

S A N D I E G O

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from the
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

LORAX LAND

Tempest over Torrey

"Because of that tree, we can't see the sea!"

Owners of an endangered Torrey pine in Del Mar have hired a lawyer to try to save the tree, which the city says must be removed. It's the latest tactic in a battle that officially began in 2021 over trees that the neighbors have long seen as a curtain blocking their ocean views. And while Del Mar has an ordinance protecting Torrey pines — among the rarest pines in the world — it also has an ordinance that guards private property views. So there was tension when the neighbors who live behind the Ocean View Avenue property owned by Harvey and Sheryl White filed a Trees, Scenic Views and Sunlight application, asking the city to help restore their views.



View of the five Torrey pines provided by Michael Deftos to the Del Mar Times.

open up the eclipsed view. The neighbors, Michael and Angela Deftos, appealed the pruning plan, saying the limb break needed to be considered. An arborist for the Deftos said 90 percent of the tree's foliage would have to be removed to restore views, while

remove a protected tree," Druker said. "I believe we have made an incorrect decision.") But last week, an attorney for the Whites told the city there was no notice of the possibility that the city would suggest removing the tree. "It is absolutely necessary for the city to re-

VISTA Beer business may get bump More music, more munchies in 2023?

The brewery tasting rooms located in the Vista business park near Sycamore Avenue may be getting an added boost in early 2023. The Vista City Council is set to vote in January on a resolution that would permit up to 12 outdoor events for these establishments annually. Currently, the limit is four. "The nature of the business park, it's a lot different from our breweries downtown where there are different places to eat nearby," Vista City Councilmember Corrina Contreras explained. "Whether the brewery has a kitchen or not, there are a ton of other amenities around. In the business park, it's not necessarily like that. You have these industrial tasting rooms/ breweries, and they don't really have

access to food. So live entertainment ends up being a huge component of their ability to attract folks beyond just having really good beer — because we have some of the best beer in the world here in Vista."

The events would also come at a dis-

"I disagree immensely [with] the decision to remove a protected tree," Druker said. "I believe we have made an incorrect decision."

The Planning Commission agreed that five of the trees pose an unreasonable obstruction, and worked with the owners to carve out a 5-year pruning plan that would reduce the largest tree by 40 percent and the others by 20 percent. Three days later, a limb broke off the biggest tree, effectively reducing its live foliage by 40 percent — but not in the right place to

the Whites' arborist said that pruning during this trimming cycle could harm the tree.

There's only one way to restore the view fully, as the Deftos see it: remove the tree. At a meeting on November 14, the city council agreed, with Mayor Dwight Worden and council member Dave Druker opposed. ("I disagree immensely [with] the decision to



Getting down to business: Kirby's Dream plays Aztec Brewery in 2019.

open the matter in full," said attorney Scott Williams, calling for a new public hearing. An environmental review is needed, he added. "The CEQA exemption simply does not apply to removal of a healthy, mature tree."

Despite being one of the most critically endangered pines in the world, Torrey pines receive no federal protection. Threatened by the loss of genetic diversity, beetles, and climate change, they grow naturally only on a sliver of San Diego coastline and on Santa Rosa Island.

SHEILA PELL

count: the tasting rooms currently must pay \$1009-\$1500 for outdoor events that feature amplified music. Outdoor events with no amplified music are charged \$150. The new resolution pins a \$150 fee to every event, with our without amplification. "The whole point of a fee is just to cover staff costs on the city side," Contreras said. "That's the reason we went forward with amending the specific plan, because it allowed us to have a fee structure where we're essentially utilizing less staff time, because there are less steps needed. It becomes more administrative

continued on page 3



View from Whites' deck in Ranch & Coast magazine.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

versus a really in-depth plan check. I don't think we need to have a super in-depth plan check for some of these live entertainment venues and events, as long as all the people know that need to know — like fire, the sheriffs, and the city. I think that's plenty of people knowing."

Tristan Faulk-Webster is a co-owner of the Aztec Brewing Company, one of the breweries in the Vista business park. In fact, Aztec already benefited from bonus events during the lean year of 2021, when Faulk-Webster estimates they held

being able to have that sort of thing going on." He credits the move with helping to create a new music scene in Vista. "Before the breweries, there was no live music scene in Vista. With the whole brewery/tasting room thing going on, there has been a significant increase in events all over the place. A lot more people are getting into the 'go local' mindset. So, go local with breweries, with crafts, with artists and local music too. There's a lot more appreciation that kind of came out of this."

Councilmember Contreras likes the way the tasting rooms have changed the vibe of the business park. "It creates a different type of atmosphere, where there are people there during the day for the business and then people there later in the

"Before the breweries, there was no live music scene in Vista. With the whole brewery/tasting room thing going on there has been a significant increase..."

at least seven or eight outdoor events under special circumstances. "During that time period, there was an emergency order which essentially let us have outdoor events any time we wanted to," he explained. "After they took the emergency order away, one of the justifications [for official expansion] was, 'Hey, we have been doing this without any problems.' So, I think it's totally reasonable for us to be able to do it again for at least once a month." Because while the pandemic might be easing, there is still the matter of attracting customers in a heavily saturated market. "With the amount of breweries and all of us kind of fighting over the same crowd, the market is totally oversaturated," Faulk-Webster said. "So, for us, it's been a smart business move to be able to have events that draw a significant amount of people and help us stay afloat through it all. Me and my family all being musicians, that's a huge deal for us music-wise. Just

afternoon and at night for the breweries," she said. "So, you have more activation and more eyes on the street. It just lends itself to a better community where you are actually utilizing the space in the community for different types of operations. I think that's important to have a more diverse way of being in a business park that just doesn't end at five o'clock. Now we have our breweries, so you give life to this area that would have been kind of stale after five pm." To help with that atmosphere, she has worked closely with the Vista Brewers Guild, and she viewed the tweaks to outdoor events as "low-hanging fruit" — changes which would have a positive impact and could be made quickly. More complicated issues, such as temporary and permanent structures built outside the establishments, dining and food truck options, and parking fixes may be addressed in the future.

DRYW KELTZ

UNDER THE RADAR

La Jolla ear boxing A torrent of hype from high-flying La Jolla biotech investment outfits like Avalon Ventures continues apace, despite a growing stream of bad news for public investors. A sad case in point: the pending demise of the oddly named Otonomy, Inc. The company, which was "working on treatments for middle and inner ear diseases," per a December 21 *Union-Tribune* report, "is shutting down after failing to find a buyer over the past few months." It's a far cry from the outfit's glory days, when much-touted Avalon took Otonomy public in the late summer of 2014. Otonomy "pulled off a \$100 million Wall Street debut, lining its pockets as it works to get a late-stage ear treatment through the FDA and onto the market," wrote the website *Fierce Biotech* on August 13 of that year. "The company moved about 6.3 million shares at a top-of-the-range \$16 each, earmarking another 937,500 shares to cover over-allotments and setting its maximum deal



Jay Lichter: from suffering to startup.

value at \$115 million. Those proceeds would pile onto a \$49 million Series D Otonomy closed in April, and the biotech intends to use its new cash to wrap up the development of its top prospect and pour the rest into two pipeline treatments for ear-related disorders. Otonomy quickly shot up more than 12% when its shares hit the market, trading at roughly \$18 by mid-morning Wednesday."

The buying frenzy was stirred up by online stories like a puffy March 2009 pre-Initial Public Offering piece by the website *Xconomy.com*, quoting Otonomy's founding CEO and Avalon managing director **Jay Lichter**. "The potential is to be the world leader in treatment of the ears. I like to say that we'll be the Alcon of the ears," Lichter says, referring to the Switzerland-based eye care company. "That's our goal, and we can do it." According to the *Xconomy* post, "Avalon has invested \$3 million to get the company going in its first year."

In April 2017, Lichter related in another *Xconomy* post his searing personal experience with an ear malady. "In January 2008, while driving along Wall Street in La Jolla, I suddenly got so dizzy and disoriented that I had to pull over. I thought I might be having a stroke or a heart attack. After 20 minutes, when I was still alive (and still in a free fall), I called a friend, and she picked me up and took me to the emergency room. I eventually ended up in the office of **Dr. Jeff Harris**, division chief of otolaryngology at UC San Diego Health. He said, 'You have Meniere's disease.' Adds the account: "After that appointment, I experienced the full throes of the disease. I would have two or three vertigo episodes a week, each one lasting between eight and 10 hours. I could not sleep through it. I would just close my eyes and lay there. Once the vertigo was

over, I would get a vertigo hangover — a brain fog that would last several hours. I didn't feel the spinning, but my mind was not as sharp as normal."

Lichter's health crisis marked the beginning of Otonomy, he wrote. "I feel extremely lucky because I was in a position to realize that treatment options were lacking, and I could actually do something about it. And that is what has always driven me — turning lemons into lemonade. At Otonomy, we are bringing new treatments for ear disorders like Meniere's disease to thousands of people, and eventually, to hundreds of thou-

sands (perhaps even millions) of people." Harris, who still practices at UCSD, became a co-founder of Otonomy and now shares several ear drug patents with Lichter, assigned to Otonomy and the University of California, per the website *justia.com*. But Otonomy never delivered Lichter's long promised miracle drugs, and the price of the firm's stock has cratered, last week falling to 11 cents

a share, reports *Fierce Biotech*.

But in the super-rich realm of La Jolla biotech investors, hope and hype are never far from each other, and without acknowledging past failures, Lichter is back drumming up investor cash, based on what he says are the latest putative cures. "On Dec. 6, partners from Avalon announced a first-time \$135 million fund from Avalon BioVentures, L.P., a new venture capital firm dedicated to early-stage biomedical innovation," the *San Diego Business Journal* reported December 20. "The new firm is a spin-out from Avalon Ventures — a San Diego-based VC which has raised approximately \$750 million through 11 funds for both high-tech and life science companies." The story quoted Lichter as saying, "announcements about companies funded by [Avalon BioVentures] are 'coming soon'



Dr. Jeff Harris: from provider to patent partner.

and that the goal of the fund is to invest in about three per year on average over the next four years. Despite the recent downturn in life science markets, Lichter said the partners and investors in Avalon BioVentures are bullish about the outlook for the fund's future investments. "We've had a very consistent strategy over the years — early-stage investing, big ideas, new disease indications, novel targets, whole platforms. And if

you're starting something now, it doesn't need public market exposure for three or four years. [The market] is going to come back around so we don't really worry about that," he said. Added Otonomy's founder: "Our strategy works great because when times are bad, valuations are down, and we get better prices on companies."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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Confessions of a High School Stoner
The Village Voice
Erik Davis, June 22, 1993

BEFORE I ENTERED JUNIOR HIGH, my family moved inland from Del Mar, the mel-low, upwardly mobile surf town north of San Diego name-dropped in “Surfin’ U.S.A.,” to Rancho Santa Fe, a wealthy and conservative realm of citrus groves, migrant Mexican workers, and geriatrics in golf carts. Stone-cold Reagan country, and me and Senzo Moe would escape into the weed, toking up in so many lemon groves that the sharp tang of citrus peels still conjures up bud...

The public high school I attended — imagine an open-air Ridgemoor High surrounded by sagebrush and rocky arroyos, with seagulls diving for your lunch meat — was a mosaic of pot-smoking cliques, their turf demarcated as succinctly as the multicolored regions in maps of the cerebral cortex: skateboarders, metal-heads, punks, death-rockers, stoners, and the various flavors of surfer — the long-haired Zep fans, the cue balls that dug ska, and the dread-headed ones we called Waspafarians....

We knew from Leary and Alpert the importance of set and setting, advice we both fol-lowed and blatantly ignored. Outdoor Dead shows were a cross between the bardos of the Tibetan afterlife and romper rooms, but North County’s unspoiled zones were the greatest backdrops. The summer we were gobbling all of Squiggles’s white blotter, we’d time our doses to hit at sunset.

We’d kick back on the coppery cliffs of Red Rocks beneath a hunchbacked pine and watch the sun melt into the immense, resplendent sea. The sky struck the total chord of the

“Rancho Santa Fe, a wealthy and conservative realm
of citrus groves, migrant Mexican workers...”



spectrum, from the reddish lump of the slipping orb through the violet haze of the canopy above. And to the east was the distinct boundary where dusk stopped and evening began to sketch the uncertain hieroglyphs of the stars.

