# VOL. 47 | NO. 51 | DECEMBER 15, 2022 San Diego's Fentanyl flood



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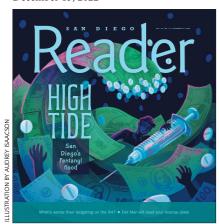
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## **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

By Reader stringers

ON THE ROAD

#### Served up on a plate Del Mar because latest city to fight

crime one pic at a time

Del Mar will be the next city after Encinitas to install automated license plate recognition cameras — equipment that has sparked privacy concerns in other cities. The Del Mar city council has authorized the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to purchase and install the cameras on traffic signals at five locations, at a cost of \$28,790 for three years. By using the license plate and vehicle recognition technology to track driver's cars randomly, police can glean data such as time, date, and location, and automatically compare the plate to a list of vehicles for which they are searching. "The data allows our deputies in the field to investigate serious crimes," such as homicide, burglary and child abduction, Lieutenant Christopher Lawrence said.

According to an analysis in 2022, approxi-



The freedom of the open road just got a little...less free

mately half of suspects arrested in the city for serious offenses by the Sheriff's Department did not live in Del Mar. And only 13 percent of stolen vehicles were recovered in the city, a rate that city staff said would be greatly improved by using license plate cameras, because the system is always active and gives live alerts. As Lawrence explained, if a stolen vehicle were to drive by a camera, an alert would be sent to the dispatch center. He also noted that in order to avoid a false positive, a deputy would compare the photo to other data.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has identified several busy Del Mar intersections as the best candidates for "crime reduction and successful prosecution of individuals committing crime within the city." One camera will be installed at each location: northbound Camino Del Mar/Del Mar Heights Rd; westbound 4th St/Camino Del Mar; westbound Via De La Valle/Jimmy Durante Blvd; southbound Jimmy Durante Blvd/Via De La Valle; and southbound Camino Del Mar/Via De La Valle.

Immigration and privacy rights groups have complained about a lack of transparency surrounding the expanding system. In Chula Vista, critics of the cameras have called for their removal. After a news investigation found that drivers' data was

> being shared outside California, a violation of state law, Carlsbad and Coronado changed their polices. Seemingly mindful of these concerns, council members asked how

the data would be used. Lawrence emphasized that data collection is limited to open criminal investigations, and that the information couldn't be used to support, say, red light cameras or speeding — unless the city wants to look into that. Further, after 90 days, the data is discarded.

"My concern is about privacy," said council member Worden. "Are the readings public record?" Lawrence replied that the data doesn't indicate who is the driver — that's not collected. A request can be made for public records, "but we've successfully defended these due to privacy," he added. "We don't want anyone's rights violated. We are making information available to investigators."

The councilman then asked if a burglary were to occur at someone's address, and their car happened to be driving by, would they be contacted as a potential suspect? Replied Lawrence, "That's where the job of detectives comes in."

SHELLA PELL



Happily, the driver suffered only a minor cut to his hand.

ON THE ROAD

#### **Brake check leads to** car wreck

#### Road rage can strike from before and behind

Raul Estefania was driving eastbound along the 94 a little after 2:30 pm on November 16 when he saw a black Scion tC sitting upside down on the side of the freeway. Just minutes before, he said, "The car in front of [the Scion] brake checked them. A car just doesn't randomly [brake] check you for no reason. Maybe the guy in front of him cut him off, which made the [Scion] driver mad, and he started tailgating him," Estefania guessed. "That then caused the brake check. Then dude lost control of his car and flipped the car over."

Others who saw the accident scene, posted online by on 619NewsMedia, shared Estefania's suspicions. But a few commenters gave the Scion driver the benefit of the doubt, and argued that he was innocent.

It's true that some drivers, without malice or forethought, simply panic and slam on the brakes. That's what happened to Louis Farris last year. Farris, a local BMW customizer, was driving his heavily modified pink BMW in town when an "elderly man in his 70s got scared merging lanes and [suddenly] stomped on his brakes." Farris rear-ended the older driver, and his Pink Panther was totaled. "He admitted fault and was extremely sorry and afraid," Farris said. But while there is no police report on the Scion flip yet, 619 News

Media, one of the first on the scene, reported that this does not seem to be the case here: "According to the driver, he was 'brake checked' by another driver and swerved to avoid the accident. The driver hit a traffic sign and rolled onto an embankment. The driver suffered a minor cut to his hand and was transported to a nearby hospital."

A driver usually does

a light brake check to warn the driver of the vehicle behind them to back off; the brake lights serve as warning signals. However, some brake checkers get more aggressive and actually slam on the brakes, such that the vehicle behind them either rams into their rear bumper or is forced to swerve out of the way.

Both tailgating and brake checking are illegal forms of driving aggressively, according to a statement from Hunter Gerber of the California Highway Patrol in a FOX5SanDiego.com article last August. The two actions are often "performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for the safety of others and are commonly referred to as road rage." The AAA Foundation's Annual Traffic Safety Report from 2019 stated: "Nearly 80 percent of drivers expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the previous 30 days."

Through the use of in-vehicle cameras — some vehicles are equipped with them as standard factory equipment — people everywhere are exposing both brake checkers and tailgaters. Michael Taveira posted one such video on YouTube in 2019, titled "Brakechecking Lyft driver (San Diego)." The video shows what appears to be a Toyota pulling in front of a car equipped with an onboard camera, slowing down to about five miles per hour, then making a complete stop. The Toyota driver then proceeds forward and turns right on San Dieguito Way.

MIKE MADRIAGA



Louis Farris's BMW

#### **UNDER THE RADAR**

**Spy cams among us** San Diego, a city that for years seemed unaware of the spy cams in its midst, is again being reminded of its ever-present network of surveillance devices. The first exposure came on February 20, 2019, in a *Reader* cover story about the installation — under the administration of Republican thenmayor **Kevin Faulconer** — of covert video and audio monitors on city streetlights. More than three years after that revelation, the city council finally passed a law requiring more public

transparency. "The surveillance oversight ordinance came about after it was made aware that the City of San Diego had smart streetlight cameras, thousands of them, installed all over the city without any education or information to the public," **Homayra Yusufi** of a group called the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans told public broadcaster KPBS after the new law's passage in August of this year.



lic broadcaster KPBS after the new law's passage in August of streetlights, because their deeds were evil.

Now comes the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation, presenting a photographic gallery of border spy devices operated by the U.S. government in a November 29 website post. According to EFF, "The U.S.-Mexico border is one of the most politicized technological spaces in the country, with leaders in both political parties supporting massive spending on border security and the so-called 'Virtual Wall.' Yet we see little debate over the negative impacts for human rights or the civil liberties of those who live in the borderlands." Per the post, "Our goal is not only to ensure there are alternative and open sources of visual information to inform discourse, but to raise awareness of how surveillance is impacting

communities along the border and the hundreds of millions of dollars being sunk into oppressive surveillance technologies." Big Brother technology has saturated the region, according to the findings. "This surveillance tech watches not just the border and people crossing it, but also nearby towns and communities, on both sides, from the air and the ground, and it can track them for miles, whether they're hiking, driving to visit relatives,

or just minding their own business in solitude." Among surveillance mechanisms called out by the report are so-called Autonomous Surveillance Towers from a company "founded by Oculuscreator **Palmer Luckey**." The device "scans the environment with radar to detect movement, orients a camera to the location of the movement detected by the radar, and analyzes the imagery using algorithms to autonomously identify items of interest."

Not everyone is convinced that such surveil-

lance, including the now mostly defunct set of controversial San Diego streetlight spy cams, is deleterious. "The Smart Streetlight technology is non-discriminatory," argued the San Diego County Grand Jury in a June 23, 2022, report, citing a rise in crime requiring better police responses. "Smart Streetlights take photos/video on a 24/7 basis with stationary cameras. The technology records images in a stationary field of view. It is not maneuvered by a person, is not monitored, and is not used to surveille [sic] citi-

zen activity."

While those conclusions remain in dispute, the Grand Jury's summation of the surveillance program's costs is more widely accepted. "Smart Streetlights were purchased with a \$30.23 million dollar loan from [General Electric]. The City of San Diego continues to pay \$2.3 million dollars per year on this loan," the findings say. "The savings from reduced energy use

was to cover this loan payment,

but the savings never materialized because not all Smart Streetlights were ever installed. This loan was executed on December 13, 2016. It dedicated \$11 million dollars to Smart Streetlights sensors. Ongoing costs continue, and additional capital will be needed to upgrade the devices as they have not been used for over 18 months." Adds the report, "In the February 12, 2020, memorandum from City management, it is noted that only estimates for the additional costs can be stated since no Requests for Proposals for these contracts can be issued to restart services."

#### Iranian American move-in

There's a lot of money to be made from teeth,





Amir Neshat knows there's gold in them thar molars.

news release, Neshat "purchased a small dental insurance company based in California with a few hundred members, with the goal of improving health outcomes for its members and local communities. As of 2021, Liberty administered to approximately 5.7 million members in all 50 states, with the expectation to surpass well over 6 million members in 2022. "We grew organically," reflected Dr. Neshat." According to the *U-T*'s account of the Bullock deal, "the massive property *continued on page 35* 



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#### **LETTERS**

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

#### Off on office

Again, Siobhan Braun needs a fact checker. In her article "Anti-Social Contagion," she twice refers to Amy Reichert running for City Commissioner against Nathan Fletcher. The office that they were running for is actually District 4, County Supervisor. City Commissioner position was not on the ballot because it does not exist. Fletcher trounced Reichert with almost 65% of the vote. Thank you.

Anonymous

Editor replies: Thank you for your careful reading. The Reader regrets the error.



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

#### "Anti-Social Contagion" Cover story, December 8, 2022

I firmly believe the local politicians were responsible for the great division across the county. Suddenly these politicians (who have trouble deciding whether they are Dems, independents or GOP) anoint themselves as medical science experts and start tossing derogatory names at those that don't fall in line behind them.

In their infinite wisdom they closed the beaches, then opened them again but you couldn't play on the beaches.

Their arrogant smirks and comments while they close all the meetings to the public just put themselves higher on their pedestals never to return to the level of us mere mortals. They shut down the public comments at their meetings because they don't want to hear what the public wants to tell them. This public comment time isn't coming back, they'll never give up what they stole from us. Now they avoid all public contact unless its a photo op or a ribbon cutting. You can only send an email or leave a message with an assistant.

This attitude has created an us vs them divide which will be tough to overcome. The only way to overcome it is to replace them but look at the last election, they all got reelected. We're headed down the rabbit hole pretty fact.

Anonymous, December9, 2022

Sadly, Covid changed the world forever. And not for the better.

— Socks3742, December 8, 2022

#### "The Mira Mesa library security guard's tale December 7, 2022

I am sorry to hear what happened to this gentleman. They should've supplied him with something for self defense. I am glad to hear that some people take their

job serious and do their job. Nowadays people don't care until something bad happens then starts to point fingers. This gentleman should be rewarded and made sure he receives the help needed.

- Anonymous, December 8, 2022

Libraries are day care. Centers for the homeless.

- Anonymous, December 9, 2022

If it gets out of hand, call the police and let them handle it. Walk away before it escalates. – Anonymous, December 10, 2022

#### "Del Mar next for license plate readers" Neighborhood News December 6, 2022

The councilman asked if a burglary were to occur at someone's address, and their car happened to be driving by, would they be contacted as a potential suspect?

Lieutenant Christopher Lawrence said. "That's where the job of detectives comes in,"

Another BS answer meaning YES, police will be knocking at your door for sure.

– Anonymous, December 8, 2022

Another left wing anti police comment... probably afraid of getting caught.

- Anonymous, December 8, 2022

Sooo... you are left wing if you value your privacy and don't think the Fourth Amendment is a joke? How the Constitutional Pendulum has swung!

- Anonymous, December 9, 2022

#### "Mother charged on Nardo Street in Solana Beach" Neighborhood News January 13, 2021

This case was sent for trial to Honorable judge Robert Kearney, in Dept 20 of the Vista courthouse in North San Diego County. Jury selection is set to begin on Monday, December 5, 2022.

– Eva Knott, November 30, 2022

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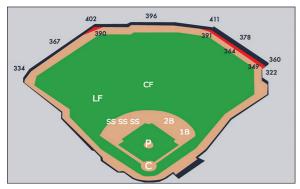
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# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news



Statz: "You ever read Moneyball? The numbers don't lie."

## **Padremetrics**

## Stats confirm wisdom of Xander Bogaerts acquisition

"Yeah, we've already got Ha-Seong Kim at short," acknowledges Padres game-analysis guru Sam Statz when asked about the Padres' offseason spending spree. "And yeah, when [Fernando] Tatis gets back from suspension, we'll have two shortstops. And yeah, now that we've picked up [Xander] Bogaerts, we've got one, two, count 'em, three shortstops. What of it? We didn't go to the NLCS this year by playing the way we've always played.

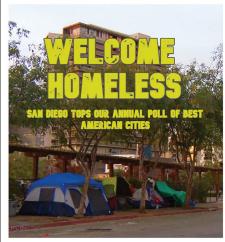
And we're not going to get to the World Series next year by playing the way anyone's always played. Are we going to give up a certain number of hits by going without a right fielder and third baseman? You be we are. But I've crunched the numbers into a fine powder, then snorted that powder and crunched them again but harder this time, and I'm here to tell you: whatever we give up is going to be nothing compared to what we gain. This is how we win."

## 32? Says Who?

#### Resonance Consultancy ranking for San Diego leaves out key demographic

Earlier this month, Resonance Consultancy released its highly regarded list of the 100 World's Best Cities in which to live. It's no surprise that San Diego made the list, but it was a surprise to see where they ranked: way down at number 32, behind America's nightmarish New York (3), hellish Los Angeles (12), and even its great urban failure, San Francisco, which came in at number 14 despite filthy streets, rampant crime, and repugnant tech bros. And while the low number was certainly shocking to the fortunate few who can afford to live here, it was even more surprising to a demographic that can't afford not to: our growing homeless population. "The people at Resonance should take a look at the latest issue of Hobo Magazine," suggested Randy Curbside, spokesman for Streetsleep, a homeless-lifestyle advocacy group. "To quote from their writeup on America's Finest City, 'San Diego offers a simply unbeatable combination of broad sidewalks, undeveloped urban spaces, warm sunny days, relatively mild evenings, sympathetic progressive political authorities, a rapidly dwindling police population, and a conflict-averse population. As long as you're not looking to buy a home or rent and apartment, this is truly the best place to live in all the land."

## hobo magazine



Maybe Resonance just wasn't paying a-tent-tion to the right metrics.

## **Diver\$ity & Inclu\$ion at UCSD**

Striking students demand "equal pay for equal work" following former prof's TikTok

In a TikTok video that recently went viral after being featured on the LibsOfTikTok social media channel, former UCSD instructor Dr. Chandler Purrity, announced that, in an effort

to "decolonize" her classroom, she gave automatic As to students who attended her class, did not give homework, and further, claimed that "my students and I have equal part when it comes to bringing information to the table. We all sit together and share." Purrity has left UCSD since making the video, but her message has resonated with those she left behind, particularly in light of the ongoing strike among the

school's cannon-fodder grad students. "If the professor and the students have equal part in the process, shouldn't they be compensated equally?" asked Sandra Grievance, a graduate student in Oppressed Populations the university. "And if this isn't just an educational



Incidentally, the cat is also named Professor Purrity.

#### VIIIO PLAYS WIIIO

## PADRES ACQUISITION EDITION



In Kicking and Screaming, **Chris Eigeman** warns another character about how dirty money is.



The Padres offered

Trea Turner

millions more than the

Phillies, but Turner

headed east anyway.



In Skyfall, Javier Bardem played a super-villain who could access vast sums of money at will thanks to his skills.



