruciating pain of my life. And I said to myself, 'You ain't going nowhere.' And the librarian came up, and she said she'd seen the whole thing."

This happened late August. Fajardo thanks goodness for Workman's Comp, but it will likely be next March before he can get back on the

"You are in the children's area. I really can't have that knife in here, sir. Please?"

I'm just letting him know that these are the rules of the City of San Diego. But he's, 'I can't see the f-ing picture!'

"Me, I'm, 'Sir, sir, you'll have to calm down. If you like, we can go to the front desk.' Because they have a copy that you can see there.

"Him: 'I don't need to f-n see that!'"

job. If he still wants to. He has had plenty of time to reflect. "I had been worried about the situation, there at the Mira Mesa library. People acting strange, like one guy saying, 'I'm going to kick your ass,' when I asked him to leave. Lots saying things like, 'Go back to Mexico!' because of my Hispanic background. I discovered a



"At any library that's close to a trolley or bus stop, you have more of these problems."

"Me: 'Sir, calm down!'"

"Him: 'I ain't f'n yelling! You're f'n yelling!'"

"Now at this point, I start to back up. And I go, 'Sir, you're getting kind of carried away here. You're in a children's area, you can't be cursing. Can't you just leave?' At this point, he doesn't want to conform to anything I'm telling him. So as I try to pull back away from him, out of nowhere, he starts pushing me, and that's when I lose my balance and I hit the back of the table, the concrete desk, where the children's librarian sits. That's when I hit my back. Some said I hit my head. That's what I heard after, talking to the police. I only know I hit my back and that's when I snapped the femur. And then I guess he jumps up, runs out, and then another guy steps up and says 'This is my friend,' and he protected me until the police came. And he said, 'This is my buddy and I want that guy [arrested].' And I knew my

lady actually living on the library roof. Another guy smashed a laptop and cell phone when he didn't get his way. Others spending hours in the facilities. We're allowed to knock on the door after 15 minutes, just in case someone's having a heart attack or a seizure inside. Of course, as often as not, it's someone smoking crystal. Meth heads. And they can get belligerent. Yet when I asked my company for [protection, like] mace, or tear gas or a stun gun, they laughed. But the most important thing for me is the kids. That's my part of the library. The children's library. I'm there to protect the children. The other day, I saw this five-year-old kid with his mom. He looked up at me and he was terrified. But I came down to his level and I said, 'Don't be frightened of me. I'm the good guy.' And suddenly this kid goes from terrified to smiling from ear to ear. That kid: that's why I decided to approach the guy with the Bowie knife." ■

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Let's talk about what makes real estate unreal, and therefore worthy of consideration by our esteemed selection committee (members: me) for inclusion in our annals. For years, it was all about the dollar signs. Show me a house worth at least \$8-10 million (roughly 10 times the county median, which is currently hovering around \$900,000) and I'll give it a look. But after doing that a couple of hundred times, things begin to get stale: an endless parade of disappearing walls of glass leading to patios, infinity-edge pools, and "chef's delight" kitchens. I even hit a rut where every house featured for a three-month span had its own pizza oven, a uniquely specific and ridiculously expensive appointment that is almost assuredly underutilized, but still for some reason seems to have become a status symbol.

More recently, we've opened things up a bit to include some homes that might merely be very expensive, but not obscenely so, provided they piqued the committee's interest. That opened the door for quirky places like the Pt. Loma house with a literal lagoon in the living room, the former home of a 19th-century smuggler, a few massive estates in the backcountry, and even the home of a former boxing great that's now morphed into a central San Diego sex dungeon.

Those kind of properties (especially the historic ones, which I try to slip in



A seating area for those long, liquid La Jolla evenings.

every third or fourth entry) can make for a fun break, but today we're returning to form and heading back to La Jolla — an *Unreal* mainstay — to gaze upon something truly opulent. Chelsea Street, on which this nearly 8900-square-foot entry sits, wraps along the coast of southern La Jolla for a few blocks before moving inland and conceding the oceanfront to Calumet Avenue near Bird Rock. We were here back in 2020 to see an \$8.5 million mansion that is dwarfed in both size and price by this week's home, dubbed "the ORA House" by developers Blue Heron, an outfit that seems to do business mostly in the Henderson, Nevada suburbs of Las Vegas.

According to the Zillow pitch, the builder is "known for biophilic design," or the idea that architecture should connect building occupants more closely to nature. "The brilliant integration of natural elements and indoor-outdoor living create harmony with the surrounding oceanside environment," the listing continues. Well, that cer-

tainly seems like an easier task here in San Diego than in the desert, where outdoor living sounds like a proposition that I'd buy into for a few months a year at best. Time to have a look.

Just like last week, we start off with a pool shot, overlooking the ocean below. This may seem like old hat to *Unreal* regulars, but to be fair, if you've got a view like this, you can't tell me you're not going to flaunt it. Next we get an aerial view of the front, which seems to feature a lot of plain, gray concrete. I don't hate the wood panels, though, or the three-story tower at the center of the structure through which you can see to the sea beyond. For some reason, it appears the garage door is made of panels of mirrored glass — I don't hate this, but I'm also not the one responsible for polishing it.

Inside, the living/kitchen area has one of those disappearing glass walls, and what looks like not one but two kitchen islands

— one of them serving as a built-in dining table. Back outside, we get another aerial, this time looking into the backyard. From this vantage, it seems like just about every room features a disappearing west wall and a patio or deck of some sort, the better to take in the view.

Back to the living room: a big gray wall features a small fireplace and an enormous TV broadcasting a picture...of the living room. A kitchen shot confirms my double-island theory about dining, though there's another dining set on the patio just outside that would also be perfectly serviceable. A

home office looks spartan but modern, the sort of space that you might find in a downtown office tower. A bedroom — I assume it's the main suite — offers both indoor and outdoor private sitting areas, but the kicker comes when we look from another angle and realize there's no separation between bedroom and bathroom. A freestanding tub is just sitting in a corner next to what looks like a walk-in shower, with a wardrobe beyond the open bath space. (The listing tells us this is a steam shower, and that there's a laundry center built right into the closet.) Photos of another bedroom seem to confirm that this bed-bath combo concept is one the designers are sticking with; I'll leave it up to you whether this is a good thing or an example of "when open floorplans go too far."

Now we're on to what looks to be a semi-subterranean entertainment space that really does the indoor-outdoor thing so well I genuinely can't tell if this is all outdoors or if there are some retractable walls I'm missing. A billiards room leads out to some patio chairs surrounding a firepit in a space with three televisions on one wall and purple-glowing water surrounding a handful of concrete pads that have to

be traversed to reach the seating area. There's also a more decidedly indoor space outfitted with a bar, behind which several wine coolers display a few hundred bottles. An adjacent sectional sofa focuses on a theater-sized screen. We jump around through a few more bedroom shots, then end up back outside to tour some of the patios and decks we missed the first time around, including one on the top floor equipped with an outdoor kitchen and another bar.

"The ORA House provides an unmatched modern living experience with a design that has maximized utilization of the lot and vertical space," the listing promises, before expanding a little more on what we're seeing in those exterior photos. "The home offers a dramatic entry over a floating bridge leading to an expansive ocean view, led by fire and a pool spilling down two water walls into multiple vertical voids over the lower living area and entering an all gas foyer where the beach pebbles flow inside to dissolve indoor / outdoor boundaries." Ok then!

The Chelsea parcel last sold in 2016 for a reported \$4,675,000; at the time, it was the site of a 1300-square-foot home built in 1951 that, judging by the lack of interior photos in the listing, was likely deemed no longer worthy of its oceanfront site. The effective construction date of ORA House is 2021; since its rebuild, it's been offered for sale as low as \$25 million (with construction still ongoing) and as high as \$32.5 million. The latest listing, from late November, seeks a sale price of \$27,500,000. ■



Look at me! Now look through me!

An aerial photograph of San Diego, California, showing the city's urban landscape, the San Diego Bay, and the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The text "What's happening in *your* neighborhood?" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

sidewalks “are part of the city’s infrastructure.” And with a permit cost in San Diego of \$2200 — compared to \$100-\$200 in most cities — it’s a significant boost.

But there’s a council policy that puts the responsibility for certain maintenance

team will temporarily fix the issue with an asphalt ramp, then refer the site for a more permanent repair, such as slicing or replacement. When the city determines that a property owner is responsible for the repairs, they send a

At the current level of funding, based on the \$185 million dollar need, completing all known repairs will take approximately 20 years, staff said.

expenses on the city: parkway trees damaging sidewalks, or grade subsidence, or city utility cuts, or heat expansion, or sidewalk fronting city-owned property, or if there’s no abutting property owner. And the city has a 50-50 cost share program to help those who can’t afford the repair, which can range from \$1000 to \$5000.

Sidewalk work includes ramping, typically sought through the city’s Get It Done app or a call to public works. The city’s dispatch

notice of liability along with information about the cost-share program and permitting. According to city staff, the main difference between jurisdictions is how they enforce the policy, with some cities putting a lien on properties when homeowners don’t do the work.

One option San Diego is looking into is

point of sale, where the city would require the repairs when a property is sold. Another is to make it easier for property owners to make

their own repairs, possibly even waiving the costly right-of-way permit.

SHEILA PELL



PHOTOGRAPH BY MONTY BURNS

A sidewalk assessment completed in 2015 found more than 85,000 locations with major cracks and other defects.



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“In a Desert of Pure Feeling”

The New Yorker
Lawrence Weschler,
June 7, 1993



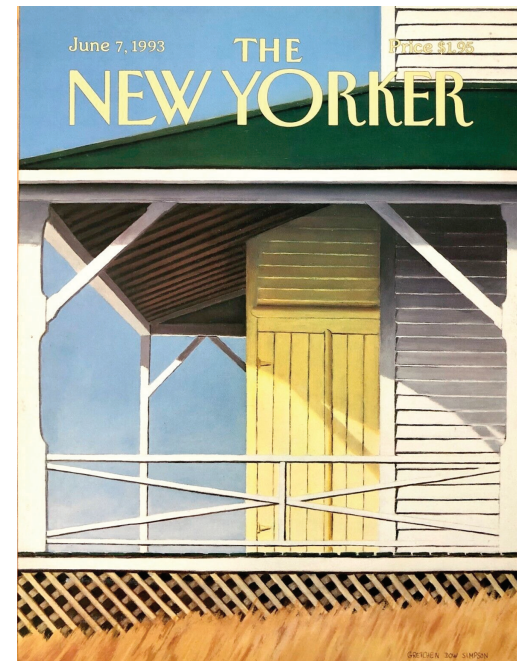
Lawrence Weschler

ONE OF THE NICE THINGS about San Diego is that I've managed to find a neighborhood that's an awful lot like L.A. in the fifties," [artist Robert Irwin] went on: "Very laid-back and stable. A lot of my neighbors work nearby, in the sailmaking shops and other businesses nestled along the water. As you can see" — we were now approaching the Point Loma district, straddling the hills that overlook the mouth of San Diego Bay — "real nice in-and-out. You can wake up in the morning, walk out on the deck, and see what kind of day it's going to be. It could easily make you happy if you didn't watch yourself." ...

“There’s a real magical quality to this bay,” Irwin was now saying. In the distance, on the water’s far shore, the skyscrapers of downtown San Diego glistened in the afternoon sun, and beyond them loomed the low brown mountains of Mexico. “And the main feature of it is its absolute silence. This is a

terrifically busy harbor. The Navy has the place churning all the time. I can sit here and watch the fleet coming in and going out at all hours of the day. Sometimes one of the big carriers will float in — so big, so close you feel you could just lean out and touch it. It seems to take up the entire visual field. And not a sound. Absolute silence. I don't know why — maybe it has to do with the surrounding topography, the baffle as if the bay just swallowed up all the cars floated by in the mid-distance; closer started and froze before a feeder dangling afters.

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“And the main feature of it is its absolute silence. This is a terrifically busy harbor. The Navy has the place churning all the time. I can sit here and watch the fleet coming in and going out at all hours of the day. Sometimes one of the big carriers will float in — so big, so close you feel you could just lean out and touch it.”

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Anti-Social Contagion

COVID'S COMMUNITY CASUALTIES

When the shutdown started, I was working at a preschool in Hillcrest. I can still picture my director walking down the stairs from her office above my classroom to tell us it was time to send our kids home. I was sitting in a swivel chair, reading a story to my students, who were leisurely sprawled on the rug at my feet. I heard the click of Rexanna's shoes on the concrete stairs above. Then I spotted the top of her head through my dusty classroom window. We had heard rumors that covid-19 would shut down the schools, but I wasn't expecting it to happen that day, and not so suddenly. But as soon as I

"I got into fights," recalls Deanna Polk. "I got kicked out of stores so many times! It was mostly for telling staff and shoppers to mask up, or for demanding people stand six feet away from me. I didn't care! This is my life!"

saw Rexanna's ponytail, I knew that I would be calling parents. Later, when those parents came to retrieve their kids, I was met with confusion and questions. Most wanted to know how

long the school would be closed. “Two weeks,” I assured them — with complete confidence.

Of course, my confidence was entirely misplaced; I didn’t have the slightest inkling of the chaos to come. But I got a glimpse of it on my way home. I stopped at my local grocery store, and was surprised to find the parking lot full, with cars spilling into the lot next door. Some people were wearing masks, a jarring sight at the time. It looked like a costume, like something out of *The Handmaid’s Tale*. An overwhelming sense of doom came over me. I stopped hunting for a parking spot and drove home, a decision I would later regret when we ran out of toilet paper.

For those first few weeks, it seems to me that we really did present a united front. All of us were in this thing together. But as “two weeks to slow the spread” became a dim echo of the distant past, it became evident that people had opinions about covid. They also had opinions about the government’s response to it, and about the public’s compliance with that response — or lack thereof. That initial sense of com-

munity began to unravel. Soon, there were sides: the cautious and not so cautious. People began hurling labels at those with differing views: MAGAs, sheep, paranoid, grandma killers, fearmongers, the jabbed, the anti-vaxxers, and on and on. President Biden said in September that the pandemic was over, but even now, the opinions and labels keep coming, splashed all over the media, social and otherwise.

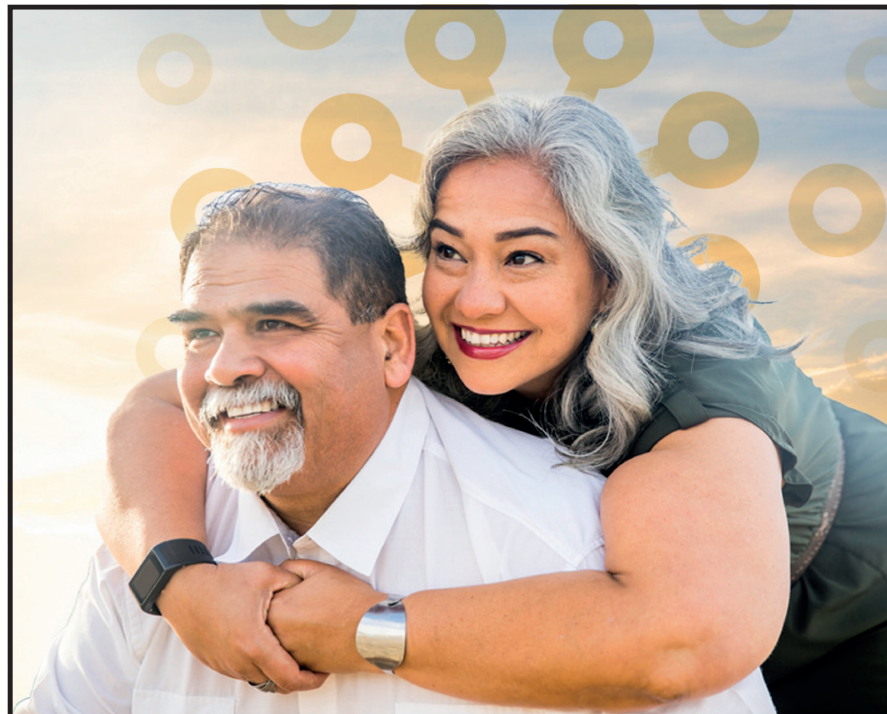
DENTED

Jessica Dent is either “not so cautious” or a “grandma killer,” depending on your point of view. Her neighbors in Mission Hills tended toward the latter, so much so that she wound up moving to East County. “At the beginning of covid,” she recalls, “I didn’t realize it would become political. It did feel weird to me that we were told what to do, that we could or couldn’t leave our homes, and that people could not come to our home. But I was like, ‘They said two weeks. We will give them two weeks.’ But those two weeks turned into much, much, longer.” Right now, we are sitting in a small Italian restaurant

in Lemon Grove; Dent’s Louis Vuitton handbag is in the chair next to hers. She wears a long-sleeved white t-shirt and dangle gold earrings, and her brown hair falls just a little below her shoulders. She doesn’t look to me like an East County grandma killer — whatever that looks like.

Via social media, Dent began noticing that friends and family in other states were still gathering, while she was still stuck in isolation on the West Coast. When Mother’s Day 2020 rolled around, she decided that she was going to invite her mom over, plus her brother and his family. “At that point, my brother was still nervous [about covid],” she says. “So I had a long conversation with him. I told him, ‘I am going to let Mom make her own decision. If she wants to come to our house, she can. I feel like it has been long enough.’ He was still apprehensive, so I told him, ‘I am not going to tell her to come over. I am going to tell her, ‘This is your life, you can make that decision if you want to come over on Mother’s Day.’”

Dent’s mom did come over, and the day passed without incident. That



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proved the beginning of Dent's gradual departure from many of the CDC's covid guidelines. But while Dent was comfortable resuming many aspects of her pre-covid life, her neighbors were not. To Dent, they appeared to be consumed with fear over the virus. "My family had gotten over that [fear]. We realized, 'This is a really bad cold. It sucks if you get it, but if you are relatively healthy, you will be fine!' We had friends in Jamul, and we spent a lot of time at their house. I feel like East County did not really feel the effects of covid tension as much as we did in the city. For me, it was very stressful, because I felt like our neighbors were judging us. Our friends joked that they were going to dig a tunnel to our house so that our neighbors did not know when we had them over."

Dent first realized that

she would have issues with neighbors after posting a video to social media "of two doctors who were voicing their concern over the level of intrusion the government had, and what they were seeing in their clinics with the patients they were treating. It was the first time that I came out as saying, 'I oppose what our state and local politicians are pushing.' That was when I started to get pushback from my neighbors, because I lived in a very liberal neighborhood." One of those neighbors posted a rebuttal, in the form of an article with a differing perspective. Dent recalls seeing the response and feeling stung. It felt personal somehow. Apparently, she was right, or at least, not entirely wrong. Recalls Dent, "[The neighbor] texted afterwards and said, 'I am sorry I sent that article. I should've re-



Amy Reichert explains her driving force for running, "My opponent called me an anti-vaxxer-ultra-MAGA. I don't even know what that means? I have had every vaccine known to man except for the covid vaccine. If you were to put me in any category, you could place me in the vaccine hesitant."

sponded to you privately. I don't want this to come between our relationship. I love you guys."

Soon afterward, says Dent, those same neighbors stopped talking her, and to her husband.

"They ghosted us. We just stopped hanging out. We used to have weekly and bi-weekly dinners together in our homes. I knew that they were still spending time with other people that agreed with them, and

my kids were still spending time with their kids. So I knew that they were not legitimately afraid of [catching covid from] our family. I did not want to lose the friendship. I knew where they stood politi-

cally. We have always had different political values and beliefs, but we have never before let that come between us. We used to be able to talk about our differences without it affecting our relationship. Now, anyone who questions the covid narrative, suddenly is like a MAGA Trump supporter! I thought this was just a virus?" Before long, Dent noticed a chill in her relationship with other neighbors as well.

POLKED

"I got into fights," recalls Deanna Polk. "I got kicked out of stores so many times! It was mostly for telling staff and shoppers to mask up, or for demanding people stand six feet away from me. I didn't care! This is my life! People would get mad. They would berate me and call me a sheep. They would say I had fallen for propa-

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ganda. It was sad, especially to hear those who I agreed with politically berate me. It was coming from both the right and the left. They were in total denial. It was a hard spot to be in when I had the knowledge base and people were not accepting it.”

I am sitting with Polk in her living room in Ocean Beach. On the wall behind me, a Bernie Sanders figurine sits on a tiny folding chair inside a shadow box, sporting a disposable mask and wearing his famed oversized mittens — a miniature representation of the viral Sanders photo taken during Biden’s Inauguration. Polk is wearing a patterned peasant top and white shorts. Her salt and pepper hair falls past her shoulders, traveling mid-way down her back.

Within the first few minutes of our meeting, Polk lists her qualifications for supporting government shutdowns and mask mandates during the pandemic. “I have a Bachelor of Science in nursing with public health certification, a minor in anthropology, and I have a Master of Science in Homeland Security with a specialization in science and technology. I was the public health co-

ordinator for the first on-line public disaster drill. I was trained by the CDC during the Ebola crisis for quarantine. So, I went into the [covid] pandemic with a broader understanding than most people. I am still horrified over how it was handled — and mis-handled.” She grimaces. “We have a dumbed down society, especially when it comes to public health,” she says, letting out a lengthy sigh.