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LETTERS

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Rescue Mission to the rescue?

Dear Editor-in-Chief, I'd like to comment on Neal Obermeyer's cartoon listing the possible solutions to homelessness in San Diego to his elves. The homeless problem can best be solved by churches and faith-based organizations. Leftist organizations that provide tents and protest are another aspect of the problem. I have observed examples of all of this going on in downtown LA and San Diego. Organizations like Father Joe's Village the Salvation Army Koch Center, and the San Diego Rescue Mission provide

the real solution, not the government. As we all know millions upon millions of dollars have been thrown at the homeless problem to no avail. The Rescue Mission has five goals: 1. Encounter God, 2. Experience Recovery, 3. Engage Job Training and Placement, 4. Establishment Housing and 5. Enlist

Support Network. So, during this Christmas and New Year season, consider giving and volunteering for one of these great organizations that have working to solve the crisis for decades.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Peter
Solana Beach

Hip-hop battle at La Mesa's Lux Lounge
Gonzo Report, December 21, 2022
Thanks so much for the write up. We appreciate you coming out to support what we have going in San Diego, and welcome you and your people back anytime.

-Shi Dog
December 23, 2022

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God and the Pads

My forebear H.L. was no great fan of religion. He famously said that “faith may be defined briefly as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable,” and that “A church is a place in which gentlemen who have never been to heaven brag about it to persons who will never get there.” But even if that’s true, it’s also true that man has a religious bone: he just can’t help but believe in something, no matter how crazy. For Padres fans, that something is winning. And last Sunday, I stopped into the San Diego Mission to hear their pastor, The Swinging Friar, deliver his year-in-review homily. I wasn’t disappointed. How could I be? I rated a mention!

— Walter Mencken, chief correspondent, SD on the QT: Almost Factual News

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WELL, SOME OF IT DID.

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“Adios, Machados!”

THE SWINGING FRIAR'S HOMILY

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for coming today to join me in reflecting on our walk with the Lord through 2022. What a year. What. A. Year. Do you remember August? Of course you remember August. We gained Soto and Bell, but the Dodgers swept us even in the midst of our joy, even as King Seidler named them for what they were: 'the dragon up the freeway that we're trying to slay.' The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Of course, we all know who said *that*: Job, a man whose long-suffering is his chief claim to fame. Well, no, that's not exactly right. What really makes Job famous is that he suffered mightily *and still kept the faith*. It's not always an easy thing to do, even for a true believer. Just two years ago, as Revelations foretold, the great dragon up the freeway spewed water from his mouth like a river, and swept us away in the playoffs. In my sorrow on that dark day, I was heard to cry out, like Our Lord from the cross.

I am not proud of that moment. Maybe it might have helped to recall that in the end, all Job had lost was restored to him, all he had lost and more. It's tempting to pray: "May it be so for us, dear Padres faithful. May it be so for us. All this and more. Not just Tatis, but [ex-Yankee Matt] Carpenter as well. Not just the National League West, but the pennant, and even the Series." Who's with me? [Pause for cheers.]

And yet. I was watching the World Cup final the other day — as you know, soccer is what a baseball fan watches when his chosen sport gets a little too exciting and he needs to slow things down a bit. [Pause for laughter.] And a few hours after Argentina beat France, I got a text from a friend of mine, a fellow of Argentinian descent. Just five words: "What do I do now?" He was just a kid when they won in '86, and he had been waiting ever since for another championship. Twice, his team had come heartbreakingly close: they suffered losses in the final in both 1990 and 2014. Now the wait was finally over; all those four-year treks in the wasteland had

brought him to this. His dream had come true. And there he was, not four hours after the game had ended. texting me: "What do I do now?"

It put me in mind of a wonderful line from the poet Robert Service: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" As we look back on the raised hopes and dashed dreams of our postseason, it may help to recall a bit of history. In 2015, *The New York Times* compiled a list of The Most Cursed Sports Cities in America, a list which included this telling declaration regarding San Diego: "The Chargers, the Padres and a handful of mostly forgotten basketball and hockey teams have combined for 112 championshipless seasons over the past half-century. Only Cleveland has played more seasons in that span without winning." But of course, the very next year, Cleveland broke its so-called curse and left San Diego in happy possession of the title "losingest city in America," because basketball star LeBron James failed to understand what longtime Cleveland Browns quarterback (and perpetual runner-up to

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Denver's John Elway) Bernie Kosar knew in his bones: winning isn't everything. In fact, it's nothing at all.

Mighty 1090 sports radio commentator Ron Sadsack said it best the morning after Cleveland prevailed: "Pierre de Coubertin, father of the modern Olympic Games, taught us that 'the important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well.' Deep down, every athlete, indeed, every competitor in every field, knows this. Remember the immortal line spoken by evil mastermind Hans Gruber in *Die Hard*, 'And when Alexander [the Great] saw the breadth of his domain, he wept, for there were no more worlds to conquer.' The same emptiness awaits at the top of every mountain; all that matters

Padres vs. Il Padre

It's hard to keep the faith when you're losing your religion.

Following the Padres' heartbreaking playoff loss to the Dodgers, the team's Swinging Friar fell to his knees, lifted his eyes to the heavens, and cried in a loud voice, "Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Did you bring us to the playoffs, only to let us die here, on the threshold of the World Series? When Jacob wrestled the angel, the angel was overcome, but these heathen from the city of *fallen* angels

to the north have vanquished us yet again, striking us down even in the midst of our glory. Why did you send us the son of Tatis? Why did you strengthen Paddack's arm, and make Machado mighty in battle? Was it only to humble us and leave us desolate, so that our name becomes a byword among the cities? Will you let it be said that God's chosen has been forsaken, that the Almighty has broken faith with his priest? Remember your promises of



"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?"

old, O Lord, and the fact that San Diego is like the only major city in America that doesn't have a big league championship of some kind. Thou hast blessed Cleveland, but not the Padres?"

is the climb.

I will never forget the tears that LeBron shed after winning, tears that many people associated with joy and relief. But I don't think so. I think King James was looking into the future and seeing nothing

except the terrifying prospect of repetition, with ever-diminishing returns. Michael Jordan won six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls, and is widely considered to be the greatest basketball player of all time. Did any of that bring

him happiness? Of course not. ESPN's profile of Jordan at 50 revealed him to be frustrated bordering on bitter, a fierce competitor wracked by his inability to compete. His bizarre, sour speech at his induction into the NBA Hall of Fame transformed him from giant to joke: today's young people use Crying Jordan to signify athletic failure, not success.

San Diego is a truly special city, a *chosen* city: we San Diegans know — as no others do, as no others can — that all earthly victories are hollow. How

do we know this? Because we've never experienced that blinding flash of winners' ecstasy, a pleasure so pure that it blinds fans to the awful truth, even though it lasts but a moment.

What are the Red Sox without the Curse of the Bambino? All those years of exquisite striving and frustration, doomed because of that legendarily stupid trade that sent Babe Ruth to the Yankees. World Series wins come and go — can anyone here tell me who won in 2008? But everyone here knows

about the '86 series, when the Red Sox were just one out from victory and Bill Buckner let a weak dribbler roll between his legs to keep the Mets alive. The Curse! But now? Now the Sox are just a knockoff version of the Yankees, with even worse manners.

And has anyone outside of Chicago even thought of the Cubs since they finally won in 2016, famously ending the longest championship drought in North American pro sports history? And it's not like Cleveland is content to have had its fling

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Un-Kemped

Padres send sluggish slugger to Braves

"For a long time," says Padres executive chairman Rod Fowler, "the word around Major League Baseball was that the San Diego Padres couldn't pay to get someone to take Matt Kemp off their hands. Giant contract, questionable hips, middling defense, poor on-base percentage ... the occasional home run just wasn't enough to offset all those negatives. Well, I guess we showed them what's what — because that's exactly what we

did. So, yes, we'll be paying Atlanta around \$11 million over the coming years to help offset Kemp's gargantuan salary — close to \$22 million a season. But believe it or not, the deal actually saves us money. Plus, there's the incalculable feeling of freedom and release that comes from simply not having Matt Kemp in your dugout every night, serving as some kind of nightmare reminder of your stupid attempt to buy a division title."



Respect the hustle: Matt Kemp, last seen giving his all to get out of San Diego while the getting is good and lucrative.

Kemp because of the speed and power of his bat, and as every hitter since Ted Williams has known, batspeed and power come from the hips. But we ignored the signs and pressed on, spending all the way. Buying Kemp was an attempt to build our own golden calf, with that deal, we became men striving with God, who alone giveth the victory. And when man wrestles with God, where does he get injured, according to Genesis account of Jacob and the angel? That's right, the hip. We were warned. But did we learn? We did not.

We went right out and spent again, this time on Fernando Tatis, Jr. We made ourself another golden calf. And we wound up with another wounded joint. Of course, that injury wasn't Tatis' fault. It was ours. He didn't anoint himself our savior. We did that to

with the King and then bid him farewell. There is no romance in winning, no story — even, dare I say it, no meaning. And deep down, we know this.

How do I know we know this Because our city has *had* a great sports franchise: the San Diego Gulls of the late '90s and early aughts. Five — count 'em, five, back to back championships — and how did we reward them? By staying away in droves, so much so that they shut down due to lack of business. We wanted no part of that pyrrhic victory, because we were the faithful.

And faith is *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

But of course, we are only human. Even God's chosen can forget. The Israelites, God's original chosen people, forgot him over and over. When they suffered, they cried out against him. When they prospered, they imagined it was because of their own greatness, forgetting what we read in Ecclesiastes: "The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, but time and chance happen to them all." Or again in Deuteronomy: "You might say

in your heart, 'The power and strength of my hands have made this wealth for me.' But remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to gain wealth." Or in the Psalms: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who built it labor in vain."

It's a lesson we've had to learn time and time again. Remember August, when people said we were trying to buy a World Series run, as if it were some bold new strategy? Seven years ago, we spent untold millions to put together what looked like it would be an all-star outfield: Matt

Kemp, Wil Myers, and Justin Upton. Everyone thought we were finally wising up and spending what it took to succeed. And what came of all our spending? We said goodbye to Myers last week after a traveling long and rocky road together. Up-

ton lasted just one season. And Kemp — oh, Kemp.

Looking back, the fate of the what was then the biggest deal in team history should have been clear from the outset, when the x-rays came back and showed arthritis in both of Kemp's hips. We dealt for



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him. But he suffered for it, and we suffered because of his suffering.


When he came to us, Tatis was wise beyond his years, a man after God's own heart, who wanted nothing more than to do the work given to him and so earn his daily bread. Recall his interview with Walter Mencken of the *Reader's Almost Factual News*:

"Recently, Padres superstar Fernando Tatis, Jr. signed a 14-year, \$340 million contract with the San Diego Padres. It was the longest contract ever signed, as well as the third-richest, and the most certain to keep him from ever winning the World Series. 'I mean, I'm 22 now,' said Tatis, Jr. after the signing, 'so that means I'll be 36 when I've finished serving my time here. If I stay healthy, then technically, I guess it's possible that some World Series contender will pick me up for use in certain situations, or as a backup for regulars when go on the DL. So who knows? I might still win the Big One some day. But it's unlikely — though still not as unlikely as winning it here in San Diego. I admit it's a little dispiriting to think of — I didn't start

Touched by an Angel

Tatis jr. suffers Jacob's Joint injury as punishment for his anointing as Padres savior

Yesterday, God Almighty called a press conference to announce that he was responsible for the shoulder injury suffered by Padres superstar Fernando Tatis, Jr., who tore his labrum at the end of a mighty swing during a game against the San Francisco Giants. "Look," said God, "I normally don't like to get involved with professional sports. Too many conflicting prayers, you know? But here you've got a team named after a group of Catholic priests. My Son



Special "God's-eye" cam footage shows angel touching the slugger's shoulder at precise moment of his labrum tear.

founded that church; what kind of Dad would I be if I didn't keep tabs? So they muddle along, stumbling and falling just like their name-

sake, and then bang, here comes Tatis. Suddenly, people are talking about a pennant, even a Series. Not because the Padres have repented

and returned to me, no. Because of him. So looked back through my Book of Smiting, and came across the time when I sent my angel in the form of a man to wrestle with Jacob, way back in Genesis. 'When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint.' Perfect. What's the old line from the Psalms? Ah yes: 'Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His shoulder giveth way, he falleth to the earth.' Something like that. Anyway, I'm thinking this should get them thinking of me again. [Padres General Manager AJ] Preller's already been on his knees for a good portion of every day, begging me to just fix this. And small wonder: \$340 million is a lot of money."

playing baseball just to get rich, you know? I always wanted to win. But as I often do in difficult times, I turned to my bible, and found a comforting passage in Paul. "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things."