The Padres were unable to land **Aaron Judge**, who just became the highest paid position player in Major League



In *Gringo*, **David Oyelowo** is sent to Mexico by his employers, where he gets involved with in a crazy scheme with millions on the line.



The Padres, who already have two shortstops on the roster, just spent \$280 million to acquire shortstop **Xander Bogaerts**.

quirk, but a genuine attempt at decolonization, then shouldn't a school that proclaims in its Twitter bio, 'Our most cherished tradition is challenging tradition' be following suit? Or is the number 29 university in the world more interested in money than justice?"

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#### Starmaker: The Autobiography of Hal Wallis

Hal Wallis and Charles Higham, 1980

WE WERE EQUALLY FORTUNATE with our production of Dive Bomber. The navy encouraged the project and gave us an extraordinary amount of cooperation, including the use of the San Diego Naval Base, PBY5 Consolidated bombers, interceptors, torpedo bombers, aircraft carriers (including the U.S.S. Enterprise), as well as several technical advisers.

The purpose of the picture was to illustrate techniques of training navy pilots, copilots, and navigators, particularly in hazardous night-flying by instruments. We dealt with the danger of high-altitude flying: blacking out when pulling out of dives; nervous problems that developed in intensive combat; and the strain of separation from loved ones at home. In addition, we

wanted to show the considerable might of the San Diego Naval Base and its surrounding installations. With no thought of any warlike attitude on the part of the Japanese, our chief concern was to make the public aware that our country was fully prepared in the event of an attack by Nazi Germany.

We decided to cast Errol Flynn in the role of the naval air force corps surgeon who survives the problems of dive-bombing to become a full-fledged hero. We did not suspect Flynn's unusual enthusiasm and unheard-of interest in shooting on the Enterprise and in the restricted areas of San Diego. Ralph Bellamy and Fred MacMurray were added to the cast, with Robert Lord associate producer and Mike Curtiz directing.

Everything went well at the beginning. I often drove down to San Diego and stayed at the famous old Coronado Hotel where Errol, Ralph, Fred, Bob, and Mike were billeted. It was a happy company, and Mike was in good form.

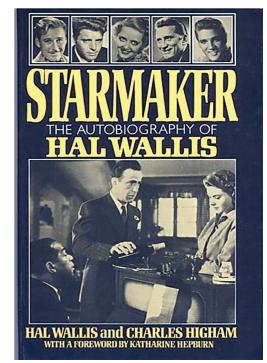
Trouble began in the hotel itself. Errol had a dog with a tendency to misbehave,

like its owner. It would jump up without warning on girls' laps and prove unduly affectionate. When dislodged, it brought the tablecloth to the ground, shattering glassware and dishes. On one occasion it took a bite out of a waiter's leg and he fell to the ground, carrying a heavy tray with him. On another occasion, when Adolph Spreckels, the San Francisco sugar tycoon, picked on Errol, calling him "a fairy," the two got into a fistfight that ended up with Errol decking his opponent.

Worse trouble came on the U.S.S. Enterprise, that very famous aircraft carrier from which we catapulted planes in some of our more spectacular sequences. Mike Curtiz, who seemed to think he was secretary of the navy, screamed at the admiral (in front of his men lined up on deck in white uniforms),

"The ship's smoke is going in the wrong direction!"

The admiral became very red in the face. He said icily, "And what, Mr. Curtiz, do you continued on page 35



"The detailed shots of the Enterprise, the shots of the naval installations at San Diego, and the techniques of catapulting planes used by our navy unhappily proved of great interest to the Japanese."



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# HIGH TIDE



## San Diego's Fentanyl flood

**"FUCK FENTANYL"** — a slogan you may have seen on a T-shirt or hoodie around San Diego of late. Or perhaps you've spotted it on social media: local designer Luis Romero posts shots of his work adorning a broad range of bodies on Instagram (@fuckfentanylsandiego) and elsewhere. Most of the shots are of

individuals modeling the merch, but some are of groups, all sporting the slogan, standing in solidarity. This isn't the lone bleat of "Speed Kills" that got sprayed onto walls back in the '60s. This is an in-your-face, communal, street-level response to an escalating epidemic. Romero started making the shirts "four

or five years ago when three of my friends died, all within a month of each other." And of course, Romero is not alone — especially here in San Diego. According to a United States Department of Justice report dated August 12, 2022, Fentanyl seizures in San Diego land ports and cities accounted for approximately

5000 pounds of the drug between October 2021 and June 2022 — over half of the national total in the same time period. The frequency and quantity of these apprehensions prompted the Department of Justice to identify America's Finest City as a "trafficking epicenter."

Keeping two and a half tons of fentanyl from reaching the streets is an accomplishment, but it isn't even close to a solution. "We're having record numbers of seizures, but we have more coming in," says Dr. Roneet Lev, who works in the emergency room at Scripps Hospital, and is also the former Chief Medical Officer of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and former chair of the San Diego Prescription Drug Abuse Medical Task Force. She tells me that the medical examiner reports an average of 2.5 deaths per day in San Diego from fentanyl overdoses.

Fentanyl is not a new drug; the opioid, up to 100 times more powerful than morphine, was created in 1959 for use in surgical procedures. The abuse of fentanyl is also not new; there is historically a high rate of occurrence among those who have easy access to it: people in the medical profession. Peter Tharp is an RN who used the liquid form of fentanyl until NCIS investigated him and he got clean. He tells me, "Dilaudid was kind of the sweet spot. And when I couldn't get my hands on the Dilaudid, I needed to stay well, so I got the fentanyl. Injectable was pretty much the only type I could steal. A patch is harder to steal, because if I pull it out of the machine, I've got to



Narcan signs at East Region Public Health Center on Magnolia in El Cajon.

give it to the patient. You can't cut the patch in half and take half the patch. Whereas with the [liquid] fentanyl, very rarely is the patient going to necessitate that whole vial. The rest is supposed to be documented and wasted. I got wasted instead." Courtney Roebuck, a Substance Use Disorder Counselor at Action East, is a for-

mer opiate/opioid user who was active in her addiction when the heroin supply started being spiked with fentanyl. "I remember calling someone and saying, 'This seems a little light." Here, she's referring to the color; heroin is typically brown. "I'd call someone, and they would tell me just do way less than what I was doing,

and I would and I never felt it was enough." It's even been linked to overdoses before: in the DOJ report that named San Diego an epicenter, U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman stated, "A decade ago, we didn't even know about fentanyl, and now it's a national crisis." But that isn't quite true: the fentanyl analog alpha-methylfentanyl — known as China White — started killing heroin users in the late '70s. Eventually, enough analogs were being produced that the government implemented the Federal Analog Act in an effort to control them all together instead of going after each one individually. The difference now is in who's dying, and how many. (During the interviews that informed this article, I heard several variations of, "We've been dying for fucking years, and now you give a shit because it affects the 'good' people?")

How did we get here? Sadly enough, it may have started with good intentions. As Dr. Reuben Farris, president of the Scripps Physicians' Group, explains, "Twenty-five years ago there, was this big move in medicine to be sensitive to pain. 'Pain is the



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fifth vital sign.' 'You need to be more in tune with people's pain.' 'Don't be afraid to treat them with pain medicines.' In California, we had to get 25 hours of continuing education in recognizing and treating pain. Then the OxyContin people marketed to us and fed us this whole lot of research that was not accurate about short-acting and long-acting, all on the coattails of 'You gotta treat pain."

But then people started dying from opioid overdoses. It wasn't like heroin in the 19th century, which was considered a wonder drug until doctors started noticing its negative effects on their patients and stopped prescribing it. Now, you had the drugmakers assuring the Food and Drug Administration that their product was safe, and the FDA absolutely fumbling



Marc Stevenson. a social worker and therapist. acknowledges that building a culture that helps people to avoid using and remove suppliers will not be an easy task.

the regulatory ball, until the problem became too big to ignore. At that point, according to Dr. Farris, "We swung from 'You're asshole doctors because you're not treating pain' to 'You're heartless doctors who are killing people."

He found himself in a difficult position. "At this point in my life, I'm doing primary care medicine and dealing with a lot of chronic pain patients. And a lot of the primary care physicians are kind of hung out in no-man's-land... There are pain management doctors, but most of those are guys that do injections and procedures for controlling pain, which are very lucrative, and they want to do things that they don't have to spend a lot of time and energy on, and go to the high income procedures. In my case, I see patients that have been on this stable dose of hydrocodone for 15 years, and at the same time, I feel the government looking over my shoulder and saying, 'You're prescribing narcotics to these people? You're a bad doctor.' Give me an alternative! Give them an alternative!"

As the crisis entered the public consciousness, painkiller prescriptions became harder to come by, and drug dealers exploited the situation by making heroin — a once-taboo drug — both easier to get and, eventually, cheaper. Cheaper because it started getting stretched with fentanyl. Opiates such as morphine and heroin are derived from the natural source of certain poppy plants. Opioids, on the other hand, are made in a laboratory. The profit margin is huge: as of 2017, fentanyl could be created for two-thirds of the price for manufacturing the same amount of heroin, and sold for twice as much in its pure form. (The profit rises even further when a tiny quantity of it is made into pill form and sold on the black market, or put in other drugs to stretch the supply.) And the systematic addition of fentanyl has led us to the present day, in which heroin is scarce and opioid addicts are knowingly using straight fentanyl.

that anyone would want to deal in such a deadly product, one that can prove lethal on its first use, and in minute quantities. Why kill your customers? But paradoxically, when it comes to opioids, overdoses are the ultimate advertisement. They indicate a potent batch — "the good shit." The increase in sales that comes from the bump in reputation more than replaces the nonreturning customers. Fentanyl also helps even when it's not an advertised ingredient. Pandemic lockdowns fed the demand for drugs, especially among high school students who wanted to experiment. And many

It may seem strange



"We're having record numbers of seizures, but we have more coming in," says Dr. Roneet Lev, who works in the emergency room at Scripps Hospital.

of them wound up purchasing counterfeit prescription painkillers from social media contacts, counterfeit painkillers that contained fentanyl. Further, fentlaced meth goes further and is more addictive than the straight stuff, turning good meth customers into great ones. Until they die, anyway.

I have been clean for 36 years; when I was using, my drug of choice was methamphetamine. At first, the thought of fent-laced meth, downer mixed with upper, seemed almost offensive: during my using days, selling me meth that made me fall asleep would have resulted in an ass beating when I woke up. But it was explained to me by other former users that the initial physiological response to the combination was a typical amphetamine high, followed by a "nodding out" as the fentanyl took over. Some users found that they enjoyed the combination — it was akin to the effect of the cocaine-and-morphine speedballs that killed comedian Chris Farley, among others. And some users, unaware there was fentanyl present, simply felt an unexplainable craving to repeat the drug use. They became physically addicted.

A word about addiction: I identify as an addict because of my modality of recovery. Even after decades without drugs, I still see my obsessions latch onto things that can be damaging, damaging because they throw me out of balance. Some people say my condition is genetic, that I have a predisposition, and my alcoholic father and my mother who died from cirrhosis because of pills probably lend credence to



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that claim. All I know is that when I think a cold beer looks good on a hot day, I play the tape through and realize that I will eventually need meth to keep drinking longer, and acid for day four of being up because the hallucinations have already started, and it will enhance the trip. My detox from methamphetamine was unpleasant, and was characterized by never feeling rested enough, a massive appetite that resulted in vomiting and diarrhea, plus paranoia and depression. But as horrible as it was, my hair never hurt, and my muscles didn't contract me into a fetal position - common symptoms for opiate/opioid users when they don't get their fix. I didn't get sick from not having meth, because I wasn't physically addicted. Opiates and opioids cause a dependence, an addiction in the medical sense, such that even people with no predispositions to substance abuse find themselves in serious physical need.

And people respond to serious physical need. Counselor Roebuck wonders how she is supposed



Peter Tharp is an RN who used the liquid form of fentanyl until NCIS investigated him and he got clean.

to help her clients when she has lost family members who proved beyond her reach. Dr. Lev relates a story about a man who overdosed nine times. Committed, she stayed late and pulled some strings to get the patient into treatment. He left anyway.

Suppliers respond to need as well. Marc Stevenson, a social worker and therapist, has worked in social services for over 20 years. For the last 17, he has been focused on San Diego's homeless population at Father Joe's Village. He's also been in recovery for three decades. "I feel like where they're at, they are definitely a target," he told me. "They have general relief money, they have social security money, disability, that type of thing. You can believe that market is getting tapped into. The goal of working with the homeless, of course, is to get them into permanent housing. But permanent housing has become an awesome way for drug dealers to know exactly where everybody is. They're wiggling their way in, giving somebody some drugs so that they let them into their apartment, so they have a base station. Sometimes they'll take over the apartment, maybe to the point of threatening them if they try to do anything about it. They're in these buildings now, and able to sell when people get their checks."

Stevenson acknowledges that building a culture that helps people to avoid using and remove suppliers will not be an easy task. For now, "A lot of these places have the tenants come down and sign guests in and sign them out at night. These are people that have a lease, just like any other human being. A lot of it ends up being put back on the tenants, which is a shame. I don't have a solution to that."

What's to be done? There are tools available to reduce exposure and, such as test strips to detect fentanyl in other drugs. These are accessible through Harm Reduction Coalition On Point (hrcsd.org) and The Safe Point through Family Health Centers of San Diego. But the Center for Disease Control's instructions — to throw the drugs away if fen-

tanyl is detected — were met with laughter from the over 100 addicts I've talked to about them. Consider: an addict goes through a process to obtain drugs, a process that can include anything from the simple risk of getting arrested to exchanging sex for dope. Then the addict tests their drugs and finds an undisclosed amount of fentanyl. The addict is an addict — quite possibly physically sick from withdrawal, or maddened by the fear of it, and is supposed to toss their drugs in the garbage? The laughter is more understandable now. Besides, in my experience, scare tactics have never worked with either addicts or young people. Addicts know that death and depravity are part of using, and many of us would rather be dead before we get



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clean, anyway. Young people, meanwhile, have always thought they were invincible, and it is in their job description to be rebellious and say "fuck authority."

Another tool is Naloxone, sold under the brand name Narcan, which reverses the effect of opioid overdose. Naloxone is considered a form of "harm reduction," and is available for free at County Public Health sites and through other modes of community distribution. (There has been a movement to install vending machines around the county, but the only one I was able to easily locate was at the Live and Let Live Alano Club, which is now closed due to lack of funding.) I walked into the El Cajon office and walked out in under ten minutes with two doses and instructions, no questions asked. But Nurse Tharp loses his usual laid back and logical demeanor when I ask if "harm reduction" is the right term for the stuff. "What could be more harm reduction than saving someone's life?" he spits. "If we are going to take that stance, let's remove all the AEDs" — automatic external defibrillators, used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. "I didn't tell you to eat that cheeseburger, right?"

Still, I get what they're getting at with the term. Part of harm reduction involves using in pairs, with one person ready to administer Narcan at signs of overdose. However, addicts that have "been Narcaned" by a friend or using partner often report taking only a brief break (days or hours) before resuming using, instead of following instructions to seek medical attention post-overdose. And while Narcan is without a doubt an indispensable lifesaver, it will not reverse the long-term effects of an overdose, which can include permanent brain damage. Narcan can also give a false sense of security — it may take multiple doses to be effective. It's an is emergency intervention, not longterm harm reduction.

For his part, Stevenson says there needs to be a change in what we mean by the term. "I'm a firm believer that harm



Klea Melville of community advocacy group Doll Face Club has used profits from her clothing line and fundraisers to finance a documentary on fentanyl titled Nobody Plans On Dying which she hopes to get into schools.

reduction is not cleaning a needle," he explains. "It's a way you're with someone, teaching them all the things that are important to us in recovery even while they are still using. It's got to be a process; it's got to be a technique, and people have got to be really good at being able to deliver it. It should be a language. We've got to have some kind of new way of life, even if they're still using. Otherwise, it's just the same thing."