Throughout the pandemic, Polk was on a mission to counter that dumbing down with education. She voiced her concerns regularly, whenever and wherever she could: on her local Nextdoor app, in Facebook posts, in confrontations with unmasked people in her neighborhood, or via countless phone calls to local leaders. Polk believed that she needed to be vocal in order to contain the virus. In the early days of the pandemic, she was horrified to discover that her local mail carrier did not wear a mask. “I opened my door and saw he did not have a mask on. [Postal carriers] are supposed to be wearing masks! I said, ‘You need to be wearing a mask.’ After that, he started

harassing me every time he [delivered my mail]. I had to get the postal manager to pull him off this route because he was threatening me. He would get in my face, and he refused to wear a mask. Some of the Amazon drivers were the same. I got busy reporting these guys because they were like Typhoid Mary. They had no idea what they were doing.”

It got to the point where the country did not look to her like the one in which she had grown up. “I love being an American,” she says. “I don’t like seeing a million Americans die, especially when we had the knowledge base to prevent those deaths, and so many purposely choose to ignore it. In America, we are supposed to be about helping each other. That got twisted around during the pandemic. It became, ‘No, I need mine! I don’t give a fuck about you! I am not wearing a mask! I don’t care if your grandma dies.’” Polk exhales deeply, as if releasing pent up disappointment, before continuing, “Back in the early part of the century, we had to put quarantine signs on houses when people had measles and stuff. But now, people get offended,

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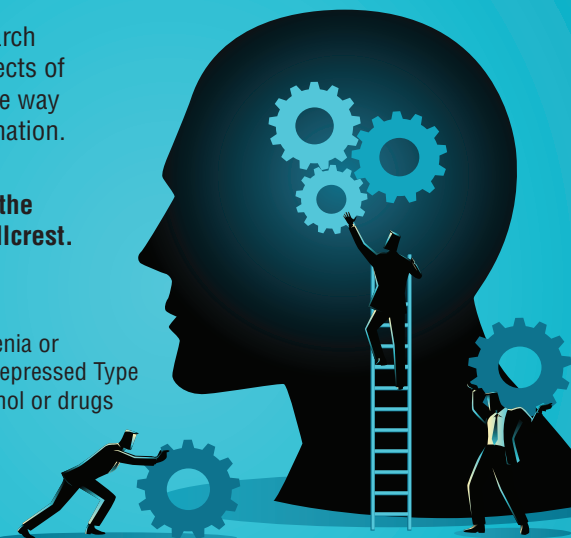
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or don't want to get categorized or whatever. But it worked!"

PREDECEASED

In the early stages of the pandemic, Amy Reichert cofounded ReOpen San Diego. The organization's website describes ReOpen as "a nonpartisan group that stands against unjustified and unwarranted coercion, lockdowns, mandates, and restrictions that harm most everyone, especially children, small businesses, people who lost their jobs, and the lowest income residents in our community." Soon after Reichert began organizing rallies and advertising the group's meeting and events on her Facebook page, she noticed that some of her friends and even family members stopped talking to her. "The pushback that I got initially was shocking!"

Reichert recalls. "The unfriending on Facebook was rampant," she recalls. "It hurt family relationships and friendships that I had."

As we sit under an oversized canopy at Sheldon's restaurant in downtown La Mesa, she tells me that the week previous, she received a certified letter in the mail from her biological father, removing her from his will. "We had a very healthy and good relationship," she says, "but all the vicious name calling, and all the assumptions made about people who had questions and were vaccine hesitant, led to divisions. After I cofounded ReOpen San Diego, it became a one-way relationship. He never reached out to me anymore. It was me reaching out to him. In the will, it says, 'I disinherit Amy Reichert. For the purposes of this will, Amy Reichert

has predeceased me.' Imagine reading those words out loud! For God's sake, please don't direct an attorney to say that a loved one is dead to you! It's just the cruelest thing." Reichert take a moment to compose herself, then shrugs, smoothing down the front of her perfectly pressed navy-blue dress and adjusting the gold pendant necklace around her neck, the one that reads, "Fearless."

She continues, "My own brother, who is a teacher, unfriended and blocked me on Facebook when I started questioning the government's narrative. We never even had a conversation about it, yet his immediate response was to unfriend me and block me. Prior to that, there was nothing in our relationship that would have justified that. I reached out to him, and I said, 'Can we at least talk?' He said, 'I don't

want to talk about it!' And that has been the response from a lot of people. In my 54 years of life on earth, I have never seen so many people so divided."

Another relationship causality was Reichert's best friend, "She has been my best friend since fourth grade. She posted a meme on Facebook, basically saying if you don't get the vaccine, you are unpatriotic and you are a scaredy cat. So I texted her and I said 'Hey, I just saw that meme you posted on Facebook. You said that people that are vaccine hesitant like me are unpatriotic and that we are afraid of a shot. You know that is not me.' Her response was, 'If you don't want to get the vaccine, it makes me think that you don't care about other people,' I wrote back, 'Where do we go from here? We have been friends for 45 years. You have known me through thick and thin and you are telling me you don't think I really care about people?'"

Despite her personal frustration, Reichert says she understands. "[The covid vaccine] was the largest marketing blitz and propaganda campaign in history," she says. "The reason why I can say that now is because we all know what we know now. The CDC updated its guidelines in the beginning of August, saying, 'Because the vaccines don't stop infection or transmission, the CDC now recommends that you treat the vaccinated the same as you treat the unvaccinated.'" As she speaks, her voice begins to rise in pitch and volume. Two men at a table nearby swivel their heads and stare in our direction. One shakes his head; the other laughs. It is clear they don't like what Reichert is saying. She is used to that.

JABBED/UNJABBED

Back in Mission Hills, as the pandemic raged, Jessica Dent was beginning to feel more and more isolated. It didn't help that she was one of the few people in her neighborhood who had refused to follow the first mask mandate. Then, after "we were already living without masks for a couple of months, Gavin Newsom said, 'You have to start wearing masks again.' I was like, 'NO, I am not doing it!' So, I didn't wear a mask again. I would get some looks. I was usually the only person — especially in my neighborhood — who didn't wear one. It felt really isolating, because I was like, 'I am doing this all by myself! Half of these people probably don't believe in it either, but are too afraid of being singled out. And then the other half probably think I am trying to murder their grandmother.' I was either a monster or the only person brave enough to stand up for what I believed." Well, not quite the only person: "Once, I was in my favorite [neighborhood] grocery store, and this guy walked past me with a mask on. I saw him again a few minutes later *without* his mask on, and I was like, 'Oh! I influenced someone to take their mask off!'" Her face flushes with emotion at the memory, and her blue eyes sparkle.

Like Amy Reichert, Jessica Dent never got vaccinated. By the time Christmas 2021 rolled around, most of her neighbors had already been through their first round of the vaccine, plus a round of boosters. People on her street started hosting parties again. "I had neighbors who knew I didn't get vaccinated, and they choose not to invite us to certain holiday events. Only people who were

vaccinated were invited. It was the first time in over ten years that we were excluded from those events." Dent's voice bubbles with a mixture of sadness and defiance as she recalls it.

She got covid that holiday season. As she lay on her couch, miserably sick, she began scrolling Instagram. She was already following a bunch of people who were questioning the government's response to the pandemic, but now, something clicked. "They were questioning the decisions our political leaders were making, and I was becoming really, really, fearful and feeling super anxious. It was fear porn. I deleted some of those accounts, because even if what they were saying was true, all it was doing was causing fear. At the time, I had a close friend who was talking about moving out of California, maybe even leaving the country just to get away from everything. And so, sitting on the couch, that was the first time I thought about moving. I had lived in my home for 11 years. I loved that house. I thought I was going to die in that house. But from my couch, I could see into my neighbor's home, and my neighbors weren't neighborly anymore, because my neighbors were terrified. I mean, it was like if you even looked at someone, you might kill them. In [Mission Hills], everyone was terrified of everyone. It did not feel like I had a community anymore. Without that community, I just felt like I needed more room. I wasn't ready to leave California, so we decided to move east to have more space for our family." Before moving, Dent placed not one, but two "Recall Gavin Newsom" signs in her yard. "It really felt like a middle finger to my neighbors."



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This study is being sponsored by IntervXion Therapeutics, LLC

POLITICIZED

In January of 2022, San Diego's district lines were redrawn. Amy Reichert found herself in District 4 — Nathan Fletcher's district. Her voice is joyful when she recalls her decision to run for city commissioner. "I remember thinking, at the time, how I had watched all those San Diego County press conferences. I watched [Nathan Fletcher] put the CEO of Sharp on as a guest and heard that CEO of Sharp say that people who don't wear masks are killers. My opponent would say things like, 'You are selfish and unpatriotic and you are killing your neighbor if you don't wear a mask!' I just thought that was completely divisive and uncalled for. So, when I found out in January of 2022 that I had the opportunity to run against him, I was like, YES!"

As Reichert lists off the things she would have changed if she'd been elected commissioner, I notice how polished she is, with her perfectly curled, shoulder-length hair and French manicured nails. She has a strong jaw line and a trustworthy face. She explains her driving force for run-

ning, "My opponent called me an anti-vaxxer-ultra-MAGA. I don't even know what that means? I have had every vaccine known to man except for the Covid vaccine. If you were to put me in any category, you could place me in the vaccine hesitant."

Nathan Fletcher is not the only one who called Reichert names. When I ask her how it feels to be lumped into a group that many Californians view as uneducated, she winces before adding, "For a whole group of people to be called stupid and uneducated — that sounds like a propaganda campaign to me! I would never call a whole group of people stupid, ignorant, or uneducated. Since when do you have to believe in a vaccine? It either works or it doesn't work! Just because I have questions about this particular shot does not mean that I don't trust doctors or science. However, based upon the last couple of years, my trust in those institutions has failed a little bit. People were just a little bit too compliant on this one!"

LAMENT FOR AMERICA, PART I

Deanna Polk lives near

restaurant-lined Newport Avenue. It's a hot spot for tourists. On weekends, the far end of Newport is often clogged with patrons waiting in a line that snakes down the street to get into Hodads for a burger. It's October when we speak, and although she is fully vaccinated and the covid numbers are dropping, Polk still avoids the scene. "I won't walk down Newport. It's like *Westworld* meets *Night of the Living Dead* down there. I have relaxed a little bit because I am vaccinated. Still, I don't go out shopping. I don't casually go to coffee shops or restaurants. I cook most of my own food at home."

The biggest thrill Polk gets when walking around her neighborhood is spotting people who are still masked-up. "When I go out to grocery stores or into crowded areas on the street, I put my mask on. I love to see other people doing the same. I used to be envious of the Japanese. I would always get sick after being on an airplane, but I was too embarrassed to wear a mask. I would see pictures of people in Japan wearing a mask, and I wished we would do that.

We are moving toward that with a certain segment of society. I love it when I see a guy with a mask on. If you are not wearing a mask in a crowded area, that is not sexy. If they are, it shows they have brains and they care."

Moving forward, Polk would like to see more non-partisan education on public health. She believes education will make all the difference when it comes to preventing another widespread virus. "Our country has been on a downward slide for the last 40 years. America used to be first in science, education, and health care. Not anymore. We have sunk so low. We are seeing that right now with this whole belief that our personal freedoms are being infringed! Your personal freedom should not allow you, when you know there is a deadly virus that is transmitted

airborne, to go out there and be a weapon of mass destruction. That is what these people who refuse to follow these simple guidelines are doing."

LAMENT FOR AMERICA, PART 2

As for Jessica Dent, she says a big part of her refusal to adhere to covid guidelines came from a fear of government control. "I felt that if I continued to follow these stupid mandates, and everyone just continued following the mandates that we all know are bullshit, then we were never going to get out of this space. If we do *every single thing* that our lame-ass government tells us to do, we have given them more authority than they deserve. They don't own that much of our lives, and we were giving them more and more. And every inch that we give, they take, and they

are never going to give back what we have given them. I am not going to give them what I am willing to not get back."

Looking back on the past couple of years, she says, "It sucked, and I didn't stand up nearly as much as a lot of people did. The things I did, for me, were a big deal, because I am not controversial. For me to walk around in my incredibly liberal neighborhood being the only person in every store without a mask on, that felt super isolating. But I just could not keep following an order I did not agree with."

Dent looks around the restaurant and lowers her voice before adding, "After I got covid, I was like 'Really? That was it?' I was sick for three days. I just thought, 'That is what I am supposed to be scared shitless over?'"

— Siobhan Braun

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Friday | 9

MARCHE DE NOËL WINTER FAIR

San Diego French-American School is a dual language school and one of over fifty French government-accredited international schools in the United

WHEN: Friday, December 9, 1 pm to 8 pm

WHERE: Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Avenue, between Broadway and Harbor Drive, Downtown. banksyland.com

Saturday | 10

SNOWSIDE WINTER FESTIVAL

Enjoy real snow and sledding, plus Santa Claus, Christmas trees, live entertainment, food, drinks, bounce houses, and inflatable slides. Musical lineup: Candy Cane Carolers, Santa Claus, Kimmi Bitter, Francis Blume, North County Children's Choir, and Lea Love & Swells.

WHEN: Friday, December 9, through Sunday, December 11, 5pm to 9pm

WHERE: Emerald Isle Golf Course, 660 South El Camino Real, Oceanside. pierclubpresents.com



States. Join them as they host an annual *Marché de Noël*, a European-style holiday market for shopping, French food and desserts, and activities for the whole family.

WHEN: Friday, December 9, 2:30 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: San Diego French-American School, 6550 Soledad Mountain Road, La Jolla. sdfas.org

BANKSYLAND

Banksyland is an international touring exhibition that immerses audiences in the works of BANKSY. The exhibit includes more than 80 pieces and installations; including original and studio works, salvaged street artworks, and immersive installations, all in a secret downtown San Diego location (ticket holders will receive event location 1-2 weeks before event opening).

Sunday | 11

PARADE OF LIGHTS HOLIDAY DINNER & BOAT PARADE VIEWING

Maritime Museum of San Diego hosts a Parade of Lights dinner aboard the deck of the Victorian-era 1898 steam ferryboat *Berkeley McKinney*. Parade judges will be nested in the Museum

as the decorated boats cruise by the Museum fleet, located at *Star of India* wharf. The parade route organizers project that the parade will



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10: SNOWSIDE WINTER FESTIVAL

pass the North Embarcadero at approximately 6:30 pm.

rockers. Expect to hear evergreen Thunderbirds hits such as "Tuff Enuff" and "Wrap It Up."



WHEN: Sunday, December 11, 4 pm to 9 pm

WHERE: San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive, Downtown. sdmaritime.org

WHEN: Sunday, December 11, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

WHERE: Winstons Beach Club, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. winstonsob.com

KIM WILSON'S BLUES ALL-STARS

Harmonica player, songwriter, and singer Kim Wilson, the founder and leader of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, is well known as a student and historian of classic blues. His Blues All-Stars revue presents boogie-woogie and honkytonk roadhouse



KIM WILSON'S BLUES ALL-STARS

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Anchor Baptist Church

Contact: 8245 Ronson Road, Suite D, San Diego
619-804-3413 www.anchorbaptistchurchsd.org

Membership: 45

Pastor: David Cajiuat

Age: 55

Born: Bajauo, Philippines.

Formation: Ambassador Baptist College, Shelby,
North Carolina

Years Ordained: 15

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend preparing your sermon?

Pastor David Cajiuat: My sermons are more exegetical—expository and sometimes textual. Occasionally, I'll also deliver a topical sermon. I spend about six to eight hours preparing, if I have time, during a typical week, on one sermon alone.

SDR: What's your main concern as a member of the clergy?

PC: There's been more of a need for revival, a spiritual awakening, not just in our church, but in America as a whole. I would love to see a major spiritual awakening out here on the West Coast. We've seen it happen on the East Coast, but nothing has happened on the West Coast. Once a week, one Sunday a week, I am preaching on revival. I urge an awakening to Jesus Christ, to scripture, to holiness, and to a desperate need for prayer and dependency on God, sharing the gospel and soul-winning and dealing with sin.

SDR: What is the mission of

your church?

PC: The last time we talked, I was the pastor of Metro Baptist Church. In 2018, we found this piece of property in Kearny Mesa, and when we found the piece of property, several of our charter members asked if we could change the name of our church since we were going to be changing all our literature anyway, because of the address change. I asked why, and they thought "Metro" had a bad connotation they didn't care for, so they said that they would rather have the name changed. I brought it up to the church and I said, "If we're going to change the name, it has to be Biblical, it has to have a reference to Jesus Christ and it had to be

apropos to our city." Someone suggested, "Anchor Baptist Church—Hebrew 6:19." This verse speaks about Jesus being the anchor of our soul, both sure and steadfast. "Anchor" also fits because San Diego is nautical — with the Navy and Coast Guard as well as with the beaches and marinas. It was perfect for us. Our mission is to exalt our savior, win souls by introducing people to our savior, and to build one another up for the cause of Christ. We're a group of imperfect people seeking to learn more about our perfect savior, Jesus Christ.

SDR: What one book has had the greatest influence on your ministry?

PC: The Knowledge of the



David Cajiuat

Holy and the Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer. This writer was a deep, profound thinker, and focused on the substantive spiritual walk with God. The book made me think about having the spiritual knowledge of God in the sense that he is more real than most people think in the superficial scriptural way. We learn from Tozer that one can

deeply have a relationship with Jesus Christ. The way he writes is so profound; he's my favorite earthly writer.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PC: An individual who has placed his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and in him alone and his finished redemptive work and the resurrection of Jesus Christ will go to heaven. That's where I'm going to go. Scripture says in John 3:16, "and whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life." Luke 16 also makes clear that the one who dies without Jesus Christ spends eternity in hell.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

ART

Art Reception & Christmas Party The Artist Gallery will hold its monthly Artist Reception and annual Christmas Party which will be open to the public with a chance to meet and talk with exhibiting artists. Holiday refreshments will be served. Saturday, December 10, 5:30pm; **free.** 18 and up. Artists Gallery, 121 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Summation Opening Reception Summation celebrates the artist's vision, journey, and process in 2022. Consistently, this exhibition features some of the finest works of art produced by local San Diego and Southern California regional artists. Poet's INC will produce its annual Summation publication with poetry inspired by the works of art. Runs through January 6. Saturday, December 10, 4pm; **free.** Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

BEER

Holiday Party The party will feature live music from DJ Bacon Bits, and a boozy ice cream pop-up hosted by Illegal Mezcal and Metl Bar. Guest appearance from Santa. The cost of entry is one (1) unused toy donation for Toys for Tots. Tuesday, December 13, 9pm;

Duck Dive, 4650 Mission Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

San Diego Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl All participating bars and their food or drink specials may be subject to change at the venue's discretion. Must present your ticket at check in before check in time ends to receive your wristband. All sales are final no returns, refunds or exchanges for services once purchased. Saturday, December 10, 5pm; **free**-\$19. 21 and up. Moonshine Flats, 344 Seventh Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Author Chat: Jennifer Coburn Author Jennifer Coburn be doing an author chat and signing copies of *Cradles of the Reich*. Purchase a copy, and she will give you a free copy of *This Christmas*, a holiday anthology that includes stories by Jane Green, Liz Ireland, and her. Friday, December 9, 2pm; **free.** Barnes and Noble Bookstore Encinitas, 1040 North El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Kate Baer: And Yet: Poems Kate Baer reads and signs *And Yet: Poems* Wednesday, December 14, 6:30pm; **free.** Diesel, A Bookstore, 12843 El Camino Real Suite 104. (DEL MAR)

Mary McMyne and Jenn Givhan This event will consist of a 30 minute discussion with Mary McMyne and conversation partner Jenn Givhan, followed by the book signing. Thursday, December 8, 7pm; **free.** Mysterious Galaxy Books, 3555 Rosecrans Street Suite 107,

Philip Fracassi: A Child Alone with Strangers Award-winning horror author Philip Fracassi reads and signs his new novel, *A Child*

Alone with Strangers. Limited outdoor seating available. Saturday, December 10, 3pm; **free.** Artifact Books, 603 S. Coast Hwy. 101. (ENCINITAS)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

Christmas Tree Lighting Festival The Retreat celebrates the holiday season — animals and all. Guests can enjoy craft and gift vendors, hot cocoa and cider, cotton candy, hot dogs, raffles, and hayrides. There will also be a special appearance from Santa Claus. The whole family is invited to spend the day and celebrate the season with animals and special activities. Regular admission prices apply. Sunday, December 11, 10am; Children's Nature Retreat, 5178 Japatul Spur. (ALPINE)

Christmas in the Valley Christmas in the Valley is a free event for children in the community and their families. Live music, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, gingerbread house making, shopping with local crafters and vendors and a special Polar Express Hayride to visit Santa. Friday, December 9, 9am; Saturday, December 10, 9am; **free.** Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

Cookies & Story Times with Santa The full list of all events with detailed times and locations can be found online Friday, December 9, 11am; **free.** Shoppes at Carlsbad, 2525 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show It's back! San Diego has another show in its Christmas stocking with this fast, funny, and highly theatrical reimagining of one of the most beloved holiday stories

ever told. Fridays, 7pm; Saturdays, 2pm and 7pm; Sundays, 2pm and 7pm; Tuesdays, 7pm; Wednesdays, 7pm; through Saturday, December 24, \$45-\$95. Old Globe - Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Festive Community Caroling Village Walk at EastLake is making donations to schools, Scout Troops, churches and other community organizations who will come caroling during December to entertain shoppers with holiday songs. Thursday, December 1, 6pm; Friday, December 2, 6pm; Saturday, December 3, 6pm; **free.** Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Holiday Dinner Series with Santa Parents and their little ones alike will be able to enjoy the resort's Christmas tree in a plaza aglow in lights. The kids will delight in a socially distanced, personalized visit with Santa from his own personal balcony at Bob's Steak & Chop House. Thursday, December 8, 4:30pm; Wednesday, December 14, 4:30pm; Omni La Costa Resort

and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

Holiday Market Free family-friendly holiday event includes photo with Santa. Sunday, December 11, 10am; Kona Kai Resort & Marina, 1551 Shelter Island. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Winter Express Experience This ticketed before-hours event will immerse children with holiday activities around the museum, running Christmas trains (including one you help make), and storytime with St. Nick himself. After Santa goes back to the North Pole, enjoy a day of museum admission. Saturday, December 10, 9am; Sunday, December 11, 9am; \$13-\$25. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Winter Wonderland Extraganza Enjoy games, getting treats, and exploring our icy adventures. Saturday, December 10, 4:15pm; \$25. 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive Suite 121B, La Jolla, CA, United States, California