It's like it says in that song "Puff the Magic Dragon" — "Painted wings and Series rings make way for other toys." Toys like the custom Padres Lambo I'm having built to celebrate the signing of this contract."

But alas. Soon he was breaking the unwritten rules, hitting a grand slam when the Pads were

already up seven, flipping double birds in the dug-out, taking ill-advised bike rides... *Of course* the Lord smote him. Then the suspension — as I said, who can forget last August? And now trade rumors and a flight to New York. It's enough to break your heart. Pride goeth before the fall — a lesson we failed to learn ourselves. A lesson the Phillie Phanatic was only too happy to teach us after Ground Floor murals raised up that mural of the San Diego Chicken

giving him a swift kick to the head. Our Lord warns about graven images at the very beginning of the Ten Commandments. And yet.

Dear brothers and sisters, it is winter now, a season of darkness. But darkness must always give way to light, and soon it will be spring again, and we will once again feel the rush of hope as we survey our beloved Padres' prospects. Once again, we will wonder if this will be the year when it all comes together, when defeating

the dragon to the north is but a skirmish on our way to whatever Big Boss the American League throws at us in October. But even as we hold our hopes aloft, let us not forget the Biggest Boss of all, the God who promises eternal victory to those who keep faith. And when the fall comes, and with it, the fall of those hopes, let us not forget those lovely words from the poet Service: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" ■

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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 29

THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS



THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS

The Greyboy Allstars are celebrating the 25th anniversary of one of their most popular albums, *A Town Called Earth*, with a new reissue dubbed *The Immortal Edition*, featuring the previously unreleased track "Cassiopeia's Chair." Band keyboardist Robert Walter is back from touring with Pink Floyd cofounder Roger Waters, and the Allstars will play a three night stand in Little Italy.

WHEN: Thursday, December 29 through Saturday, December 31, 8 pm
WHERE: The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, casbahmusic.com

free day pass to come back to Plunge at a future date, Belmont Park coupons, New Year's party favors, and two raffle tickets.

WHEN: Saturday, December 31, 10 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Belmont Park, 3146 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. tickettailor.com

NEW YEAR'S BURNING BOWL CEREMONY

Release and burn the things you want to let go of from 2022 and set your intentions for 2023



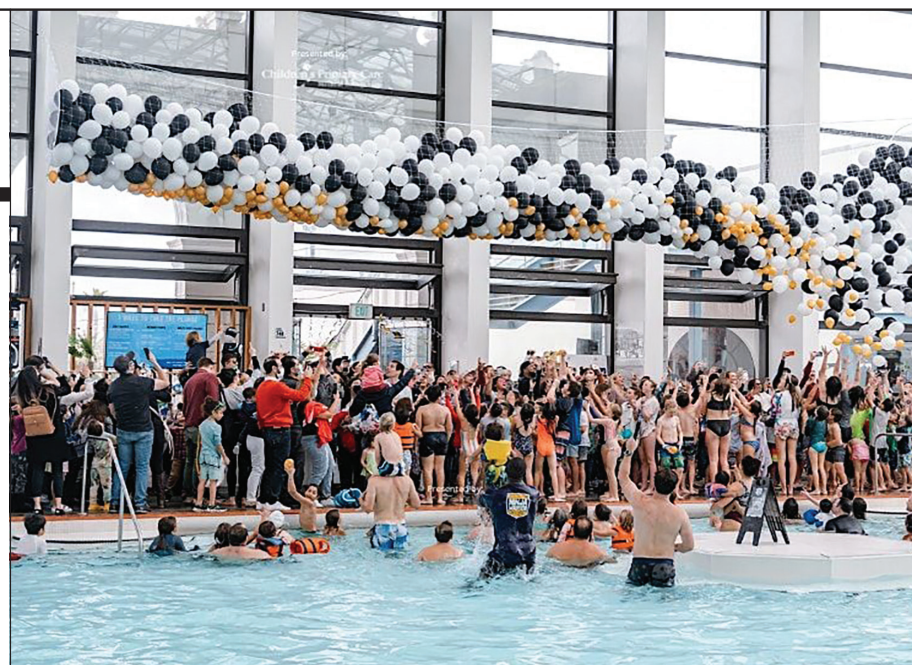
with community support. This non-denominational ceremony will be led by Dr. Christina Tillotson. If you cannot come in person, you can participate in the interactive on-line event.

WHEN: Saturday, December 31, 7 pm to 8:30 pm
WHERE: Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive, Encinitas. seasidecenter.org

Saturday | 31

NOON YEAR CELEBRATION

Watch the noon balloon drop and enjoy a lineup of family friendly entertainment. Option to swim or take on the Plunge obstacle course, games, bounce houses, thousands of dollars in giveaways, crafts, dessert bites, music, and dancing. Thanks to The Storybook Character Company, there will be a special guest stopping by for a meet and greet. Each family ticket grants access to the event and the option to stay and swim until 3 pm, plus one



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31: NOON YEAR CELEBRATION

Sunday | 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH CRUISE

Spend the first day of 2023 aboard a yacht sipping mimosas and enjoying brunch, music, and sights of the San Diego bay. The two-hour champagne brunch cruise glides past the Coronado waterfront. Three-Egg omelettes, Bananas Foster French toast, chicken and waffles, and carnitas *chilaquiles*.

WHEN: Sunday, January 1, 11 am to 1 pm
WHERE: Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive, Downtown. flagshipsd.com

Wednesday | 4

FILM FORUM CORONADO: SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

An immoral press agent (Tony Curtis) sells his soul to a treacherous Broadway



SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

columnist (Burt Lancaster), beginning a Machiavellian struggle for power, money, and survival. Film Forum

Coronado is held in the Winn Room twice a month. Brief introduction before the film and discussion afterward, led by Ralph DeLauro. (1957. 96 Minutes)

WHEN: Wednesday, January 4, 6 pm
WHERE: Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue, Coronado. coronadolibrary.org

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

ART

Acupuncture Arrives in the USA: A 50-year Journey It came to our shores with the Chinese immigrants in the 1800s, but was still illegal in the USA in the 1970's. Fridays, 1pm; Saturdays, 1pm; Sundays, 1pm; through Sunday, January 29, \$5. San Diego Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

AUTOMOTIVE

Cars & Coffee All cars welcome Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, August 24, **free**. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Scarlett St. Clair and Piper CJ This event will consist of a 30 minute discussion with Scarlett St. Clair and conversation partner Piper CJ, author of *The Night and Its Moon*, followed by the book signing. Friday, December 30, 6pm; **free**. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 3555 Rosecrans Street Suite 107,. (POINT LOMA)

Storytime Storytime with a book-seller or author Sundays, 10:30am; through Tuesday, May 30, Diesel, A Bookstore, 12843 El Camino Real Suite 104. (DEL MAR)

Michelle Gable: The Lipstick Bureau: A Novel Inspired by True WWII Events. Warwick's will host Michelle Gable as she discusses and signs her new book, *The Lipstick Bureau: A Novel Inspired by True WWII Events*. This event is free and limited open seating first-come, first-served until we reach capacity. Reserve seating by pre-ordering one book per seat through warwicks.com/event/gable-2023. Thursday, January 5, 7:30pm; **free**-\$17. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! A wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for another incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," and "Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)," the delightful carol from the popular

OUTDOORS

Shorebird-watching gets good, grey whale migration season

Shorebird-Watching Enters its Most Agreeable Season this month and next, with migrant and resident birds sharing common winter grounds. Egrets, herons, terns, and a variety of other species provide endless entertainment as they go about the business of fishing and feeding in San Diego County's coastal wetlands. Publicly accessible wetlands include the following (listed north to south): San Luis Rey River mouth, Buena Vista Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Batiquitos Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, San Diego River flood channel (south of Sea World Drive), Sweetwater River marsh, southwest San Diego Bay,



A BREECHING WHALE



HERON WAITING FOR FISH AT OTAY LAKES, CHULA VISTA

and Tijuana River Estuary. Many of the same birds can also be seen on the shores of inland reservoirs such as Lake Murray and Lake Miramar.

Gray Whale Migration Off San Diego County's Coast peaks from now until February. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various cliff-top view points and beach access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using high-power binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 am to noon.

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.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Adult Beginning Bachata & Salsa Dance Lessons Bachata and Salsa classes for adults Thursdays, 6pm; through Thursday, December 29, \$10-\$20. 18 and up. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Belly Dancing Beginner Class Learn to Belly Dance in a fun and friendly environment. Tuesdays, 6:30pm; through Sunday, December 31, \$20. Dorothea Laub Dance Place Studio, 2650 Truxton Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Critical Theory Poetry Workshop A 3 hour donation-based workshop in poetry writing, poetics and critical theory. Fridays, 2:30pm; through Friday, December 30, \$10-\$30. Mission Hills Library, 925 W. Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Manifest Intention Setting Workshop Join Denise Alba, Licensed Therapist & Studio Owner, in an evening of creating & manifesting vision boards. Toast with bubbly to your visions for 2023. Bring 1 magazine to share. All other materials provided. Thursday, December 29, 6:30pm; \$40. 18 and up. Brave Wellness Studio, 6020 Santo Rd., Suite B. (TIERRASANTA)

Meditation Meditation, Awareness and Awakening with Turiya Saturday, December 31, 11am; **free**. 18 and up. Dharma Center, 5059 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Poetry for the People Workshop This course will feature poems, both historic and contemporary, which enjoy iconic status. These poems, as well as their authors, are acknowledged as widely recognized and admired as having exceptional influence. All class members are encouraged to contribute their ideas and perceptions of the poems, enriching the discussions for everyone in attendance. Wednesdays, 11am; through Wednesday, March 8, **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

SAT/ACT Prep Basics In this free event, Vince Kotchian will talk to parents about successful SAT and ACT prep from his 15 years in the test prep field. Learn about 4 common SAT and ACT prep myths and get 3 tips on how to help your child self-study for the tests. Tuesday, January 3, 9am; **free**. Vince Kotchian Test Prep, 5230 Carroll Canyon Road Ste. 206. (MIRA MESA)

COMEDY

Big Jay Oakerson AS SEEN ON: Comedy Central's "This

is Not Happening", "Comedy Underground with Dave Attell, FX's Louie, Inside Amy Schumer, and Late Night with Jimmy Fallon! Thursday, December 29, 8pm; Friday, December 30, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 31, 7pm and 10pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Jared Freid New Years Eve extravaganza will include food & drinks, a fun ambiance, and laughs. Jared Freid is a stand-up comedian based out of New York City, with a strong focus on dating and relationships. Saturday, December 31, 7pm and 10pm; \$30. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Nerd Comedy Scientist Turned Comedian Tim Lee hosts the show with several top nerd comics in the state. The show concludes with the Nerd Olympics, a game show where audience members compete to answer nerdy questions. Lee, who got his PhD before realizing where his true talents lie, blends science talk (complete with PowerPoint presentations) with comedy. The result is like what would happen if you crossed your high school chem teacher with George Carlin. Saturday, December 31, 7pm; \$35-\$55. Sunshine Brooks Theatre, 217 N. Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

Unscripted Comedy Show The NCT cast creates the entire show

based completely on audience suggestions. Fridays, 7:30pm; through Friday, December 30, \$15-\$20. National Comedy Theatre, 3717 India Street. (MISSION HILLS)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Inter-Tribal Council of Elders Gatherings Free weekly Inter-Tribal Council of Elders gatherings to improve the quality of life for American Indian/Alaska Native Elders, families, and children in the San Diego area. The Inter-Tribal Council of Elders meets at SDAIHC, every Saturday, in the health center's community kitchen. Meetings are potluck style, and everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish to share. Saturdays, 9am; through Saturday, December 31, **free**. San Diego American Indian Health Center, 2602 1st Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

FOOD & DRINK

Celebrate the New Year with a Luxe Dinner Celebrate the New Year with a prix-fixe 3-course meal with optional wine pairing on New Year's Eve. Saturday, December 31, 5:30pm; \$25-\$145. 20|Twenty

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Canyon View Church of Christ

Contact: 4292 Balboa Ave., San Diego 858-273-5140

www.canyonview.org

Membership: 200+

Pulpit Minister: Barry Day

Age: 59

Born: San Diego

Formation: Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX; Amridge University, Montgomery, AL

Years Ordained: 39

San Diego Reader: What is the mission of your church?