Historically, addicts seek treatment after "hitting bottom," the point at

which bad things happen more quickly than we can lower our standards to make them acceptable. Interventions by family and professionals can help hasten the move to treatment, or at least give an addict reason to pause in their using. Courts have also aided the process by ordering treatment of some sort when drug offences are filed. But because it can be lethal after just one use, fentanyl doesn't always allow for a bottom, and addicts who manage to stay alive long enough to want to kick fentanyl are not always offered inpatient detox. Instead, they told me, they are given Suboxone, a drug replacement that eases withdrawal symptoms, and are instructed not to take it for 24-48 hours after their last use. Then they are sent back to wherever they came from — with no support — and become even

After I got clean in 1986, I helped others do "home detoxes" for opiate addicts; our tools were a couch to sleep on, a bucket to puke and (if necessary) shit in, and a mop to clean up your mess, because personal responsibility starts now. We worked in shifts of at least two, and I am still

more vulnerable to the

predatory dealers who

can offer them relief.



Courtney Roebuck, a Substance Use Disorder Counselor at Action East, is a former opiate/opioid user who was active in her addiction when the heroin supply started being spiked with fentanyl.

haunted by the sight of those withdrawals. Fear or lack of money kept people from going to professionals, and even if they did go, those professionals would often just give methadone, extending the addicts' detox. We were desperate, and we were also misinformed: we'd been told that opiate/opioid withdrawals wouldn't kill you; they'd just make you feel like you were dying. But basic science says that when an emaciated person experiences vomiting and diarrhea - which is a guarantee — potassium and sodium balance can be thrown off, and the chances of a heart attack increase. Professionally supervised detox is vital to the addict's chances for survival and success.

But that takes money, and it's hard to see where the money will come from. When it comes to fentanyl, it seems that whenever I try to follow the money — whether toward those who push it or those who push back — I find the stench of failure and death.

After over 30 years clean, I still get emotionally affected when someone dies. I will never get used to seeing a selfie taken by someone I know show up a few days later on social media alongside a message that they are dead. I know that if I don't use, I won't overdose, so it can be easy to parrot the "Don't get high, you won't die" rhetoric. But I remember how fucking hard it was to get that first day clean. To this day, the threat of death doesn't deter me; it's the fear of living like I was. The recovery community is a tight knit one;we know each other either by personal interaction or by minimal degrees of separation, and we all have the same basic story. People I love are still using and at risk, and it's brutal to learn that someone I watched struggle to get clean — then saw build a life and replace a scowl with a smile that only a cell level gratitude can bring — used one last time, and will never have

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It's natural to be sad, angry and frustrated. But cynical? Nah, that's for poseurs who are too lazy to do anything because they have decided nothing changes, anyway. It's not "hardcore." It's cowardice. I remember a nurse who trained me to provide services to people with developmental disabiltiies, responding to my list of problems and barriers I had encountered. She asked a simple question: "So, do we stop trying?" My answer came out of my mouth with no conscious thought: "Fuck no, we fight." My answer has remained the same for years.

I'll tell you what we don't need: misinformation and panic. The dangers are real enough; there is no need to exaggerate them. In August of 2021, the San Diego Sheriff's Department uploaded a video to You-Tube showing a trainee supposedly succumbing to fentanyl simply by breathing in proximity to the drug. The video received over 80,000 views and remains up, despite a study by Cambridge University Press



Bre Owens is a case manager who often works with co-occurring disorders.

which actually placed fentanyl on a subject's hand in a controlled setting and recorded no reaction and no fentanyl in the subject's bloodstream. As Savannah O'Neil of the National Harm Reduction Coalition writes: "We have been here before: In the late 1980s, doctors refused to treat HIV patients out of fear of contracting the disease, even once they knew contagion via casual contact was impossible." The potential ramifications are sobering: imagine a first responder pausing out of fear before treating an overdose victim, with lethal results coming from that delay in treatment. Other rumors abound: fent-laced weed. fentanyl being marketed to children. But drug dealers are businessmen; clean weed is legal, and kids make lousy customers.

More productive

responses: Klea Melville of the community advocacy group Doll Face Club has used profits from her clothing line and fundraisers to finance a documentary on fentanyl titled *Nobody Plans On Dying* which she hopes to get into schools. "We've got to reach the kids and let them know that you can be cool and have fun without doing drugs" she says. "I never responded to D.A.R.E. because they were cops, and in my neighborhood, we didn't talk to cops." Whether the documentary gets shown in schools or not, on October 11, 2022, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously mandated fentanyl education and Narcan in schools. And the San Diego Sherriff's Department followed a recommendation by the Citizen's Law Enforcement

Review Board to make naloxone readily available in jails, following multiple overdoses.

Romero's "Fuck Fentanyl" clothing starts conversations and raises awareness. He also uses profits from his promotions as donations to fentanyl awareness causes. Dr. Lev interfaces with agencies such as the DEA and does what she refers to as "mythbusting" by providing accurate information based on evidence. In addition, she wrote a law: SB864, which will require all hospitals in California to require fentanyl testing beginning in January 2023 as a result of studies that began in San Diego. She also hosts a podcast called "High Truths" to disseminate information. Nurse Tharp continues to share his story of chemical abuse with his fellow nurses, urging

the component he feels is missing from nursing schools; self-care to decrease the urge to selfmedicate due to burnout associated with the job. And then there are the people whose path is being formed as we speak, people like Bre Owens, a case manager who often works with cooccurring disorders. She is looking to do her own work — "trauma coaching outside of this broke ass system." She also uses social media to spread her message: she has a TikTok channel titled "Spirtually Shitty" that is evolving into a podcast.

So, there is hope. We can fight this battle by communicating honestly and uniting for a common good. And most of all, by following through on the plans we have made to help others before it's too late.

— Spike Steffenhagen





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#### Calendar

## AND WELCOME TO IT

#### Friday | 16

AMON AMARTH AND CATTLE DECAPITATION



Swedish heavy metal heroes Amon Amarth's album The Great Heathen Army was released in August. The band is touring with local hardcore stars Cattle Decapitation, who recently debuted a new song called "We Eat Our Young," from a forthcoming fulllength that they've been previewing on stage. The tour's penultimate date includes Carcass and Obituary.

WHEN: Friday, December 16, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Soma, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Midway District. somasandiego.com

#### THE FESTIVE FOREST

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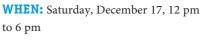
WHEN: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Through Saturday, December

WHERE: Banner Ranch Julian, 36342 Highway 78, Julian.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: NUTCRACKER TEA PARTY

WHEN: Saturday, December 17, 6 pm to 9:30 pm

WHERE: San Diego Model Railroad Museum. 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. sdmrm.org/alesnrails

#### Sunday | 18

#### **NUTCRACKER TEA PARTY**

Take in a family-friendly, narrated performance of The Nutcracker by San Diego Ballet, and enjoy treats and a hot chocolate bar, and photo opportunities

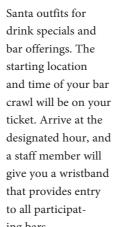
> with Santa. Following the performance, a member of the Ballet will lead a short. interactive demonstration of basic ballet moves.

WHEN: Sunday, December 18, 11 am and 3 pm **WHERE:** Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Lansing Road, Liberty Station. libertystation.com/ events











**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

Comic Savvy: 10th Anniversary Edition A large library of comic books and graphic novels has just about a little of everything for everyone, so please feel free to peruse stacks. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; free. Little Fish Comic Book Studio, 6822-B El Cajon Boulevard, (ROLANDO)

Federico Trunk Show Author and iewelry artist Federico Iimenez Caballero trunk show. Federico's turquoise and red coral creations have been worn by Christie Brinkley, Ali McGraw and Elle McPherson, Friday, December 16, 11am; Saturday, December 17, 11am: free Bazaar del Mundo, 4133 Taylor Street. (OLD TOWN)

Holiday Craft Fair Mt Miguel High School Foundation Holiday Craft fair will be great place to get those last-minute unique, one-ofa-kind gifts for those people who are hard to shop for on your list. For information Contact JoAnne Burke at 619-469-7350 or email MtMiguelAlumni@gmail.com. Saturday, December 17, 10am; Mount Miguel High School, 8585 Blossom Lane. (SPRING VALLEY)

Merry Grinchmas: The Art of Dr. Seuss The Merry Grinchmas: The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection Returns to to Bring Holiday Grinchy Cheer. Sundays, 10am; through Saturday, December 24, free. Exclusive Collections Gallery Solana Beach, 212 South Cedros Avenue, (SOLANA BEACH)

Mixed Media Art Show: Sewing Is Life Sew Loka Presents: "Sewing Is Life" A Mixed Media Art Show Dedicated to the Sewing Machine Saturday, December 17, 1pm; free. Sew Loka, 2113 Logan Avenue 92113 Barrio Logan

#### BEER

**Crafts & Craft Beers: Beginners** Calligraphy Workshop Calligraphy workshop with holiday ornaments in partnership with Sip & Script. The price includes a beginner's calligraphy kit (two nibs, black ink pot, two letter guides, tracing paper, and straight pen holder) and all materials to write on. Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm; \$65, Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Holiday Market Featuring local vendors, holiday decor, a specialty holiday beer cocktail, and food by URBN. Saturday, December 17, 12pm; free. Pure Project at the Park, 2865 5th Avenue

#### BOOKS

Celebrate Jólabókaflódwith special guest Anna Helfgott Icelanders have a beautiful tradition of giving books to each other on Christmas Eve and then spending the night reading. This custom is so deeply ingrained in the culture that it is the reason for the Jólabókaflód, or the "Christmas Book Flood," when the majority of books in Iceland are sold between September and December in preparation for Christmas giving. Join us Sunday December 18th when we open Warwick's doors EARLY at 9:30am for Icelandic Storytime, traditional hot chocolate and book shopping for everyone on your list! Sunday, December 18, 9:30am; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue.

#### **CHRISTMAS** & HOLIDAY **EVENTS**

Deck the Cars Cars & Coffee See cars of all makes and models while enjoying coffee and donuts courtesy of Donald Sewell from GEICO. Car owners are encouraged to decorate their "sleigh" and Santa will be there to pick his favorite. Sunday, December 18, 7:30am; free. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Elf Jr. The Musical With a cast of more than 50 performers, this musical follows the adventures of Buddy, a very peculiar Elf who found his way from the North Pole to New York City waiting to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. The entrance to the theater parking lot is off of El Cajon Blvd (3733 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego CA 92105). Saturday, December 17, 2pm and 6:30pm; Sunday, December 18, 2pm and 6:30pm; \$20-\$25. Wilson Middle School Theater, 3733 El Cajon Boulevard.

**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 15, 6pm; Friday, December 16, 6pm; Saturday, December 17, 6pm; Sunday, December 18, 6pm; free. Village Walk at EastLake, EastLake

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 15, 4:30pm; Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road.

Craft festive living wreath ornaments at Terra Bella Nursery. Every ticket includes all materials to create three Festive Wreaths, This DIY class is intermediate level and open to all ages. Saturday, December 17, 11:30am; Terra Bella Nursery, 302 Hollister Street. (CHULA VISTA)

Nutcracker Ballet Encinitas Ballet will present this joyful event for all ages to enjoy. The performances will feature nationally acclaimed Ukrainian bandurist Valentin Lysenko accompanied by pianist Alicia Jiang whose graceful touch on the keys will bring the Nutcracker to life. Saturday, December 17, 2pm and 6pm; free-\$38. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive.

**Nutcracker Tea Party** The 5th Annual Nutcracker Tea Party: Locals and visitors are invited to partake in the magic of the holiday season with a family-friendly event encompassing a a narrated performance of The Nutcracker by San Diego Ballet, scrumptious treats and hot cocoa, photo opportunities with Santa, an interactive demonstration by the Ballet, and more, Sunday, December 18, 11am; Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Lansing Road. (POINT LOMA)

**Ugly Sweater Christmas** Brunch Those donning an Ugly Sweater will receive a complimentary Signature Peach Bellini with purchase of entrée. Enjoy brunch classics with a Spanish twist and bottomless mimosas while listening to live DJ music spun by a resident DJ. Reservations are recommended. Sunday, December 18, 11am; Cafe

LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

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Information and safety protocols:

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SATURDAYS 8 am to 2 pm

WEDNESDAYS 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

**NOW OPEN** 

Sevilla Tapas Bar, 353 Fifth Avenue.

day event for kids 10 and under with a lifesize Candyland event. games, crafts and cookie decorating. The event is free but, in the spirit of Christmas, a toy donation for the children of Build A Miracle in Tijuana is encouraged. Friday, December 16, 4pm; free. Cathedral Catholic High School, 5555

Events

Winter Wonders & Holiday Lights Winter Wonders and Holiday Lights tours: Meet nocturnal ambassadors in the glow of holiday lights. Hot cocoa provided, but you should still bring your winter coat. No tours on December 25. Thursdays, 4:30pm; Fridays, 4:30pm; Saturdays, 4:30pm; Sundays, 4:30pm; through Sunday, January 1, \$20-\$39. Wild Wonders, 5712 Via Montellano, (BONSALL)

#### **CLASSES &** WORKSHOPS

Adult Magic Classes Learn how to perform magic tricks from Tom Interval, a San Diego-based professional magician who has taught magic for more than 36 years. Sundays, 1pm; through Saturday, December 31, \$250. 18 and up. Interval Magic, 3820 Georgia Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Baking with Ancient Grains** This workshop will give a taste of what our ancestors developed thousands of years ago Saturday, December 17, 10am; \$55, Wild Willow Farm and Education Center, 2550 Sunset Avenue. (NESTOR)

**DIY Family Gift Class** This once a year family class will have some fun garden and kitchen crafts for take home DIY gifts. Get outdoors and get crafty with the whole family There will be light snacks and instructor-led DIY gift ideas. Saturday, December 17, 1pm; \$25-\$35. Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, 2525 N Avenue. (NATIONAL CITY)

**Holiday Air Plant Wreaths** Craft Workshop All supplies ready to make your personalized wreath including the 18" wreath, 4 large air plants and a large variety of holiday accents. This wreath





## Parkway at Miller Drive. (EASTLAKE) Holiday Dinner Series with **Living Ornaments Workshop**

(DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO) Winter Wonderland Free holi-Del Mar Heights Road. (DEL MAR)

making portion will be part of a larger Holiday fest which will also include food trucks, music, a toy drive for Corazon de Vida and the debut of a special brew created by students at Southwestern College. Saturday, December 17, 2pm; \$50. Novo Brazil Brewing Co., 901 Lane Avenue, (CHULA VISTA)

Orchid Kokedama Workshop All materials will be ready at site of event. Variety of color of Orchid to chose from. Friday, December 16, 7pm; \$48. The Hidden Spa, 4969 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach 92107

Watercolor with Wine Tuesdays 4 Week Course. All levels welcome. Instructor: Minnie Valero. Tuesday, December 20, 3pm; \$79-\$99. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

#### COMEDY

Alton Brown Monday, December 19, 7:30pm; Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street.