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communities that are at high-risk for wildfires. Free to local residents, the half-day, in-depth course also teaches fire behavior prediction and how to apply this knowledge to the community’s topography, fuels, weather, and the fire-safe condition of homes. Saturday, December 10, 9am; **free**. Julian Library, 1850 Highway 78. (JULIAN)

Holiday Air Plant Wreaths Craft Workshop Supplies ready to make your personalized wreath including the 18” wreath, 4 large air plants and a large variety of holiday accents Thursday, December 8, 6:30pm; \$45. Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Macrame & Sea Glass Ornament Workshop Guests will have 2 hours to create a variety of macrame and sea glass ornaments. Mix and Match as you like, great for all ages. Tickets include flight of wine and \$10 off bottle of your choice. Wednesday, December 14, 6pm; \$55. La Mesa Wine Works, 8167 Center Street. (LA MESA)

Raw & Cultured Dairy Workshop Learn how to make cultured milk & milk products through fermentation. Sunday, December 11, 10am; \$79. Wild Willow Farm and Education Center, 2550 Sunset Avenue. (NESTOR)

Vine & Herb Wreath Making Create a holiday wreath with plants grown on the farm. Saturday, December 10, 10am; \$45. Wild Willow Farm and Education Center, 2550 Sunset Avenue. (NESTOR)

Watercolor with Wine Tuesdays 4 Week Course. All levels welcome. Instructor: Minnie Valero. Tuesday, December 13, 3pm; \$79-\$99. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

COMEDY

Alice Wetterlund AS SEEN/HEARD ON: SyFy’s “Resident Alien”, TBS’s “People of Earth”, HBO’S “Silicon Valley”, Amazon’s Special “My Mama is a human and so am I”, and more! Thursday, December 8, 8pm; **free**. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Asif Ali AS SEEN ON: Comedy Central’s “Goatface”, “New Girl” on Fox, Wrecked & NBC’s “Mr. Robinson”! Friday, December 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10-\$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Chelsea Handler Chelsea Handler - 2022 Vaccinated and Horny Tour Friday, December 9, 8pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Comedy Night Free comedy at Candys which is inside El Prez. Wednesdays, 9:30pm; through Saturday, December 31, **free**. 21 and up. El Prez, 4190 Mission Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Free Comedy Night Katie K. Headlining. Featuring Paola Diaz, Ryan Archuleta, Kash, Nate

OUTDOORS

Not California Dates, Clear Air for Hiking, December’s Cold Moon

Ripening Palm Fruit, hanging in great clusters on California’s native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), can be seen this month. Native Americans of centuries past utilized the black, pea-sized fruit, which consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paperthin skin surrounding a hard seed. These are not “California dates” -- the fruit of cultivated palms introduced into California’s deserts from northern Africa. Our native fan palms can be seen in their natural habitat in about two dozen canyons within Anza Borrego Desert State Park. They have also been planted widely elsewhere in California, including along the main streets of Palm Springs.



HEADED UP THE SIDE OF MOUNT LAGUNA.

Robinson Jr. & Alex Petit. Friday, December 9, 6:30pm; Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

Jonathan Van Ness Jonathan Van Ness - Imaginary Living Room Olympian Thursday, December 8, 8pm; \$56-\$496. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

PB Backyard Comedy Show With Vincent Oshana and DJs. Friday, December 9, 8pm; \$10-\$25. 21 and up. Wicked Warehouse 3904 Riley St, San Diego, CA, 92110

Rob Anderson Rob Anderson is a comedian living out of Los Angeles who writes and produces digital shorts for his Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube channels. Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Stand-Up Clean Comedy Night Camille Waters, Ellen Sugarman, Linda Schwartz, Lisa Gilbert, Walter Ford. Saturday, December 10, 7pm; \$20. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Unscripted Comedy Show The NCT cast creates the entire show based completely on audience suggestions. Fridays, 7:30pm; Saturdays, 7:30pm; through Friday, December 30, \$15-\$20. National Comedy Theatre, 3717 India Street. (MISSION HILLS)

WWC Comedy Uncensored standup comedy Tuesdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, December 27, \$20. 21 and up. Negociant Hillcrest Urban Winery, 12623 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

DANCE

Belly Dance Showcase: Holiday Hafla Enjoy holiday group performances by the Salimpour Collective San Diego, Arabina Dance Company, San Diego Belly Dance Company, Serpentine, The Jewels, ROBD Dance Collective and the Desert Rose Dancers. Solo performances by Rachel Rene George, Vilia Bouilly, Shani Brown, Vanessa Solis and Zina. Free admission, donations accepted at the door. Sunday, December 11, 2pm; **free**. City Heights Performance Annex, 3791 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Carlsbad on Climate Change Batiquitos Lagoon will be having a presentation given by Katie Henrich, Carlsbad’s CAP Administrator giving information on what Carlsbad is doing to mitigate climate change and how it impacts our coastal and lagoon environ-

ment. This event is free and for an adult only audience. Meet at the Nature Center. Saturday, December 10, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Dr Grammar Guy with Richard Lederer Dr. Richard Lederer will illuminate essential grammar, usage, and punctuation, including the terminal preposition, split infinitive, they as a third-person singular pronoun, and the utility of the serial comma. Friday, December 9, 11am; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

FOOD & DRINK

Chef’s Table Executive Chef Marty Fay, a protégé of renown local chef Christine Rivera, presents a six-course menu with wine pairings from resident Advanced Sommelier Evan Vallee, who is one of only 10 Advanced Sommeliers in San Diego. Thursday, December 8, 6:30pm; \$165. 21 and up. Sandpiper Wood Fired Grill & Oysters, 2259 Avenida De La Playa. (LA JOLLA)

Chef’s Table Seven-course meal, drink pairings, as well as guest appearances by executive chef Quinnton Austin and mixologist Rob McShea. Wednesday, December 14, 7pm; \$199. Coco Maya, 1660 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)



A CLUSTER OF FAN PALM FRUIT.

Hike to San Diego County’s High Places to take advantage of December’s characteristically clear air. From spots such as Cuyamaca Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Wooded Hill in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palomar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean are not uncommon at this time of year. Look for the dark profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego, respectively. For great hiking tales, check out our bi-weekly hiking column, “Roam” on page 32 of this issue. This week Ryan Brothers’ hikes to Garnet Peak in Mount Laguna.

December’s Full Moon, Named the “Cold Moon,” “oak moon,” “wolf moon,” and “moon of long nights” according to the traditions of certain past cultures, rises spectacularly over the eastern horizon at around 4:30 pm, just before the time of sunset, on the evening of Wednesday, December 7. The moon’s nightlong (14-hour) journey will take it nearly to the zenith of the sky by midnight, and then down to a setting position over the ocean by dawn on Thursday morning.

FOR KIDS

Discovery Table: Kumeyaay Children’s Games & Toys Stop by the Discovery Table in the lobby of the Visitor Center. and learn all about different Kumeyaay games from MTRP Trail Guides. Kids can make and take home their very own stick dice game. Saturday, December 10, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Sunday Fun Days Enjoy musical entertainment, Snowman costume character appearance. You can also take your own photos under the NEW holiday arch near the Koi pond and with life-size Santa, The Snowman, Elsa and Olaf cut-outs. Children ages 12 and younger will enjoy free craft activities at Sunday Fun Days. Sunday, December 11, 4pm; **free**. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE)

Trail Tykes at Mission Trails Created for children 2 to 5 years of age. The free program includes a read-aloud story, and a craft/activity or a short walk with MTRP Foundation staff and volunteers. Please register to reserve your space @ mtrp.org. Sunday, December 11, 10am; Monday, December 12, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

NATURE

Free Interpretive Nature Walks Walks are moderately paced on the lower creek trail and begin in front of the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. Sunday, December 11, 9am; **free**. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ESCONDIDO)

Guided Nature Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, December 10, 9:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

Guided Nature Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11, 9:30am; and Wednesday, December 14, 9:30am. **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)



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Purchase tickets today at www.EnchantedVillage.org



MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN TICKETS		Win a pair of tickets to see Alton Brown Live. Deadline to Enter: Monday, December 12 at 1pm
WIN TICKETS		Win a pair of tickets to see Giant Rocks. Deadline to Enter: Monday, December 12 at 1pm
WIN TICKETS		Win a pair of tickets to see Peppa Pig's Adventure. Deadline to Enter: Tuesday, December 13 at 1pm

Enter to win at sandiegoreader.com/contests

Native American Indian Flute Circle Open Mic, outside in the Mission Trails Visitor Center Amphitheater - Beginners welcome. Bring your Native American Indian Flute or just come and listen to songs, stories and poems of the Native American Indian culture. Enjoy the music and the view. Free admission - cancelled in the event of rain. Sunday, December 11, 1pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friendship Pop Up Market Pop-up vendor, small home-based business market with vendors, including those making homemade crafts, home decor, soaps, candles, crystals, jewelry, baked goods, and more. Sunday, December 11, 11am; **free**. Chula Vista Friendship Park, Fourth Avenue & F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

SPOKEN WORD

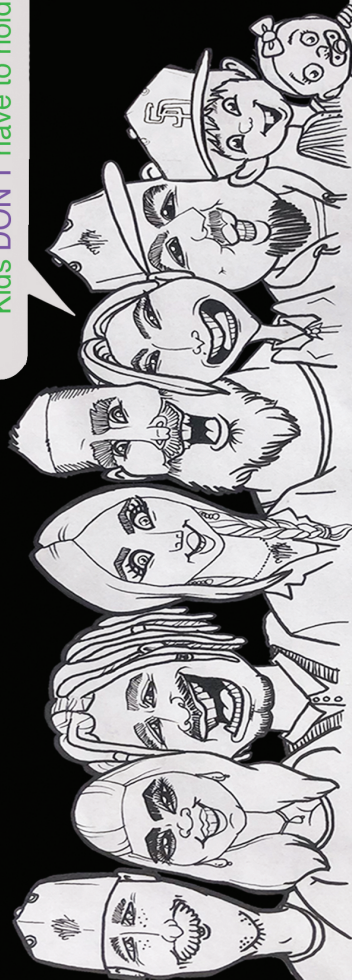
Coronado Scribes Open Mic Poetry Jam In celebration of their 10th anniversary, the Coronado Scribes Writing group invites poets to an open-mic night. This is open to any lovers of poetry, whether you would like to perform or not. Music will be performed by guest guitarist and honorable Casey Tanaka as emcee. If you wish to read poetry, please put this in the "special note" field of the registration online. General attendees do not have to register but registration is nonetheless appreciated to help estimate numbers. Register @ coronado.librarycalendar.com. Thursday, December 8, 6:30pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

SPORTS & FITNESS

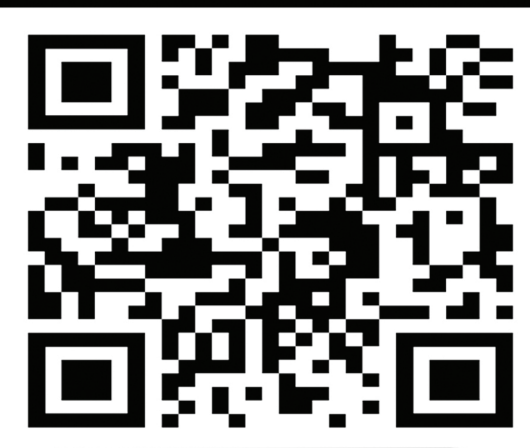
Glide Skating Join recreational skating on an eco-friendly Glide rink. Rental skates are available, or you can bring your own, but recreational shoes are not permitted. Saturdays, 12pm; Sundays, 12pm; through Friday, December 30, \$38. Fairmont Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CAR-MEL VALLEY)

Skate Rising Holiday Jacket Drive Skate Rising, a program that offers service opportunities and free skate instruction for children, is hosting a holiday jacket drive and learn-to-skate clinic. The six-year-old program is inviting girls ages 4-18 to bring new or lightly worn outerwear to donate to the Community Resource Center. Local Olympians and pro skateboarders will join the youth program in the service learning opportunity and to teach girls how to skateboard. Saturday, December 10, 9am; **free**. Encinitas Community Park, 425 Santa Fe Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Kids DON'T have to hold still!



SAN DIEGO CARICATURE.COM



EVENTS

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.

A Christmas Carol

Quaint it ain't. The virtues of Cygnet Theatre's production of Dickens' Christmas ghost story are all there at the outset — really, before the outset, when the cast members are strolling about the stage singing carols and telling jokes. The jokes are silly, the carols, sincere. And then as the play proper gets started, they shift smoothly and spookily into declaring the news of the day: Jacob Marley is dead. You might smile a bit at just how often they repeat that cold fact, but a cold fact it remains, and there you have it: this is a sad and sometimes scary story about mortality and doom, but told with the charm, wit, and warmth necessary to keep hope alive. Marley is dead, but Dickens does what Father Abraham would not in the story of the rich man and Lazarus: he sends the damned dead man to warn one who is still living: old Ebenezer Scrooge. And what a warning: here and elsewhere, the production achieves a maximum of stagecraft with a minimum of effects. It may be relatively easy to make the puppets portraying Ignorance and Want properly creepy, but it's trickier to give sweet life to Tiny Tim, and it's a credit to the versatile cast that they manage it. Most remarkable of all: everything works to wipe away the dull dinginess of familiarity and restore the old magic to the story of a nightmare that rouses a soul from its even more nightmarish slumber.

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Christmas Carol 2022

Christmas Eve in London, England, 1850. Based on Charles Dickens' most popular novel, this beloved tale of redemption, the damaging effects of isolation, and the importance of love and compassion are displayed through Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation from a miserly, greedy, and lonely man into an empathetic and kind individual. This story is told spectacularly by some of Broadway's greatest composers (Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors, Ragtime, Seussical & Once on This Island). Join us for this festive and glorious Holiday Tradition! Book by Lynn Ahrens & Mike Ockrent. Music and Lyrics by Alan Menken & Lynn Ahrens.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATRE, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

A Christmas Story

Filled with quirky and lovable characters, this nostalgic musical is as delight-



PHOTOGRAPH BY KARU CADEL

A Christmas Carol: Chain in vain?

ful as the biggest, shiniest present under the tree on Christmas morning. SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE, 4652 MERCURY ST., CLAIREMONT. 858-560-5740. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

As You Like It

Co-directors Christopher Ashley and Will Davis's production of *As You Like It* bills itself as "a celebration of the limitless possibilities of love and humanity," possibilities here made manifest by the casting of trans and non-binary actors throughout. (It might have been fascinating to go in not knowing about this particular creative decision, but the program makes a point of it.) In Shakespeare's comedy, Rosalind and Orlando meet by chance in court and feel an immediate connection. When they are both banished, fate brings them together again in the Forest of Arden. That's when Rosalind disguises herself as the boy Ganymede and, upon meeting her beloved, proposes to pretend that he is himself Rosalind so that Orlando can practice his wooing. A complicated and highly comedic business, here complicated further by the casting of non-binary actor Esco Jouley as Orlando and transgender actor Peter Smith as Rosalind. Or perhaps, in the view of the co-directors, the opposite is true: if the forest is a place of naturalist self-discovery outside the regulated world of the city — if gender is just a construct imposed from without, etc. — then the corkscrew courtship can be read as much more straightforward. And the comedy comes, not from the hidden truth about Rosalind/Ganymede, but from the transformation of traditional understandings. It's a bold venture, aided by the obvious talent of the cast, but perhaps undermined by the occasional whiff of camp. (If attendees were not entirely on board with the ideology, they would still find ample opportunity to laugh.) Or perhaps, in the view of the co-directors, the opposite is true.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS.

Beyond the Absurd: The Play, Process and Production

Join local theater scholars and practitio-

ners Dr. Katie Turner (San Diego State University) and Lamar Perry (UC San Diego), as well as members of the cast and creative team, for a post-show discussion on the Diversionary mainstage about the play's themes as well as on our process and production. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 4PM SUNDAY.

Christmas Begins in Heaven

Miracle Youth Productions and East County Youth are honored to invite you to the debut of Christmas Begins in Heaven. A play written and directed by a local youth and rising star, Matiyana, and performed and produced by top talent of East San Diego County youth. Christmas begins in Heaven is a musical/theatrical production original play where the Angels themselves help the Christ child. It is sure to offer a unique holiday experience for you, your family and your colleagues and become a Christmas Holiday tradition.

ST PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH, 14107 LYONS VALLEY RD., JAMUL. 7PM SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

You all know the story, the sweet simple plot/ Of how the old Grinch learns what Christmas is not/ For twenty five years now, this show has been playing/ So surely there's nothing new that's worth saying?/ It's fun for the kiddies, the sets are outstanding/ And yet, something's odd in the whole Whoville branding...

Ok, enough of that — though it's worth noting that the Old Globe's adaptation of this Christmas classic plays fast and loose with the rhythm of Seuss when it suits. But the point stands: after you hear the Who kiddies scream "Mine!" as they fight over their toys, and see the Who grownups sing about how it's the thought that counts even as they chase madly after every on-sale gift item, you may be tempted to conclude that the Grinch has a point in his hatred of Christmas. You may even start to like the old Grinchy rotter (played as a cross between Jim Carrey and Tim Curry by Andrew Polec, resplendently made up and costumed, and nailing it in the facial expressions department). And if that happens, well, it sort of takes the wind out of the dramatic sails. He's not

an anti-hero; he's a bad guy in need of saving. Still, at least his conversion at play's end still makes sense. For their part, the Whos could use a come-to-Jesus (well, come-to-Cindy Lou Who) moment to explain their astonishing response to losing everything they've worked so hard to achieve. They assure us in song that Whos like Christmas, but why, exactly? Maybe that's just their jam? The planning, the presents, the party? That's what they tell us, anyway. But soft — even as I type this, I can hear the "Bah, humbugs" echoing in my brain, warning me against dimming the Christmas cheer and urging me to laugh and sing along. (The sing-a-long is a great touch, by the by. *You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch...*)

OLD GLOBE - DONALD & DARLENE SHILEY STAGE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 10:30AM, 2PM, & 5PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

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 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.

OLD GLOBE - SHERYL & HARVEY WHITE

THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

The Gifts of the Magi

This musical performance takes you to the early 1900's in New York City. You meet Della and Jim Dillingham who struggle with unemployment and poverty, which is especially harsh when you are trying to buy a special Christmas gift for the one you love. The ensemble includes The City and its characters, Willy, the newspaper boy and your guide through the story, and Soapy, a homeless character with a mighty sense of humor. The Gifts of the Magi remind us what makes a special gift is, that it comes from the heart. LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Lamb's Festival of Christmas: A Christmas Carol

Kerry Mead's adaptation of Charles Dickens' iconic redemption story, wrapped in the gorgeous music of the season. Lamb's Players Theatre presented A Christmas Carol last December to great acclaim and sold-out shows. Then the Omicron surge swept through the fully vaccinated cast, and they were forced to cancel the final five performances. So they decided to bring it back for 2022.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS.

The October Night of Johnny Zero

Oh, what fun: Backyard Renaissance artistic director Francis Gerke has given us a brand new play that looks back at the '80s the way the '80s might have looked back at the '40s. You couldn't set this story in the present, because then you'd lose The Phone: a tan plastic wall-mounted job — well, it used to be mounted — with a cord and cracked handset and a finicky way of not working when it's needed. It's damaged, this phone: the duct tape is enough to tell you that, along with the fact that it's propped on the floor, not far from the stainless steel bowl that's been set out to catch the drips dropping during the thunderstorm that has brought high school basketball star Johnny Grimes into the Pinnolini home. It seems Franky P. is his biggest fan — pictures on the wall and everything — so he's happy to let Johnny call for a ride, as long as mother Barbara doesn't catch them spending a quarter to call information first. Make that three quarters...and down comes Barbara, wondering what's the fuss and where's the Chablis. Gerke has written a gangbuster part for his wife Jessica John, and she throws herself into it like a dog chewing at its leash, all frustration and funny, frenetic energy. Barbara is trapped trapped trapped: by her past, by her pain, by her poverty, by her motherhood, and oh yes, by that Phone, the one she's been stuck waiting by for...well, let's not spoil things. And happily, it's not just the Barbara Show: if she's a dog on a leash, bad penny Franky is a puppy trying not to drown before it makes it back to the bank. He ain't right, but he's not wrong, either. And Johnny isn't just the normie audience's introduction to this domestic prison, nor even merely the

catalyst for conflict. There's a reason he can't bring himself to just leave, even if the house is haunted. Maybe fun isn't the precise word here, but there's an undeniable element of entertainment in amid the pathos and pain.

TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS.