Pastor Barry Day: Our mission is what Jesus came for—to seek and save the lost, and preach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We preach God's grace and our salvation in him. Jesus tells us we run after a

lot of things but we seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things God will bless you with. That's a simple way of life, and I want people, no matter what they do for a living, to live that simple Christian life. We believe in a people-oriented Christianity. One way we live out our mission is through community involvement. For instance, each year around Christmas, we invite families with their children to take part in what we call Winter Wonderland. This year it took place on December 9. We have real snow shipped in to make snow-runs on our property. Kids come and sled. We also do a live Nativity scene with real actors and barnyard

animals. A reader reads the story of Christ's birth, and we sing familiar songs about the birth of Christ. It is a fabulous time for everyone each year we've done it.

SDR: Where is the strangest place you found God?

PD: A few months ago, I took two weeks off from work and I rode my motorcycle from San Ysidro to Oregon and back on country roads. I camped every night, and while in Oregon I pulled off into this little church building because it was pouring rain—it was Oregon, after all. I was trying to put on my rain gear before I got soaking wet when this guy came up to me—he was really rough-looking. But

he had the hugest cross around his neck. He asked me what I was doing. He loved my motorcycle—I have an awesome Harley—and he said, "Wait a minute. I want to show you something." He ran off to his beat-up car and came back with a binder full of all these pictures of his life. He had been living the roughest life I ever heard anyone tell me: crime, drugs, motorcycle crashes, hospitals, jail. He didn't know why he wanted to show me these pictures, but it made me realize that sometimes I disregard people who live so rough. Those are the exact people whom Jesus hung out with and wanted to



Barry Day

save. It was the best thing I learned in those two weeks on the road. That man changed my perspective.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PD: Those who believe in Christ and the gospel mes-

sage, and who see faith as not just a feeling but a way of life, will be saved. That's why I want to teach people how to be saved, which is exactly what Jesus came to do. Those who are not saved will go to hell. I believe that hell is going to be the eternal state of separation from God for people who are not in heaven. Hell is there to get us to think about eternity. No one needs to go to hell, but we all have free will. It is up to you to accept what God wants to give to you.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

at Westin Carlsbad, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Cheers to the New Year The menu at the Lounge features a selection of small plates by Executive Chef Mike Minor. Saturday, December 31, 4pm; \$100-\$300. Marine Room, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

New Year's Eve Dinner Enjoy a 3-course prix fixe menu, including a glass of bubbles. Choose from a variety of freshly made options for each course. Saturday, December 31, 5pm; free-\$120. George's at the Cove Ocean Terrace, 1250 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

New Years Eve Festive seasonal five-course dinner specially concocted by Chef Bryn Mc Arthur for the occasion. The evening will continue to the sound of a live band playing various genres to celebrate the New Year. The late seating will then dance the night away till you ring in the New Year. Saturday, December 31, 12pm; \$295. Amaya, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (DEL MAR)

New Years Eve Celebrate New Years Eve in style this year with a seafood-centric menu from The Desmond. Located within the newly opened Kimpton Alma San Diego in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter, The Desmond is the brainchild of acclaimed restaurateur and chef Jason Neroni - his love letter to the cuisines of Southern California. This holiday season, the restaurant is offering a New Years Eve specialty menu. Saturday, December 31, 5pm; Desmond, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Brunch Prefix three-course menu for brunch will feature sweet delights and savory dishes along with festive libations to get you started off a wonderful new year. Sunday, January 1, 11am; \$125. Amaya, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (DEL MAR)

Recovery Brunch Recovery Brunch - New Year's Day Brunch Football, Beer + Breakfast Sunday, January 1, 9am; Monday, January 2, 9am; free. Guava Beach Bar & Grill, 3714 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Snow & S'mores Reserve a fire pit with seasonally inspired gourmet s'mores platters, single-origin Stirring Up Nostalgia hot chocolate and a charcuterie board. Thursday, December 29, 5pm; Friday, December 30, 5pm; \$200. Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road. (CARLSBAD)

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

FOR KIDS

Dance Pants Party Recommended for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary-school age kids, this simple dance program will feature "The Wheels on the Bus," "Baby Shark," and more. This program will be held outdoors. Recommended for ages

1+. Wednesdays, 10:30am; through Wednesday, January 25, free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Jurassic World: The Exhibition a family-friendly immersive 20,000-square-foot experience. Visitors walk through the world-famous "Jurassic World" gates, explore richly themed environments and encounter life-sized Velociraptors, a Brachiosaurus, and the most fearsome dinosaur of all, the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex. Monday-Sunday, 11am; through Sunday, April 16, Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Noon Year Celebration Plunge San Diego counts down and ring in the New Year with a noon balloon drop. This event includes a lineup of family friendly entertainment, the option to swim or take on the Plunge obstacle course, games, bounce houses, thousands of dollars in giveaways, crafts, dessert bites, music, dancing and much, much more. Saturday, December 31, 10am; \$45-\$85. Belmont Park,

3146 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

NATURE

Chollas Lake Wildlife Walk

Take a hike with a Park Ranger to "meet the neighbors" at Chollas Lake Park. If you are curious about the wild and feral animals that reside in our park, this program will delight you. Note that this ranger walk is 1 mile long on dirt surfaces with some hills and steps. Bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Meet near the comfort station at the north end of the parking lot. Saturday, December 31, 1pm; free. Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive. (OAK PARK)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kwanzaa Celebration 42nd Annual Kwanzaa Celebration "Tribute to the Ancestors" Thurs-

day, December 29, 6:30pm; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Breathe, Feel, Stretch, Relax & Heal

Get warm and limber with this weekly class offered by Certified Yoga Instructor Jaruska Solyova. Learn how to adapt poses and breathing to your level. RSVP solyoga@yahoo.com Wednesdays, 4:40pm; through Wednesday, January 25, \$15-\$20. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Glice Skating Join recreational skating on an eco-friendly Glice rink. Rental skates are available, or you can bring your own, but recreational shoes are not permitted. Thursdays, 4pm; Fridays, 4pm; through Friday, December 30, \$38. Fairmont Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CAR-MEL VALLEY)

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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 — A person might argue that once you've figured out how to download a person's consciousness into a lab-grown, giant blue superhuman body, you don't absolutely *need* to travel across the galaxy to hunt whales that produce minute quantities of stuff that stops human aging. But that person would be missing the point of director and co-writer James Cameron's sequel to *Avatar*, a sequel that deploys even more high tech (or at least, high frame rate) than its predecessor in service to its message that happiness lies in reconnecting to nature. Because once humanity lost sight of that, erm, native truth, what else was left but the itch for innovation, expansion, and conquest? It would also be missing the point to lament the incessant addition of "bro!" and "cuz!" to the ends of lines spoken by the dreadlocked blue teen offspring of gone-Na'vi soldier Jake Sully, or the weird dramatic and personal vacancy of their torn-between-two-worlds human friend Spider. Because dialogue and character and even plot mechanics must here bend the knee before spectacle and dynamics. And those are things Cameron knows well



Babylon: The silent era was pretty raucous.

enough to make you feel them in whatever part of you has made him so unerringly successful at the box office. Here, it's the spectacle of a well lighted life below the ocean waves, and the dynamics of fathers

and sons, of hosts and refugees, of hunter and hunted. And it would be missing the point in truly special fashion to call the proceedings indulgent to the point of self-infatuation: Cameron has built a new

world from the remixed bits of this one, and he seems determined that we should not simply visit Pandora, we should, for at least three hours, live in it. However, it might *not* be missing the point to note that

the devotion to ever-higher CG resolution and ever-more immersive 3-D has a tendency to drain the drama — the visceral, vital impact — from hand-to-hand combat, and to make the biggest battles feel like video-game cutscenes. To reduce, ultimately, the experience's sum total of felt life. But then, there is more than one way to see this particular movie, so your mileage may vary. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Babylon — Does Damien Chazelle like the movies? His big splash, *La La Land*, told the story of a gal who gives up true love with a true artist (a jazz man, as it happens) to pursue stardom, because c'mon, it's stardom. (Come to think of it, it's all there in the first line of the song that opens the show, in which a girl sings about leaving her own true love for the lights of L.A.) A sad story, but still sweet and wistful and fun to look at. Here? We open with shit (from an elephant on its way to an Early Hollywood orgy) and follow with piss (from a Champagne-swilling ingénue at said orgy) before moving onto ersatz semen (from a bazooka-sized member wielded by a performing dwarf) getting sprayed all over the riotous crowd. Projectile vomiting is held in reserve until the film's middle, but still: the magic of the movies, people. A party like this attracts a certain sort of someone: in this case, Nellie (Margot Robbie), the daughter of a con man and a crazy woman, on the run from home and bound for cinematic glory. Within minutes of her arrival, she's hoovering up cocaine and listening to errand boy Manny (Diego Calva) yammer on about how movies are meaningful,



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IN THEATERS JANUARY 13

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CURRENT MOVIES

bigger than life. Maybe so, maybe not, but the industry that produces them turns out to be, surprise surprise, a money-making machine that runs on people — emphasis on machine. The coming of sound is the big technical advance here — the torture of Nellie under the sound man's tyranny gets especial and excruciating attention — but as the crazy pants closing montage makes it clear, technology is god in Babylon, and the artist onscreen is at best a handmaiden, at worst a sacrificial victim. (One guess as to which sort of artist is the only one to make it out with his dignity intact.) What comes before that montage is long and frequently unpleasant, but at least there's a point to all that decadence and despair: first time as tragedy, second time as hit musical. Of course, there are consolations along the way — Chazelle knows his business, after all. Casting Brad Pitt as a big shot on the wane is both bold and engaging. And a visit to the "asshole of LA" doubles nicely (and nastily) as a journey into moviedom's carney roots. But for all the parties and pretty people, it's not a fun ride. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (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 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 (Micheal 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 when it comes to mental health, 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 office-visit affair with her boss Donald (Colin Firth, 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 something approaching peace? 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)

EO — EO, a gray donkey with melancholic eyes and a curious spirit, begins life as a circus performer before escaping across the Polish and Italian countryside, where he encounters a troubled young priest, a Countess, a rowdy soccer team,

and experiences society's cultural and environmental ills, all on his journey to freedom. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes 2022, and Poland's entry for the 2023 Academy Awards. 2022. (LAND-MARK HILLCREST)

The Fabelmans — Directed by Steven Spielberg, the surreal comedy stars Gabriel LaBelle as 16-year-old aspiring filmmaker Sammy Fabelman, Michelle Williams as his artistic mother, Paul Dano as his successful scientific father, Seth Rogen as honorary "uncle" to the Fabelman children, and Judd Hirsch as Mitzie's Uncle Boris. 2022. Sgt. Tiki (IN WIDE RELEASE)