Dusty Slay Thursday, December 15, 8pm; Friday, December 16, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 17, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$10. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWN-TOWN SAN DIEGO

Improv at the Brooks Join host Chris Shurland for a fast-paced, fun night of improvised comedy. Thursday, December 15, 6pm; \$10. 217 N. Coast Highway Oceanside, CA 92054

#### DANCE

City Ballet: The Nutcracker Young and old alike will be captivated by Elizabeth Wistrich's choreography, the exquisite costumes, and grand sets. Let your childhood dreams return and inspire you to imagine a bygone time. Wednesday, December 21, 7:30pm; \$30-\$103. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Golden State Ballet: The Nutcracker Golden State Ballet presents the beloved holiday tale of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince, all danced to live music from musicians of the San Diego Symphony, playing Tchaikovsky's classic score. Friday, December 16, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 17, 2:30pm; Sunday, December 18, 1pm; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

#### **LITVAKdance Presents LIGHT** LITVAKdance is presenting a col-

laborative holiday production, LIGHT, that celebrates the holiday season with a work centered on Iewish stories on the first day of Chanukah at the JCC December 18th. Sunday, December 18, 2pm and 6pm; Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive (LA IOLLA)

Ritual Solstice Volume 2 Be immersed in this winter solstice

## **OUTDOORS**

#### Long Nights Trigger Pointsettias, **Spectacular Sunsets, King Jupiter**

Poinsettias, A Favorite of Backyard Gardeners, are now exhibiting their scarlet, petal-like bracts, just in time for the holidays. The onset of 14-hour-long nights triggers their behavior: in San Diego this condition is met just before the winter solstice, at 1:48 pm on Wednesday, December 21. This event signals the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. With only about 10 hours of daylight, San Diego must endure its darkest and gloomiest nights this week and next. During the day, the sun struggles to an altitude of only 34 degrees (as seen from San Diego), and then quickly sinks toward



A SPECTACULAR IMPERIAL BEACH SUNSET.

Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Snowball Bash Family Strong's second annual Snowball Bash is specifically for foster, adoptive, and kinship families. Enjoy dinner, games, Santa Claus, presents, and even snow! RSVP to attend free, or if you would like to volunteer. Saturday, December 17, 6pm; free. Emmanuel Faith Community Church, 639 East Felicita Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

#### **FOOD & DRINK**

celebration experience and show

inspired by our Nordic ancestors

as told through the art of fusion

dance, live music and special

performances. Saturday, Decem-

ber 17, 4:15pm; \$35-\$50. Fusion

Movement Arts 1805 Main St, San

San Diego Ballet: Nutcracker

Saturday, December 17, 1pm and

5pm; \$27-\$115. Magnolia Perform-

ing Arts Center, 210 East Main

Diego, CA 92113

Street, (EL CAJON)

Snow & S'mores Reserve a fire pit with seasonally inspired gourmet s'mores platters, singleorigin Stirring Up Nostalgia hot chocolate and a charcuterie board. Friday, December 16, 5pm; Saturday, December 17, 5pm; Sunday, December 18, 5pm; \$200. Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

#### **FOR KIDS**

Disney Junior Live Thursday, December 15, 5pm; \$30-\$95. Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Peppa Pig's Adventure Tuesday, December 20, 7pm; Magnolia

**LECTURES** 

Turn Your Home into a Water-**Conserving Oasis** Discover the numerous ways you can transform your home into a water-conserving oasis. Meet the experts of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's Next to Nature (N2N) webinar series. Free Registration through Eventbrite. Sunday, December 18, 10am; free. San Diego Science Center, 3030 Bunker Hill St. San Diego, CA 92109, Conference Room 121

#### NATURE

**Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek** Hike Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the steep hike - on

a nice switchback trail - is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and descends rom the rim of the valley down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les' favorite hike. Trailhead is in Camino Ruiz Community Park, 11489 Camino Ruiz, San Diego, 92126. Saturday, December 17, 8am; free. Camino Ruiz trailhead, 11489 Camino Ruiz.

**Guided Bird Walk** Join Mission Trails Regional Park birders, Millie Basden and Cindy Cornelius, for a guided bird walk on the Oak Grove Loop Trail. A variety of habitats gives us the opportunity to see resident and migratory birds. We'll stay alert for hawks that like to frequent this area. Meet in front of the MTRP Visitor Center. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, December 17, 8am; free, Lake Murray Community Park, 7001 Murray Park Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Shaman's Hike We used to think that shamanism, which is the spiritual and healing practices of indigenous people such as Native Americans, was demonic, superstitious, and unscientific. The colonial Spanish in California, for instance, thought shamanism was ignorant

and blasphemous and forbade it. We now know, thanks to the ideas of diversity, that shamanism can be of value for modern people and is worth studying. On this hike with Will Bowen we will learn and practice some shamanistic techniques which can connect us to the natural world and show how to find deep reflection and healing in nature. Meet in the West End Parking Staging Area, Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Valley. Sunday, December 18, 3pm; free. Peñasquitos Canvon Preserve Trailhead, 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Star Party Join members from the San Diego Astronomy Association at the West Sycamore Staging Area to view the nighttime sky through telescopes. It will be an outstanding night at West Sycamore because it will be dark with no moon. Rain or cloudy skies cancel event. Friday, December 16, 4:45pm; free. West Sycamore - Mission Trails Regional Park, 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

#### SPECIAL **EVENTS**

Convoy Nights: A Holiday tion, and Asian Business Association to highlight local vendors with gifts for friends and family for the holidays. Open to the public and free to attend for all ages; Enjoy food offerings curated by the San Diego Night Market, local holiday vendors, multi-cultural activities and entertainment. Saturday, December 17, 4pm; free. Kilowatt Brewing, 7576 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)



Holiday Market Holiday Market with local vendors and makers with live music with DJ Mike White and JB Sax (Jason Brown). Thursday, December 15, 5pm; free. Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero, 1004 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN

West Hills High School Class of 2002 Reunion There will be 2002 class staff, administration, 2002 era trivia, photo booth, commemorative gifts, and live music by DJ Artistic. Friday, December 16, 4pm; free-\$40. Mission Brewery, 1441 L Street. (EAST VILLAGE)



14-HOUR-LONG NIGHTS TRIGGER THE BRACTS.

Spectacular Sunsets and Sunrises are characteristic of late fall and early winter's dry spells. You can drive up to Soledad Park atop Mount Soledad in La Jolla or Mount Helix near La Mesa for an all encompassing view. Or try hiking up to vantage points such as Cowles Mountain in the San Carlos area and Woodson Mountain near Ramona. Don't forget to bring a flashlight for the trip up

**Jupiter, the "King" of the Planets**, appears high in the southern sky after sunset. Note its creamy yellow-white color and unblinking brightness. Aim a small telescope at Jupiter anytime during the next few weeks to see the cloudbelt-banded planet flanked by its four Galilean satellites, or moons, which were discovered by Galileo in 1609, just over four centuries ago. Can't see all four moons? That's possible. All you need to do is wait - one or more of the moons could be in transit across the planet, or hidden behind the it, or hidden in the its immense shadow.

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

## 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.

Avatar: The Way of Water — Set more than a decade after the events of the first film, the Sully family (Jake, Neytiri, and their kids) deal with the trouble that follows them, and demonstrate the lengths they go to keep each other safe, the battles they fight to stay alive, and the tragedies they endure. Directed by James Cameron, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldaña, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, and Kate Winslet. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Banshees of Inisherin — Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, lifelong friends Pádraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson) find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, aided by his sister Siobhán (Kerry Condon) and troubled young islander Dominic (Barry Keoghan), endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Pádraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate,



**Empire of Light:** Never mind the actors — look at that movie house!

with shocking consequences. Starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Kerry Condon, and Barry Keoghan. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

#### Black Panther: Wakanda Forever —

"I am the queen of the most powerful nation in the world. And my entire family is gone! Have I not given everything?!" A Marvel sequel minus the late star of the original. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**Bones and All** — A story of first love between Maren (Taylor Russell), a young

woman learning how to survive on the margins of society, and Lee (Timothée Chalamet), an intense and disenfranchised drifter, as they meet and join together for a thousand-mile odyssey which takes them through the back roads, hidden passages and trap doors of Ronald Reagan's America. But despite their best efforts, all roads lead back to their terrifying pasts and to a final stand that will determine whether their love can survive their otherness. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Brick — Affected debut film from Rian Johnson, writer and director, a test-tube species of teen noir, a hard-boiled high-school hybrid, featuring a junior detective, a fille fatale, a small-time Mr. Big, and a brawny henchboy. Opaquely plotted, arcanely scripted, darkly photographed, and reverberantly recorded, incomprehensible on several levels. With Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Lukas Haas, Nora Zehetner. 2006. — D.S. ● (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

**Devotion** — JD Dillard directs an aerial war epic based on the bestselling

book of the same name by Adam Makos, telling the harrowing true story of two elite US Navy fighter pilots during the Korean War. Their heroic sacrifices would ultimately make them the Navy's most celebrated wingmen. Starring Jonathan Majors, Glen Powell, Christina Jackson, Thomas Sadoski, and Joe Jonas. 2022. Sgt. Tiki (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)

**Empire of Light** — Watching writer-director Sam Mendes' latest, it's hard to shake the suspicion that he fell in love with the setting — an achingly beautiful old movie house/general nightspot in an English seaside town — and set out to make a movie around it. Because





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## Puss in Boots

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#### **ONLY IN THEATERS DECEMBER 21**

@DreamWorks | #PussInBoots



#### CURRENT MOVIES

while the place looks fantastic - Roger Deakins' camerawork has the interior's Art Deco woodwork radiating color almost as richly as the exterior's neon trim — the story skips from this to that with all the depth and impact of the stone that frustrated new employee Stephen (Michael Ward, beautiful) sends skipping across the local lido during his conversation with his mentally unstable fellow worker Hilary (Olivia Colman, sympathetic). He's frustrated because he has to deal with rising racism in late '70s England; she's unstable because well, causes are tricky, but it's clearly the case that she's had a bad time of it in the Men in Authority department. Just now, she's trapped in a tawdry officevisit affair with her boss Donald (Colin First, seedy), who begs her to suck it when she just wants to wank him and get it over with. She'd much rather share a secret tryst with Stephen, and what do you know, he's happy to play along. Is it a young man's coming of age tale of life lived and wisdom won, or a middle-aged woman's journey through adversity to satisfaction? Is it about the magic of the movies and the escape they offer, or the need to cast fantasy aside and face the duller adventure offered by reality? Maybe with a little more craft and care, it could have been all of them, but as it is, skip, skip, skip. Late in the film, Hilary asks projectionist Norman (Toby Young, appealing) why he made a particular momentous decision; his mystified reply may match the viewer's own as to what Mendes had in mind here, 2022, -M.L. ★ (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 per formance but as a figure of fantasy and even of fairy tale, an informal, unstuffy, lighter-than-Blair Prime Minister who falls for an overweight commoner (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 bullving 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. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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 vear"), 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, peachfuzzy 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)

**Tim Burton's The Nightmare before** Christmas - More accurately Henry Selick's Tim Burton's The Nightmare before Christmas, Burton having had the idea for it and then having turned it over to Selick, a specialist in three-dimensional stop-motion animation. As so often in that medium, the aesthetic plane, quite distinct from the financial plane, is not sufficiently higher than that of Mr. Potatohead. The hero, Jack Skellington, a/k/a The Pumpkin King, looks unfortunately like Whitley Strieber's extraterrestrial in a pinstripe suit and on stilts. And his many, varied, and grotesque cohorts are

first and foremost a manifestation of Hollywood's besetting vices of overabundance and overindulgence: too many, too varied, too grotesque. Another, more basic, manifestation of these is the mere fact that the film is a feature and not a short. Because it is a Disney film, of course, and an animated film, there seems to be some immutable law that it must have songs, songs, and more songs - written (and some of them sung) by Danny Elfman, but sounding more like Andrew Lloyd Webber in search of a melody ("I don't believe what's happening to me,/ My hopes, my dreams, my fantasy!"). These musical interludes are no doubt the greatest offenders in the torture-rack stretch to feature-length, but the gaudy displays of wealth and expenditure run them a close second. In its bare bones, the premise seems viable enough. Completely separate towns, according to Burton's fantasyland geography, are responsible for planning and carrying-off the separate holidays on the calendar, until one year the Halloween mastermind gets it into his head to abduct Santa Claus and usurp Christmas. There is some dark-toned fun (not darker than TV's The Simpsons or than Charles Addams's New Yorker cartoons, and not more fun, either) when the revised Christmas plans begin to go awry. And by and by there's a traditional and respectable fairy-tale message to do with accepting yourself as you are. The delivery of that message, however, and for that matter the setting-up of the basic premise, are garbled in the extreme. One does not envy parents who must try to explain the thing to their young. 1993. — D.S. ★ (LA PALOMA)



## RECEIVE A FANDANGO CODE FOR



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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER. Promotion begins on or about Thursday 12/15 at 12:01 a.m. and ends on Monday 12/19 at 1:00 p.m. Open to legal residents of the U.S. and those 18 years of age or older. Void where prohibited. Each entrant will receive two Fandango Promo Code (\$15 per ticket) to see AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER in theaters, while supplies last. The redemption of the Code is subject to Fandango's Terms and Policies at http://www.fandango.com/terms-and-policies. Limits and restrictions apply. Limit two admit-one Fandango code per entrant, while supplies last.

If lost or stolen, it cannot be replaced. See official rules and other complete details at sdreader.com

### ONLY IN THEATERS DECEMBER 16







DECEMBER 16

#### **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.

#### 1022 Oceanfront: A Black **Family Christmas**

Playwright Dea Hurston collaborated with three other co-creators, two of whom star in the show and one of whom wrote songs for it, to produce what her program note calls "a holiday piece created for actors of color to tell a story about people of color." The result is something like a highly polished, super-sized, musical Christmas episode of a beloved sitcom. Problems, mostly of the relationship variety, are presented, but only so that they may be triumphed over, talked through, joked about, or otherwise resolved. The Black family is a black family well, except for the adopted Hispanic younger brother of protagonist James, the grown-up son of a strong single mother, headed home with his loving (but not wilting) wife to...Carlsbad? Yep: 30 years ago, Dad achieved his American dream of home ownership in the California beach town — even though the Powers that Be found ways to make him pay more because of his race. (That Was Then here; later, when a character asks, "What trouble could three black men possibly get into walking around at night?" the line evokes laughter, mostly of the not-nervous variety.) Now, the place is Christmas Central, where people are quick to share both songs and feelings along with food and cheer, the sort of place anyone might want to go and spend a holiday evening.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS TOURING PERFOR-MANCE, CALL 760-433-3245 TO RESERVE SEATS AND VISIT NEWVILLAGEARTS.ORG FOR LOCATIONS

#### **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 with seeming ease. Most remarkable of all: everything here 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 selfish slumber. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN, 619-337-1525, 7:30PM THURS-DAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM

#### **A Christmas Story**

SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

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

#### The Dangerous Christmas

"It's the holidays. Keep murder in the family," suggests The Dangerous Christmas, the newest comedy-thriller from master storyteller and nationally published playwright, Charles Carr. Inspired by actual events, a mysterious antique and the man determined to possess it by any means pull a group of friends into a decades-old intrigue that turns their world upside down and threatens their very lives. The Dangerous Christmas deftly blends a challenging mystery that will keep you guessing with wry humor and a heartfelt message about the meaning of the season. The cast is complemented with colorful sets and a full musical score and sound effects. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 N. ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 7PM THURS-DAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & 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-lesus (well, come-to-Cindy Lou Who) moment to explain their astonishing response to losing everything they've worked so hard



1222 Oceanfront A Black Family Christmas: A home for the holidays.

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-along 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 SAT-URDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS &

#### 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 feelgood 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-atat 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 & SUN-

DAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

#### The Gift of the Animals: **A Christmas Musical**

Enjoy a musical retelling of the Nativity from the point of view of the animals who were present. The narrative is based on the 12th-century Latin song "The Friendly Beasts," about the gifts from the animals to the baby Jesus. The performers include the Disciple Singer choir as well as children and adults from the church's three worship communities (Sanctuary, Rise, and Manantial). This family-friendly musical is presented as a gift to the community. FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -ESCONDIDO, 341 SOUTH KALMIA ST., ES-CONDIDO. 760-745-5100. 4PM SATURDAY.