Prairie Lights

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by luck or chance. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude? Prairie Lights tells the story of a Jewish brother and sister who journey west on an Orphan Train in 1905. Arriving with other homeless youths in a tiny Nebraska town just before the holidays, Benjamin and Rose are adopted by Wellspring's only Jewish couple. Devout 12-year-old Benjamin clashes with Abe, a successful shopkeeper who has abandoned his religion. Meanwhile, 15-year-old Rose falls secretly in love with a fellow orphan, thus upsetting Sophie's marriage plans for the girl. Townsfolk are further divided by the fearful banker, Maxwell Ryder, who wants to send all of the orphans back to New York. As the town prepares for Christmas and Hanukkah approaches, Benjamin finds himself enlisting the young people — orphans and local kids alike — on a quest to reunite Wellspring.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 116 S. KALMIA ST., ESCONDIDO. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Storm Large: Holiday Ordeal

What better way to spend a holiday than with Storm Large? Storm will love you, leave you, delight you and abuse you with wicked charm and stunning vocals 'till you're begging for more. Holiday Ordeal is a night of music, gags, gifts, and some very special guests, with songs ranging from "2000 Miles," "Hallelujah," and "Sock it to Me Santa," to the greatest holiday song never written for the holidays, "Somebody to Love." 18+ to attend CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 7600 FAY AVE., LA JOLLA. 7:30PM SATURDAY.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Megill & Company's Not Your Normal Nutcracker

Megill & Company's "Not Your Normal Nutcracker" flips the script on the classic holiday favorite set to Tchaikovsky. This whimsical modern jazz theater version tells the story of Clara, who dreams of being a star, as her imaginary world filled with life-sized rodents, a melting snow kingdom, and a land of sweets comes to life. Playful, colorful, rhythmic, and wonderfully light-hearted, "Not Your Normal Nutcracker" will entertain and delight fans of the beloved ballet, as well as new audiences seeing the story for the first time.

SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-8900. DEC. 16 THROUGH DEC. 18.

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.

Bad Santa — Sick and twisted (and god-dam proud of it) Christmas comedy by Terry Zwigoff, whose *Ghost World* instantaneously takes on the appearance of a fluke. It was the characters, even more clearly now than before, who “made” *Ghost World* — them, and their literary or quasi-literary creator, the graphic novelist Daniel Clowes. And although the director maintains his allegiance to misfits and marginals, it’s the characters who unmake *Bad Santa*. One of them is more than enough: a guzzling, cussing, lusting department-store Santa (Billy Bob Thornton) who puts up with the parade of grasping brats only so that he can crack the office safe on Christmas Eve, with the help of his dwarfish elf (Tony Cox), the brains of the operation. The wonder of it is that, whether wetting himself in the Santa chair or stumbling over the papier-mâché reindeer in an alcoholic fog, he can hold on to his job long enough to pull off the bigger job. A dose of half-apologetic pathos seeps into it in the form of a self-described “dipshit loser,” a bullied, runny-nosed fat boy (Brett Kelly) by the name of Thurman Merman, whose devotion to Saint Nick, either the Platonic ideal or this grotesquely flawed facsimile, brands him a borderline imbecile. The tenuous bond between the two (“It made me feel good about myself,” glows Santa after beating the boy’s teenage tormentor to a pulp) raises the emotional temperature only a degree or two: not enough to alter the one-joke monotony. Bernie Mac, Lauren Graham, John Ritter, Cloris Leachman. 2003. — D.S. ● (ANGELIKA FILM CENTER AND CAFÉ; READING CINEMAS GROSSMONT WITH TITAN XC; READING CINEMAS TOWN SQUARE)

The Best Man Holiday — An agreeable R-rated rom-com turns into a high-handed sentimental tear-jerker before piously wasting away. It’s time we sue Universal for false advertising. The breezy trailer for Malcolm Lee’s follow-up to his 1999 hit, *The Best Man*, promises “All the sex, all the secrets, all the surprises,” and none of the sickness. The cancer that’s hinted at in reel two begins to metastasize



The Whale: Brendan goes big.

at the 60-minute mark; the audience I saw it with was visibly shaken. Shoulders convulsed as dozens wept, their waves of boo-hoos occasionally drowning out patches of dialogue. Why would anyone willingly submit to this type of abuse? Didn’t we suffer enough with *12 Years a Slave*? Effortless performances by Taye Diggs and Terrence Howard buoy the first hour (and provide several big laughs), but as soon as the coughed-up blood hits the handkerchief, you had best hit the exit door. With Morris Chestnut, Nia Long, and Monica Calhoun. 2013. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Elf — Will Ferrell as a human raised by elves, leaving the womb of Santa’s Workshop in full adulthood to track down his biological father, a bottom-line publisher of Kiddie Lit (“He’s on the naughty list”). Directed by Jon Favreau, the film wants to play both sides of the street — to be a True-Spirit-of-Christmas sermon and at the same time be hip, cool, sardonic, and smarty-pants — and it ends up outstaying its welcome. We do, however, get some nicely worked-out detail, a better than average bumpkin-in-Manhattan montage, and a couple of well-played secondary characters: a harried and unwhimsical

toy-department manager at Gimbel’s (the hefty Faizon Love) and a self-important top-selling author of children’s books (the pint-sized Peter Dinklage, of *The Station Agent*). With James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen, Bob Newhart, Edward Asner. 2003. — D.S. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Love Actually — A five-week countdown to Christmas Eve, plenty of time and the proper occasion to show how love makes the world go round, or anyhow makes Jolly Old England go round. The writing and directing debut of Richard Curtis, writer only on *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (he herein reminds us by staging, in short order, one wedding and a funeral), it boasts a good-looking image as long as you like your people to look like dolls, a soundtrack chockablock with popular love songs, and a host of rolling-off-a-log performances by such smoothies as Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Colin Firth, Liam Neeson, Martine McCutcheon, Keira Knightley, Laura Linney, Bill Nighy, and, in a cameo as an exasperatingly punctilious store clerk, Rowan Atkinson. Grant stands out, not as a performance but as a figure of fantasy and even of fairy tale, an informal, unstuffy, lighter-than-Blair Prime Minister who falls for an overweight comonomer (at any rate the script says she’s overweight), and who dances solo to a Pointer Sisters toe-tapper when he thinks he’s alone (surefire laugh: he’s alone but for a prim, middle-aged secretary), and who stands up to the bullying United States President (a sanded and shellacked Billy Bob Thornton) at a televised press conference. There’s a fantasy there for almost everyone. But Curtis, upping the ante on the multi-character *Four Weddings*, is juggling too many balls this time. Or more to the point, dropping too many. The particular balls of a couple of porn actors (pun intended) tend to exclude the kiddies from this Christmas party. And possibly their grannies and grampies as well. 2003. — D.S. ★ (AMC PALM PROMENADE)

The Polar Express — Neither an “instant classic” nor the polar opposite, but a middling addition to the holiday repertoire: computerized illustrations of the Chris Van Allsburg children’s book about a little boy already too old to believe in Santa (“This is your crucial year”), snatched out of his bed on Christmas Eve for a faith-restoring train trip to the North Pole. Is seeing believing? — or vice versa? (The answer to the explicit question, “Could this be nothing but a dream?” is a firm “No!”) The fundamental animation technique of drawing on top of live-action figures — as in Ralph Bakshi’s version of *The Lord of the Rings*, for example — is nothing new, but it has never looked quite like this: a mobile billboard or magazine ad airbrushed to the thickness of cake frosting, giving the image a velvety, mossy, furry, peach-fuzzy feel. Filmmaker Robert Zemeckis, who really did foment a revolution in animation in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, does not now appear likely to repeat the feat. But only time will tell. (Maybe when computer-generated touch-ups have become as commonplace in Hollywood as cosmetic surgery, we’ll look back on *The Polar Express* as the breakthrough.) There are some marvelous sights on parade — the ghostly first appearance of the choochoo out of a clearing cloud of steam and swirling snow; the wind-borne ticket that returns to its holder via a relay network of a pack of wolves, an eagle, a rolling snowball, etc.; the perilous slog over the top of the railcars against a relentless salvo of blinding snowflakes; the train snaking across an ice-covered track; the red-brick Victorian architecture of the Pole — but these, without exception, are significantly liberated from the live actors. They are free-hand animation. The recognizable face of Tom Hanks, behind a walrus mustache and half-moon glasses, in the part of the train conductor and chief proselytizer for childlike credulity, is something of a distraction — a disruption in the cartoon universe — in the same way that an overly recognizable voice can be a distraction (Robin Williams in *Aladdin*, Eddie Murphy in *Shrek*, Albert

Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres in *Finding Nemo* — name your own). But Hanks’s voice, in a handful of other roles besides that of the conductor, almost as though he alone were reading the Van Allsburg text for audiotape, has been sufficiently disguised or electronically altered to be no more than a minimal distraction. 2004. — D.S. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Tangerine — Looks like Santa left a Steadicam mount under the Duplass Bros. tree! What better way to celebrate than by bankrolling this tale of crossdressing hooker Sin-Dee (Kitana Kiki Rodriguez) on a Christmas Eve manhunt through the nether portion of W. Hollywood searching for the one pimp she thought would remain faithful. Shot exclusively on cellphones, I’ll be damned if director and co-writer Sean Baker’s (*Starlet*) audacious, expressionist use of color and smooth, aggressive camera movements don’t put the technology to the test. A middle-class Armenian taxi driver (deadpan surety from Baker regular, Karren Karagulian) with a proclivity for chicks-with-dicks nudges this even further in the direction of screwball comedy. Not for all sensibilities — one of the film’s rare displays of human tenderness takes place in a toilet — but for those who trowel the unlikeliest of hellholes in search of beauty, prepare to be blinded. On a pleasant note, expect long lines at drive-thru car washes once this opens. 2015. — S.M. ★★★★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Top Gun: Maverick — The “uncompromising style” referred to in director Joseph Kosinski’s (*Oblivion*) biography involves more closeups than a flight simulator cockpit and an ability to do what you’re told by keeping one’s yap shut when the media mentions Scientology. Don’t let the mumbo jumbo regarding a mission to prevent the opening of a foreign country’s unsanctioned uranium plant fool you: this isn’t a plotless sequel, it’s a plotless remake geared to meet audience expectations with mindless mimeography. The only survivor of the original not asked back was Kelly McGillis who told E.T., “I’m old, and I’m fat, and I look age-appropriate.” How many millions would have been shaved from the box office had Captain Mitchell (Tom Cruise) gone gunning for a geriatric? (The gravity-defying Jennifer Connelly was recruited to play Maverick’s beard.) And what would a remake be without a bevy of ripped hunks sweat-polishing their washboard abs in the burnt afternoon sun? On a note of originality, volleyball has been replaced by touch football. And for those drooling over the aerial footage, I submit Anthony Mann’s *Strategic Air Command* and Josef von Sternberg’s *Jet Pilot* for further study. With: Miles Teller and Val Kilmer cometh back as “Iceman.” 2022. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Un Couple — Based on the diaries of Sophia Tolstoy, structured as a series of monologues, the film follows a long-term relationship between a man and a woman. Directed by 92-year-old documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman (his first fictional film), starring Nathalie Boutefeu as the wife of Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy. 2022. (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

The Whale — Once upon a time, Brendan Fraser was a big star. For his comeback, he’s simply big. Obese, in fact. But there’s still a heart beating under all that flesh, one that longs to reconnect with an estranged daughter. Directed by Darren Aronofsky. 2022 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Memories of my father

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the inside track blur

East County's home-made spooksongs

Nefarious Creatures — a band of four San Diego-bred horror-lovin' fiends — had the will, the music, and the over-arching deep concept for their debut EP *Fables For the Wicked*. What they didn't quite have was a place to



Nefarious Creatures do the monster mash-up on their first EP.

record. “We definitely didn’t have the budget for going to a proper studio,” says singer Dani Valentine, “so I built my own acoustic panels out of wall insulation and duck canvas. We recorded everything in my bedroom in Santee. I mixed and mastered everything the best I could in this tiny bedroom.”

About that overarching concept: “Me and Duck [guitarist Dustin Sesma] decided to go balls-to-the-wall and make a concept EP for our first one, and we made one giant story about The Evil Queen from Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, Dr. Frankenstein, and Pinocchio. We’re weird. I play a lot of Dungeons & Dragons, and I like twisting stories, so that’s what we did. We all play a ton of video games and watch way too many horror movies, and we decided to take stories the Brothers Grimm compiled and make our own version. The guys were all on board, and we went a little crazy with it.”

The fellows grew up not far from each other. “I’ve mainly lived in El Cajon most of my life,” says Sesma, “but I’ve lived in Lakeside and Scripps Ranch for a little bit. Scripps Ranch

was alright, it was a nicer, kind of richer area, so I felt pretty out of place there. I preferred Lakeside, ‘cause where I lived, it was more secluded and quiet, so we could play music and be loud and rowdy.” Valentine (who also sang with The Best Grotesque) has hung his hat in El Cajon, La Mesa, Serra Mesa, Linda Vista, and Santee. “El Cajon reminds me of the dirty dishrag you keep under your kitchen sink. I’d give you a tour of the house, but not under the sink, you know? Granted, I lived near Greenfield, though — not the nice parts of El Cajon. La Mesa was my favorite, there was so much to do whenever. Santee is too quiet for me, but it’s where I’m at now. I’d live in North Park if I could, though. I’m a night owl, and anywhere that has nightlife is more my style.”

The quartet is no stranger to the real-deal *danse macabre*: two of them share a deceased former bandmate. According to Sesma, “My first band was Psychosally. That was a band my dad [Trevor Sesma] started in the ‘90s and when I was 13. It started off as just us jamming and messing

around with an 8-track, but that turned into us taking it more seriously. My dad could pretty much play anything and everything you handed him, so he taught my friend Cody Knight, who is my drummer

for my new band as well, to play drums in, like, two months for our first show.” But Psychosally splintered after the death of Trevor Sesma in November 2018.

Losing his father hit Sesma hard. But the urge to honor him kept the guitarist involved with music. “He had always said we should start a new band and call it Nefarious Characters, so I looked that up and found another band had been using that name. I’ve always been into horror, so I thought Nefarious Creatures would be a good fit. I had been friends with Dani since we were 12, and we always kind of had a mutual respect for each other’s music and had seen what the other was working on. I always thought he was a killer vocalist and really wanted to work with him on something, so after some back and forth and both of us dipping our toes in working together, we really just clicked. We just feed off each other’s energy, and it snowballs into these great ideas.”

The rhythm section happened along casually enough. “Me and Cody hang out every day, so I told him that I was starting up a new band with Dani and told him I’d really like him to play with me again. Dani knew this guy [Eric Arispe] who he taught bass to, so he asked him to hang out with us, and he just fit right in and we all clicked.”

Though the EP dropped last Halloween, Valentine says they declined to play a record release show, at least in the traditional sense. “I drank a lot and watched horror movies, does that count?”

— Andrew Hamlin

Find Blur online at SDReader.com/blur

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Bush, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Jay Allen Sanford, Spike Steffenhagen

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

Alila Marea Beach Resort:
Friday, 5pm — Nathan Welden.

Alpine VFW Post 9578:
Saturday, 8pm — 8 East Band.
Free.

Athens Market:
Saturday, 6pm — Koureloudes.
\$5.

Barefoot Bar and Grill:
Saturday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

Bellamy's Restaurant:
Thursday, 6pm — Helena Holleran.
Friday, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.

Belly Up Tavern:
Friday, 9pm — Common Sense and Hazmatt. \$22-\$39.
Saturday & Sunday, 8pm — The New Pornographers. \$45.
Tuesday, 8pm — The Venice Christmas Show.
Wednesday, 8pm — Walter Trout.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:
Saturday, 11:30am — Tinkersmith. Free.

Black Cat Bar:
Friday, 8pm — The Downs Family and Cloud Clipper.

Brick by Brick:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Shred For Dime Tribute Show. \$10.
Wednesday, 8pm — Exhumed. \$20-\$22.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Richie Furay & Back to the Garden. \$19-\$99.



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Tuesday, 5pm — Andrew Peña.

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Thursday, 8pm — The Sheepdogs. \$18.
Friday, 8pm — Schizophonics Soul Revue and Clown Sounds. \$15-\$18.
Saturday, 8pm — The Woggles and The Loons. \$15.
Sunday, 8pm — Dead Horses. \$14.
Monday, 8pm — Doah's Daydream and Nubella Honey. \$7.

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:
Sunday, 5pm — Holiday Sing-Along. Free.

Coronado Library:
Sunday, 2pm — Daneen Wilburn Quartet Holiday Concert. Free.

Death By Tequila:
Friday, 6pm — Gabriela Aparicio.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Saturday, 5pm — Jessica Green.

Duke's La Jolla:
Friday, 3pm — Mario Marauak.
Sunday, 4pm — Kekoa.
Tuesday, 2pm — Farrah Camu.

Emmanuel Faith Community Church:
Friday, 7pm, Saturday & Sunday, 2pm & 5pm — Christmas Concerts. Free.

Encinitas Community and Senior Center:
Saturday, 1pm & 4pm — Winter Holiday Choir. Free.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbrow.
Friday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Thursday, 4:30pm — Alex Elisabeth.
Friday, 4:30pm — David Shyde.
Saturday, 11am — Adam Bergoch.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego:
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Grossmont College Jazz & Afro Cuban Ensembles. Free.

Five Suits Brewing:
Saturday, 7pm — Into The Void. Free.

Garage Kitchen + Bar:
Saturday, 7pm — Adam Bergoch.

House of Blues:
Thursday, 8pm — Hembree. \$15.
Thursday, 7:30pm — Kalan FrFr. \$32-\$75.
Friday, 8pm — Emo Night Brooklyn. \$15.
Saturday, 7:30pm — KSON's 6 Man Jam. \$137-\$149.
Saturday, 7pm — Sub-Radio and Olen. \$15.
Sunday, 7:30pm — The Slackers. \$20-\$65.

Kit Carson Park:
Saturday, 6:30pm — El Alebrije. Free.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.
Friday, 7pm — Kristi Krause.

La Jolla United Methodist Church:
Sunday, 4pm — Christmas Concert: Let the Stable Still Astonish. Free.

La Mesa Wine Works:
Saturday, 6pm — Jamacha Project. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:
Saturday, 11am — Jemille Violet.
Saturday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:
Friday, 7pm — Shay Skylar.

Madam Bonnie's:
Friday, 7pm — Amistad Cubano.

Martini's San Diego:
Sunday, 7:30pm — Jonathan Karrant.

Mesa College:
Friday, 3pm — Fall Concert: Jazz & Classical. Free.
Wednesday, 3pm — Jazz & Classical Applied Music Students. Free.

Mission Bay Resort:
Thursday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.
Friday, 6pm — Orion Song.
Tuesday, 6pm — Kristi Krause.

Moose Lodge Oceanside:
Friday, 7pm — Blindfold Monks Irish Christmas. \$10-\$15.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 9pm — Daddy Needs a Drink.
Friday, 9pm — 2li2late.
Saturday, 9pm — The Edge.

Music Box:
Friday, 7:30pm — The Winehouse Experience. \$22-\$82.

Panama 66:
Sunday, 3pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Freestyle Explosion: Holiday Jam. \$41-\$135.

Poway's Irish Pub:
Saturday, 8:30pm — West of 5. Free.

Pure Project Vista:
Saturday, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Kris Wott. Free.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Thursday, 7pm — Geoff Tate's Big Rock Show Hits. \$25.



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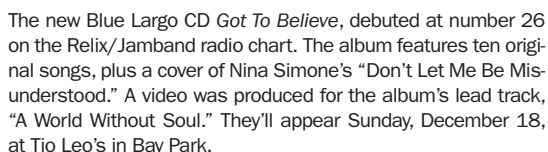
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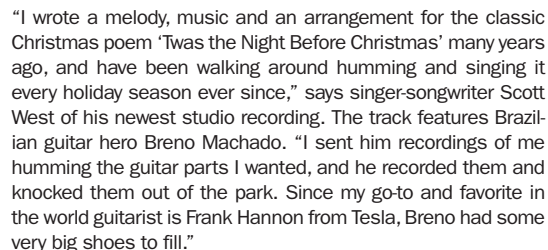
"We were just hired by a soccer magazine-slash-media-outlet to write metal songs for the World Cup series," says Beekeeper drummer Dylan Marks (who has also served as a music instructor at Music Speaks Studio). "The songs bring to light different issues at this year's competition, like the human rights problems and the corruption that we tackle with semi-humorous ideas, with several music videos dropping."



Singer-songwriter L.A. Edwards (Luke Andrew Edwards) is a multi-instrumentalist from Julian, backed by his band of brothers. Their new single “Let it Out” drops December 9, in advance of their full-length *Out of the Heart of Darkness*, due January 6. They’re currently opening for The White Buffalo on a tour that wraps up at Observatory North Park on December 16.



Celtic punk rockers Flogging Molly are fronted by accordion player Matt Hensley, who didn't pick up his instrument until he was 24. The band announced that they will be returning to the road early next year with a new round of dates to promote their latest album, *Anthem*. The six-week trek will feature support from Anti Flag and Skinny Lister and is set to kick off on February 2 in Austin, Texas.



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THE GONZO REPORT

SPIKE STEFFENHAGEN

Buck saves (and sells)

Full Contact owner keeps customers in touch with the past

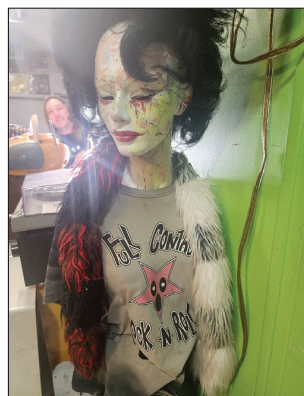
When Full Contact Rock-N-Roll owner Davit Buck tells me that KISS guitarist Ace Frehley once came into the store and asked if they carried any albums by his former band, I could feel my inner fanboy start to flex my KISS tattoo. Buck's recounting is brief, but still longer than his encounter with the Spaceman. It seems Frehley was on the phone throughout his visit, except to ask Buck about the records and to tell him he would bring some by. He did not bring the records.