I Wanna Dance With Somebody — Amusingly positive account of the unfortunate life led by Whitney Houston, from New Jersey choir girl to one of the best-selling and most awarded recording artists of all time, to a crack addict dying in the bathroom. Directed by Kasi Lemmons, written by Anthony McCarten, produced by music executive Clive Davis, and starring Naomi Ackie. 2022. Sgt. Tiki (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish — Charismatic outlaw Puss in Boots discovers that his passion for peril and disregard for safety have taken their toll. Puss has burned through eight of his nine lives, though he lost count along the way. Getting those lives back will send Puss in Boots on his grandest quest yet. Antonio Banderas returns as the voice of the notorious PiB as he embarks on an epic journey into the Black Forest to find the mythical Wishing Star and restore his lost lives. But

with only one life left, Puss will have to humble himself and ask for help from his former partner and nemesis: the captivating Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek Pinault). 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Spoiler Alert — Based on Michael Ausiello's memoir *Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies*, the film details Michael and Kit's relationship as it transforms and deepens, especially after one of them falls ill. Starring Jim Parsons, Ben Aldridge, and Sally Field. 2022. (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Strange World — Inspired by classic adventure stories, a famous family of explorers, the Clades, attempt to navigate an uncharted, treacherous land alongside a motley crew that includes a mischievous blob, a three-legged dog, and a slew of ravenous creatures. The voice cast includes Jake Gyllenhaal as Searcher Clade, a family man who finds himself out of his element on an unpredictable mission; Dennis Quaid as Searcher's larger-than-life explorer father, Jaeger; Jaboukie Young-White as Searcher's 16-year-old son, Ethan, who longs for adventure; Gabrielle Union as Meridian Clade, an accomplished pilot and Searcher's partner in all things; and Lucy Liu as Callisto Mal, Avalonia's fearless leader who spearheads the exploration into the strange world. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Tár — From producer-writer-director Todd Field comes *TÁR*, starring Cate Blanchett as the iconic musician Lydia Tár. If you want to dance the mask, you must service the composer. *TÁR* examines the changing nature of power, its impact and

durability in our modern world. 2022. (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Train Time — Cinematic railroad documentary courtesy of Stephen Low, following the trek of a modern freight train through the communities it serves. The journey reveals the diversity of the American landscape and the evolving role and heritage of railroading professionals integral to the fabric of modern civilization. The visuals race along parallel bands of steel through prairie, mountains and desert, through cities and towns and wilderness. Along the way, railroaders and the tracks and trains themselves offer up a story of engineering, of frontier-taming and community-building, human ingenuity and industry. 2022. (FLEET SCIENCE CENTER)

The Whale — A reclusive English teacher attempts to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter. Directed by Darren Aronofsky, starring Brendan Fraser, Sadie Sink, and Ty Simpkins. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Wildcat — A young veteran on his journey into the Amazon meets a young woman running a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center. As a result, his life finds new meaning as he is entrusted with the life of an orphaned baby ocelot. What was meant to be an attempt to escape from life, turns out to be an unexpected journey of love, discovery, and healing. Directed by Trevor Frost and Melissa Lesh, starring Dante Cueva Altamirano and Cristian De La Cruz. 2022. (LAND-MARK HILLCREST)

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ONLY IN THEATERS JANUARY 6

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ON STAGE IN SAN DIEGO

THEATER LISTINGS

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

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. 7PM TUESDAY, JAN. 3 & WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4.

Annie The Musical

Little Orphan Annie has reminded generations of theatergoers that sunshine is always right around the corner, and now the best-loved musical of all time is set to return in a new production - just as you remember it and just when we need it most. Annie, directed by Jenn Thompson, features the iconic book and score, written by Tony Award®-winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7:30PM THURSDAY & SATURDAY, 6:30PM SUNDAY, JAN. 1.

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



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAN MARCUS

Annie: Bet your bottom dollar...

sails. He's not an anti-hero; he's a bad guy in need of saving. Still, at least his conversion at play's end still makes sense. For their part, the Whos could use a come-to-Jesus (well, come-to-Cindy Lou Who) moment to explain their astonishing response to losing everything they've worked so hard to achieve. They assure us in song that Whos like Christmas, but why, exactly? Maybe that's just their jam? The planning, the presents, the party? That's what they tell us, anyway. But soft - even as I type this, I can hear the "Bah, humbugs" echoing in my brain, warning me against dimming the Christmas cheer and urging me to laugh and sing along. (The sing-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 SATURDAYS.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Alice in Wonderland

The City of Temecula offers the fifth session of Temecula Presents' Student-Led Arts Education Internship Program allowing students to gain experience in the theater industry. This free program provides local youth access to three months of mentorship from professional artists and expert advisors and encourages dynamic, innovative community building, and learning through youth-focused arts and cultural projects. Enjoy *Alice in Wonderland* with book, music, and lyrics by Janet Yates and Mark Friedman based on *Alice's Adventures in*

Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll. This brand new musical version of the timeless classic takes you down the rabbit hole with the ever-curious Alice to a land of zany adventures where nothing is as it seems.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. FEB. 3 THROUGH FEB. 5.

Bluey's Big Play

Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy® award-winning children's television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush. Join the Heelers in their first live theatre show made just for you, featuring brilliantly created puppets. This is Bluey as you've never seen it before, brought to real life. BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. FEB. 24 THROUGH FEB. 26.

Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got The Will?

Welcome to the small town of Anytime, Texas, U.S.A. It's a family reunion and Daddy is about to die. Surrounded by this patriarch's clan of children who have come to support their elderly dad and find out the contents of his will, things get out of hand. It is not the story of the impending demise of the father or of the drafting of his will, but of a rebirth of the spirit of the family unit.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. FEB. 10 THROUGH FEB. 19.

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.

Frozen - The Musical

From the producer of The Lion King and Aladdin, Frozen, the Tony®-nominated Best Musical, is now on tour across North America and the critics rave, "It's simply magical!" (LA Daily News). Heralded by The New Yorker as "thrilling" and "genuinely moving," Frozen features the songs you know and love from the original Oscar®-winning film, plus an expanded score with a dozen new numbers by the film's songwriters, Oscar winner Kristen Anderson-Lopez and EGOT winner Robert Lopez.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. JAN. 18 THROUGH JAN. 29.

Into The Woods

Ovation presents Into the Woods: The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

HOWARD BRUBECK THEATRE AT PALOMAR

COLLEGE, 1140 W. MISSION RD., PALOMAR COLLEGE. 760-744-1150. JAN. 20 THROUGH JAN. 29.

Joyce DiDonato

Fusing music, movement, and theater, EDEN is a tour-de-force from Joyce DiDonato, with Il Pomo d'Oro orchestra and Zefira Valova. By traveling seamlessly through four centuries of music—including a new commission by Academy Award-winning composer Rachel Portman—EDEN is a searing and singular experience of hope and connection that celebrates the majesty, might, and mystery of nature

CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 7600 FAY AVE., LA JOLLA. JAN. 18.

The Main Line: A Musical Revue

To commemorate Black History Month, *The Main Line*, A Musical Revue tells the story of the late gospel singer, Mahalia Jackson. Written and directed by Jennie Hamilton. COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., OAK PARK. 619-581-2634. FEB. 3 THROUGH FEB. 26.

Mean Girls - The Musical

Mean Girls is a ferociously funny new musical from an award-winning creative team, including director Casey Nicholaw (Aladdin, The Book of Mormon), composer Jeff Richmond ("30 Rock," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"), lyricist Nell Benjamin (Legally Blonde), and book writer Tina Fey ("30 Rock," Bossypants). SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. FEB. 28 THROUGH MAR. 5.

Peter Pan Jr.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a

magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, the fierce Brave Girls, a band of bungling pirates, and the villainous Captain Hook. Musical based on a play by Sir J.M. Barrie.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. JAN. 20 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.

San Diego Opera: Tosca

Tosca is Giacomo Puccini's gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution, and suicide. Scarpia, the chief of police, wants only two things: to recapture the escaped prisoner Angelotti and to seduce Tosca, an opera singer of incredible voice and beauty. Tosca is in love with Cavaradossi, an artist and sympathizer of Angelotti. After arresting Cavaradossi for harboring Angelotti, Scarpia plays with Tosca's emotions, promising to free Cavaradossi if Tosca will succumb to Scarpia's desires. But Tosca has a plan of her own, all of which unfolds with tragic consequences from which no one can escape. Soaring and sensuous, filled with such beautiful arias as Tosca's "Vissi d'arte," Cavaradossi's "Recondita armonia" and the powerful choral piece "Te Deum," Tosca has some of opera's most beloved music, and one of opera's most gripping plots. *Tosca* welcomes the return of soprano Michelle Bradley in the title role, and Greer Grimsley in his signature role of Scarpia. Argentinian tenor Marcelo Puente makes his San Diego Opera debut as Cavaradossi. Directed by Alan Hicks and conducted by Valerio Galli. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. MAR. 25 THROUGH APR. 2.

LOCAL five

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE COVAULT



COBBY BRZESKI

Originally from Naples, Florida, jazz singer Cobby Brzeski graduated magna cum laude in 2018 from the Berklee College of Music. She writes, performs, and records original 1940s-inspired swing music. She recently released her debut album *Vintage Girl In a Modern World*, partially recorded by Rolling Stones producer Alan Sanderson at local Pacific Beat Studio.

SPUD DAVENPORT

Bigfellas drummer Spud Davenport also plays guitar and keyboard, as heard on a tune he wrote that appeared in the Brat Pack movie *Class*, “Overnite.” Davenport has a new solo release due in January, *Songs For the Cynical*, co-produced with Charlie Recksieck at Big Rock Studios. The album is so far preceded by a video and single for “Home For the Headaches.”



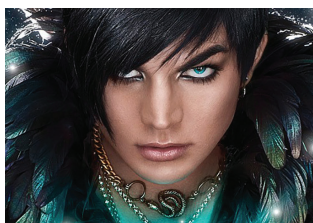
JULIA SAGE

“I wrote this song as a visualization of new soulmates finding each other through music notes traveling through the air and connecting them to each other,” says bilingual Chilean folk, blues, and Americana songwriter Julia Sage of her new solo single “The Fall.” She has a second new single called “Sweet Rain.” “This song was inspired by the renewing power of rain, the power to take away the heaviness in someone’s world and cleansing the stains left behind by all kinds of suffering.” The track features guest violinist Jamie Shadowlight.



DEREK ENGEMANN

When Pantera’s Rex Brown announced that he’d miss the band’s final reunion shows of this year after he was diagnosed with a “mild strain” of covid, he was replaced by former Cattle Decapitation (and current Philip H. Anselmo & the Illegals and Scour) bassist Derek Engemann. The revised lineup has so far played Knotfest Chile on December 11, as well as South American performances on December 15 and 18.



ADAM LAMBERT

Occasional Queen singer Adam Lambert released a music video for his new take on Duran Duran’s “Ordinary World,” from his forthcoming covers album *High Drama*, due February 24. He also performed the song on the season finale of *The Voice*. The album includes Ann Peebles’ “I Can’t Stand The Rain,” Bonnie Tyler’s “Holding Out For A Hero,” Billie Eilish’s “Getting Older,” and a rock and roll take on Lana Del Rey’s “West Coast.”

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Bloom Nightclub:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Sage Armstrong.

Brew Coffee Spot:

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

Brick by Brick:

Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Defeated Sanity and Malignancy. \$16-\$20.
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Within Destruction and Distinguisher. \$14-\$18.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Orianthi. \$30-\$35.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Damage Inc. \$18-\$20.

Casbah:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Fall of Troy and Gold Necklace.
Wednesday, Jan. 11 — The Planet Smashers.
Thursday, Jan. 12 — Dale Watson.
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Reverend Horton Heat.
Monday, Jan. 16 — Reverend Horton Heat.
Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Son of Kane and Anthony Cullins.
Wednesday, Jan. 18 — Spiral Stairs and Randy Randall (No Age).
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Tropical Fuck Storm and Michael Beach.
Friday, Jan. 20 — Emo Nite.
Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Trebels 40 Year Anniversary Party.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Will Sheff and Okkervil River.
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Frankie & the Witch Fingers.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Junior Boys.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — The Neighbors and Agonista.

Che Café:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — World Peace, ATM, Madrugado, Intercom. \$15.
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Scalp, Livid, Mongrel, Serenity, Influencer. \$15.
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Candy and Bib.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Read Or Die Book and Zine Fair. \$10.

Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Davina & The Vagabonds. \$60-\$80.
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour. \$44-\$84.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — 123 Andres. \$15-\$25.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — 123 Andres. \$15-\$25.

Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Thursday, Jan. 5 — Deadheads Night.
Tuesday, Jan. 10 — SD Jazz Collective.
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Deadheads Night.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve:

Sunday, Feb. 5 — Free Eco-centric Concert: Dryad. **Free.**

House of Blues:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Drew Afualo.
Friday, Jan. 13 — Best Night Ever: Taylor’s Version.
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Emo Night Brooklyn. \$15.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Windser.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Morat.

Jazz Lounge:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Matt Dibiasi Quartet.
Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Goldings/Bernstein/Stewart Organ Trio.
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Gregory Page.

Jolly Joker Tavern:

Friday, Jan. 20 — West of 5. **Free.**

Madam Bonnie's:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — SD Jazz Trio. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 20 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Trio. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Ghost Jazz Trio. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 27 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Band. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 28 — The Mad Hat Hucksters. **Free.**

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Appetite 4 Destruction.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Prince Again: Tribute to Prince.