#### 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 soldout 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

#### Megill & Company's Not Your Normal Nutcracker

Megill & Company's Not Your Nor-

mal 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

SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-433-8900. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY

#### **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-yearold 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

#### UPCOMING SHOWS

#### Ain't Too Proud: Life and **Times of the Temptations**

Follow The Temptations' journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and unmistakable harmonies, they rose to the top of the charts creating 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one. The rest is history - how they met, the groundbreaking heights they hit and how personal and political conflicts threatened to tear the group apart as the United States fell into civil unrest. This story of brotherhood, family, loyalty and betrayal is set to the beat of "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" and more. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. JAN. 3 THROUGH JAN. 8.

#### **Edgar Allan Poe's Gruesome Gallery of Grotesquerie**

Through tales of murderous madmen or supernatural mystery, Poe's enigmatic musings endure because they allow us to confront some of our greatest fears and delight in the darkness while reflecting on our own life. Co-developed in collaboration with Junior Theatre students and performers, this wholly original production will fuse storytelling, poetry, music, movement and puppetry to explore the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This celebration of all things macabre is a JT World Premiere. Recommended for ages 10 years and up. CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1600 VILLAGE PL., BALBOA PARK. JAN. 13 THROUGH JAN. 22.

#### San Diego Opera: The Puccini Duo

The Puccini Duo brings to life two great Puccini one-act operas. Suor Angelica tells the story of a woman (Marina Costa-Jackson) who bears a child out of wedlock and is sent to a convent for penance. After seven years, she is visited by her aunt, the Principessa, who brings tragic news of her son, which sets in motion a series of dire actions that ultimately result in tragedy, forgiveness, and peace. The comic-opera Gianni Schicchi begins with the death of wealthy Florentine Buoso Donati, and his distraught family who are upset about being forgotten in his will. So they enlist the help of fixer Gianni Schicchi who helps turn the tables, but not in the way they expect. Considered a comic masterpiece, this is a dark satire based on a real story mentioned in Dante's Inferno and includes the famous aria "O mio babbino caro." Making a welcome return for these performances is mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, who will sing the role of the Principessa in Suor Angelica, and will take on the title role of Gianni Schicchi, a % role traditionally sung by a baritone, for an opera first! Directed by Paul Curran and conducted by Yves Abel, San Diego Opera's Principal Conductor. Sung in Italian with projected English translations. The approximate run time is 1 hour and 55 minutes, including one 20 minute intermission. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-

1100. FEB. 11 THROUGH FEB. 19.

In the midst of pandemic Amy Day and Omar Musisko formed their folk duo, The Spiritual Motels, in 2017. By the tail end of 2019, the band had released their debut album, Super Tiny Disappearing Oceans, and were in the midst of playing

endeavor. "Music is always this creative outlet for any form of anxiety that I am dealing with. So, when the pandemic happened, the anxiety was through the roof, and that needed a home and that needed a focus. For me, it was like, 'I'm gonna go hide in 1847."



The Spiritual Motels: a protean band births a musical-maker.

gigs around town at a diverse collection of venues that ranged from traditional spots such as Soda Bar and the Casbah to the Music on the Mountain series at the Julian Library and the Art on 3rd art gallery in Chula Vista (sadly closed now). In live settings, the duo proved to be more stylistically protean than most acts. "That's the thing about that band, it was so much fun because it was such a flexible project that way," says Day. "We can be two voices and an acoustic guitar, or we can be a billion synth sounds and a looping pedal and a drumpad at a full show."

The band was nominated for Best Pop at the 2020 San Diego Music Awards ("We were playing out a lot and in that really nice groove"), but by the time the presentation ceremony went down that July, their local momentum had come to an abrupt halt due to the pandemic. Many local artists channeled their lockdown time into creating music. Day took a similar path, but hers would prove a personal

The result was less an episode of Quantum Leap and more of an immersion in historical research about Ireland's Great Famine (1845-1852). Her interest had been sparked during a visit to Ireland's National Famine Museum in 2019, where she added "Strokestown guy getting shot" to a collection of song ideas she kept on her phone. "A few months later, I was taking a walk and thinking about some song I was about to write and pulled out my songwriting notes. I was like, 'Wait a minute. That story is not one song. That story is a whole musical full of songs.' That was right around the beginning of 2020. Within a couple of months, the world had stopped, and I suddenly, by no choosing of my own, had the space to focus on writing that project."

For Day, the process went from learning about the famine, to writing a play about the famine, to finishing the songs which would make her pandemic project, *In the* Midst of Plenty, into a proper musical. Next up was enlisting local musicians to help with demos of the 16 songs she'd written for the show. She eventually sent the demos to Anne-Marie O'Sullivan, who runs the Enchanted Croi Theatre in Strokestown, the Irish burg where all the events in Day's musical transpire. O'Sullivan initially thought that Day's message about writing a famine musical was really from one of her friends, playing a joke on her.

But when O'Sullivan heard the demos, she changed her tune. She told Day that she

was interested, but that she would still need to secure funding. "To my American ears," says Day, "I heard 'No,' because we don't have funding here." But a couple of months later, a regional arts grant came through. "In four months, we were assembling a show. That's when we started casting and she started putting together the production in earnest for over there in Strokestown"

Day, who serves as musical director for In the Midst of Plenty, travelled

to Strokestown five weeks before the initial run of shows this past June to work on the production. She enlisted Jules Stewart, a local drummer who played on all the demos, to serve as the band leader. An additional set of performances were staged in September, and they're hoping to do an Irish tour of the production next summer. "We have one of Ireland's most prominent traditional Irish fiddlers in the band," she says of fiddle player Neil Fitzgibbon. "He is the spirit of the show, and it's irreplaceable. If you listen to the violin on those songs, it is very hard to imagine replacing the entire lifetime of culture and musicality that fiddle player brings to that instrument and the way that transforms the show. Every one of our cast members is like that. They are connected to the material in a way that it just seems impossible to replace."

- Drvw Keltz Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

#### 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**

#### **Balboa Theatre:**

Thursday, 7:30pm — Dave Koz and Friends' 25th anniversary Christmas Tour. \$55-\$125. Sunday, 2:30pm — The Sound of Christmas Sing-along. Tuesday, 7:30pm — Mindi Abair: I Can't Wait For Christmas.

#### **Beach House Grill:**

Saturday, 8pm — SantaCon.

#### Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, 6pm — Orion Song.

#### **Belly Up Tavern:**

*Thursday*, 8pm — Squirrel Nut Zippers and Christopher Wonder. \$35-\$62. Friday, 8pm - Earthless and Birth, \$25.

Saturday, 8pm — Fear. \$40-\$70. Sunday, 8pm — Eric Rachmany. \$35-\$130.

Monday & Tuesday, 8pm - X and Los Straitjackets. Wednesday, 8pm — Abbey Road Christmas.

#### **Brew Coffee Spot:**

Saturday, 9am — Java Jazz Quartet. Free.

#### Brick by Brick:

Friday, 7pm — 10th Annual Slabby Holidaze Show. \$20-\$25. Saturday, 8pm - Soen. \$25-\$30.

#### Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.

#### Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Courtney Marie Andrews. \$20. Monday, 7pm - The Schizophonics and Low Volts. Tuesday, 8pm — Joshua Taylor & The Unscene and Jeff Berkley. Wednesday, 8pm — The Inflorescence and Doll Riot.

**KARAOKE** 

**EVERY MONDAY!** 

Thu. December 15

SLAPPIN' HANDS w/ Ric Scales

Fri, December 16 ROCK, SHIMMY, AND

SHAKE BURLESQUE

w/ "The Naughty List"

Sat, December 17
ETERNAL NIGHT: 3 YEAR

**ANNIVERSARY** 

Gothic/Industrial Night

Tue, December 20, 6pm **SUE PALMER RECORD** 

RELEASE

DJ Laura Jane

Wed, December 21, 7pm

**TRIVIA NIGHT** 

Thu. December 22

NOWHERELAND

Blair Gun · The Oxen

Fri, December 23

**FESTIVUS FOR** 

THE REST OF US

Variety show with live

performances, dancers,

and food

#### Cheval Winery:

Saturday & Sunday, 2pm — Rick Harchol. Free.

#### **Conrad Prebys Performing** Arts Center:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Poncho Sanchez. \$42-\$82. Saturday, 6:30pm — Alfredo Rodriguez. \$55-\$75.

#### Coronado Library:

Friday, 1pm — Elegancia Doble Holiday Concert. Free.

#### Death By Tequila:

Friday, 6pm — Debora Galan.

#### **Duck Foot Brewing** Company:

Thursday, 6pm — Deadheads Night. Saturday, 7pm — Clapton Tribute Night: Strange Crew.

#### Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, 3pm — Ke'Ahi. Sunday, 4pm — Kekoa. Tuesday, 4pm — Jehua Evans.

#### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Thursday, 6pm — Jay L. Henry. Friday, 6pm — Farrah Camu. Wednesday, 6pm — Helena Holleran

#### Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Friday, 6pm — Jemille Vialet. Saturday, 6pm — Jarred Matthew.

#### Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, 4:30pm — Keni Yarbro. Friday, 4:30pm — DevvLov. Saturday, 11am — Puro Feeling. Sunday, 11am — Sean McCole.

#### Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday & Saturday, 7pm -Adam Bergoch.

#### House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm - Rome & Duddy. \$30-\$75. Friday, 7:30pm - Secrets, Palisades, Archetypes Collide. Saturday, 7:30pm — Giant

#### Rooks. \$22-\$75.

#### Sunday, 11am — Jesse Johnson. **Loews Coronado Bay Resort:**

JAI at the Conrad:

Kraken:

Spots. Free.

Krause.

Saturday, 7:30pm — La Jolla

Charlie Brown Jingles. \$35-\$95.

Thursday, 8pm — The Water

L'Auberge Del Mar:

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 5pm — Johnny

Sunday, 11am — DevvLov.

Thursday, 5:30pm — Kristi

Friday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

Friday, 7pm — Jason Graham.

Music Society: Camarada -

Friday, 7pm — Anna Ballew. Saturday, 7pm — Dalton Gazette.

Saturday, 11am — Jemille Vialet.

#### Madam Bonnie's:

*Thursday*, 7pm — Andrea Loraine Jazz Band. Saturday, 7pm — Jenifer Krimel Ensemble.

#### **Magnolia Performing Arts** Center:

Sunday, 7:30pm — Dionne Warwick. \$49-\$307.

#### Mission Bay Resort:

Friday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga. Sunday, 6pm — Whitney Shay. Monday, 7pm — Jesse Ray Smith. Wednesday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

#### **Motorcycle Monkey:**

Thursday, 6pm — Sonic Tonic.

#### Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 9pm — All Strung

Friday, 9pm — Deluded Blues

Saturday, 9pm — Tube Amp'd.

#### Music Box:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Lyrics Born. \$20. Friday, 7:30pm — Baby Bushka.

Sunday, 8pm — Graceband. \$20. Monday, 7:30pm — Momma.



#### DRAG SHOW

Thu. 12/15



#### **DEAN DELRAY** (JRE, WTF, and Let There Be Talk Podcasts)

Fri. 12/16 @6:30pm & 8:30pm Sat, 12/17 @6:30pm & 8:30pm



#### **SHOWCASE**

#### JOHN WYNN

Fri, 12/23 @ 6:30pm & 8:30pm

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#### **LINDSAY WHITE**

Lindsay White says her new single "No Stopping It" is about dealing with anxiety. "After my daughter was born, the coping mechanisms morphed into something called dermatillomania, or skin-picking," she says. "Sometimes it's frustrating to feel like my body is playing this sick game of emotional whack-amole...I don't exactly want to be friends with this stuff, but I don't want to make an enemy of it either."

PACIFIC RECORDS



#### **SEAWALL PROPHET**

Aaron Markland is an OB-raised USAF Veteran, retired Albuquerque Firefighter, and self-proclaimed soul surfer whose band Markland at various time featured both his brother and father. His current project Seawall Prophet just dropped a couple of singles via local Pacific Records, "Hundred Dollar Boulevard" and "Already Gone," in advance of their EP Off the Ledge. Markland performs solo Wednesday, December 21, at Wonderland Ocean Beach

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN CHUSID



#### **JOSH WEINSTEIN**

"I'm releasing a Christmas song this week, 'Ghost of Christmas,'" says keyboardist Josh Weinstein. "It's a little untraditional. It's nostalgic and talks to the people who lost or don't have their family on the holidays...I know we all like that Norman Rockwell version of the holidays, but for many folks, the reality is more complicated. The holidays can often be reminders of people we've lost, or parents we miss, or kids we want to be seeing but are not."



#### **JOSHUA TAYLOR**

The new crowdfunded album from Joshua Taylor (King Taylor Project), *Unscene*, was preceded by singles for "Cars Don't Run Forever" and "Reckless Kind of Love." The album release party happens at the Casbah on Tuesday, December 2O, where the lineup includes Jeff Berkley (who produced Taylor's album) with his group The Banned, as well as Story & Tune, consisting of poet-vocalist Karyn Thurston and singer-songwriter Ben Grace. San Diego Music Award-winning multi-instrumentalist Jonny Tarr will perform in the adjacent Razzmatazz Room between sets.



#### **GILBERT CASTELLANOS**

On December 17 at the Copley Auditorium in Balboa Park (between Panama 66 and the Museum of Art), Gilbert Castellanos will perform at the release party for his first album in ten years. The album title *Esperame en el Cielo* translates in English to *Wait For Me In Heaven*.





## Give the Gift of Music This Holiday Season



Saturday, December 17 at 6PM

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park™

Thiago Tiberio, conductor San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Discover the Magic of the Mean One this holiday season.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas is a celebration of the holiday spirit no home should be without! Why is the Grinch such a grouch? No one seems to know, until little Cindy Lou Who takes matters into her own hands and turns both Whoville and the Grinch's world upside down, inside out and funny side up in her search for the true meaning of Christmas.

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**love**actually

Wednesday, December 21 at 7PM
The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park™

Thiago Tiberio, conductor San Diego Symphony Orchestra

Spend the evening with your favorite holiday "rom-com" characters and get swept up in the magic of one of the most iconic Christmas Movie soundtracks of all time. The Orchestra performs the now-classic Craig Armstrong score Live to Film. Love Actually is written and directed by Richard Curtis.

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The Shell.org

All artists, dates, programs and pricing subject to change.

Wednesday, 8pm — Berkley Hart Christmas.

#### Nate's Garden Grill:

Saturday, 12pm — Tinkersmith.

#### Nick & G's:

Friday, 5pm — David Shyde. Saturday, 5pm — Keni Yarbro.

#### **Observatory North Park:**

Thursday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Thee Sacred Souls. \$75-\$95. Friday, 7:30pm - The White Buffalo and L.A. Edwards, \$30. Sunday, 7:30pm — Fishbone.

#### Old Globe Theatre:

Saturday, 12:30pm — Carol-Along With the Carillon. Free.

#### **Pioneer BBQ:**

Wednesday, 6pm - Jason Graham.



#### **Pure Project Vista:**

Saturday, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Austin Burns. Free.

#### Rady Shell at Jacobs Park:

Saturday, 7:30pm — How The Grinch Stole Christmas In Concert. Wednesday, 8pm — Love

Actually In Concert.

#### Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:

Saturday, 7pm — Gary Hoey's Rockin' Holiday Show. \$30.

#### San Diego Model Railroad Museum:

Saturday, 6pm - Ales N' Rails 2022. \$35-\$45.

#### San Diego Wine and **Culinary Center:**

Sunday, 5:30pm — Left Coast Quintet Holiday Concert. Free.

Sunday, 4pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

#### Side Yard:

Wednesday, 6pm — Jemille Vialet.

#### Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm - Palm. \$20. Friday, 8pm — Siouxsie and The Banshees Night. \$15. Saturday, 8pm — Lead Pony and The Volclays. \$15.