Frehley was likely drawn to the North Park store for the same reason I was: a storefront full of mannequins, or sometimes just pieces of

them, wearing wigs that you lock down onto the wooden heads in order to deter theft. Also a vintage rocking horse and handmade signage, all of which give the store's exterior a sideshow feel. The interior upholds that circus spirit; it hawks colorful vintage shirts, musical instruments, vinyl, cassettes, and CDs, but also...curiosities.

I ask Buck about his weirdest acquisition, and he tells me about purchasing a preserved two-headed frog from a woman. When the woman's husband burst into the store yelling "That's my frog!" Buck gave it back to him at no charge. Some things are more important than money. Then he shows me an item that confounds both of us: it's the sleeve of Venom's *Welcome to Hell* album, but sans vinyl. He picked it up as part of a collection. The sleeve's former owner cut out the band shot on its back...and inserted a vintage photo of Rush.

The store is crowded, and the deeper into it I go, the less organized it is, thanks in part to the constantly shifting inventory. The home media section appears in disarray, and my eyes bounce all over as they register one of hundreds of *Nosferatu* versions that once came with a t-shirt, and a Rod Stewart VHS that I grab to see



Magnetic mannequin mayhem at Full Contact Rock-N-Roll

if local guitar hero Stevie Salas is on it. Then I'm distracted from that by a set of B-movie monster videotapes. To the left is a used record section, and in the free-for-all very back of the shop, there's a treasure trove of shirts that I would love to dive into — but I have dinner plans and want to chat with Buck a bit more. The stuff does some talking of its own, but he's the architect here.

As the singer of The Homeless Sexuals, Buck was infamous for performing naked and making out with women in the audience. He tells me he is now invisible to women, even audience members, and so none approach him. I don't get

the chance to ask him if he still breaks equipment or plays the drummer's cymbals with his penis (activities that prompted several members to quit), because now he's showing me materials from local bands like Coda Reactor, who shared both a mutual admiration and a performance style with Buck, and Se Vende, whose long history with Buck includes living with him.

Realizing I need a few more photos, I return to the shop with my friends after dinner at the nearby Craze Burger. Industrial metal is blaring from the shop. "He's never heard Ministry," explains Buck, pointing at a man named

Hector. I give the proprietor props for showing him heavy Ministry as opposed to early house-party Ministry. The compliment confuses Hector, so Buck plays a little of the early stuff. Hector is a regular, having frequented the shop for the seven years it's been open.

In the video section, I get the attention of a man named Rob who's wearing a battle vest replete with punk patches. He tells me he's looking for DVDs for his girlfriend, and I flash back to my first brief foray into the shop, a night when I failed to tell my wife I was mixing our date

(continued on page 26)

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<p>FRI. DEC. 16</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">GOOD RIDDANCE</h3> <p>Pulley, Ignite, Fourth in Line</p>	<p>THU. JAN. 26</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">WITHIN DESTRUCTION</h3> <p>Distinguisher, Fox Lake, Carcosa, Shawshank</p>	<p>THU. MAR. 2</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE SPILL CANVAS</h3> <p>Arms Akimbo</p>
<p>SAT. DEC. 17</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">SOEN</h3> <p>Oceans of Slumber</p>	<p>FRI. JAN. 27</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">ORIANTHI</h3> <p>with special guests</p>	<p>SAT. MAR. 4</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE ATOMIC PUNKS</h3> <p>Murder of Five, Nightshadow, Pandemic Unleashed, Syndicate 4</p>

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Wednesday, Dec. 21 — The Inflorescence and Doll Riot.
Saturday, Dec. 24 — Exile on Kettner Blvd.

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Poncho Sanchez. \$42-\$82.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Alfredo Rodriguez. \$55-\$75.

Coronado Library:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Elegancia Doble Holiday Concert. **Free.**

Death By Tequila:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Debora Galan.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Deadheads Night.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Clapton Tribute Night: Strange Crew.

Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. :
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Blonde Brothers.

Duke's La Jolla:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Ke’Ahi.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Kekoa.
Tuesday, Dec. 20 — Jehua Evans.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Kai Kalama.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Jay L. Henry.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Farrah Camu.
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Helena Holleran.
Saturday, Dec. 24 — Keni Yarbrow.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Jemille Violet.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Jarred Matthew.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Farrah Camu.

Farmer & the Seahorse:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Keni Yarbrow.
Friday, Dec. 16 — DevvLov.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Puro Feeling.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Sean McCole.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Dawn Mitschele.

Garage Kitchen + Bar:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Adam Bergoch.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Adam Bergoch.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Adam Bergoch.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Rome & Duddy.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Secrets, Palisades, Archetypes Collide.
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Machine Head.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Friday, Dec. 23 — Billy Joel Holiday Show by Billy Nation. \$15-\$35.

JAI at the Conrad:
Saturday, Dec. 17 — La Jolla Music Society: Camarada - Charlie Brown Jingles.

L'Auberge Del Mar:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Johnny Martin.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Jason Graham.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — DevvLov.
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Tolan Shaw.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Kristi Krause.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Keni Yarbrow.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Jemille

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Music to be alone together by

It's December, which means that The Depressed Disney Dad at Christmas When His Ex Has the Kids is readying himself to make his annual rounds of self-loathing. The Depressed Disney Dad is the Jungian shadow of the jolly Father Christmas. He brings, not a frivolous bag of goodies and the sounds of cheerful carols, but a sad sack of misery and holiday music stained with gloom. He says not "Ho-ho-ho" but "No-no-no."

Yet the Depressed Disney Dad is no Grinch. He enjoys the holiday spirit; he just cannot help blunting it with a short contemplation of the

mysteries of solitude at the winter solstice. Of course, this always happens after he goes to Disneyland with the kids and bathes in the unbridled commercialism of the most emotionally manipulative place on earth. Say what you will about the Disney brand, but more than one nostalgic tear has dropped during the Christmas Fireworks Spectacular.

For those unfamiliar with this little literary attempt, The Depressed Disney Dad first appeared in these pages on December 23, 2014. Back then, he brought a playlist of contemplative Christmas music designed to support a

willful wallow in a wintery fortress of solitude. The playlist is full of chorale music such as "In the Bleak Mid Winter," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", and a couple versions of *O Mangum Mysterium*. Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* makes an appearance, as does "*Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen*".

There is only one instrumental piece of music on the original list, and that is Archangelo Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*. This year, I feel inclined to include Jean Sibelius's *Violin Concerto*. There is a melancholy in the first two movements that is irresistible to The Depressed Disney Dad. The clouds clear in the final movement, but that is acceptable after the long night of pathos that precedes it.

I will say that the solitudinous approach to the holidays is an inclusive one,



Jean Sibelius: masterful melancholy in the early going of his violin concerto.

in that it isn't limited to Depressed Disney Dads. Anyone in any situation can feel alone. On the other hand, the solitudinous approach isn't inclusive, in that solitude excludes, by definition, inclusion. It is rather disingenuous to invite others to join one in one's solitude. Is it not?

With that being said,

should you find yourself in a solitary situation over the next few weeks, maybe give this little playlist a try. There is a glory in solitude that can illuminate any heart and help it grow a few sizes more if that is your wish. Or perhaps your Christmas wish is to shrink your heart just a bit. That works, too.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 25

night with an assignment to visit a venue called Part-Time Lover. My amends to her included watching several *Melrose Place* DVDs purchased right here.

Buck is apologetic when I remind him of my wife's annoyance, and I laugh. Out on the street after my visit, DVD customer Rob is not laughing. He bums a smoke and laments the high price of Social Distortion tickets, asking how anyone in the punk scene is supposed to afford them. I suggest buying fewer DVDs, and he becomes exasperated, telling me I don't understand: he must keep his girlfriend happy. Rob, if you're reading this, know that I — the guy who purchased and still owns a set of *Melrose Place* DVDs — *do* understand. ■

Violet.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Jesse Johnson.
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Christian Taylor.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Keni Yarbrow.
Saturday, Dec. 24 — Jemille Violet.
Sunday, Dec. 25 — Helena Holleran.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Anna Ballew.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Dalton Gazette.
Friday, Dec. 30 — Sean McCole.

Madam Bonnie's:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Band.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Jenifer Krimmel Ensemble.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Guapacha Latin Duo & Band.

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Dionne Warwick.

Mission Bay Resort:
Friday, Dec. 16 — Joanna Gerolaga.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Whitney Shay.
Monday, Dec. 19 — Jesse Ray Smith.
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Christian Taylor.
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Johnny Martin.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Anna Ballew.
Sunday, Dec. 25 — Keni Yarbrow.

Motorcycle Monkey:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Sonic Tonic.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — All Strung Out.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Deluded Blues

Band.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Tube Amp'd.
Thursday, Dec. 22 — Blame Betty.

Music Box:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Lyrics Born.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Baby Bushka.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Graceband.
Monday, Dec. 19 — Momma.
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Berkley Hart Christmas.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Infected Mushroom.
Saturday, Dec. 31 — Beats Antique and Red Giant Project.

Nate's Garden Grill:
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

Nick & G's:
Friday, Dec. 16 — David Shyde.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Keni Yarbrow.
Saturday, Dec. 24 — Helena Holleran.

Nova SD:
Friday, Dec. 23 — Lee Foss.
Friday, Dec. 30 — Green Velvet.
Saturday, Dec. 31 — DJ Zedd.

Observatory North Park:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Thee Sacred Souls.
Friday, Dec. 16 — The White Buffalo and L.A. Edwards.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Thee Sacred Souls.
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Fishbone.

Pala Events Center:
Thursday, Dec. 22 — LeAnn Rimes.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:
Friday, Dec. 30 — OMFG NYE.
Saturday, Dec. 31 — OMFG NYE.

Petco Park:
Saturday, Dec. 31 — Proper NYE: Sofi Tukker, more.

Pioneer BBQ:
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Jason Graham.

Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:
Saturday, Dec. 17 — How The Grinch Stole Christmas In Concert.
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Love Actually In Concert.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Gary Hoey's Rockin' Holiday Show.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum:
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Ales N' Rails 2022. \$35-\$45.

San Diego Wine and Culinary Center:
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Left Coast Quintet Holiday Concert. **Free.**

Seabird:
Sunday, Dec. 18 — Joanna Gerolaga.

Side Yard:
Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Jemille Violet.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Dec. 15 — Palm.
Friday, Dec. 16 — Siouxsie and The Banshees Night.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Lead Pony and The Volclays.
Friday, Dec. 23 — Noche de Verano Sin Ti.
Wednesday, Dec. 28 — Victims Family and Gibby Haynes.
Thursday, Dec. 29 — Glass Spells and De Lux.

La Jolla's new Reuben

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

The varied traditions of Gold Finch Modern Delicatessen

Gold Finch Modern Delicatessen; 3040 Science Park Rd., La Jolla. This sandwich is almost making me wish I'd pursued a career in life sciences. If I had, then perhaps I'd be working in this niche bio campus on Science Park Road, barely a mile from the cliffs of Torrey Pines. And then the park's new, on-site breakfast and lunch venue, Gold Finch Modern Delicatessen, would be just



A "half and half" Reuben, featuring both pastrami and corned beef.



A dish of fried artichoke, inspired by the 2000-year-old Jewish community in Rome



An individual serving of babka, with chocolate and lemon custard.

downstairs from my lab, close enough that I could eat here all the time.

Fortunately, eating at Gold Finch doesn't require employment at Organogenesis, or Prometheus Biosciences, or any of the other tech ventures in the area. Though it rarely makes sense for lay people to lunch at employee-facing eateries, good Jewish delis are few and far between in San Diego, so when you find one, it's worth seeking out. Even when it sits in the shadow of shiny office complex.

Especially if you're a fan of the restaurateurs behind the delicatessen. That would be the Urban Kitchen Group, best known for Italian restaurants, including its Michelin "bib gourmand" flagship, Cucina Urbana. Here, rather than fine wines and pastas, the group's pursuit of quality delves into Jewish baking traditions and kosher cuts of beef.

With regard to kosher, that usually means beef from only the forward half of the cow, which is why popular Jewish beef preparations center less around otherwise favored cuts such as the sirloin and tenderloin.

Instead, they often focus on tenderizing tougher parts of the cow, including brisket and navel, which in turn top the Jewish deli pantheon as corned beef and pastrami, respectively.

Despite the fact that Gold Finch menu features a compelling French dip twist on the brisket sandwich (\$21), I find it cognitively impossible to visit a Jewish deli and not order corned beef or pastrami on rye. You may request one or the other, but the place makes the decision easier by offering a best-of-both-worlds combination, the half-and-half Reuben (\$20).

Gold Finch sources these meats from Los Angeles-based RC Provisions, the same purveyor tapped by that city's famous Langor's Delicatessen, home to one of the nation's most celebrated pastrami sandwiches. The RC quality shines through on the half-and-half Reuben, the delicious combination of thinly sliced meats, thickly stacked on rye from Hillcrest bakery Bread & Cie, with sauerkraut, thousand island dressing, and Gruyere (the more richly flavored cousin to Swiss cheese). Reuben fans should not hesitate to seek out this memorable new rendition, which immediately stands among the best deli sandwiches in the county, arguably at the top of the list.

That said, one of the most interesting aspects of Gold Finch is that it weaves pan-Jewish traditions into its menu. Most of what we think of Jewish deli food — the aforementioned sandwiches, plus lox, kugel, and matzo ball soup — hails from Ashkenazi ancestry. That lineage is named for the Hebrew word for *Germany*, and reflects a thousand-year Central and Eastern Europe diaspora. Meanwhile, the Sephardic heritage hails from the Hebrew word for Spain, and its culinary traditions align more



A Jewish deli counter with outdoor seating in the California sun.

closely with a lineage that settled for centuries in Spain, then spread throughout the Mediterranean during the Spanish Inquisition.

Thus, the menu features dishes associated with North Africa and Turkey, such as the egg dish *shakshuka*, and the puff-pastry dessert *baklava*. Side dish options include a Moroccan carrot salad made with chickpeas. Beyond Sephardim, there's take on an old Roman-Jewish dish, *carciofi alla giudia*, or fried artichoke (\$13). That one's served with *berbere* spiced dip, perhaps a subtle nod to the Beta Israel, or so-called "lost" Jews of Ethiopia. These dishes add distinctive color and flavor to the deli's

menu, and happen to prime it for a handful of vegan offerings.

Whether you work nearby, or plan a visit to explore the intriguing menu, each visit to Gold Finch should end the same way you might end a visit to DZ Akins: picking up a few baked goods. Cooked up in Urban Group kitchens, these must-try sweets include apricot *rugelach* cookies (\$3), seasonal *knishes*, and an individual serving of the sweet, laminated bread *babka*: a babka bun (\$6.50), threaded with chocolate and lemony custard, and topped with streusel crumbles.

by Ian Anderson

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Drinks All Around

BY AMANDA
TASCHER

ALICIA PERRY
POLITE PROVISIONS
4696 30th Street
University Heights



It's that time of year: the time when Polite Provisions transforms from an alcohol apothecary into a Miracle on 30th Street. Surrounded by kitschy holiday décor, general manager Alicia Perry patiently talks me through this season's specialty cocktails. "The communication piece, helping folks navigate the

menu, is really important, because this year there are a lot of unique flavors and ingredients," she says. To put this week's cocktail in layman's terms: the Christmas Cricket tastes "like a peppermint patty with warm notes of coconut."

The name alludes to the classic after-dinner cocktail called the Grasshopper, of which the Christmas Cricket is a variation, and which similarly gets its green color from crème de menthe. "It's definitely gonna be a dessert-based cocktail," says Perry. "In terms of mouthfeel, very creamy. But even though it's a desert cocktail, it's actually quite refreshing. It's gonna have notes of spearmint in there. And then nuances of dark cacao. And the pandan."

If you're unfamiliar with pandan, she explains it thusly: "It's essentially a long leaf, if you will, that derives traditionally from the Philippines. . . you can steep the leaf itself, or you can use the extract of it. It produces this almost warm, buttery, caramelized note in cocktails. It's something that you wouldn't expect, because you see a leaf, you think 'vegetal.' But I definitely think it helps to round out

the cocktail as well. And I think pandan pairs really well with notes of cocoa and coconut, and that it plays nicely with the mint."

Unlike the Grasshopper, the Cricket uses blanco tequila, balanced with mole bitters that tie back into the agave spirit. And rather than cream, Perry says, "We ended up wanting to make a vegan variation of this, by using oat milk. I think it's very common nowadays to get an oat milk latte, so that's what came to mind."

Perry shares tips and tricks for recreating the recipe at home. "A lot of it has to do with not overdiluting the cocktail. So if you have a cocktail shaker at home, I would say you don't necessarily have to pack it with ice — less is more with that. When you have less ice, it allows the cream and the cocktail to froth a little more. That allows for that creamier mouthfeel."

If you want to switch it up a bit, she suggests "It's even kind of fun to add a pinch of salt. It does round out some of the flavors. And, if you've ever made ice cream and added salt to it, you know that it helps solidify it a little more."

POLITE PROVISIONS' CHRISTMAS CRICKET



- 1.5 oz blanco tequila
- 0.5 oz Licor 43
- 0.25 oz crème de menthe
- 0.75 oz coconut pandan syrup
- 0.75 oz oat milk
- 2 dashes mole bitters
- 2 dashes black walnut bitters

Mix all ingredients in a shaker tin with ice and strain into a Nick and Nora glass. Garnish with grated nutmeg. Makes one 2.5 oz. batch.

HAPPY HOUR

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

CARLSBAD

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

Boar Cross'n: Tuesday, 7pm to close: \$5 beer & a shot Wednesday, Open-close: \$2.75 domestic bottles,

\$3 well drinks Sunday, Open-7pm: \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3 well drinks

CARMEL VALLEY

Death By Tequila: Monday, 3-6pm: \$9 classic margaritas, \$18 margarita Flights, \$10 cocktail of the month, \$6 Mexican lager, \$9 select wines, \$8 D&T Micheladas. Michelada Monday all day - \$2 oysters, \$6 Micheladas, \$9 Campechana Tuesday, Tequila Tuesday: Half off most Tequila shots all day Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$9 classic margaritas, \$18 margarita Flights, \$10 cocktail of the month, \$6 Mexican lager, \$9 select wines, \$8 D&T Micheladas

CHULA VISTA

Shake & Muddle: Monday, 4pm-close: \$2.00 off all signature drinks, \$5 Pacifico, \$7 Mondavi Red Blend,

\$7 Mondavi Chardonnay. Happy hour menu available all night

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.

EAST VILLAGE

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

ENCINITAS

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

KENSINGTON

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

LA JOLLA

Sandpiper Wood Fired Grill & Oysters: Wednesday-Sunday, 4-5:30pm: Buy a bottle of champagne and get a dozen oysters free. \$4 Baja fish taco, \$8 rosemary parmesan fries, \$8 crispy mozzarella sticks.

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.

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

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

MIRAMAR

Duck Foot Brewing Company: Monday, 12pm-8pm: \$4 pints with Grotto membership card Tuesday, All day: \$12 two Fish Tacos and pint of draft beer Thursday, Save 20 percent on Growler and Grumbler fills

MISSION BEACH

Miss B's Coconut Club: Friday, 3-6pm: \$7 daiquiris and mojitos.

MISSION HILLS

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Sycamore Den: Daily, 5-6pm: \$1 off draft beer, \$1 off wine, \$2 off specialty cocktails

NORTH PARK

Verbena Kitchen: Wednesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$6 draft beers, \$7 house wines, \$9 house select cocktails. \$1 oysters, \$9 chips and dip, \$14 ceviche, \$19 charcuterie & cheese boards.

OCEAN BEACH

The Joint: Monday, Thursday, 2-6pm: \$5 all local drafts. Tuesday, 2-6pm: \$5 all local IPAs. Wednesday, 2-6pm: Rotating \$4 draft selection. Saturday, 11am-2:45pm: \$7 bottles of bubbles and OJ with brunch entree. Sunday, 2-6pm: \$7 bottles of bubbles and OJ with brunch entree.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH

Bub's Dive Bar: Monday, Thursday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$5 select drafts and wells. \$1 wings, half off Red Baskets. Tuesday, .

POINT LOMA

Catalina Lounge: Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm: \$1 off beer & wine, \$5 Espolon blanco, \$5 Highwest bourbon, \$5 Skrewball. All day \$7 Estrella lager & Mellow corn whiskey combo. Saturday-Sunday, All day \$7 Estrella lager & Mellow corn whiskey combo.

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 CARLOS

Navajo Live: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7 pm: \$3 well drinks, \$3 domestic beer, \$1 off all other alcoholic beverages

SAN MARCOS

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

SOLANA BEACH

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

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PERSONALS

CAROL FROM SEATTLE age is just a number, how can that meeting mean nothing? If you are reading this, hello.

FOSTER A DOG FOR CHRISTMAS don't have dogs see the inside of this gas chamber. The shelter puts them to sleep every day to make room for more. Let them live not die alone. Foster or adopt a dog. Connie (619) 253-0005.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST your sponsorship in helping me to secure 4 dental implants on the top. Keith, (619) 551-6368, thanks!

MY DARLING FRANK I am here at the front gate of Prun-ville waiting my dearest or was it Dateland? Let me check my diary. Oh!