Mingei International Museum:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Music of an African Kingdom: The Kora of Senegal. \$35-\$50.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Friday, Jan. 6 — Thea the Band. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 7 — Tube Amp’d. **Free.**
Thursday, Jan. 12 — James Allen. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 13 — 2il2late. **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.**
Thursday, Jan. 26 — The Edge. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 27 — P-Tek. **Free.**

Music Box:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Purple Ones.
Sunday, Jan. 8 — LaRussell.
Thursday, Jan. 12 — Daring Greatly and Ash Easton.
Friday, Jan. 13 — One More Time: A Tribute to Daft Punk.
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Taylor Rave.
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Zoso.
Friday, Jan. 20 — Bad Bunny Night.
Saturday, Jan. 21 — B-Side Players and Boostive.
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Macy Gray.
Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Elise Trouw.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Dolly Disco Dance Party.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — The FABBA Show.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — The Music of Steely Dan.

Nova SD:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — Night Trip.
Friday, Jan. 13 — Trivecta.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, Jan. 6 — Social Distortion.
Saturday, Jan. 7 — Social Distortion.
Tuesday, Jan. 10 — The Sound of Animals Fighting.
Friday, Jan. 20 — Unwritten Law.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Niko Moon.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Trampled By Turtles.

Pal Joey's:

Saturday, Jan. 7 — West of 5. **Free.**

Panama 66:

Sunday, Jan. 8 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**

Parq Restaurant:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Lil Jon.

Pechanga Arena San Diego:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Subtronics.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ:

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

Poway's Irish Pub:

Saturday, Feb. 4 — West of 5. **Free.**

Rancho Bernardo Library:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Giacoso Woodwind Quintet. **Free.**

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THE GONZO REPORT

Deb Heads' delight

Pop wunderkind brings *Winterlicious* to Viejas

Debbie Gibson's *Winterlicious* concert at Viejas Casino & Resort in Alpine was an early Christmas gift bestowed to local "Deb Heads" on Thanksgiving weekend. "That's Debbie's name for her core group of fans," Jenny Corriveau told me outside the Oak Ballroom, where the concert was held. "I have been a fan since '87. She is the soundtrack of my life. Damn it, I'm going to cry." Corriveau showed me a photo she'd taken a few minutes prior with Gibson at the VIP meet and greet. "If 40 people stand outside the door, she will talk to, sign for, and hug every single person."

A VIP ticket, which allowed attendees to sit close to the stage and enjoy a meet-and-greet with the bubblegum pop songstress, cost about

\$200. Regular tickets, like the one I purchased for a spot near the venue's rear, ran \$30. Parking was free. The Saturday event was Corriveau's fifteenth Debbie Gibson concert. While she was talking to me, she realized that her fellow Deb Heads had made their way inside, which cued us to follow. "Tonight, you're going to see the pure joy with a couple of her hits," said Corriveau as we walked towards the ballroom, "and songs from *Winterlicious*, a new album. It's a holiday album, because it's got Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve-themed songs." The LP, Gibson's eleventh, was released on October 22.

Most concertgoers were fellow Gen-Xers. A few people wore throwback attire reminiscent of the '80s — Madonna-esque garments with lots of holes, or sweaters tied around their necks *a la* Alex P. Keaton from *Family Ties* — but most dressed conservatively, many in Christmas colors, with scarves and beanie caps.

Gibson opened with "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," wearing a sweater that looked like a Life Savers candy wrapper. After the Christmas



Not only in my dreams: Jenny Corriveau and Debbie Gibson

intro, Gibson doffed the sweater and revealed a bright green mini dress. "I feel a little Barbarella," she said into the mic, "I love all of that holiday music...I've been waiting to wear this dress for, like, months." The 52-year-old '80s icon had the same physique as back in the day, according to a person sitting in my row. "I remember seeing her on MTV, singing 'Shake Your Love' while dancing in a convertible oldie car." Next, Gibson performed "Electric Youth," hitting the dance moves on cue with her male backup dancers. "They can't keep up with her," continued the same person in my row. Then suddenly, one dancer did a back flip as Gibson was singing near the Christmas tree on the left side of the

stage. The crowd "oohed" and "aahed" at the display of energy, but stayed seated.

Gibson addressed to crowd to recount the story of her early success — before she even graduated high school. "The rotary phone rang, and my mom was, like, 'It went number one on the *Billboard* charts...and it went a little something like this.'" Gibson gently played the piano keys, then sang, "Oh, can't you see I'm not fooling nobody?" from "Foolish Beat," off her 1987 *Out Of The Blue* album. A groupmate walked out with a saxophone in hand and played along with the famous synth-pop jam that got so many '80s teens through crushes, puppy love, and breakups. Some in the audience sighed, others sniffled. Gibson made history with the track as the youngest artist to produce, write, and sing a song to top the *Billboard* Hot 100 list — at 16.

Gibson took a short break and returned to the stage wearing a long black dress. On the jumbo screen on the right side of the stage, a man's image popped up, and he sang with Gibson. "That's Debbie's duet with and tribute to her dad, Joe," explained Corriveau. "It's a lovely rendition of 'White Christmas.'"

The nearly one-and-a-half-hour *Winterlicious* concert played like a Broadway show, including a few outfit changes, onstage dialogue, solilo-

(continued on page 20)

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<p>TUE. JAN. 17</p> <p>DEFEATED SANITY Malignancy, Prophecy, Strangle Wire</p>	<p>SAT. JAN. 28</p> <p>DAMAGE, INC. with special guests</p>	<p>WED. FEB. 22</p> <p>TSUNAMI BOMB + DEATH BY STEREO The Hammerbombs</p>
<p>THU. JAN. 26</p> <p>WITHIN DESTRUCTION Distinguisher, Fox Lake, Carcosa, Shawshank</p>	<p>FRI. FEB. 10</p> <p>D.R.U.G.S. Varials, The Callous Daoboys, 156/Silence</p>	<p>SUN. FEB. 26</p> <p>SHOW ME THE BODY Jesus Piece, Scowl, Zulu, TRIPPJONES</p>
<p>FRI. JAN. 27</p> <p>ORIANTHI with special guests</p>	<p>SAT. FEB. 11</p> <p>THE FLATLINERS with special guests</p>	<p>THU. MAR. 2</p> <p>THE SPILL CANVAS Arms Akimbo</p>

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THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 19

quies, and even props. At one point, all the performers left the stage, and a team carried out a king-size bed. Then the musicians, backup dancers, and singers got onto the bed and surrounded Gibson. “Welcome to our slumber party,” she said. Everyone on the bed wore pajamas and sang “Christmas Dreams” (with a country twang), a song from her new album.

One of the last songs performed was “Cheers.” “Her mother died earlier this year, and ‘Cheers’ is a tribute to her,” Corriveau said. As Gibson sang, people stood and held their drinks up in the air. “Here’s to the end and the beginning,” Gibson sang. “What a year. Cheers!” ■

San Diego Civic Theatre:
Thursday, Jan. 5 — Ain’t Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations. \$39-\$143.
Friday, Jan. 6 — Ain’t Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations. \$39-\$143.
Saturday, Jan. 7 — Ain’t Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations. \$39-\$143.
Sunday, Jan. 8 — Ain’t Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations. \$39-\$143.



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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

The big dogs of Christmas Classique

We’ve looked at a variety of classical Christmas music over the past few weeks. We considered somber music for a solstice of solitude, and little-known Christmas operas such as Hans Pfitzner’s *Christelfein*. Now we come to the big dogs of Christmas Classique. There are three.

The first is *Messiah* by Georg Frederick Handel. This comes as no surprise. *Messiah* has a tradition beyond any other piece of classical Christmas music. The popularity of *Messiah* is due to its excellent yet accessible music. The orchestra requirements are modest by modern standards and the choral music can be adequately performed by almost any civic or church-based choir. Even the vocal solos can be mastered by local undergraduate vocalists.

The second piece also comes as no surprise. Piotr

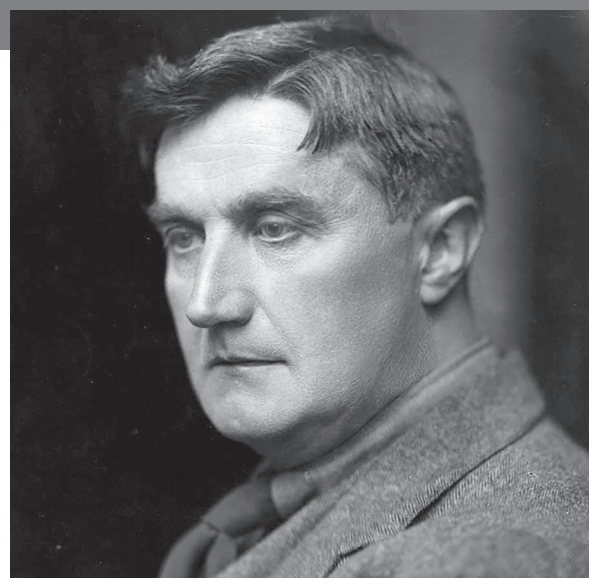
Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* has been a staple of the American Christmas since The New York City Ballet gave its first annual performance in 1954. Tchaikovsky’s ballet is a melodic masterpiece. Almost every single section of music is instantly recognizable by even the most casual of listeners. *The Nutcracker*, along with *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, has been instrumental in the development of the modern Christmas. *The Nutcracker* is an atmospheric tale that is quintessentially about Christmas, but without any reference to the holiday’s religious traditions.

The third piece is a quintessentially religious tale about Christmas: *Hodie* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It is the greatest Christmas composition. It draws its text from Catholic, biblical, and poetic sources. The opening

“Hodie” section is from the service of Vespers and uses the Latin text. The rest of the piece is in English and uses text from The Gospels, John Milton, Thomas Hardy, Martin Luther, The Common Book of Prayer, George Herbert, and the composer’s wife Ursula.

Musically, Vaughan Williams uses a children’s choir to narrate the story of the birth of Christ. There are solos for soprano, tenor, and baritone, along with massive choral sections. *Hodie* is not as accessible as *Messiah*. The orchestra is huge, and the choral singing is more demanding than Handel’s.

Hodie was the last large-scale composition for chorus and orchestra that Vaughan Williams was to write. It premiered in 1958 and was immediately out of step with the current compositional practices,



Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer of the very English *Hodie*, circa 1921.

which were post-modern and generally dreadful. The critical response was tepid, and Vaughan Williams was condemned for the sin of nationalism.

Vaughan Williams was an Englishman, and *Hodie* is very much what we would expect from such a person-

ality. Fortunately, we can now listen to *Hodie* on our own terms, and not worry about whether or not it is culturally appropriate. If you are into the English traditions of Christmas — and I am — then *Hodie* is a gift as valuable as those given by the Magi.

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Soda Bar:
Thursday, Jan. 5 — The Reckless, Blackwater. \$10.
Friday, Jan. 6 — Rodeo Rave: DJ Dance Party.
Saturday, Jan. 7 — ForevAvicii: EDM House Party.
Monday, Jan. 9 — Auz Fontaine.
Friday, Jan. 13 — Idlehands and Ghost Parade.

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Take On Me 80s New Wave Party.
Monday, Jan. 16 — Sean Bonnette and Tim Kashner.
Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Auz Fontaine.
Wednesday, Jan. 18 — Early Eyes.
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Grady Spencer & the Work.
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Hibuo.

Monday, Jan. 23 — Auz Fontaine.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Film School and MOAA.
Monday, Jan. 30 — Auz Fontaine.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Catbamboo and Ando San.

Soma:
Friday, Jan. 6 — Jeff Rosenstock and Cheekface.

Sound:
Friday, Feb. 3 — Ziggy Marley.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Ziggy Marley.

Spin Nightclub:
Friday, Jan. 27 — Fatima Hajji.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:
Friday, Jan. 20 — Hutchins Consort: Bach and Rock. \$20-\$35.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
Friday, Jan. 13 — Gunhild Carling.

Sycuan Casino:
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Engelbert Humperdinck. \$69-\$99.

Tower Bar:
Saturday, Jan. 7 — The Grim and The Humblers.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito:
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Peter Mayer. \$20-\$30.