Friday, 6:30pm — Amon Amarth

12PM - 8PM

**EVERYDAY** 

and Cattle Decapitation. \$46-

#### **Sunshine Brooks Theatre:**

Wednesday, 7:30pm — David Arkenstone & Friends. \$25-\$45.

#### Tio Leo's:

Sunday, 3:30pm — San Diego Troubadour Annual Fundraiser.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Slum Summer and The Rightovers.

#### U-31:

Thursday, 9pm — Kogniak Album Release.

#### **Westfield University Towne** Centre:

Thursday, 12pm — Ben Benavente.

#### **UPCOMING SHOWS**

#### 411 Market Street San Diego, CA 92101.:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Andrea Loraine Jazz Trio.

#### Alila Marea Beach Resort: Thursday, Dec. 29 — Keni

#### Athenaeum Music and Arts

Thursday, Jan. 5 — San Diego New Music: soundON Festival.

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Friday, Jan. 6 — San Diego New Music: soundON Festival. \$12-

\$85. Saturday, Jan. 7 — San Diego

New Music: soundON Festival.

#### **Bang Bang:**

Saturday, Dec. 31 — Carl Craig & Layton Giordani.

#### Beaumont's:

Saturday, Dec. 31 — Classless

#### Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Dalton Gazette. Thursday, Dec. 29 - Farrah

Camu. Friday, Dec. 30 - Johnny Martin.

#### **Belly Up Tavern:**

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Betamaxx. Friday, Dec. 23 — Cash'd Out. Tuesday, Dec. 27 — Donavon Frankenreiter.

Wednesday, Dec. 28 - Yachtley Crew.

Thursday, Dec. 29 - Easy Wind. Friday, Dec. 30 — Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue. Saturday, Dec. 31 — Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue. Wednesday, Jan. 4 — Lauren Leigh Album Release. Thursday, Jan. 5 — Cayucas and Trouble in the Wind. Friday, Jan. 6 — The California

Honeydrops. Saturday, Jan. 7 — The California Honeydrops. Wednesday, Jan. 11 - Steely Damned 2. Thursday, Jan. 12 — Tunnel Vision and Dubbest. Friday, Jan. 13 - The PettyBreakers. Saturday, Jan. 14 — Tommy Castro & The Painkillers. Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Sam Outlaw. Friday, Jan. 20 — Yonder Moutain String Band. Saturday, Jan. 21 — 12th Annual Beat Farmers' Hootenanny. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Sabrosas Latin

#### **Bloom Nightclub:**

Orquesta.

Saturday, Dec. 31 — Bob Moses. Saturday, Jan. 21 - Sage Armstrong.

#### **Brew Coffee Spot:**

Saturday, Jan. 7 — Java Jazz Quartet. Free. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Java Jazz Quartet. Free.

#### Cannonball:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Andrew Peña. Tuesday, Dec. 27 — Kai Kalama. Thursday, Dec. 29 — Ben

#### Casbah:

Smashers

Thursday, Dec. 22 — La Diabla and Cumbia Machin. Saturday, Dec. 24 — Exile on Kettner Blvd. Wednesday, Dec. 28 -Starcrawler. Thursday, Dec. 29 — The Greyboy Allstars. Friday, Dec. 30 — The Greyboy Allstars. Saturday, Dec. 31 — The Greyboy Allstars. Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Fall of Troy and Gold Necklace. Wednesday, Jan. 11 — The Planet

Thursday, Ian. 12 - Dale Watson. Sunday, Jan. 15 — Reverend

Horton Heat. Monday, Jan. 16 - Reverend



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Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Spiral Stairs and Randy Randall (No Age).

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Tropical Fuck Storm and Michael Beach. Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Trebels 40 Year Anniversary Party.

#### Che Café:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — World Peace,  $ATM, \dot{M}adrugado, Intercom.$ 

#### **Conrad Prebys Performing** Arts Center:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Davina & The Vagabonds. \$60-\$80.

#### **Duck Foot Brewing** Company:

Tuesday, Dec. 27 — SD Jazz Collective.

#### **Duck Foot Brewing** Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. :

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Blonde Brothers.

#### Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Kai Kalama. Tuesday, Dec. 27 — Johnny Martin. Friday, Dec. 30 - Ke'Ahi.

#### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and

Saturday, Dec. 24 — Keni Yarbro.

Tuesday, Dec. 27 — DevvLov. Wednesday, Dec. 28 — Keni Yarbro. Thursday, Dec. 29 — David

Shvde.

Friday, Dec. 30 — Rachel Jay Saturday, Dec. 31 — Christian Taylor.

#### Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Farrah Camu. Friday, Dec. 30 — Helena Holleran

#### Farmer & the Seahorse:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Dawn Mitschele.

Thursday, Dec. 29 - Sean McCole.

#### First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Winter Schminter: A Hanukkah/Solstice Concert. Free.

#### Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Adam Bergoch. Friday, Dec. 30 — Adam Bergoch. Saturday, Dec. 31 — Adam Bergoch.

#### House of Blues:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Machine Head. Saturday, Dec. 31 - Shrek Raye,

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Drew Afualo. Saturday, Jan. 14 — Emo Night

#### Brooklyn. \$15. **Humphreys Backstage Music** Club:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Billy Joel Holiday Show by Billy Nation. \$15-\$35.

#### L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Tolan Shaw. Thursday, Dec. 29 — Jemille Vialet Friday, Dec. 30 — Jonny Tarr.

#### La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Christian Taylor. Friday, Dec. 23 - Keni Yarbro.

Saturday, Dec. 24 — Jemille Vialet. Sunday, Dec. 25 — Helena

Holleran.

Thursday, Dec. 29 — Helena

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Thanks for the

## GONZO REPORT

#### Felix means happy

Feeling feline at Whiskers & Wine

The orange cat jumps into an older man's lap like they're best friends. I never catch the animal's name, or at least I don't retain it, because there are at least ten more of her kind stalking the dual levels of North Park's Whiskers & Wine Cat Lounge and Cocktails. So I'm calling the cat Ava, for reasons I'll explain later. For now: we're in a short line to order punnily titled food and beverages while indulging in "Cat Therapy." Nick takes our order for my "CATprese" and a "Pearfect Meowtini" for the Mrs. I detect an accent, and Nick reveals that he's from England. He takes great joy in the laughter the menu elicits, because he came up with many of the names. In a made-for-radio voice, he lays down the law: the cats run the place, don't feed them no matter how much they beg, and treat the critters with respect because we're in their home.

We sign a waiver that releases the venue (and any animal assailants) from liability in the event of biting and scratching. These are cats, after all, and they do that type of thing, for reasons often known only to them. (Though the one time it occurred here, the customer supposedly took it as a badge of honor.) We're offered a small table that lets us look through glass at the animal antics, in case we just want to eat. Hell no! We've paid 30 clams each for a 75-minute Cat Therapy session, which strikes me as a fancy way of saying "hanging out with cats."

The majority of the lounge is encased in glass, including the door we use to enter a small foyer outfitted with a mandatory hand sanitizing station. A second door allows entry to the lounge itself. The delayed egress is a precaution against runaways (presumably the four-legged kind). Ava still cuddles her chosen human, and other cats are milling around. Some are walking up to the second floor along a series of walkways affixed to the wall. We bipedal types must use the stairs.

The temperature is comfortable, and I drape my Wolfman hoodie on the stool. It immediately becomes a makeshift fort for one of the male cats. He lets me pet him, but his impatient eyes tell me to close the cloth door. Elsewhere, two humans named Nanette and Rae have attracted the attention of some cats. I'm a little jealous because, with the exception of Fort Cat, we've been observed



For Misty, it's time to dine at Whiskers & Wine

briefly and ignored completely. Nanette and Rae run Rainbow Pack, a pet service that has gone beyond sitting to include innovations such as field trips. Their evident energy and love for all animals (including a pig) proves inviting to the resident felines. They're there for Cat Therapy, and their demeanor indicates they're benefiting from it.

I count eight more balls of fur on the upper level, but that may be inaccurate, because two sibling cats, Pippi and Bean, look so similar that the staff have trouble telling them apart. Bartender Vanessa brings our food and drink to us and, though we're on-board about not feeding the cats, a grey tiger-striped female named Misty feels she's an exception who is entitled to our vittles. Every stray topping from our delicious flatbread comes under attack. When Vanessa approaches, the furry thief crouches down as if trying to become undetectable, until she's physically moved to the floor. When the coast is clear, she hops right back up again (the cat, not Vanessa). There are plenty of bowls full of cat food. She just prefers ours.

We hang out upstairs for the full paid duration, and no one tells us our time is up — just one of the many factors that add up to a relaxed session. As I prepare to leave, Fort Cat looks shocked that I have the audacity to take my hoodie-slash-cathouse with me. Downstairs, Ava has glommed onto another human and is chatting away, seeming to beg for affection, which the patron freely gives. I learn that the cats rotate shifts, because they're all up for adoption in conjunction with never-kill sanctuary Saving One Life. Inside, Ava has attempted to hitch a ride with every person that leaves. Her personality reminds me of Ava, the android from Ex Machina whose machinations involve getting humans to fall in love with her so she can manipulate them into releasing her from captivity. In the film, Ava is successful, and sets out on a mission of world domination. Ava at Whiskers & Wine would probably settle for a snack. ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo





Friday, Dec. 23 — Guapacha

#### Madam Bonnie's:

Latin Duo & Band. Friday, Dec. 30 - Guapacha Latin Duo & Band. Thursday, Jan. 19 — SD Jazz Trio. Free. Friday, Jan. 20 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Trio. Free. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Ghost Jazz Trio. Free

#### Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Johnny Martin. Friday, Dec. 23 — Anna Ballew. Sunday, Dec. 25 — Keni Yarbro. Monday, Dec. 26 - Jesse Johnson. Tuesday, Dec. 27 — Helena Holleran

Wednesday, Dec. 28 — DevyLoy Thursday, Dec. 29 — Tori Roze. Friday, Dec. 30 - Israel Maldonado.

#### Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Blame

Friday, Dec. 30 — The Oneders. Saturday, Dec. 31 — PRI. Friday, Jan. 6 — Thea the Band. Free.

Saturday, Jan. 7 — Tube Amp'd. Free.

Thursday, Jan. 12 - James Allen. Free.

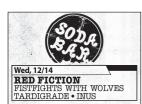
Friday, Jan. 13 — 2lil2late. Free. Friday, Jan. 13 — Circasonic. Free

Thursday, Jan. 19 - Rick Trotter Band Free Friday, Jan. 20 — Custard Pie.

Free Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Reud. Free

#### Music Box:

Friday, Dec. 23 - Infected Mushroom. Friday, Dec. 30 — Dizzy Wright and Lutan Fyah.



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#### **IMMORTAL BEAUTY**

**Classical Music this week** 

BY GARRETT HARRIS

#### The real tragedy of Aida (and Rigoletto)

I arrived in New York City on the afternoon of Tuesday. December 6. My daughter and I checked into our hotel and walked over to The Metropolitan Opera to buy two tickets - student for her, standard for me — for Giuseppe Verdi's Aida. I had planned the entire trip around this performance; it was the whole reason for our journey east. But we had to wait until arriving to get the tickets, because student tickets aren't available online. We walked up to the

Golden State Ballet: The

Nutcracker Golden State

Ballet presents the beloved

holiday tale of Clara and her

Nutcracker Prince, all danced

to live music from musicians of

the San Diego Symphony, play-

ing Tchaikovsky's classic score.

Friday, December 16, 7:30pm;

Saturday, December 17, 2:30pm;

Sunday, December 18, 1pm; San

Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third

ticket window, wallet at the ready, only to be told that the system was down and they couldn't sell any tickets for that night's performance. I explained we had planned our arrival around this legendary production of Aida. It didn't matter. I explained that I knew the concertmaster. No dice. It was only 5 pm. Maybe the system would be up before the 7:30 pm curtain? I visited metopera.org around 6:30 pm, and saw a message explaining that the system was down.

**Nutcracker Ballet** Audiences

can expect an uplifting and mag-

ical performance complete with

a dazzling holiday party, giant

mice doing battle with toy sol-

diers, a growing Christmas tree,

dancing snowflakes, a nutcrack-

er that transforms into a hand-

some prince, and exotic dances

from around the world. The per-

formances will feature nationally

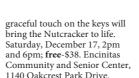
acclaimed Ukrainian bandurist

Valentin Lysenko accompanied

by pianist Alicia Jiang whose

My disappointment was immense, in fact, it was "immenso Ftha," to borrow a line from Aida. I have been in Aida four times but I've never seen it live. I was also looking forward to hearing Latonia Moore sing the title role. She performed the role at San Diego Opera in 2013 and was fantastic — at least, that's what I thought from my spot in the chorus.

My hopes were still high for Thursday, December 8, because Verdi's Rigoletto was scheduled for that day.



#### San Diego Ballet:

Nutcracker Saturday, December 17, 1pm and 5pm; \$27-\$115. Magnolia Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street.



Outside The Met during the Thursday, December 8, performance of Rigoletto.

I'd seen Rigoletto twice, and while I wasn't thrilled with the Met's production and its Las Vegas setting, I thought my daughter might like the story better than Aida's.

On Wednesday, December 7, I visited The Met's website and read a new message: The Met had been hacked. A cyber attack had disabled its entire ticket, retail, email, and payroll systems. Multiple sources reported that General Director Peter Gelb had sent a letter to The Met staff explaining that payroll would be processed as soon as possible. The Met processes

about \$200,000 worth of tickets per day. As I write this, that process has been suspended for three days. The attack is affecting more than my opera tourism plans.

The question is, who would perform a cyber attack on a non-profit arts organization? Well, it is true that The Met has cut ties with several singers and conductors who are favorites of Vladamir Putin. So the current theory is that Russia cyber-attacked The Met in response. There is no hard evidence that Russia is behind the back, but it makes sense.

#### See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Saturday, Dec. 31 — Beats Antique and Red Giant Project. Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Purple

Sunday, Jan. 8 — LaRussell. Thursday, Jan. 12 - Daring Greatly and Ash Easton. Friday, Jan. 13 — One More Time: A Tribute to Daft Punk. Saturday, Ian. 14 — Taylor Rave. Sunday, Jan. 15 - Zoso. Saturday, Ian. 21 — B-Side Players and Boostive.

#### Nick & G'c

Saturday, Dec. 24 — Helena Holleran

Friday, Dec. 23 — Lee Foss. Friday, Dec. 30 — Green Velvet. Saturday, Dec. 31 — DJ Zedd. Saturday, Jan. 7 — Night Trip. Friday, Jan. 13 - Trivecta.

#### **Observatory North Park:**

Tuesday, Jan. 10 — The Sound of Animals Fighting. Friday, Jan. 20 — Unwritten Law.

#### Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli: Friday, Dec. 23 — Riley and Sage.

#### Pala Events Center:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - LeAnn

#### Panama 66:

Sunday, Jan. 8 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

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

NYE. Saturday, Jan. 14 - Subtronics.

#### Petco Park:

Saturday, Dec. 31 — Proper NYE: Sofi Tukker, more. Sunday, Jan. 1 — Proper NYE: Sofi Tukker, more.

#### **Pilgrim United Church of**

Sunday, Jan. 8 — Java Joe's Reunion Show, \$25-\$30.

#### San Diego Civic Theatre:

Tuesday, Jan. 3 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

Wednesday, Jan. 4 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

Thursday, Jan. 5 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

Friday, Jan. 6 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

Saturday, Jan. 7 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

Sunday, Jan. 8 — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations.

#### Soda Bar:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Noche de Verano Sin Ti. Wednesday, Dec. 28 — Victims Family and Gibby Haynes. Thursday, Dec. 29 - Glass Spells and De Lux. Friday, Dec. 30 - L'Eclair and Pearl & the Oysters. Saturday, Dec. 31 — Swami John Reis and Mrs Magician. Friday, Jan. 6 — Rodeo Rave: DJ Dance Party. Saturday, Jan. 7 — ForevAvicii: EDM House Party. Friday, Jan. 13 - Idlehands and Ghost Parade. Saturday, Jan. 14 — Take On Me 80s New Wave Party. Monday, Jan. 16 - Sean Bonnette and Tim Kasher.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Early Eyes.