MY HAPPINESS. I'll never be happy again all I feel is hate. It's intense meeting u and being a victim of your lies destroyed all good in my person. For real. That's why I wanted to see if u could reverse that but of course it'll just be ignored. It's an overload reaching critical, it worries me and I'm not sure but it destroyed the kindness I once felt.

TEDDY BEAR TOSS at the hockey game!! Dec 18! Show the love!

THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE... this is revealed by God.

DEAREST KATHERINE Dearest, Disneyland turned out to be bittersweet without you at my side. The Teacups ride which scared the heck out of me, had me screaming my head off and forced the ride operator to eject

me from my cup. The other riders gleefully ridiculed me.

DEAR KATHERINE, may I be Frank with you....if only for a short time. Signed Frank wannabe.

HEY JOE you're forever on my mind. You are one of the kind I love you. God bless

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MORE RIDICULOUS; the driveway society making up laws about keeping sidewalks swept, or the fact that they're taking names. Comical...

THANK YOU EVERYONE who has done nice things for me, or given things to me while I've been homeless. Timothy

VIOLENCE MUST STOP. August 18 bus slams brakes avoids car rip, violently crashed into aisle, fractured shoulder bone, fractured collarbone. Coincidence or not? Violence must stop. Needs court evaluation.

WATCH The True Christian History of America on Tubi

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE between antifa and the driveway society? There is none...

HELLO LOU if you are reading this, hello.

LOOKING FOR ARTIST NEAL, roommate John, Fred, Doug Sweda, Pacific Beach, house on alley between Thomas and Reed-1977. Also, Jackie Feitler. (619) 917-6975

ST. JUDE NOVENA: may the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified and preserved now and forever, sacred heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us.

THE FIRST THING THAT EXISTED had no beginning or created itself from nothing or Jesus said "I am the beginning..." Revelation 22:13

YOUR OPINION Strike out the name The Padres, a name with religious identification. Hit a home run for a new name. How about the Amigos? CACT, Center for Applied Critical Thinking. (619) 428-1274.

SEEKING WEALTHY MENTOR I'm a senior gentleman looking for a wealthy mentor. If interested, call Gary, (858) 262-1171. Leave message and phone number.

FRIENDS OF JAMES HARPER (JIM) Please call Jim's family-Ann, Jennifer, Jamie, thank you. (619) 917-6975

NOTICES

SAN DIEGO GULLS RETURN the fan favorite Teddy Bear Toss on Saturday, Dec. 18 Toss a Teddy onto the ice when the Gulls score!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS A new year brings new adventures. Happy holidays from iTreasureSanDiego.Com.

POWAY FERRET LOVER??? Asking the city of Poway to ask Assemblywoman Marie Waldron to help California #Ferret owners. www.legalizeferrets.org/ getting-assemblywoman-marie-waldron-to-help-with-ferrets/ (619) 303-0645 / cliffnotes@legalizeferrets.org

SMALL WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE 4 foot tall tree with lights with stand, free, come and get it only serious callers. Rancho Penasquitos area. (858) 484-4483

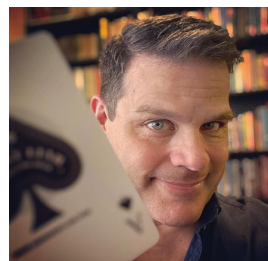
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YOUR OPINION Taxes! As a tax payer, which would you choose? Money for homelessness, or money for wildlife habitat acquisition? The Center for Applied Critical Thinking CACT, (619) 428-1274.

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CRAFT CLASSES KID & TEENS Explore woodworking, ceramics, fiber arts & general crafting at San Diego Craft Collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. We offer a wide variety of hands-on craft classes, camps + workshops for all ages. Visit us at sandi-

egocraft.org. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

EXPLORE CERAMICS THIS WINTER! Explore ceramic arts at San Diego Craft Collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. This month we explore this earthy craft with Intro to handbuilding, ceramics for kids & teens, clay open studio + more. Visit sandiegocraft.org for info. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

EXPLORE PAPER ARTS THIS WINTER Explore the wide world of paper arts at San Diego Craft Collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. This month we explore holiday papermaking, paper marbling + more. Perfect for the gift making & wrapping season. Visit sandiegocraft.org (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

FIBER ARTS FUN THIS WINTER! Learn a new fiber arts craft at San Diego craft collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. This month we'll be exploring: quilting, weaving, forage pack making, macrame, bundle dye + more. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org and get creative! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN TO SEW THIS WINTER! Learn to sew this season at San Diego Craft Collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. This month we'll be exploring intuitive quilting, beginner sewing, apron making, holiday stockings, family sewing + more. Visit sandiegocraft.org. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN WOODWORKING THIS WINTER! Learn woodworking this Winter at San Diego Craft Collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. This month we explore intro to woodshop, chip carving, spoon carving + more (all ages). Perfect for gift making season. Visit sandiegocraft.org (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

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

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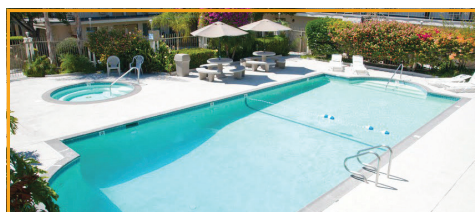
ROOM FOR RENT Lemon Grove, \$700/month, \$200/ deposit. Shared bathroom, please text (619) 581-7190, available Jan 1st.

ROOM FOR RENT I have a room for rent furnished. Preferably a women. Please txt for more info. (619) 200-5062 / ivonne_plata@yahoo.com

ROOM FOR RENT, \$600/ MONTH I'm looking for either a

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Southern Hotel

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female or male, they help with the cooking and the laundry. So please give me a call. My phone number is (619) 270-7386.

ROOM NEEDED FOR TRADE, ASAP! Single mature female with no kids or pets in serious need of a new place to live. I'm drama free with no vices (not 420 friendly even) & I enjoy doing domestic tasks like cleaning so willing to trade all of the household tasks for a private room! Thx! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

WELL FURNISHED ROOM AVAILABLE I have a well furnished room available for rent in a well conducive environment. gikmetmura96@gmail.com

SANTEE MASTER BR \$1200 +UTIL MBR w/bath, Util, split equal between tenants (currently 2). Full access to common areas (Kitchen, living room and patio/den) No smoke/vape on property. Not 420 friendly. \$1K security deposit. Credit check required. Darleen (619) 889-4757.

TINY ROOM TO LIVE PLEASE 64 year young healthy vaccinated single, no family, Virgo, never married non-smoker. Clean SoCal native low income male high school/college graduate. Seeking any somber tiny room please in Solana Beach, Cardiff, Lucadia, Encinitas, Carlsbad. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973

LOOKING FOR ROOM 67 yr male looking for room w/bath to rent. Santee, El Cajon or surrounding area, please call or text (951) 380-1095

SANTEE, \$800 2/2 home w/ homeowner, dog. Same price furnished/unfurnished. No kids under 18. Pools, spas, clubhouse, tennis. AC & heat, kitchen, W/D. No tobacco, or add'l pets. Share util. (619) 499-9663, phone calls preferred.

RENTALS

COLLEGE AREA, \$2200 2BD+2BA apartment. Fire-place, balcony, new stainless appliances. new vinyl flooring. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. 4828 Art Street. Agent: (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com

NORTH PARK, \$2500 2BD+1BA in gated community off Adams. New wood-like floors, laundry on site, 2 parking spaces. No pets. Water and trash included. 4678 Ohio Street. Agent, (619) 298-7724. www.allpointsrealestate.com.

2BR/1BA DOWNTOWN \$2,071 APPLY! This is the 2BR/1BA Downtown apartment home for you! Lillian Place Apts offers underground gated parking, a

community room, playground, and laundry facilities located on-site. Contact us TODAY to schedule an interview! ihacman-ager@gmail.com

NORTH PARK, 1BD I'm moving and looking for someone to take over my lease Feb. to August. Spacious, central, North Park 1 bdrm walk-in closet. Text (760) 472-9127.

STUDIO working person only. No pets or smoking. Transportation close. Laundry. (619) 808-1068, \$1200 monthly.

ELM GARDENS RV STORAGE RV & Vehicle storage in San Diego 12374 Mapleview St Lakeside CA 92040. Prices starting at \$85 (619) 443-1447 / kat.elm-gardens@yahoo.com

\$400/MONTH long-term directly in front of the river ocean five minutes away 13 month contract. Ensenada a Rosarito LA mission 30 minutes across the border. (760) 250-7055.

FOUR BEDROOM TWO BATH-ROOM with a Jacuzzi 1 acre of property \$1200 month 13 month contract we also do daily and weekly rentals \$100 a night \$500 a week Rosarito and Ensenada La mission (760) 250-7055.

MEXICO ENSENADA ROSARITO La mission three bedroom two bathroom directly in front of the river five minute walk from the ocean \$1200 a month (760) 250-7055.

MEXICO ENSENADA ROSARITO two bedroom two bathroom directly in front of the River ocean five minute walk bring your motorcycle pets we call this Rancho Santa Fe south of the border exclusive neighborhood Gated and garden (760) 250-7055.

PENTHOUSE two bedroom two bathroom Jacuzzi directly in front of the river and ocean the ocean five minute walk away \$1500 a month Rosarito and Ensenada La mission 30 minutes across the border (760) 250-7055.

STUDIO FOR RENT directly in front of the river the ocean five minute walk away completely furnished wash machine and dryer 750 a month long term 13 months Mexico 30 minutes from San Diego borderline to Ensenada rosarito La mission. (760) 250-7055.

LA MESA, \$1999-2599. 3BD+2BA (\$2599) and 2BD+1BA (\$1999) apartments. Welcome to Mt. Helix Gated Community! New kitchen. Stainless steel appliances. Spacious. Clubhouse. WiFi. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. (619) 646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1999-2599. 3BD+2BA (\$2599) and 2BD+1BA (\$1999) 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.

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.

MUSIC

MUSICIANS WANTED AVAILABLE Composer seeks assistant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico asistente que sepuede leer musica/toca piano. Cuarto, comidas, felia. (619) 457-8516, jebroes5@gmail.com

PRO TOOLS HELP NEEDED Creative musicians with private studio equipped with quality gear need engineering help... please know ProTools...you don't need to be pro level. Please call (619) 322-0177.



FENDER FC-40 ACOUSTIC GUITAR Rare Fender FC-40 acoustic guitar and case in like-new condition. \$500 (Imperial Beach). donnamackersie@att.net

DRUMMER NEEDED Rocco Sledge Band needs a professional drummer for 70s hard rock and originals. Google Rocco Sledge Band Videos to see if you can keep up. We have a huge practice facility in East County. paulberg@sbcglobal.net

DR. VAN AND HIS VIRTUAL BAND I'm a Solo jazz guitarist with many years of experience. Performing to "original classic jazz and rock backing tracks - in full stereo including Holiday

music. I perform "free" for charities. Now accepting bookings. For more info: drvandecker.com. (760) 960-4829 / dr.van@sbcglobal.net

FENDERFC-40 CLASSICAL 6-STRING Beautiful Fender Model FC-40 Classical 6-string acoustic guitar and case in perfect condition — just needs new strings. \$500. donnamackersie@att.net

ROOTS REGGAE SKA POP progrock fusion professional lead/rhythm guitarist for recordings, gigs, tours. CD/Tour credits. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973.

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.

PETS

BIG VICTOR SADDLE silver, \$300. Nice trail saddles \$150 n. \$200. Text (619) 872-8250.

MINI AUSSIE MIX PUPPIES **MALES** Blue Merle and black Tri puppies 3/4 Australian shepherd mini tails are not docked have blue eyes and are pad trained ready by Christmas. Call Noreen at (619) 399-6461. Really flashy \$500 will come with first shots and mom and dad are on location. atknoreen@yahoo.com

HORSE EQUIPMENT bridles, bits, hackamores, dressage, saddles, blankets. You name it, I got it. If it's horse related I got it, it needs to find a new home. Includes equipment used for stall work, mud buckets, mud bucket cleaners etc. Evenings are best time to get a hold of me. (619) 442-4753.

SPORTS

SWOOPER SIDEKICK The Swooper SideKick tennis training tool, is a fork shaped, hand size, light weight device that fits on the top of any tennis racket. It retrieves tennis balls off the court without bending, kneeling or squatting. Keeping You In Your Game. (619) 292-3649 / sstandavid@aol.com

APPROX 2000 HOCKEY CARDS all in excellent condition. Most of them from the 1990s, some early 2000's. Asking \$60 for them, call Jim (619) 943-0328. I also have other sports cards and memorabilia.

BICYCLES

BIANCHI VELOCE ROAD BIKE: Carbon fork, light green color, made in Italy, purchased new, only ridden a few times, \$650., in Escondido, call (760) 746-7209.

CANNONDALE F1000SL MOUNTAIN Bike, ultra aluminum steering fork, orange-yellow color, purchased new-very little use, \$450., (760) 746-7209

REDFIRE MTB great condition, 27.5", disc brakes, front suspension, aluminum frame, 21-speed. Sells for \$400 on Amazon, asking \$175. Jan.e.m.ophof@gmail.com

MOTORCYCLES

1990 HARLEY DAVIDSON 1990 Ultra Electra glide Harley Davidson, brand-new motor in it with spare motor \$3000 or best. (619) 258-3541

2020 HARLEY DAVIDSON XL 1200, black. Cash price \$12,000. Too many extras to list. (619) 233-8300.

AUTOMOTIVE

70-71 FORD F250 HOOD \$280, have motor and trans for same, ask for Tom. (619) 264-7148



2014 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE The vehicle has been garage kept, is in excellent condition, and has only 33,882 miles, yes 33,882, that is not a mistake. I'm the original owner, I have all the paperwork. Heated seats, remote starter, the back seat was probably used less than 10X. (858) 876-2991 / customer321@twc.com

1997 FORD RANGER work truck. Rebuilt tranny, new tires, fuel pump, brakes, rotors, shocks. Selling for son. \$4500/ OBO. (760) 315-2935 Ranchita, Ca

2004 VOLVO V8 It needs tune-up. I'm selling it for \$2500 or best offer. My number is (619) 799-5503. Waiting for your call.

2016 MAZDA CX5 GRAND TOURING Automatic, AWD, 2.5L, 4 cylinder engine, 4 door, red metallic color, black leather seats, 94,700 miles, original owner, well cared for and maintained by a nurse, the reason for selling-the car was replaced by a new Tesla, \$19,500, call (760) 746-7209.

1992 BUICK LE SABRE MANUALS GM Owners manual, GM service manual, GM electrical systems manual, Haynes repair manual, Chilton's repair manual, all 5 for \$100., (760) 746-7209

4 BIG O BIG FOOT A-T TIRES Big Foot all terrain tires, M+S, LT245/75R16, mounted on 6 lug aluminum wheels, balanced, they are Sprinter wheels, used, \$225., (760) 746-7209.

1987 TOYOTA PICK UP two door, four cylinder, four speed standard, AC. Good condition, nice tires, below average wear and tear, all paperwork in order good condition (619) 576-8196. The price is \$3,999.

1971 VOLKSWAGEN CONVERTIBLE manx style body, fiberglass, yellow/black top, runs perfect, everything works. 2023 California plates, street legal, ready to sell. \$10,000, (760) 420-3641, serious buyers call for picture, San Marcos.

12 PASSENGER VAN for rent \$100 a day \$600 a week churches get 10% discount mentioned the reader and get one day free with one weekly rental (619) 233-8300.

\$99 A WEEK Toyota Corolla Pay cash get one extra day (619) 233-8300.

RENTAL CAR starting from \$17.95 per day \$99 a week 350 a month 3006 Barnett Ave. point Loma open seven days a week trucks for rent \$300 a week Toyota four runner also minivans \$400 a week 15 passenger vans \$500 a week. (619) 233-8300

RENTAL CAR AVAILABLE also rent to own programs thousand dollars down \$500 a week in-

house financing rent to own (619) 233-8300.

RENT TO OWN Thousand dollars down direct payments no credit check 3006 Barnett Avenue Open seven days a week from 9 to 7 (619) 233-8300.

TOYOTA CAMRY for rent \$99 a week 350 a month pay cash get one day free (619) 233-8300.

TOYOTA FORERUNNER for rent \$300 a week rent to own program available (619) 233-8300.

TOYOTA TRUCK for rent \$300 a week rent to own program available (619) 233-8300.

1999 TOYOTA AVALON White. Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$2900 (619) 233-8300.

2000 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS Super clean, rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$3900. (619) 233-8300.

2000 TOYOTA AVALON GOLD Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$2900. (619) 233-8300.

2001 TOYOTA CAMRY Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$3900. (619) 233-8300.

2005 TOYOTA TUNDRA TRUCK Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$8900. (619) 233-8300.

2006 TOYOTA COROLLA Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$6900. (619) 233-8300.

2007 TOYOTA 4RUNNER White. Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$9800. (619) 233-8300.

2009 MERCEDES E350W Black. Super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash Price \$6,900. (619) 233-8300.

2011 CHEVY CAMARO Black. super clean. Rent to own or for sale. Cash price \$17000. (619) 233-8300.

HELP WANTED

AUTO PARTS SALES/DELIVERY 2-3 days per wk, answer phones, give price quotes, knowledge of auto parts a plus, but will train the right candidate. Some auto parts delivery, require valid & clean CA driver's license. Minimum age 18, some lifting required 45-80 lbs. AES sales. (619) 282-3207

CAREGIVER (EAST COUNTY). Active Quadriplegic male seeking PT caregiver in East County area (Santee/Lakeside La Mesa/ El Cajon). Must have reliable transportation and be dependable, energetic, enthusiastic, compassionate. Experience preferred but will train right person. Must pass fingerprint and background check. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Duties include: personal care, transferring, dressing, bathing, grooming, cooking, cleaning, shopping. Please send resume or brief description of why you are an excellent candidate to agarciar14@sbcglobal.net or leave message at (619) 596-9343.

COVID BOOSTER SHOTS are available at Alvarado Medical Center. Paid research study must be between the ages 18 to 65 years old, \$250 for the first visit and more after. Please call Travis (619) 326-3350 referral number only.

DRIVER Drive your own mini-van or SUV. \$23-\$28/ hour when factoring in mileage reimburse-

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FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE

NEW CV AXLE from **\$159⁹⁵**
Parts & Labor

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SMOG CHECK SPECIAL
STAR Certified
Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up
Same Price. Good through December 30, 2022.

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ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE
Most Vehicles

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL
from **\$279⁹⁵** 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

STAR Certified
SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$51⁷⁵
+\$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice. Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL
from **\$279⁹⁵** 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

Timing Belt Special
\$50 off quoted price
Recommended at 60k miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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ment + benefits! Essential and stable employment. Full- & part-time shifts. Immediate openings. (858) 444-2350, or apply in person: 9710 Distribution Ave. SD, 92121.

ENGINEERING Samsung Semiconductor, Inc., a semiconductor design and development company, has openings in San Diego, CA for Senior Engineer (E70): Perform research and performance analysis on data-center storage centric networks and systems; and Staff Engineer (E71): Perform the verification/validation of new 5G FR1/FR2, 4G tests in close collaboration with test equipment vendors for network operator requirements. Reference job code and send resume to: Samsung Semiconductor, Inc., Attn: ADC, 3655 N First Street, San Jose, CA 95134, or send to hrmobility@ssi.samsung.com.

HELPER/ASSISTANT / OCEANSIDE Person needed to assist me in and out the office, manual labor, cleaning - gardening. (760) 410-6605

LABORER North county laborer to assist me getting the rentals ready must be able to follow directions. (760) 410-6605

OPERATIONS PUMP MECHANIC I OR II \$30.18 - \$43.67 Hourly. Must possess recent experience in pump inspection, diagnosis, or pump repair. A self-starter with great attention to detail is highly desirable. Military and transitioning military personnel with experience as a Machinist's Mate, Water Support Technician, Water Fuel Systems Maintenance, Water Support Specialist, or similar occupation are welcome. For more information, please visit our website www.otaywater.gov for requirements and to apply online. Open until filled. EOE

OPERATIONS RESEARCH SCIENTIST/ DATA SCIENTIST (Deccan International; Company headquarters: San Diego, CA. Remote position: Anywhere in U.S.): Perform research to understand the dynamics & culture w/ public safety response ops in order to meet technology dvlpmnt needs for clients in that industry. Apply comp suite of app to client needs. Perform r/w & analysis of data incl performing quality analysis of app, data analysis, data mining & database configuration tasks. Reqs: Ph.D. (ABD) in Ops Rsch, Industrial Eng, Comp Sci, or a rlt'd field and demonstrated knowledge of industrial syst eng. Email resume to HR at vivant@deccanintl.com. Ref: ORS/DS102022. An EOE.

POSEIDA THERAPEUTICS, INC. has the following openings in San Diego, CA. Research Scientist (RS); Research Scientist II (RS); Manufacturing Supervisor (MS). Resumes can be sent to Attn: Kristin (Job Code #), Poseida Therapeutics, Inc., 9390 Towne Center Dr., Ste 200, San Diego, CA 92121.

REGISTERED CAREGIVERS Hourly/live-in available. \$16 per hour & other benefits. Must have reliable transportation. Assertive Homecare Services, 8893 La Mesa Blvd., Ste B, La Mesa. (619) 466-6890.