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

Viejas Arena:
Friday, Jan. 27 — Paquita La Del Barrio Y Sus Amigos.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — YG, OhGeesy, Day Sulan.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Dazy and Alien Boy.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, Jan. 6 — Sam Grisman Project. \$20-\$25.
Thursday, Jan. 12 — That 1 Guy. \$10.
Friday, Jan. 13 — Super Destroyer and Death of California. \$10-\$12.
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Lust for Life. \$5.
Sunday, Jan. 22 — The Doors & Cream Tributes. \$10.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Brian Jones Rock 'n' Roll Revival. Free.



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OB hobnobs with bankers

This is probably the first whiskey I have actually liked.

Let me get this right,” I say to this fellow Jeff. “You’re offering me a shot of whiskey *and* a can of beer for \$6. Six bucks?”

“Yes, sir, that’s it,” says Jeff. He’s the bar manager here. “We’re kind of enticing people back to eating out. Specially in happy hour.”

Didn’t expect this here. My friend Annie and I are outside one of the institutions here on Banker’s Hill. It’s honestly a place where you’d expect to see bankers and their

says Annie.

We risk it. Inside the place is all black, gray, and white, except for one nice touch: the cushions and the waiters’ aprons are a bright teal green. Tabletops are marble. Classic. My one worry: this is gonna be above my pay grade. My one hope: this is happy hour.

We sit at one of the gray and silver booths and look at the Happy Hour menu. At first glance, it seems standard fare. They have \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7 choices. The \$4 includes a Bud

Light, Coors Banquet, and mimosas. The \$5, Stella, house Cabernet, and a basket of frings — French fries and onion rings. It’s only when we get to \$6 that we start talking serious nosh, like soup of the day — today’s is minestrone — or an avocado special. Natch, you get most food in the \$7 section, like a quarter-pounder “Carlito’s Way” burger, or a half-order of fish and chips.

Jeff’s got his order book out. Annie knows what she wants. “I’ll take the \$7 salad, the \$5 frings...and the \$6 minestrone soup.” She also takes a Moscow Mule for eight bucks. So it does add up. Me, I go for the \$7 burger. This is when

I notice the \$6 happy hour boilermaker in the HH list. Hmm. Beer, shot of whisky, \$6. Not a bad price...what da heck. I order one.

We split the frings and the salad (delicious pilings of chicken, bacon, tomato chunks, scrambled eggs, chicken and bleu cheese), and I have at the burger. For starters, that quarter-pound is surely enough, and second, there’s a little sausage flavor in there, along with a sweet BBQ tang. Plus the bun is nicely toasted.

But the real news for me in all this is the nice full shot glass of whiskey. Confession: I never really liked that danged heathy, peaty liquid. Until now. This one is rich and sweet like a liqueur, oh-so seductive.

“It’s a peanut butter whiskey,” says Jeff. Say what?

“Yes. It’s a peanut butter whiskey. An invention from San Diego.”

It turns out that this is an extraordinary story. This guy Steven Yeng is a Cambodian-American who lived his childhood through the Khmer Rouge period in Cambodia, and despite contracting polio and being confined to a wheelchair while growing up in the refugee camps, he made it with his family to Ocean Beach. From the early care baskets his family received, he started to improve — and to fall in love with peanut butter. It was while he and his family were operating a couple of restaurants in OB that they came up with the idea of incorporating peanut butter into every-



Jeff: Covid enabled compete refresh of this 78-year-old eatery



The \$7 “Carlito’s Way” burger has cheese, bacon, and a sweet-tangy BBQ sauce

frauen, meeting at the end of the day for a glass of wine as they count their piles of money.

Still, how many times have I marched past this place and thought “This is *über* Old School. Must go in here sometime.” Because the sign says “Hob Nob Hill,” and it has been here and open since — get this — 1944. That’s nearly eighty years. I start imagining sailors and soldiers 80 years ago, trooping into this very place for a drink with their hot dates while World War II was raging across the sea. They say this is the oldest restaurant still in the same location in all of San Diego.

One good thing about covid: the closure gave the owners an opportunity for a major facelift. I pop my head around. Ooh. Sure looks fresh. *And* they have a happy hour from 3-6 every weekday. “Let’s just go in and see,” I say to Annie. “Because, hey, happy hour can’t be bad, right?”

“Long as it’s not just dried-up chicken wings,”



They’re ba-ack! Freshly painted Wizard of Oz mural keeps it nostalgic

thing from drinks to wings to fried rice. They launched Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey in 2019, say they have sold an incredible million cases in their first two years, and are already known for the charities they give to — including helping mothers and children fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Whatever the story, this is probably the first whiskey I have actually liked. And for your six bucks, you get this can of Mother Earth Nitro Vanilla Cream beer to drink as the chaser.

The sweetness of the PB whiskey really works with the burger. In fact, this whole place really works. Yes, old school, laced with history, but at the same time, new, and bright. And, turns out, it is open for breakfast every day from seven. Next time: brekky, and outside in the sun on the patio. Or maybe dinner, if we’re feeling flush. “We do a prime rib, Thursdays thru Sundays,” says Jeff.



Most popular soup. At \$6, this minestrone sells out

“Oh wow. Happy Hour?”

“Uh no. More like \$23. But lots of fixings.”

Annie takes a sip from my PB whiskey. “Ooh. Sweet,” she says, “Of course, my Edinburgh ancestors would turn over in their graves at this whiskey, but hey, we’re in a New World out here.” ■

The Place: Hob Nob Hill, 2271 First Avenue, Banker’s Hill, 619-239-8176

Hours: 7 am to 10 pm daily

Prices: Two breakfast eggs, sausages, \$14.50; breakfast burrito, eggs, potatoes, \$13; corned beef hash, Belgian waffle, \$11; grilled ham and cheese, \$13; tuna salad sandwich, \$14; Hob Nob burger (avo, cheese, bacon), \$17.50; **Happy Hour (3-6pm, M-F) Prices:** basket of frings - French fries, \$5; soup of the day, \$6; avocado special, \$6; quarter-pounder “Carlito’s Way” burger, \$7; half-order of fish and chips, \$7; Hob Nob fries, \$7; small cob salad, \$7

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PERSONALS

MARY ECC 1991 Tears for Fears, science museum Sundays. Lost number. Anthropology, sociology classroom days remembered. Happy new year 2023. Best wishes to you.

THANK YOU SAN DIEGO, for all milk and cookies. See you next year.

FOR MY FAMILY, warmth. For my friends, gratitude. For my enemy, forgiveness. For the planet, hope. For myself, peace. Happy new year to all.

BEULAH Merry Christmas yo yo yo.

VEGAS I am looking for someone to move to Las Vegas with me in April. Male or female (no drugs please). I am 39 super fun and easy going love eating healthy in a clean house. Text me at (949) 300-5295.

BECKY G. Happy holidays to you and your family. Peace love Leslie.

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

DARLING FRANK, I flew over our home last night with Santa and blew you some Kisses did you get them? Your love, Katherine.

"DO NOT JUDGE. You don't know what storm I've asked her to walk through" - God.

"DON'T CRITICIZE WHAT you don't understand" Bob Dylan.

HATE is not a family value!!

I'D PAY YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS and be friends too. After all I am in the family and scooter trash is my very favorite. I'm glad to see somebody that knows what is up too. Peace out lol

IF THEY STAND BEHIND YOU, protect them. If they stand next to you, respect them. If they stand against you, defeat them!

IF YOU ARE NEUTRAL in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor!

KELLY W. Just wondering if you are checking here? Peace

KIESOWS AND THEIR OFF-SPRING, Happy holidays!!! Peace love Leslie stay healthy, safe, and have fun!

LOOKING FOR ELISA CORDERO MARTINEZ Located in Escondido, CA last time I knew. If you are here or know her, please have her call (619) 609-4029.

LOVE always wins!

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now & forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Saint Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day, by the ninth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. EW

OLDER VIETNAM VET served our country and his disabled wife are in very much need of any and all complete donations such as a recliner lift chair, a complete bedroom set, full power kitchen appliances, and a full size couch set. We do not own a car or know anybody that has a truck but any and all donations would be appreciated. Thank you and God bless. Please call (619) 269-3434 and leave message.

RUSTY R. Happy holidays to you and your family. Peace love Leslie.

THE DRIVEWAY SOCIETY would love to invite everyone to enjoy this year's beautiful Christmas lights throughout our town!

TIME IN A MOMENT. Mind to behold. Nighttime sky upon ocean shore. Loved, respected.

WHAT ONE PERSON SEES as degrading and disgusting and bad for women might make some women feel empowered and beautiful and strong!

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

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

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

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? The Center for Applied Critical Thinking, CACT. (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.

HOW DO YOU FAKE BEING SEEN by 500 people after being crucified? First Corinthians 15:3-6

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

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MORE OF AMERICAS MONEY Get 10% of income to FREI HOMES AMERICAS MONEY when you ask if people from our list if they want some money we found held by the govt? Thats it! Easy as Xmas pie. Let me know if interested by email or call also check www.FREIHOMES.com (760) 670-5419 / DavidDarby@FreiHomes.com

LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE You'll only travel through this life one time. Go first class. ITreasureSanDiego.Com

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CLASSES / LESSONS

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

FIBER ARTS FUN THIS WINTER! Learn a new fiber arts craft at San Diego craft collective, a non-profit arts center in Liberty Station. In January we'll be exploring: intuitive quilting, silk weaving, loom weaving, sewing, bundle dye + more. Visit us at 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. In January

we explore intro to woodshop, chip carving, spoon carving, custom guitars + more (all ages). Visit sandiegocraft.org for more info. (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

ADULT MAGIC CLASSES

Learn magic from professional magician Tom Interval, who has taught for 36 years. 5-week adults sessions. Sundays, Jan. 22-Feb. 19. \$295. North Park. intervalmagic.com/classes/intro/adult www.intervalmagic.com/classes/intro/adult/index.html (619) 800-3780 / tom@interval-magic.com

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HOUSE FUN! Build your own seasonal Organic Gingerbread House this Sunday, 1-2:30pm at San Diego Craft Collective. This fun hands-on workshop is for ages 3+. You may drop-off or stay-to-build-together. Sign up at: sandiegocraft.org/product/gingerbread/ (619) 273-3235 / communicate@sandiegocraft.org

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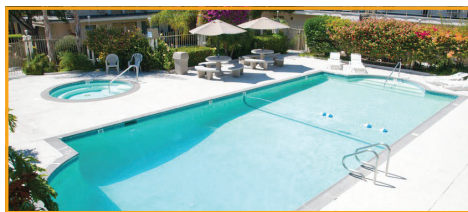
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DOWNTOWN \$590-\$900



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365-day licenses go into effect on New Year's Day

Dock Totals 12/11 – 12/24: 828 anglers aboard 49 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past two weeks caught 184 bluefin tuna, 24 calico bass, 5 lingcod, 2161 rockfish, 25 sand bass, 24 sanddab, 338 sculpin, 194 sheephead, 14 triggerfish, and 684 whitefish.

Saltwater: As 2022 winds to an end, bluefin tuna are still hanging around Tanner Bank 120 miles due west of Point Loma. Most of the mid- to long-range fleet is fishing along the Baja peninsula; those who occasionally make the long run west are finding a good grade of tuna willing to bite. With the plethora of squid in the area, expectations are that the tuna will remain within range of 1.5-day and longer trips. A few long-range boats are heading north on their return leg to get a day in on the action at Tanner, such as the *Intrepid* on their 11-Day Soft Steel trip south.

After getting some school-sized yellowfin, dorado, yellowtail, and grouper off Baja Sur, and with the larger yellowfin not cooperating, they headed up the beach. Captain Bill Cavanaugh decided to top off the trip by taking a shot at the bluefin out west. The results were good, albeit after a slow start on the big brutes. From Captain Cavanaugh: "Our first day fishing Bluefin we had scratch fishing, but all the fish were quality 60-140 lb.-class fish. Most of our bites came from fly-lined baits and sinker rigs. At the last hour of our trip, we managed to get on a school and had wide open action on beautiful grade Bluefin. It was every drop with the knife jigs for a whole hour. We ended our trip with a bang and returned home with a great mixed bag of Yellowfin, Yellowtail, Dorado, Grouper and Bluefin."