Thursday, Jan. 19 - Grady Spencer & the Work. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Hibuo.

Thursday, Dec. 29 — Pierce the Veil and Dragged Under.

Friday, Dec. 30 — Pierce the Veil and Dragged Under. Saturday, Dec. 31 — Pierce the Veil and Dragged Under. Friday, Jan. 6 — Jeff Rosenstock and Cheekface.

#### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Hutchins Consort: Bach and Rock. \$20-

#### Tidal:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Johnny Martin. Sunday, Dec. 25 — Olivia Rohde.

#### **Tower Bar:**

Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Grim and The Humblers.

#### **University Club Atop Symphony Towers:**

Tuesday, Dec. 27 - Farrah

#### VYBZ Nightclub:

Thursday, Jan. 5 — The Industry TakeOver, \$20-\$75.

#### Waterbar:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Mockery.

#### **Westfield University Towne** Centre:

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Ben Benavente. Friday, Dec. 23 — Sarah Rogo. Thursday, Dec. 29 — Ben Benavente. Friday, Dec. 30 — Mikael Pederson.

#### Winstons Beach Club:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Barbara Wire, Kimmi Bitter, Sleepy Pearls. Friday, Jan. 6 — Sam Grisman Project. \$20-\$25. Sunday, Jan. 22 - The Doors & Cream Tributes. \$10.

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## Salk and pepper

#### A single sign: "No Lab Coats in the Cafeteria."

ow to find the Salk Cafe?" replies this kindly professor type to my query. "And you're walking? Ha! Head west on Gilman Drive. Turn right onto Mandeville Lane. Turn right onto Muir Lane. Turn left

onto Muir College Drive..." And that ain't the half of it. He's really trying to be helpful, but it's hopeless. I swear, UCSD students must spend half their learning hours wandering around, looking for classrooms. At best, the Salk Cafe is supposed to be a 30-minute walk

from the Blue Line trolley's Central Campus Station. But give yourself an hour. You've really got to want to go to this place.

I do want to, if only because the cafe's in that incredible Salk Institute building, the one that kinda leaps towards the ocean. It has won just

about every architectural prize out there, and its scientists are totally cutting edge - starting with Jonas Salk, who single-handedly saved the world from polio. They say the only people here who don't have Nobel Prize medals clanging around their necks are the cleaning



Server Andy fills my box of beef and broccoli, rice and veggies. At \$8, a deal!

crew. And maybe some of them, too.

I finally make it through to the actual building, just before hitting the ocean. Wow. Awesome. Plonked in the midst of a countryside that's unchanged, they say, since Cabrillo sailed this ocean blue in 1542. But that's the thing: where is everybody? Not a sign of life! Yes, I see guys floating past in mid-air, slung under hang gliders, looking like they're lying in sleeping bags. But sounds? A couple of seagulls squawk at each other. I hear the chuckle of a distant fountain. That's about it. No humans. No voices. I look at this incredible, but incredibly empty buildingscape, and I think post-apocalypse: Did some sort of smart bomb destroy everything except the buildings?

Then I notice one fellow humanoid, this guy at an outside table, studying. "Hate to interrupt, but have you heard of the Salk Cafe?" I ask him. He's a neuro-science intern. "Right here," he says. "Through that door." Whu? Oh. He's nodding towards a slammer with a single sign: "No Lab Coats in the Cafeteria." That's it. No hint of what's inside, no "Cafe," no "Nutritious cellular structures inside," not even a blunt "Eats." But I ain't going nowhere until I've found some. It has taken me so long to get here, I'm starving. Then, oh no. As I come in I see they're starting to pack up. "We close at 2:30, and we really stop serving at two,"

> says the gal, Andy. But she'll serve me what she has.

The menu's pretty big for something this hole-in-the-wall. Food's kind of what you expect in a college cafeteria. Actually, it's two menus. Breakfast goes from 7 am to 10 am. Than a gap. Then

lunch from 11 am to 2 pm. Natch, it leans heavily into healthy, but the first thing I notice are the prices. Not rock bottom, but definitely reasonable.

For breakfast, they do sandwiches, burritos, omelets, specials. They don't get down to the nitty-gritty details on this menu. But you get an

NO LAB COATS

IN THE CAFETERIA

Salk Institute Safety Committee

The only sign there's a cafeteria here. Public

are welcome, but finding it? On their own

indication from their "breakfast grill" choices, like the basic two eggs, two bacon, fresh fruit and yogurt, for \$5.20. They go romantic with the "Moons Over Miami" sandwich, which comes with

house potatoes for \$5.20. Or the "Grand Slam" breakfast, whatever that is (they don't say), also \$5.20. Vague on details, but good prices!

Still, I'll be lucky to even get lunch before they haul in the chafing dishes. And uh-oh, they have already taken most of them. "We only have the beef and broccoli with rice and veggies left," Andy says. Dang. Had visions of the other specials they have advertised: achiote chicken (colored and flavored with the slight bitterness of the achiote seed) with Mexican rice and pinto beans, \$9.60, or roasted pork loin with sweet potato mash and roasted vegetables, also \$9.60. The vegetarian choices don't look at all bad, either. Vegetarian fajitas with Mexican rice and pinto beans, \$8. Also \$8: stuffed portobello mushrooms with sweet potato mash and roasted veggies.

I mean, yes, old-school cafeteria fodder. But all these Newtons and Einsteins didn't come here to Salk to further their gastronomic careers. They just need the numbers: protein, fats, rda's, whatever. Also, I'm grateful there are no signs of wacky hi-tech food items. No cutting-edge powdered drinks, no gloops from some exotic swamp where people live to be 203.

But now I am getting "We'll take anything!" messages from down below. "Like, now!" My stomach's ready to rrrumboll! So — do I have a choice? — I go for the beef and broccoli. Anything to fuel the return hike up through the briar patch of UCSD's campus to the trolley's Central Campus Station. To drink, I buy a can of Red Bull, partly because I remember when I was



Cafe's patio. Iconic site lacks only one thing: people

a kid reporter and it was the local energy drink in Bangkok, Thailand — long before it went on to caffeinate the en-tire world. Costs me \$2.95. I notice it has pride of place in their drink racks. Of course. Customers in a place like this have to keep their brains tweaked to "super-awake!" all day.

Andy charges me only \$8 for the beef 'n broccoli, maybe because she's scooping out the last of the chafing dish. I end up eating outside, looking right through the bushes out to that huge ocean. I sit just a column away from my sole companion, the neuro-science intern. Usually, I'll chat up anyone situated that close by, but I hate to interrupt. He looks like he's studying for some exam.

The beef and broccoli definitely have the umami you'd expect. But next time (and hopefully there will be a next time: I wanna try that surreal para-sailing just once), I want to come earlier,



Salk scientists have learned to eat their broccoli right here at the Salk Cafe

when the selection is at full strength and the place is full of eggheads busting their boiled eggs and asking each other, "Could you pass the Salk and pepper please?" ■

The Place: Salk Cafe, Salk Institute Road, La Jolla, 858-453-4100

Hours: 7am - 2.30pm; closed Saturdays and Sundays

**Prices:** Breakfast Grill (2 eggs, 2 bacon, fruit and yogurt), \$5.20; Moons Over Miami sandwich with house potatoes, \$5.20; açaí bowl, \$5.20; Grand Slam Breakfast, \$5.20; beef and broccoli, with steamed rice and veggies, \$10.25; achiote chicken, Mexican rice, pinto beans, \$9.60; stuffed portobello with sweet potato mash, roast veggies, \$8; roasted pork loin, \$9.60; spinach berry salad, \$8.25; mushroom Swiss burger with fried mozzarella,\$7.35; Ital $ian\ turkey\ club\ sandwich,\ with\ sweet\ potato\ fries,\ \$7.35$ 

**Buses:** 101, campus buses

Nearest Bus Stops: North Torrey Pines Road, and Salk Institute Road (101, "Oceanside", northbound, or "VA/ UCSD," southbound); campus bus stop nearest Salk Cafe: North Torrey Pines Road and Muir College Drive; (watch for "OL" - "Outside Loop" for campus buses to and from SD Trolley's Central Campus Station)



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Friday and Saturday

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or drop it at the Reader office, 2323 Broadway, Suite 107, San Diego, CA 92102, by 12pm Monday

#### **PERSONALS**

BEULAH... my son and granddaughter are coming to visit next month.

**DRIVEWAY SOCIETY** cookie exchange next Friday!

MY DARLING FRANK, I am working with Santa this week and I thought we should look into getting on of these sleighs! Seems like a Tesla charger can be used for power! Yours forever,

OCEAN SAND SKY WIND earth stood still, time for a moment, time to behold. Mine to behold, unrequited.

PB GARNET ST 2020 purse ripped off. Jáovid fund, cash. tablets, jewelry, coincidence or not? Questionable or returned, court issue.

ST. THERESA OF CALCUTTA once said :whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus"

BEULAH, I miss you already. ing the voice all by myself.

**DARLING**, I've hopped aboard a refrigerator truck and I'm heading to the North Pole, Santa has an assignment for me! Love, Katherine.

**DRIVEWAY SOCIETY** is happy to celebrate the holidays with you! Give generously. Thank You.

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

FOSTER A DOG FOR CHRIST-MAS 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)

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

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

THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POS-SIBLE... this is revealed by God.

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

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.

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**

FREE BROWN & JORDAN lawn furniture, etc. Inquire at 4448 Marlborough Ave, San Diego,

WHAT'S UP FOR YOU IN 2023? Astrological, Psychic readings, 25% off-December only. Gift certificates available. For appointment call (619) 564-9309. Leave message. robbiemckee777@ hotmail.com

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@legalizefer-

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

**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 WIN-TER! 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 CLASS-ES, Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, (619) 692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

#### **ROOMMATES**

**ROOM WANTED, ESCONDIDO** Room wanted in home or mobile in Escondido. Retired teacher, great references. Tom (760) 855-1183.

TWO BOOMMATES NEEDED Furnished 4 bedroom house in University City. \$1,400 1 room, \$1,600 1 room + bath. Call Mark (619) 281-1329, or Greg (858) 242-9937.

ROOM NEEDED FOR TRADE, ASAP! Single gal in major need of a place to live by/before December 30th. Please be a non-smoker with no addiction/ abuse issues. I can do. cleaning cooking, pet care, organizing, etc in Trade for a private room/space. No pets or kids of my own but love 'em. sandiegolady13@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR ROOM senior male looking for room w/bath, Santee, El cajon, or surround-ing area, please call or text (951) 380-1095

**ROOM FOR RENT \$1300/** MONTH I am in a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment located in Birdland/Linda Vista Area, Great location for getting anywhere in

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#### Winter storms shift offshore fishing to the bottom

**Dock Totals 11/27 – 12/10**: 624 anglers aboard 45 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past two weeks caught 250 bluefin tuna (to 213 pounds), 16 bonito, 48 calico bass, 1 halibut, 1 lingcod, 19 perch, 2057 rockfish, 54 sand bass, 42 sanddab, 279 sculpin, 172 sheephead, 28 spiny lobster (52 released), 4 triggerfish, and 313 whitefish.

**Saltwater**: With cooling water and very slow surface action, local boats have been mostly targeting rockfish over the past couple of weeks. Blustery winter conditions offshore has limited the amount of trips out to Tanner Bank, where the bluefin bite has been very good for those who have been able to make the 120-mile run. As the first major cold front slid down the coast and kept boats in their slips, the usual question was how long would those fish remain, as the water temps are already below 58 degrees in the area.

Though the weather windows are getting narrower as the year draws to an end, I'm sure at least a few boats out of landings from San Diego to Los Angeles will attempt a run out past San Clemente Island to check. If the bluefin have moved on or don't bite, rockfish, whitefish, lingcod, and sheephead are always around the banks. That option will go away on the first day of the new year when groundfish will be closed in California waters through February. For that reason, and given the distance out to Tanner Bank, most of the boats that were targeting bluefin will shift their focus to south of the border by January first.

The Coronado Islands and high spots down the coast to off Ensenada has basically turned from a wide-open yellowtail bite to straight bottom fish with a few bonito mixed in. San Martin Island and the banks off of San Quintin is the northern-most area still producing yellowtail, and that will probably fade by the end of the year. The best bet for any surface action until spring will be the southern half of the Baja

Peninsula, both in the Pacific and the Sea of Cortez.

As fishing slows for the fleet, action in the surf has been heating up, with surf perch, spotfin croaker, and occasional halibut biting for anglers working the beaches from the sand. The other usual target, sand bass on the flats between Point Loma and Imperial Beach, have been slow to go so far, though I expect that bite to improve as we move into January. Overall, 2022 has been a standout year for San Diego anglers, with big bluefin tuna biting well in numbers and proximity rarely seen in recent decades, and the massive schools of dorado showing north of the border all the way

Our Fishing Photo Contest winner of two half-day passes provided by the San Diego Sportfishing Council is Brody Mahomed with his 14.8-pound dorado caught on live bait while fishing aboard the Success in Mexican waters. Congratulations Brody!

up to the banks off southern Oregon. Even so, the year is winding down with the final weeks' counts indicating much more normal fishing as fall fades to winter.

**Freshwater**: Trout have been biting well on mini-jigs, rooster tails, and Powerbait at Santee Lakes after their season opener in November. Poway, Jennings, and Dixon are the next best lower elevation choices for trout as their first winter plants are settling in. The only lake that holds trout year-round in San Diego County, Lake Cuyamaca, stocked 4000 pounds of rainbow trout from Mt. Lassen hatchery on December 9. A good portion of those fish were chunky 3-to-6-pound units, so if you're thinking about catching a limit for the smoker, don't overlook Cuyamaca.

Catfish have also been biting, giving trout anglers an occasional surprise, as the stocked channel catfish will certainly inhale a ball of Powerbait or a fly-lined nightcrawler. Catfish typically prefer warmer water and generally bite best from late summer into fall but will feed any time of year in Southern California. And they seem to turn on and bite as the lakes begin their winter trout stocking, so tossing a chunk of mackerel out if the trout bite is slow is not a bad idea.

Whether on the open ocean, beach, lake, or bay, they're out there, so go get 'em!

#### Notable catches:

**11/28** – The New Lo-An 3-day trip with 18 anglers aboard called in with 67 bluefin tuna in the hold.

12/3 – 19 anglers aboard the Sea Watch afternoon half-day trip caught 77 rockfish,13 sculpin, 48 whitefish, and 17 sheephead.

**12/5** – *The Cortez* returned to the dock with 150 rockfish and 47 bluefin tuna for the 15 anglers aboard their 2.5-day trip.

12/8 – 13 anglers aboard the Daiwa

Pacific morning half-day run had good local bottom fishing resulting in 92 rockfish, 2 sheephead, 1 sculpin, and 1 halibut caught.

**12/10** – *The Dolphin* called in with 41 rockfish, 6 sculpin, 6 whitefish, 4 sheephead, and 4 sand bass for 11 anglers aboard their afternoon half-day run.

**Fish Plants**: 12/15 – Lake Poway, trout (2000), 12/16 – Santee Lakes, lakes 4, 5, 6, 7, trout (NA), 12/26 – Lake Jennings, trout (1500)

DANIEL POWELL



#### **Fish Pix Win Fish Tix!**

#### Send your fish photo to: photos@sandiegoreader.com

Submit your best fishing photo and every 2 weeks we'll pick our favorite and run it in this column. Winner will also receive 2 half-day passes, includign rod rentals (\$65–\$75

value each) for a sport fishing trip courtesy of the San Diego Sportfishing Council. With photo submission please include the type of fish, fish length and weight, where it was caught, what gear/lure/bait was used, and your first and last name. All ages can enter and win, but at least one 18+ adult must participate in trip. California Fishing License required for trip and available for purchase. Tackle rental also available for \$17-\$25.