SCIENTIST Fate Therapeutics Inc. is accepting resumes for Scientist, Cancer Immunotherapy in San Diego, CA. Design, execute, and interpret experiments to interrogate the functional attributes and underlying biology of candidate cell therapies. Requires domestic and international travel up to 10%. Mail resume to Fate Therapeutics Inc., Attn: HR, 12278 Scripps Summit Drive, San Diego, CA 92131. Must reference Ref. SCI-AO.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER LunaPBC, Inc. seeks a Software Engineer (SWE-SJ) in San Diego, CA. Dsgn & dvp highly-available cloud-deployed distributed systems. Req Master's deg or Bachelor's + 2 yrs exp. Email resume to careers@lunadna.com. Must reference job title & job code SWE-SJ in subj line.

SOFTWARE TESTING ENGINEER II (Deccan International; Company headquarters: San Diego, CA. Remote position: Anywhere in U.S.): Rsch and dvp methodologies & tools for automating the test workflow. Build & maintain analysis tools to analyze the core algorithm of comp appltns. Prep routing data sets by analyzing clients geographic info. Reqs: Bachelor deg in Comp Sci, Geographical Info Syst, Industrial Eng, Business Analytics or a rlt'd field. Email resume to HR at vivant@deccanintl.com. Ref: STE092022. An EOE.

STRATEGIC ANALYST (Deccan International; Company headquarters: San Diego, CA. Remote position: Anywhere in U.S.): Responsible for inspecting, analyzing, & processing various types of data sets & GIS files. Consider client reqs to configure comp products & svcs for delivery to clients. Reqs: Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Eng, Comp Sci, Geographic Info Syst, Statistics or a rlt'd field. Email resume to HR at vivant@deccanintl.com. Ref: SA112022. An EOE.

CARE PROVIDER NEEDED IHSS provider needed in north county. An assistant for basic ADL's. PT/AM/PM \$20 hr. For more details contact rgby2k00@gmail.com - 92129. (858) 663-5188.

ELECTRONICS TEST ENGINEER Positioning Universal Inc. has an opening for electronics test engineer in San Diego, CA to perform device electronic process including, failed products through circuit diagnostics. Pls mail resume: HR Team, 7071 Convoct Ct #300, San Diego, CA 92111.

GIFT ITEM DELIVERY REPS \$35/HR Holiday gifts delivery reps needed to deliver holiday gifts to list of beneficiary seniors. Light gift items only. Compensation: \$35 per hour. Weekly gas cost or transportation cash bonus would be provided. Please include a number in your reply. dgs21307@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR IHSS CAREGIVER Needed IHSS caregiver (IHSS certified) w/vehicle for a middle-aged woman in Mission Valley/LA Gardens. The job requires cooking, cleaning, errands, and some personal care. Full or part-time available 160 hrs/month. Serious inquiries only. (619) 240-5244 / cvargas@chgsd.com

CAREGIVER RANCHO BERNARDO We are looking for a woman. She'll help with daily duties for senior man with minor mobility problem. IHSS registration is a must. We'll help to get it. \$20/hr * 60 hr/month. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 leave a msg.

VOLUNTEER FOR PAID STUDIES Healthy volunteers are need for paid research Studies. Help your community and advance research. No insurance required. Transportation is available. Compensation varies by study. Contact us to learn more: (855) 367-8834. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

PAID SLEEP APNEA STUDIES Volunteers needed for paid sleep apnea studies. Compensation and travel is available. Volunteers must be: 18 years of age, diagnosed with Sleep

Apnea. (855) 367-8834 / recruitment@artemis-research.com

NEED AN ATTORNEY who can help me with inheritance money, land properties, etc. (619) 218-8925

GIG DELIVERY DRIVERS Instacart, Uber eats, doordash, and other gig delivery drivers. Make up to an extra \$1 per mile into your retirement account. Sign up at driver up page at www.RetireCarbon.org.

RESEARCH STUDIES AVAILABLE IN OCEANSIDE looking for schizophrenia volunteers, 18-65 years old. Compensation will be paid, transportation is also available to those who qualify. Please call Travis (619) 706-7529. Referral number only

WANT TO HIRE OLD STYLE VOLKSWAGEN MECHANIC 1,300-1,600 ccs, must have electrical experience, low key, your tools, my garage, San Marcos. (760) 420-3641

CAREGIVER, RANCHO BERNARDO afternoons. Help physically challenged man. Enrolled in IHSS or willing to enroll. Vaccinated and boosted, leave number. (858) 487-1225

HANDY MAN NEEDED for a house. Room and utilities, plus \$15 per hour. If you like, call me (619) 773-6485

IF YOU HAVE A PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS and want to do a paid research study, call (760) 468-2855 and ask for Donald.

HAVE A SPARE BEDROOM? Earn a competitive stipend caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home. www.MentorsWanted.com. (858) 694-0120.

JOBS WANTED

FREELANCER LOOKING FOR WORK! Poor broke female in extreme need of cash paying freelance gigs like cleaning, pet/house sitting, etc... but will consider most legit. offers! Nothing inappropriate/illegal please! I'm dependable, real, & trustworthy! Contact me with full details! Thx! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

DISHWASHER FOR HIRE Vacation relief or P/T. Lots of experience. Greg @ mobile (858) 282-5937.

FULL TIME JOB WANTED by High school/College graduate healthy 64 male southern Californian vaccinated, with reliable transportation. Seeking steady full-time employment in Miramar, La Jolla, Solana Beach, Carlsbad, north county. Dale Hauskins (858) 401-2973.

IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE for P/T, F/T or temporary employment. Mid-City area preferred. Greg @ mobile (858) 282-5937.

WANTED / TRADE

CASH PAID FOR DIABETIC STRIPS We buy diabetic strips. Local cash pick-up. Sealed boxes only! Call or text (619) 535-1848. We buy One Touch Ultra, Freestyle Lite, Accu Check, Aviva Plus, Contour, Dexcom.

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREOS I am looking for that old tube stereo system that your dad used to play. These stereo components were made in America, in the early 1960's, by such Companies as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & more. I pay ca\$h, so please call Jack (619) 296-3100. / jack22@cox.net

NEED SET OF 27/27.5" RIMS I live in Oceanside and hope

someone can help me out. I am homeless, and only way around is on foot or bike. Don't have much to offer, but really could use the kindness of strangers right about now. Happy holidays. Thank you. (760) 425-3453

BUYING GARBAGE PAIL KIDS CARDS Cash for 1st and 2nd series Garbage Pail Kids (1-83 a & b) and full sets, unopened boxes. San Diego local. (832) 651-8302 / ashscoot@aol.com

BUYING OLD BASEBALL CARDS Buying old baseball and other sports/non-sports cards. Pre-1980 preferred but buying more modern stars and rookies. Cash paid. San Diego local. Comics, autographs, memorabilia too. (832) 651-8302 / ashscoot@aol.com

OB SPACEMAN PAINTINGS WANTED Private collector seeking any and all of his art. Contact me at clintcarycosmicart@gmail.com or call or text (760) 535-6501

4 INCH STEEL PIPE WANTED I'm looking for 4 inch I.D. thick wall steel pipe that is 10 feet long or longer. If you have pipe that is reasonably priced or if it is old I will pick it up and haul it away for free. (760) 746-7209 the phone is a landline, no texting.

SOLAR PANELS WANTED I'm looking for solar panels that are reasonably priced or if they are old I will haul them away for free. I'm setting up an off grid system not connected to the electric grid. Let me know what you have, (760) 746-7209.

I BUY OLD GUITARS AND guitar amps. Working or not. Call me (619) 279-7833.

NEED MONEY? I pay cash for comic books and come to you, (619) 933-6275.

WANTED HANGING CLOTHES CABINET 5ft x 5ft at least. Will pay \$100, need delivery Downtown San Diego. Contact (619) 453-7951.

WE BUY SILVER AND GOLD coins and bars. Call me (619) 279-7833.

OIL CHANGE Additional 25 cartridge fee. Plus tax, tire waste, 4 engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. Special only for 4cyl vehicle. 6-8cyl vehicle does not apply.	\$24⁹⁵ <small>most cars</small>
AC SERVICE Diagnostic \$95	\$49 <small>Recharge from</small>
BRAKES Front or rear <small>*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.</small>	From \$49 <small>most cars</small>
30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services <small>*Prices may vary depending on make and model.</small>	\$65 <small>most cars</small>
RADIATOR or Transmission Services <small>*Prices may vary depending on make and model.</small>	\$45 <small>most cars 4 cyl.</small>
TIMING BELT Parts & Labor <small>*Prices may vary depending on make and model.</small>	\$75 <small>most cars 4 cyl.</small>
STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS <small>Plus labor.</small>	\$95 <small>most cars 4 cyl.</small>
FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT 56 and up. <small>We'll beat any written estimate! Dents, dings, scratches? Now offering bodywork.</small>	 B.T. Auto Wrench <small>Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!</small>
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C 858-533-8120	

WANTED: OLD SLOT CARS. Or old toys. Cell/text #619-279-7833.

GOT ANY OLD SURFBOARDS? I pay cash. I come to you. Cell/text (619) 806-6703

SEWING MACHINES I buy Singer 221 Featherweight sewing machines. Cell/text (619) 806-6703

I BUY VINYL RECORDS all types, great prices paid. We don't just buy 2-3 records, we buy your whole collection. Call (619) 250-3088.

I BUY SAXOPHONES trumpets, trombone, tuba, flute, clarinet. Or? Or any old band instruments. Call (619) 279-7833.

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.

I BUY OLDER STEREO GEAR Working or not ok. Pioneer, Sansui, Klipsch, JBL, Fisher, Yamaha, Dynaco, McIntosh, Tannoy. What do you have? I got cash and I'll drive to you. Call or text me for pictures (619) 279-7833.

WILL PAY CASH... For records, CDs, DVDs, and clothes. Professional Singing Lessons available. Musicians Wanted. Call Jeff Clark, (858) 382-7396.

GARAGE SALES

SPORTS MEMORABILIA SALE MLB, NFL, NHL, NBA, World Cup, Olympics: Cards, autographs, photography, etcetera.

SAT, December 10, SPACE G44, Kobey's Collectibles event - not to be missed!

MIRA MESA GARAGE SALE Women's sweaters, men's sports hats, men's t shirts, various sci-fi convention souvenir books and posters, knick-knaks. By appointment only. Call (858) 693-3409, evenings.

FOR SALE

CHEAP USED BUILDING SUPPLIES Three interior doors, two large mirrors, double glass windows in frames, drywall, best offers. (760) 749-8266

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT a 10 x 10 tent of exercise equipment and a bicycle. I'm selling all of it. It's going for \$250. Must go, moving out of town sale. Please give me a call if you're interested. (619) 581-8194

QUANTUM WHEELCHAIR for sale. Goes up, down, tilts, everything. New motors just installed on both sides. Contact me at (619) 549-7123. I'm asking \$500 for it.

SAMSUNG FLATSCREEN TV 16", \$50. Casino gifts I won, great Christmas gifts, real cheap, kitchen stuff, new in boxes, etc, (760) 747-1013.

VINTAGE SOLID WOOD MIRROR This mirror (31-3/4"x 16"x 1-7/8") w/ 3/8" wood frame weighs 18.5 lb. Hanging hardware not incl. The glass is 1/2" thick & has some dark spots, scratches and discoloration which reflect its vintage nature. \$25. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/photos. / cadbcsd@gmail.com

WESTERN BOOTS All sizes. 25 pairs, many new. Total \$150. Text (619) 872-8250.

GOOD PRICE IN TOWN!	
OIL CHANGE 4-cyl., most cars. Up to 5 qts. 10w 30	\$25
USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION + From Labor Most 4 cyl. cars.	\$899*
Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat	SMOG CHECK Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a star station. From 2000 & up
TIRES ON SALE!	
BRAKES from Front or rear. Most cars.	\$50 + Labor
4 Wheel Alignment most 4 cyl cars	\$75
HEAD GASKET 4-cyl. & most cars & machine extra.	\$799
AC SERVICE Most cars.	\$95
FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE '96 & up. Most cars.	
REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER from each. Most cars.	\$295
30K SERVICE 4-cyl., most cars.	\$195
TIMING BELT 4-cyl., most cars.	\$195
AXLE SHAFT 4-cyl., most cars. plus labor	\$99 each
<div>SAVE AUTO 9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126 (By 1-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn) 858-586-6666</div>	

ROAM

“Are you going to write about this hike?” My buddy Joey asked as we stood atop Garnet Peak.

“I dunno,” I responded. “It’s not a very hard hike and it’s got like a thousand reviews on AllTrails. And it’s probably one of the most popular trails near Mount Laguna.”

Joey nodded but didn’t respond. Instead, we both fell silent as we surveyed the horizon. The wind was blowing from the east, beating against the side of the mountain. I was standing on a steep rocky precipice listening to the wind howl as it climbed up the mountains’ roots that grew out of the desert valley below. The wind was icy, but not fierce enough to prevent me from taking in my surroundings. I had at my command a wide view and could see San Geronio and San Jacinto nearby to the north, as well as several familiar desert peaks, including Toro Peak, Villager’s Peak, Whale Peak, Granite Mountain, and San Ysidro Mountain. To the east, I could see the Salton Sea about 40 miles distant and 6000 feet below me. It was partially hidden behind a layer of chalky haze.

Just then, a gust came over the mountain with a terrible shriek and I heard a deep echoing boom below me. Carefully, I took a step closer to the edge. Then another. The wind clawed at my boots and I leaned slightly forward to look over the side of the mountain. As I did, the slope seemed to slip away into cracks and gul-



Joey records the view for Instagram clout.

lies, and the longer I stared, the more I felt a chilling sensation settle in my bones. I tried to shake the feeling by turning southeast to face the sun, but the Laguna Mountain range no longer stood still; instead, it seemed to swell, and I had the bizarre impression that I was standing on the crest of a massive tsunami just before the wave broke.

“Do you ever get the urge to jump?” Joey asked. His eyes widened as he cautiously poked his head over the ledge to peer off the side of the peak. It was a very long way down.

“Mhm,” I hummed while stepping away from

the ledge. “The French call it *l’appel du vide*, or call of the void. It’s their name for that tiny scratch in the back of your skull, urging you to plunge into the abyss while standing on something high up.”

“Damn,” mused Joey.

“Nah, it’s normal. I read that it’s your brain realizing you could die, but then deciding not to. It’s actually a good thing, because your brain is making a decision to stay alive. But don’t quote me on that.”

Despite the terrifying drop beneath him, Joey took out his phone and started filming. As he moved the camera around, he eventually settled on a motion that he liked and spent a few minutes rehearsing it for Instagram. I decided to follow suit and snapped a few photos myself. Alone together, we both fidgeted with our devices as a few scattered clouds quietly drifted by high above. They were thin and wispy, as if they had been gently brushed across the sky by a delicate painter’s hand.

It had taken us a little under a half hour to reach the top. The trail was easy to follow, and we walked at a conversational pace for most of it. Because the hike was so casual, I wore a long sleeve shirt and a cotton sweater instead of my usual sweat clothes. This kept me warm for the first half of the path as we meandered past various chaparral and a peculiar ash-colored shrub before ducking under a row of pine trees. But I did break out in a light sweat as we started along the last half of the trail, where the path turned upward and intersected with the Pacific Crest Trail.

The well known trail was well trodden. Backpacking along it was a 30-something couple traveling south. They were from the U.K. and had started months earlier at the Canadian border; they were now close to wrapping up their adventure at the southern terminus in Campo. Both hikers looked like they had been on the trail for some time; the man had a bushy mountain beard, while the woman had a sun-kissed glow unique to surfers and thru-hikers. Both looked agile and sinewy, and were friendly enough to wave goodbye as our paths diverged.

As they disappeared from sight, Joey and I started our short ascent. The trail was composed of loose rocks that gave way to larger stepping stones near the top, with an easy scramble at the end. Between these last two sections, there was a nice moment where the trail cut through a field of manzanitas, atop which squatted the stony peak. From this



Joey begins the final ascent, which ends with a rock scramble.

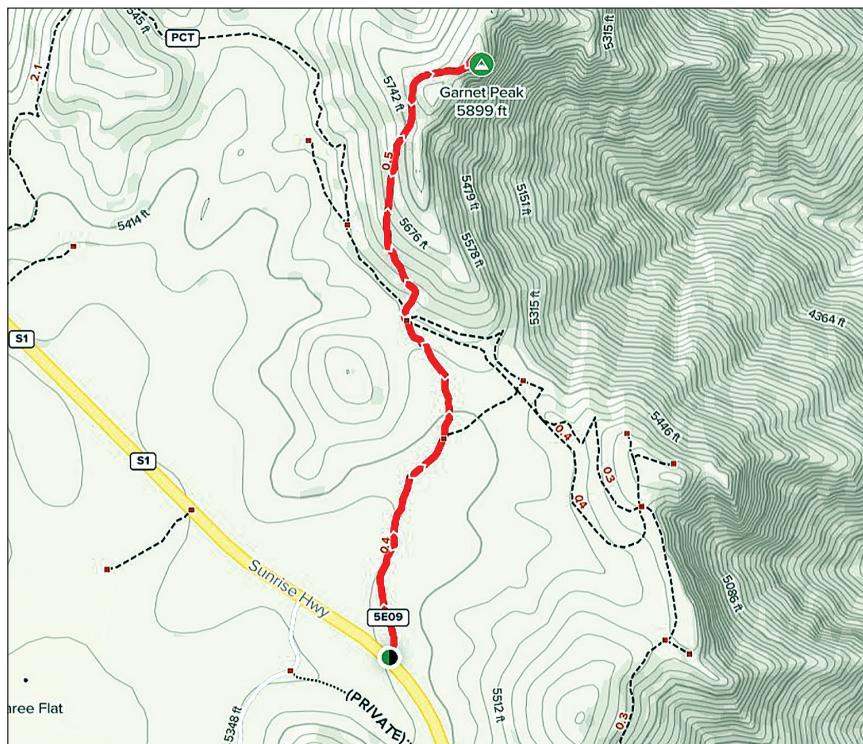
GARNET PEAK

GARNET PEAK FROM SUNRISE HIGHWAY (S1)

Located north of Mount Laguna, Garnet Peak is a fairly easy hike. With a length of 2.3 miles and an elevation gain of around 500 feet, the hike will take most people an hour and a half to reach the summit and descend. Dogs are allowed and a Cleveland National Forest daily pass is required for parking.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 60 miles

Hike length: 2.3 miles • **Difficulty:** Fairly Easy • **Season:** Year-round



I recommend starting at the Penny Pines Trailhead half a mile south.

vantage, it was hard to believe that the backside of the mountain fell away into the desert abyss.

Technically, this hike is listed as moderate difficulty in Jerry Schadt’s *Afoot & Afield San Diego County* and on AllTrails, but this time of year, it was an easygoing affair. The hardest part was finding the trailhead as Google Maps took us to the wrong spot and we had to back-track south a thousand feet. The parking area was little more than a dirt shoulder on the side of S1 where six competent drivers could park. There were no other cars when we arrived late in the morning, but there was a shiny Mini Cooper crouched in the brush on the way out. On the off chance that there is no parking at the Garnet Peak Trailhead, you can park at the Penny Pines Trailhead half a mile south. I recommend starting here for three reasons: there’s more parking; the hike is longer, spanning about 4 miles instead of a measly 2.3 miles; and most of the trail is on the PCT, meaning you can humblebrag to folks that you’ve hiked the PCT both north and south. Just be sure to omit that it was only 1/2600 of the entire trail.

Garnet Peak is a gem that lives up to its name. It’s a shorter hike than most peaks, with a far richer and more unique view that puts other local vistas to shame. Despite the blustery wind at the top, this is a pleasant time of year to go, as the fall colors are on full display. Driving up S1, the black oak trees were a vibrant yellow, and if you have any East Coast in-laws coming to town for the holidays, this might be a good way to prove to them that autumn happens here too.

— Ryan Brothers

CRUTCHES FOR ADULTS 5'10"-6'6" Designed for people with mobility impairments, guardian aluminum push button crutches are for tall adults up to 300 lbs. The crutch pads, hand grips and crutch rubber tips are all in excellent condition. \$15. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILLING MACHINE This "lean mean fat reducing" grill (9"x10") has non-stick cooking surfaces on top and bottom and can grill burgers, steaks, chicken, seafood and vegetables. Simple plug-in electric. Good working condition. \$8. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pictures.

ROTOTILLER-TROY BUILT: Rototiller, model 21B 34M8711, 208cc, it was purchased new a few years ago, it was never used, selling for only \$575., (760) 746-7209.

VINTAGE TABLE LAMP BRASS BODY This 29" lamp is quite beautiful with a soft pleated linen shade (7.5" top, 17.5" bottom & 11.5" side). It has some fabric tears on the back. The body has some discoloration which reflects its vintage nature. \$25. Text (619) 796-5510 for more info/pics.

2 STOCK STEW POTS, 5 & 6.5 QT These classic black stock stew pots / Dutch ovens with glass lids are in very good condition with no scratches on the nonstick coating. They come with 2 heat resistant handles which remain cool while cooking. \$35. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

BEAUTIFUL GLASS TABLE LAMP This classic table lamp with brass trim base & cream pleated shade is very pretty and in excellent condition. 26.5" tall overall, body 16" high, base 6.5" across, shade 7" (top), 18" (bottom) & 12.5" (side). \$35. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

CHAINSAW Homelite 16 inch gas chainsaw. \$15 John (858) 952-4605. / otismaman@yahoo.com

FILE CABINETS 2 file cabinets. Each with 4 drawers. \$20 each John (858) 952-4605. / otismaman@yahoo.com

HANDMADE SIDE STONE RINGS Side stone rings are classy and a very good choice if you decide to surprise your better half. Take a look and see why we are the best. Visit: www.hannostockholm.com/side-stone-rings (076) 811-6167 / Info@hannostockholm.se

KITCHEN TABLE 40 inch round maple table with fold down ends. \$20.00 John. (858) 952-4605 / otismaman@yahoo.com

LAWN MOWER Craftsman gas lawnmower. 5.5 hp BS engine. 18 inch cut. 3 years old. \$20 John (858) 952-4605. / otismaman@yahoo.com



SILK FLOWERS IN CHAMPAGNE VASE 3 attractive arrangements available: \$8 each, \$22 for set of 3, \$30 for set of 4, or \$78 for all 11 vases. Great for special events and functions. Vases are 3" in diameter (top opening & bottom

base) and 10" tall. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

VCR Sharp 4 head vcr. \$25 John (858) 952-4605. / otismaman@yahoo.com

FARBERWARE COUNTERTOP DISHWASH Heavy duty model: stainless tub, touchpad display, ultra clean/maintained, works perfectly. 7 cycles. Absolutely zero leakage. All hoses included. \$150. (619) 664-2146 / surgeprotector@protonmail.com

MONSOON SHIRTS Announcing the launch of Monsoon Shirts monsoonshirts.com/shop/ a website where you can find shirts and hoodies as well as custom stickers with many different types and styles of tee graphics. Visit today for the best selection! jamesdayart@gmail.com

STAR PINE the perfect Christmas tree 10-12ft \$150 8-10ft \$100 5-8ft \$75 (619) 444-8214.

DAZZLING BRANDS THAT POP! We represent several direct sales companies that offer quality products that encourage you to be your unique self! Check out awesome \$5 jewelry from Paparazzi; Soft Fabulous Fit Leggings from My LaLa Leggings & more. www.bgbaccessories.xyz.



DINING ROOM TABLE WITH 4 CHAIRS 42-inch-round, 29.5" high, beautiful wood dining room table with four chairs. Includes a leaf to expand it to oval-sized \$120. (619) 500-3859 / steve.terry.blue@gmail.com

PORTABLE SPORTS UTILITY RACK for small cars and trucks. Brand-new in box. Easy to install, can carry skis, fishing poles, pipes, and two by fours. Compact and light weight www.carryme123.com \$34.95 free shipping.



VINYL RECORDS 1960S - 1980S Personal collection of over 300 LPs & 45s. \$4 and up. Priced to sell! See entire list at www.danesworld.com/vinyl.

WOOD JEWELRY BOX W/ GLASS LID This beautiful solid wood jewelry box (10.5"x 6.5" x 3" high) has 6 top compartments and an open bottom storage. The lid looks very nice with clear glass framed by wood molding. Very good condition. \$25. Text (619) 800-5568 for more info or pictures.

BEAUTIFUL SOLID WOOD BOX This vintage box (5.5"x 3.5" x 2" high) with a hinged lid is nicely stained and varnished. It can be a wonderful storage place for jewelry, tarot, oils, art & sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$15. Text (619) 796-5510 for more info or pictures.

POST HOLE DIGGER, 2 MORE TOOLS The steel digger is in very good condition. The cutter/mattock head combo has a 15"x 3.5" blade. The wood splitter has a 9.5"x 4" blade. Both are fully functional w/ duct tapes on the handles. \$35 for all 3 tools. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

SOLID WOOD SWIVEL BAR STOOL This counter (25.5") barstool w/ armrests is very sturdy and well built. It has 3" vinyl foam pad, rattan wicker back & bronze protector on footrests. \$45 or \$65 for 2 matching (2nd one with some tear on seat). Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

BELLY DANCE CLOTHING assortment, veils, waist bands, jewelry, assorted varieties and prices. Call (619) 101-3591.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS christmas display board 63x63, \$35. Fiber optic snowman, \$10. Ornaments \$1-5. Tin cans and baskets, \$1-5. Department 56 villages, \$15-25. Artificial tree, \$10. (619) 218-4031

COMFORTER duvet fit full to queen bed, reversible pink lavender, gently used in guest room, good condition, non-smoking home \$15. Telephone 1-858-484-4483.

COMIC BOOK COLLECTION FOR SALE over 1300 comics, very fine or better, for only \$450. (619) 933-6275.

DARK BROWN LEATHER OTTOMAN This comfortable pin cushion square leather ottoman (34.5"x 34.5" x 18" high) has sturdy wooden legs. It is in very good condition with no rips or tears. \$60. Text (619) 796-5680 for more information and/or pictures.

DRIVE SHOWER HANDLE brand new in box, \$25. (619) 601-3591

DUMBEC DRUM 21 inch tall dumbek drum with wooden base in excellent condition \$250 or best offer. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

ELECTRIC HOTPLATE still in the box \$20. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

EXERCISE BICYCLE like new, still in box w/floor mat. \$100 firm. Ph. (760) 848-3234

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks, fancy candle holder folding laundry basket blue v-tech house phone all these items you must buy for 40.00 obo any very much interested candidate ask for James @ (619) 450-7914. / j.fifield31@gmail.com

PORTABLE CD PLAYER with charger and headphones still in the box \$40. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

PORTABLE LAP DESK holds up to 17 inch laptop. Light weight, portable, new in opened box, make nice gift, \$20 1-858-484-4483.

VTECH LANDLINE PHONE with built in answering machine \$20. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

CORDED ELECTRIC STRING TRIMMER This 4.6 amp 13" weed wacker / weedeater comes with almost a full spool of heavy duty 0.065" line. It has auto feed, adjustable D-grip, telescopic shaft & plant protection guard. Clean and in good condition. \$25. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

OSCILLOSCOPES Hickok model 5002A, three used oscilloscopes for only \$150., I

don't have probes, call (760) 746-7209.

PEXTO SHEAR MODEL 269A Pexto Trim Tab Shear, 4 inch wide cutting blade, 16 inch depth, 20 gauge maximum thickness of material being sheared, it was used to shear small pieces of aluminum, mounted on heavy duty stand, \$375., call (760) 746-7209.

SHOPSMITH MARK V MULTI-TOOL Includes table saw, band saw, scroll saw, lathe, belt sander, jointer, dust collector, many extra parts & accessories, plus a separate mounting table for storing the accessories, excellent condition, \$975., (760) 746-7209.

SOLAR PANEL GROUND MOUNT Universal mount holds 10 large solar panels, can be used when roofs are not suitable for mounting solar panels, can be used to power an off grid EV charging station, excellent, \$2,600., (760) 746-7209.

4 BEAUTIFUL NEW INTERIOR DOORS Premium knotty alder, solid wood, mfg. by Craftsman In Wood in Arizona, 1-3/4" x 3" x 8", no hinges or handles, they are extra doors from my remodel, I paid \$1,500. each, selling for \$750. each, (760) 746-7209.

BLACK & DECKER ELECTRIC EDGER This corded electric edger has a high-torque motor and an edge guide that converts the edger to a trencher. It features a 7-1/2" blade with 3/16" thickness with adjustable depth. Very good condition. \$35. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info and/or pics.

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

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12 For Cabinet makers, used to bend laminates for countertops, purchased new for \$5,000., it was used once-like new condition, selling for \$2,900., (760) 746-7209.

2 IN 1 QUAD AND INLINE SKATES This Roller Derby skates combo adjusts up to 3 Sizes with the push of a button. Quickly interchangeable chassis allow you to switch from quad roller skates to inlines and back with ease. Excellent condition. \$25. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.



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Call Carissa or Tara today to learn more

3 WHEEL RUGGED RACERS SCOOTER This scooter with adjustable height, anti-slip deck & flashing LED wheel lights is for toddlers or young kids. It has a flip-out seat and foot pad which allows your child to scoot sitting or standing up. \$15. Text (619) 800-5568 for more info/pics.

5 QT. CROCK POT SLOW COOKER This 180-250 watts Rival crockpot has a removable stoneware pot & plastic lid. There are some stains inside the base under the pot & the plastic lid is no longer clear but the crock pot is in good condition. \$15. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics

BLACK SPORTS/ GYM/ DUFFEL BAG Marksign bag (17"x 14"x 11") is good looking, versatile, and very durable. It has zip-pers on top and all around with 2 side pockets. Mesh materials for maximum ventilation. Never used in excellent condition. \$15. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

BLACK WARMWAVE PORTABLE HEATER This 1500 watts electric ceramic heater has easy dial control for thermostat, 2 heat levels & oscillation + auto shutoff for tip-over. Excellent condition. 2 heaters are available for \$25 each or \$45 for both. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics.

TABLE LAMP METAL CYLINDER BODY The body of this unique table lamp is 4.5" in diameter and 12" tall. The cream soft deep drum linen shade is 10.75" in top & bottom diameter & 9.25" on the side. Modern and good looking. Very good condition. \$25. Text (619) 800-5568 for more info/pics

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Hand made \$75 and up. margarit_bustamante@yahoo.com

2 DOG CARRIER CASES wire, 40 pound max. \$20 each. Call (619) 601-3591.

DRIVE WALKER brand new, used one. 500 pounds max, \$100. Call (619) 601-3591.

SLIDE PROJECTOR DUO Slide projector 2 1/4 inch by 2 1/4 inch, with extras, excellent condition \$100. (760) 757-5445

WWII GUN RIFLE BOX Excellent condition, original lining and wax paper, \$50 or best offer. Call (619) 601-3591.

BRAND NEW RED TRICYCLE for sale \$250. For photo, text (858) 733-0770.

BIKE HOOKS/PUMP Heavy duty extra large bike hooks, 4 pack, never used, \$10. Tele-scoping bike pump, quick inflation with gauge, used once, \$10. Contact (619) 380-4861.

HOT WHEEL CARS some misc good stuff. Also slot cards and old baseball cards. Call for more info and pricing. (619) 791-0278.

NEW QUEEN MATTRESS \$300 Sleepy Rest Firm, queen prime. Paid \$500. Cash only, you pick up. mapaul16@gmail.com.

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTBULBS from the 40s and 50s, all glass blown, imported, must see to appreciate. Quantity 200. Call (619) 886-2715

LIFE FITNESS WHISPER STRIDE X7 elliptical. Shows "E3" on small screen. Main screen works fine. \$450 w/free delivery. Jan.e.m.ophof@gmail.com

AUTO GPS vehicle GPS device by Garmin, \$175 OBO. (619) 282-5105

BART STARR AUTOGRAPHED JERSEY framed, with letter of authenticity for sale (619) 933-6302.

CHRISTMAS METAL TREE STAND for fresh tree, holds water, large to XL, used one time only, like new, \$7 bargain. (858) 484-4483

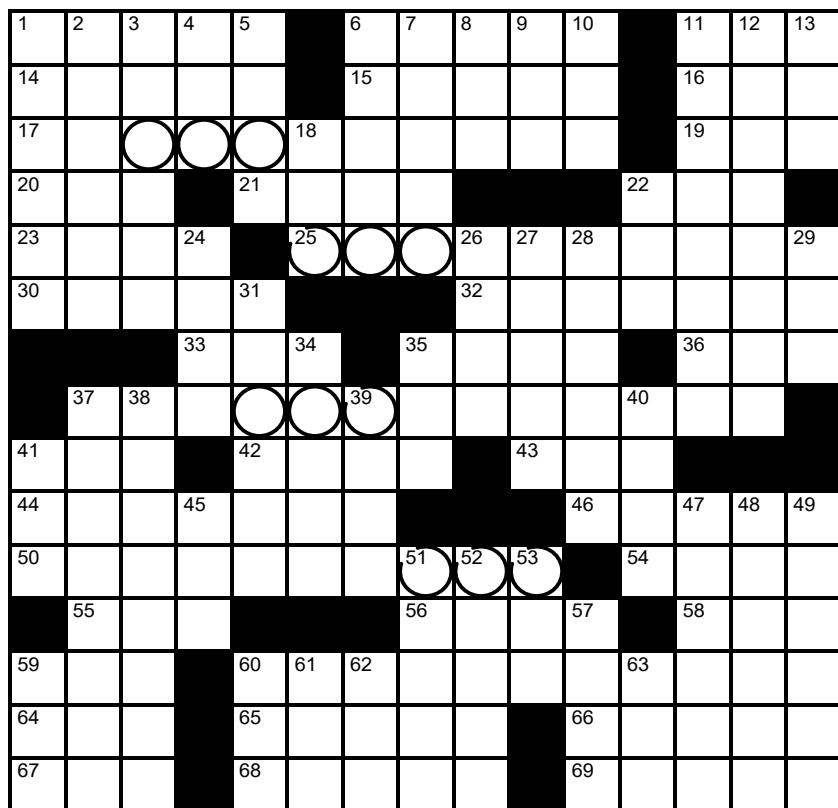
DINNERWARE 20 piece china set, like new, dishwasher and microwave safe, pretty pattern, \$25 for set. (619) 282-5105

MISC FOR SALE drones, stun gun/flashlight combination, glow lights. Text for prices and pictures. (619) 850-3264

LAUNDRY HAMPER New. Must sell. Cylindrical (round) off-white cream color hamper is 21 inches high, 12 1/2 inches in diameter. It has a lid on it. Fits most bathrooms. For more info call (858) 693-3409, evenings.

ASSORTMENT OF WOMEN'S SWEATERS for the winter. Brand new. Sizes small to medium, solid as well as stripes, some with pockets and can be worn as jacket. Please call (858) 693-3409 for more details.

CROSSWORD



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The solving of the puzzles will no longer put you in contention for a Reader T-shirt and hat.

We hope that the puzzles themselves will be enough of a pleasure.

Thanks to all our winners so far and to those who will keep with us.

Reader T-shirts and hats are available at sandiegoreaderstore.com/

Across

1. Small songbird
6. TV blocking device
11. HQ of the LDS church
14. Olympia ____, three-term U.S. senator from Maine
15. Come to light
16. "You're squeezing my udder's teats too hard!"
17. Nonvegetarian egg dish you might see on a 60-Across restaurant menu?
19. URL ending for a charity
20. Snake in ancient Egyptian art
21. Nudge
22. Author with a tombstone that reads "Quoth the raven, nevermore"
23. Cry

25. Fruity dessert you might see on a 60-Across restaurant menu?
30. Nickname used by Shaggy
32. Pound and others
33. Chest muscle, for short
35. Italian automaker
36. Suffix with different or confident
37. MSG, coloring and other nutritional info you might see on a 60-Across restaurant menu?
41. "I pity the fool" speaker
42. Shades
43. Yoko whose Twitter account features a peace symbol emoji
44. Yoga asana done on one's hands and knees

46. Secures, as scrapbook photos
50. Sugarless soft drinks you might see on a 60-Across restaurant menu?
54. Alternative to -ess or -ette
55. OB-GYNs, e.g.
56. Felipe, Matty or Jesus of MLB fame
58. Broadband inits.
59. Econ. measure
60. Casual dining restaurant option ... and this puzzle's theme
64. Promise-to-pay letters
65. G-U-M rival
66. Fuss in front of a mirror
67. Brand seen at speedways
68. Wipe out
69. Libya's Gulf of ____

Down

1. Scornful dismissals
2. "Be right there!"
3. "Grey's Anatomy" star Ellen
4. ____ Jima
5. Substitute teacher, e.g.
6. Bravery in battle
7. Latin for "I believe"
8. Thwack
9. Suffix with real or surreal
10. "____-wee's Big Adventure"
11. Blended beverage
12. Lynn and Lynch
13. Machine part
18. Tarzan creator's monogram
22. Strong throw, in baseball

- slang
24. Law enforcement, slangily
26. Depression follower, for short
27. "Super cool"
28. Sharp, like a cold wind
29. French fashion monogram
31. Sleep around
34. Trans rights or climate change
35. Their workers go to blazes, for short
37. "Sorry, no can do"
38. Frozen treat brand with Sir Isaac Lime and Little Orphan Orange flavors
39. Thought-provoking

40. Field mouse
41. The Golden Arches, on stock tickers
45. Figs. on a scoreboard
47. Natural
48. Eve who wrote "The Vagina Monologues"
49. Singer who won 36 Tejano Music Awards
51. Breezes (through)
52. "Color me impressed!"
53. Teriyaki sauce base
57. Alternative to FedEx
59. Soldiers at USO shows
60. Opponent
61. Part of ETA: Abbr.
62. [I'm a goat!]
63. Uni- + bi-

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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

Suspicious Confirmed

— Amou Haji, 94, of Dezhgah, Iran, also known as the World's Dirtiest Man, refused to bathe for more than 60 years because he was afraid doing so would make him sick, Fox News reported. Apparently, he was right: For the first time, "villagers had recently taken him to a bathroom to wash," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. "Not long after, he fell ill and finally ... he gave up his life," the report went on. Haji had no family, but villagers had built him a cinder-block dwelling for shelter on the outskirts of town.

Backtrack

— The state of Maine is walking back a 2015 decision to eliminate its review process for vanity license plates, the Associated Press reported on Oct. 27. Secretary of State Shenna Bellows has called the resulting vulgarities the "wild wild West," with about 400 offensive plates being subject to recall. "What I would say to those who want to engage in objectionable or questionable speech: Get a bumper sticker," she said. Because the plates are technically the property of the state, new rules to stifle the nasty messages can be enforced, she said. Recall letters began hitting mailboxes this month.

Nightmare Scenario

— A woman known as Jahrah, 54, who worked at a rubber plantation on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, lost her life at work on Oct. 23 after being swallowed by a 22-foot-long python, the *Guardian* re-

ported. Her husband reported her missing when she didn't return home from work; while searching for her, he found her sandals, headscarf, jacket and tools. Authorities caught a python that had been spotted nearby and found Jahrah's body in the snake's stomach, the local police chief said.

Everyone Needs a Hobby

— Rosie Grant, 33, of Takoma Park, Maryland, stumbled upon a new hobby while finishing an internship at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., a year ago, *The Washington Post* reported. Her studies revealed her own interest in cemeteries, and she found social media threads of other taphophiles like her. On one of those, Grant noticed a list of ingredients engraved on a headstone in Brooklyn, New York, and thought she'd give the spritz cookies a try. Naomi Odessa Miller-Dawson's recipe didn't include instructions, but even so, Grant said the results were heavenly. "Cooking these recipes has shown me an alternative side to death," Grant said. "What a cool gift (Miller-Dawson) put on her gravestone." Grant has found other gravestone recipes -- several in the U.S. and two in Israel, all from women.

It's a Mystery

— A huge, hollow metal object sat by the side of the road in New Brunswick, Canada, for weeks, and no one seemed to know what it was or how it got there, the CBC reported on Oct. 21. Finally, the New Brunswick Department of Transportation had it hauled away. Canadian Forces spokesper-

son Jamie Donovan said it likely is not connected to the military, and the DOT won't claim it, either. Lying on its side, it's about 10 feet tall and has a concrete base and a hatch. "At this point it really is a mystery we are looking into," said Alycia Bartlett of the DOT.

Compelling Explanation

— An unnamed 64-year-old woman in Gastonia, North Carolina, was charged for firing a gun within city limits on Oct. 24 after officers arrived to find her shooting at Mountain Dew cans in her backyard. Why? She told officers that she didn't approve of her father drinking the soda, Fox News reported. "We totally understand that not everybody is a fan of the Dew but we can't stress enough how dangerous this is!" Gastonia police posted on their Facebook page.

It's Come to This

— The town of Llandudno in Wales has resorted to setting up a task force to address one of its most pressing problems, *Metro News* reported: marauding goats. The Kashmini mountain goats, which normally reside on the Great Orme headland near the town, got bold during the pandemic -- moving into the community, eating hedges, sleeping in bus shelters and mixing it up in the supermarket parking lot. The new task force's main goal is protecting the animals from injury or death. "We should be very proud to have these wonderful animals on our doorstep," said councillor Geoff Stew-

art. The goats are descendants of those presented to the town by Queen Victoria about 100 years ago.

Oh, the Humanity

— Marlies Gross of Fountain, Colorado, was trapped in her home on Oct. 22 -- not by a menacing bear or a snowstorm, but by tumbleweeds that surrounded her house after a windstorm. "Horrible! Look at that from the deck!" Gross told KRDO-TV. "I opened the front door and ... it was full of tumbleweeds." When she tried to drive away, she said, "I almost ran into the neighbor's fence because I didn't know where I was. You know, you feel helpless. I thought it was a bad dream. I don't know what we're going to do, how we get rid of those tumbleweeds. Oh, it's horrible."

Bright Idea

— An outgoing state representative from Pennsylvania who earned a DUI arrest after a crash in June has proposed a bill that would allow residents to register for a self-imposed ban on alcohol purchases, Action 4 News reported. Matthew Dowling said the law would add "another tool to an addict or alcoholic's arsenal to help them live through recovery." He doesn't expect the measure to pass before he leaves office, he said, but hopes his colleagues will move it through in the future.

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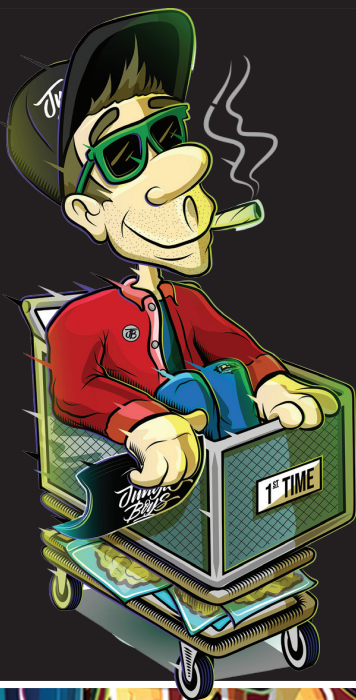
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