All photos must be original work, taken by the entrants. No third party may own or control any materials the photo contains, and the photo must not infringe upon the trademark, copyright, moral rights, intellectual rights, or rights of privacy of any entity or person. The photo must be in its original state and cannot be altered in any way, including but not limited to removing, adding, reversing, or distorting subjects within the frame. Entries will be judged by the *Reader*. By entering the contest, entrants agree that photos submitted can be used by the *Reader* for advertising purposes. The prize must be collected by the winner and is nontransferable. The winner will be contacted via the email address provided during entry. If no response is received after five business days, a new winner will be selected and the previous winner will forfeit all rights to the prize.

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

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

**CARE PROVIDER NEEDED** CARE PHOVIDER 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 ENGI-**REER 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 Convoy 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. dg521307@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR IHSS CARE-**GIVER** Needed IHSS caregiver (IHSS certified) w/vehicle for a middle-aged woman in Mis-sion 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.

**VOLUNTEER FOR PAID STUD-**IES 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.

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LOOKING FOR IHSS CERTI-FIED CAREGIVER for long term.
I have part-time and full-time openings. You can make your own schedule. Please have a vehicle, be respectable and reliable. I'm a very down to earth, middle aged woman in Allied Gardens. I am willing to help out with gas and buying your lunch. Please leave age only, by calling (619) 269-3434. Renee.

RESEARCH STUDIES AVAIL-ABLE 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

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

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FLDER CARE PROVIDER SEEKS POSITION with a senior gentleman. I have 50 years experience. Desire a position in North County. (760) 330-1963.

I'M LOOKING FOR A CAREGIV-ER JOB preferable elder people or disabled. I have a vehicle and I'm experienced in that. I would like to have a live-in area and I could be a caregiver. I'm excellent at cooking. I know Medical etc. And I'm willing to help. My number is area code (442) 341-1308.

FREELANCER LOOKING FOR WORK! Mature female in serious need of cash paying gigs, nothing illegal or inappropriate please! No scammers/spammers need reply either. I most enjoy domestic "chores" like cleaning, cooking, dog walking & such. Please con-tact me with offers ASAP! Thanks! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR DISHWASHER POSITION 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**

WANTED MOON COD San Diego, need delivery, please contact (619) 453-7951. Will pay \$75 cash.

WANTED TO BUY used electric handicap scooter, if in good condition and relatively "new". (619) 907-4767

**FOUR 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 phops is a landling on toyling. 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)

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, Free-style Lite, Accu Check, Aviva Plus, Contour, Dexcom.

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STE-REOS I am looking for that old tube stereo system that your dad used to play. These stereo comuseu to piay. I nese 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@rox pat

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

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

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

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1968 TOPPS MICKEY MANTLE POSTER test issue. Great condition. Call for price. (619) 791-0278.

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CASSETTE TAPES can be used for recording.10 each. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

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

**FIVE FT COMMERCIAL GRADE** fiberglass shower unit for handicap \$300. Call Tom at (619) 264-7148.

FLOOR LENGTH FORMAL GOWN sequins, soft peach, size 16 worn once, \$40. Call Ronnie (619) 346-9765.

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MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks fancy candle holder blue v-tech house phone all these items you must buy for 40.00 obo ask for james @ (619) 450-7914 first come first serve!! Don't ask me questions about my items. / j.fifield31@gmail.com

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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.

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

**RECUMBENT BIKE** Innova dual function folding upright recumbent bike for sale. Price is \$150 and it's complete with the owners manual Phone number is (858) 525-2339.

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VINYL 60S - 80S LP & 45S Personal collection of approx 350 LPs & some 45s from 1960s-80s. Save time and money-all have been checked for audio quality, and listed in detail at danesworld. com/vinvl.

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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. / cadbcsd@gmail.com

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. / cadbcsd@ gmail.com

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5 QT. CROCK POT SLOW COOKER This 180-250 watts Rival crocknot 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. \$12. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. cadbcsd@gmail.com



CRYSTALS Amethyst cluster on geode and clear quartz point.
Have had these specimens for years, time to pass them on. \$20 for both. (619) 664-2146 / surgeprotector@protonmail.com



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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. / cadbcsd@gmail.com

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**BLACK SPORTS/ GYM/ DUF-**FEL BAG Marksign bag (17"x 14"x 11") is good looking, versa-



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

ROR This mirror (31-3/4"x 16"x

San Diego Reader December 15, 2022

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/pics. cadbcsd@gmail.com

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 GRILL-**GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL-ING MACHINE This "lean mean fat reducing" grill (9"x10") has nonstick cooking surfaces on top and bottom and can grill burgers, steaks, chicken, seafood and vegetables. Simple plug-in elec-tric. 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 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.

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SILK FLOWERS IN CHAM-PAGNE 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

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#### The Entrepreneurial Spirit

 Michael Sherwood and his son, Kyle, of Cleveland come from a long line of morticians. So a few years back, when a friend wondered how he might have his tattoos preserved after he passes away, the two came up with an idea, *Oddity Central* reported. They figured out a method for removing and preserving tattoos, then started a business called Save My Ink Forever. "Some of these things really are pieces of art," Kyle said. "Instead of having just the remains or the burial ... (families) have actually a piece of their loved one." The Sherwoods say their technique is proprietary, but it takes roughly three or four months. Families are left with a parchmentlike piece of art. "We are trying to do this in the most dignified manner possible," Kyle added.

#### **Dastardly Deed**

- Jerome Ellis, a Dollar General employee in DeLand, Florida, allegedly got into an argument with a co-worker on Oct. 24, which prompted him to a retaliatory move that could have been deadly, Fox35-TV reported. On Oct. 25, the victim set down a can of Pepsi and went to the restroom. When he returned, he took a drink of the soda and noticed it tasted like cleaning supplies. Sure enough, video surveillance cameras revealed that Ellis had poured bleach into the Pepsi can, wiped it off, then spit in it. Cameras also caught Ellis trying to unplug the surveillance system. He told investigators that he put cleaning solution in the drink to get back at the co-worker, who he said was difficult to work with.

#### **Inexplicable**

 A female lion at the Topeka Zoo in Kansas has grown a mane, The Topeka Capitol-Journal reported on Oct. 23. Zuri, 18, who lost her mate, Avus, in 2020, started producing more testosterone after his death, which has resulted in the butch look. "It's nothing like the mane you would see on a fully sexually mature male lion," said Zuri's curator, Shanna Simpson, "She looks like a teenaged male lion." Zookeepers said along with the mane, Zuri has become more feisty - growling, snarling and roaring more than before. "She feels like she needs to protect her pride, so her testosterone increases," Simpson said.

#### **Great Art**

- A 1941 artwork by Dutch abstract artist Piet Mondrian has been found to have been hanging upside down in various museums for 75 years, The Guardian reported. One could be forgiven for the mistake; the piece features interlaced red, yellow, black and blue adhesive tape strips that subtly thicken at the bottom. But a photograph of Mondrian's studio shows the same piece on an easel -- with the "bottom" at the top. However, Susanne Meyer-Buser, curator of the North Rhine-Westphalia's art collection, said it will continue to be displayed upside down. "The adhesive tapes are already extremely loose and hanging by a thread," she said. "And it's now part of the work's story."

#### **Armed and Clumsy**

- A man who stopped in a corn maze in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, on Oct. 22 to get a corn kernel out of his shoe accidentally shot himself in the leg, KMSP-TV reported. The 38-year-old from Circle Pines was carrying the gun legally, and it discharged when he bent over to retrieve the kernel. Police said the gun did not have a safety; the owner wasn't charged.

#### **News You Can Use**

- Miller Lite wants to light up your Christmas tree in more ways than one! The company is offering the Christmas Tree Keg Stand for the low, low price of \$49.99, CNN Business reported. The tree stand is basically a keg with a small table on top, and when beer is dispensed, the design "makes it seem as if beer is being poured from the tree," said Sarah Showak, associate marketing manager. According to Miller Lite, the stand will support up to a 5-foot-tall tree with ornaments and lights.

#### Wait, What?

- Designer Amanda Booth, 33, of Toronto, Canada, has a business making jewelry, aptly named Trinkets by Amanda, Oddee reported on Oct. 31. Her first pieces were of clay, but then a friend contacted her and asked if she could make a jewelry set from her son's ashes. Booth has "never said no" to a friend, and the set inspired other customers one who asked if she could use breast milk to make jewelry. She posted about the jewelry on TikTok and business took off, including orders for items made with umbilical cords, placenta and hair. But the real creme de la creme came when people started requesting

jewelry made from semen. Booth transforms the liquids to powder and mixes them with clay, then sculpts the jewelry piece. "I am an open-minded artist," Booth said.

#### Spooky

- Linda Hill, owner of a rental home in Gainesville, Texas, has ghosts, Fox News reported. Many ghosts. "We've got kids, and we've got old people, old guys, and we've got hookers," she said. The hookers are the most common visitors, known to stroke a male renter's face or their arm. "They try to stir up business, but they can't figure out a way to conclude the transaction, so nothing ever happens," she said.

#### **Bright Idea**

 Self-proclaimed "Britain's dullest man" Kevin Beresford has your holiday shopping list solution: a 2023 calendar of Britain's best parking lots, the Daily Record reported. Beresford traveled the country from one end to the other, photographing parking lots and later compiling his favorites into a 12-month calendar. His personal favorite was Trinity Street car park in Birmingham, featuring walls made of crushed cars and adorned with street art. Beresford, of Worcestershire, said he focuses on "slices of English life that nobody else does. I don't create your normal conventional calendars. It's sexy being dull." Beresford is single, ladies.

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

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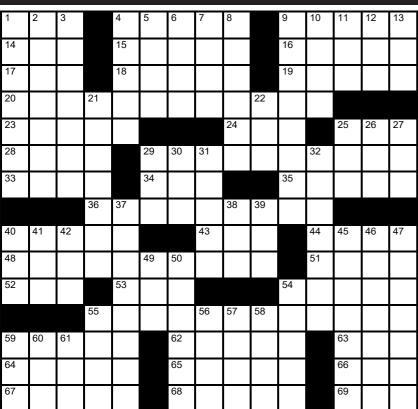
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#### **Across**

- 1. Go "pfft"
- **4.** Likely will, after "is"
- 9. "You get a car, and you get a car!" speaker
- 14. Molecule in many COVID vaccines
- **15.** India's first prime minister
- **16.** Shoes worn in many drag shows
- 17. Extra NBA periods
- **18.** Fish with a rainbow variety
- 19. Pro Football Hall of Fame receiver Michael
- **20.** 1969 Toots and the Maytals tune that Rolling Stone magazine once listed among its 500 Greatest Songs

#### of All Time

- **23.** Like squirrel tails
- **24.** Bach's "Mass \_\_\_\_ Minor"
- 25. AOC or JFK, e.g.
- 28. Garfield's drooling frenemy
- **29.** Sweater-wearing television star
- **33.** Titular warrior princess
- **34.** Golf ball's path
- 35. '90s hip-hop lover's purchase
- **36.** Signs of spring
- **40.** Prop in a legal drama
- 43. Capture
- **44.** \_\_\_\_-masochist
- 48. Cheapest Airbnb option, usually
- **51.** Curling \_

- **52.** Jazz trumpeter Adderley **53.** Year George W. Bvsh was
- (Volkswagen ad campaign)
- **62.** Lounges in the bathtub

- **66.** Admit (to)

- **1.** Big name in cloud storage
- **2.** Ruin a private moment
- 3. Enters gradually
- 4. On pins and needles
- **5.** Home to the oldest continuously operating university in the Americas
- 6. Film role for Chris Hemsworth
- 7. "Good point"
- 8. Bested
- 9. Like seven of the 12 U.S. presidents between 1869 and 1923
- 10. walk
- **11.** Cause to go "Vroom!"
- 12. Comedian Wong
- 13. QVC alternative
- 21. Harry who voices Ned

#### Flanders, Principal Skinner, Mr. Burns and others on "The Simpsons"

- 22. GI's chill time
- **25.** \_\_\_\_ talk
- **26.** "The Lord of the Rings"
- 27. Drug in Michael Pollan's "How to Change Your Mind"
- **29.** It's hot until it's not **30.** Basic education trio,
- informally
- Lodge (budget 31. motel chain)
- **32.** More bloated, say 37. Earth, wind and fire
- **38.** Xiao long \_\_\_\_ (soup
- dumplings) **39.** Pioneering PC company
- 40. "People Puzzler" channel

- sworn in? **54.** "Betta Getta
- **55.** End-to-beginning, say ... or what's found in 20-, 29-, 36and 48-across
- **59.** Costa (Panamanian's neighbor)
- **63.** Paul Anka's "\_\_\_\_ Beso" **64.** "The Kiss" painter Gustav
- **65.** Lauder of cosmetics
- 67. Green-lights
- **68.** Poor
- **69.** Number on a foam finger

#### 41. "Take On Me" band

- **42.** Dye holder
- **45.** Rádio City Music Hall style
- 46. Spoils, as a grandchild
- 47. Tethered
- 49. Sloths' workplace in "Zootopia"
- **50.** German chocolate brand
- **54.** "The Outlaw Wales" (1976 Clint Eastwood film)
- **55.** Hulu series about the son of Egyptian immigrants
- **56.** Stood up
- **57.** Kind of sauce made with peanuts
- **58.** Just got (by)
- **59.** Big Five studio of Hollywood's Golden Age
- **60.** Variety
- 61. "Zero Dark Thirty" org.

#### |O|M|E|L|E|T|T|E 0 R Р ROD0 BROWNB WE ОВ G С F I A ODADDI UES Н 0 Ν 0 Μ POSE G Ρ E P S I S R S Llo D Α AMILY G S 0 ORALB Р R Ε R S Α

#### **SUDOKU**

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

#### **EVIL:**

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5	)	1	2	9	7	6	3	4	8

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#### Starmaker

continued from page 8

suggest I do about it?"

"Turn the ship around in the opposite direction!" Curtiz replied.

The admiral's answer I have fortunately forgotten.

Curtiz ordered the crew up and down the deck until they were ready to kill him.

In revenge, the chief gunnery officer ordered a violent fusillade to be fired from the decks throughout the night as a form of gunnery practice. We got no sleep at all.

Despite Mike's behavior and constant problems with the weather, we made a good picture. But there was a strange aftermath. The picture was sent to Japan as a normal film

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export, since there was no thought of a possible attack from that quarter. The detailed shots of the Enterprise, the shots of the naval installations at San Diego, and the techniques of catapulting planes used by our navy unhappily proved of great interest to the Japanese.

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#### **Under the** radar

continued from page 3

includes a 5938-square-foot Mediterranean-style house with four bedrooms and six bathrooms, avocado and citrus tree groves, a chicken coop, a gated driveway, a saltwater pool, and plenty of security cameras." The movie star paid just \$2.7 million for the estate in 2007, and listed it this past summer for \$6 million, the paper says. Per his profile on LinkedIn, Neshat got his bachelor's degree from UCSD in 1989 and a dental degree from the University of Southern California in 1994. The

Matt Potter

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

brother of noted photographer and director Shirin Neshat, he was an executive producer of her 2022 film Land of Dreams, starring Matt Dillon. A critic of the current Iranian regime, her art is incorporated into a project on Roosevelt Island off Manhattan dedicated to "the courageous Iranians who are risking their lives to express their human rights," according to Smithsonian.com.

(@sdmattpotter)



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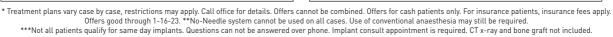
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