Local boats are focusing on rockfish, sheephead, and whitefish, and those not going into maintenance mode for the winter break will be fishing just south of the border during the closure until March 1st, or working in US waters for sand bass and calico bass. Halibut are also a viable winter target, especially along the Point Loma flats and off Imperial Beach. Anglers fishing the bays from private boats and kayaks are reporting a solid spotted bay bass bite and quite a few keeper halibut over the minimum 22".

Surf fishing has been steady for barred surf perch, mostly, with a few corbina and croakers mixed in. That bite improves as you go north into Orange County and up. Weather and Christmas activities has slowed the lobster trips for the fleet over the past couple weeks, though hoop-netters from private boats, and piers, along with free divers are getting decent results, with legal-sized 'bugs' representing about a quarter of the



Our fishing photo contest winner of two half-day passes this time around is Kenji Kanase, with a 287-pound yellowfin tuna caught while fishing aboard the *Royal Polaris*' 10-day trip to the lower banks. Noted *Wicked Tuna* celebrity Dave Marciano was aboard for the trip, and Kenji, somewhat of a "greenhorn" on the long-range scene, was a bit intimidated when he wrapped his line around Marciano's, so he went to the bow with a chunk bait and scored the largest tuna of the day. Mr. Marciano posing with Kenji and his whopper yellowfin tuna.

DANIEL POWELL

catch. Remember to check all regs before going out, as a report card, gauge, and license are required.

Also, there is a change for California fishing licenses in 2023 that should make most anglers happy. Finally, the 365-day licenses will be available beginning January 1st. This means no matter when you buy your license, it will be valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. This makes much more sense: now, a seasonal angler will not have to renew a license purchased in, say, June until the following year in June. Before this, all anglers had to buy a new license at the beginning of each calendar year.

Looking back: 2022 has been a banner year for the fleet. Bluefin opened the show last spring, and along with some solid yellowtail fishing along the coast, dorado moved north of the border in masses rarely (if ever) seen before, and were caught all the way up to the albacore grounds 60 miles off the Oregon coast. Though studies show that bluefin tuna are out there somewhere year-round off the Southern California and Baja coast, they have seemed to settle in on the Tanner/Cortez banks for the winters. This could be a new normal, or as Rob Tressler reported from the *Tribute* on a recent 1.5-day trip to Tanner, "More and more it's clear that weather permitting, we are fortunate to have what may very well be a year-round fishery for bluefin within 1.5-2.5 day range in Southern California." Let's hope the trend continues into 2023 and beyond.

Tight lines and Happy New Year! They're out there, so go get 'em!

Notable catches:

12/11 – 11 anglers fishing aboard the *Dolphin* PM ½-Day trip had a decent mixed-bad outing resulting in 19 sheephead, 18 rockfish, 12 sculpin, and 3 calico bass caught.

12/16 – The *Daiwa Pacific* AM ½-Day run returned to the dock with 77 rockfish, 6 sheephead, and 2 sculpin for 12 anglers.

12/18 – The *Tribute* called from the Tanner Bank area in with 71 whitefish, 40 rockfish, 4 lingcod, and limits of 56 bluefin tuna for 28 anglers.

12/20 – Great December fishing with limits of 126 bluefin tuna for 21 anglers aboard the *Polaris* Supreme 3-Day trip to the outer banks.

Fish Plants: 12/26 – Lake Jennings, trout (1500), 12/28 – Lake Dixon, trout (1500), 12/29 – Lake Poway, trout (1500), 12/30 – Lake Wohlford, trout (1500), Santee Lakes, lakes 4 and 7, trout (1500)



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, including 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.



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

LOOKING FOR 1990 OR OLDER Ford cargo van, fgross0421,Åa@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

SERVICE ATTENDANT to assist customers with BBQ, patio heaters, forklift cylinders, and RVs. Seeking position to fill propane cylinders at two locations: 3650 Kettner Blvd. and 5596 Kearny Mesa Rd. Will Train. Part-time. Fun job! Great customers. Benefits. Apply within or call Steve, (949) 326-3400.

SR. FULL STACK DEVELOPER Airspace Technologies Inc. seeks Sr. Full Stack Developer (Full Stack) in Carlsbad, CA to design, build, & maintain code + other duties. Resume: 5909 Sea Otter Place Ste. 200 Carlsbad, CA 92010

FREE HOMES AMERICAS MONEY Calling people and see if they want the money we found for them. Pretty simple just ask if they want to split the money we found with them. www.FREI-HOMES.com (760) 670-5419 / DavidDarby@FreiHomes.com

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

PAID LOW BACK PAIN STUDY Volunteers needed for a low back pain study. Compensation up to \$275 is provided and no insurance is required. Contact us today. (855) 367-8834 / recruitment@artemis-research.com

AUTO PARTS SALES/DELIVERY Answer phones, give price quotes, help walk-up customers. Knowledge of auto parts a plus, but willing to train the right candidate. Start at 2-3 days per wk. Some delivery required, lifting up to 50lbs. Clean DMV/Calif driver's license. Min age 18. (619) 282-3207

TAILOR / SEAMSTRESS WANTED Can you sew and make garments? If so please contact me, I have various garment construction projects & am looking for a professional tailor. Must be able to make professional advanced garments & have own sewing and serger machines. (858) 412-0583 / 110217aa@gmail.com

VETERAN RESEARCH STUDY (PAID) Are you a Veteran and do you drink 20 drinks a week or more? Participate in our research study! Study compensation up to \$200. Call our research coordinator for more information: (858) 552-8585 x2509

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

DRIVER Drive your own mini-van or SUV. \$23-\$28/hr when factoring in mileage reimbursement + benefits! Essential and stable employment. Full- & part-time shifts. Immediate openings. (858) 444-2350, or apply in person: 9710 Distribution Ave. SD, 92121.

LOOKING FOR IHSS CERTIFIED CAREGIVER for active senior woman. Looking for someone long term, Tues-Thurs, 8am-4pm and one weekend per month, hours are open. Willing to help with gas. Please text (619) 488-0822 ASAP.

LOOKING TO HIRE a female an home supportive service caregiver with the vehicle in San Diego to work Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for a nice middle age senior lady. Please call no texting for an interview. (619) 269-3434 as soon as possible.

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

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

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

JOBS WANTED

I AM SEEKING TEMP TYPE EMPLOYMENT. Please contact Greg at (858) 282-5937 or text.

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER will drive to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, prepare meals, help with bills, provide companionship, and will work two days a week Monday through Friday two days a week. Call Carol at (858) 525-1154.

SUPER INTELLIGENT COLLEGE GRADUATE Open to all fields, looking for a job that provides a vehicle valid and clean CA drivers license. Text or call (949) 300-5295.

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.

WANTED / TRADE

LOOKING FOR OLD TUBE STEREO'S I am looking for that old Tube Stereo System that your Dad used to play. These Stereo Components were made in America, in the early 1960's, by such Companies as Fisher, Scott, McIntosh, Dynaco & more. I pay cash so please call Jack (619) 296-3100. / jack22@cox.net

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 phone is a landline, no texting.

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

BUYING RECORDS, CASSETTES, CDs, Tubes. Cash paid for LP & 45 records, vintage stereos/speakers, cassettes/blank cassettes, CDs, vacuum tubes, reel tapes, 8-tracks. Brands include McIntosh, Marantz, Sansui, Fisher, Scott, Pioneer, JBL, Altec, Tannoy, Western Electric & more. Also buying Sports & Non-sports

cards. I come to you! Call/Text (619) 889-5237.

LOOKING FOR ROOM in exchange for cooking, cleaning, errands, etc. Located in Escondido, willing to go as far as El Cajon, La Mesa. (619) 609-4029

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

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

PAID SMOKING RESEARCH STUDY if you are a male smoker 50+ years old you qualify for our research study. We will send a study kit to your house and ask you to complete a simple sample collection. You will receive a \$40 gift card. Email smoking.sandiego@gmail.com for more info

WANTED MOON POD CHAIR good condition, will pay \$75 cash, delivered Downtown San Diego. Please contact (619) 453-7951.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OLD DRUM SETS AND CYMBALS Cash paid. Call (619) 280-2075.

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

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

GARAGE SALES

CHULA VISTA GARAGE SALE Over 100 model trains, over 200 tools, nice furniture, record albums, DVDs, knickknacks, by appt only, call (619) 651-3435.

ESTATE SALE jewelry, art, movie memorabilia, collector

cameras, from \$5-\$250. (760) 757-5445

GREAT MOVING SALES Misc, blankets, bed spreads, 2565 Sawgrass St. El Cajon 92019 (619) 368-7978.

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

FOR SALE

BRAND NEW VANS HIGHTOP turquoise, light blue, zip up backs, bought from Viejas outlet, \$30 brand new. (619) 601-3591.

FOX RACING titan sport jacket with body armor, size L, nice condition. Call for more info, price. (619) 791-0278

MISC FOR SALE XXL dark blue birdcage, opens on top and on the side. Comes with bird toys and accessories, excellent condition w/ lime green male parakeet will get along with others. Package deal, \$165. Gym bags, travel bags and light suitcases, \$23. Women's XL+ clothing & accessories excellent condition. Please call (619) 488-0822 Mission Valley.

MISC FOR SALE I am selling the following items: a couple of brand new clocks fancy candle holder folding laundry basket blue v-tech house phone all these items you must buy for 40.00 obo any very much interested candidate ask for James @ (619) 450-7914. / j.fiffield31@gmail.com

SHOPSMITH MARK V MULTITOOL Includes table saw, band saw, scroll saw, lathe, belt sander, jointer, dust collector, many extra parts & accessories plus an additional table for mounting tools when not in use, excellent condition, \$975., call (760) 746-7209

6 WOOD SHELVES + 12 BRACKETS This brown wood shelving (36"x 72"x 7" deep) was taken down. There are now 2 bronze 72" vertical rails, 12 color matching 6"x 2.5" brackets & 6 veneer wood shelves (36"x 6"x 3/4"). All clean & in good condition. \$60. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

OSCILLOSCOPES Hickok model 5002A, three oscilloscopes, I don't have probes, all three for only \$150., total price, call (760) 746-7209.

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

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 or email for more information or pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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 or email for more information or pictures. (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

5 QT. CROCK POT SLOW COOKER This 180-250 watts Rival crockpot has a removable stoneware pot & plastic lid. There are some stains inside the base under the pot & the plastic lid is no longer clear but the crock pot is in good condition. \$8. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

SOLAR PANEL MOUNTING SYSTEM Universal mount holds 10 large solar panels, can be used when roofs aren't suitable for mounting solar panels, can be used to power an off grid EV charging station, if your roof is shaded by trees or needs repair, excellent, \$2,600., (760) 746-7209.

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

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

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

BOOK COLLECTION: 570 BOOKS 238 hardcover & 67

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

GEL REST MOUSEPAD CALCULATOR This 7.5"x 11.5" Gel mouse pad calculator with comfort wrist rest is designed to alleviate pressure from your wrists. It is solar or battery powered with easy to read display. Brand new in sealed plastic. \$15. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics / cadbcscd@gmail.com



MANUAL LAWN CORING AERATOR This heavy duty Yard Butler powder coated steel aerator is 36.5" tall with 9" cushioned handles. A firm step onto the foot bar of the aerator will remove two 3.5"x 0.5" diameter plugs. Excellent condition. \$25. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

MISC FOR SALE I am selling a couple of brand new pants for sale and a belt a total of 73.20 (that is what I paid for those items) pants size: 38x30 belt size: 36 I need somebody to buy those items from me as quick as possible!! Ask for James @ (619) 450-7914. / j.fiffield31@gmail.com

NEW QUEEN MATTRESS \$300 Sleepy Rest Firm, Queen Prime. Paid \$500. Cash only, U PU. Mapaul16@gmail.com

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

WIFI BLUETOOTH SIGNAL JAMMER Handheld 4 Antennas Camera Audio Wifi Bluetooth signal Jammer. www.jammermfg.com/handheld-4-antennas-camera-audio-wifi-bluetooth-signal-jammer.html (245) 829-6976 / quaner82736@protonmail.com

WOOD SHELVING WITH 2 BRACKETS This Rubbermaid white laminated shelving (12"x 72"x 3/4") resists staining, scratching & warping. It's ready to be installed with two 10.25"x 9" brackets. Supports up to 300 lbs. with proper installation. \$15. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

53 NOISEMAKERS - TURN OR BLOW These noise makers are of different designs & colors for New Year, special events & par-

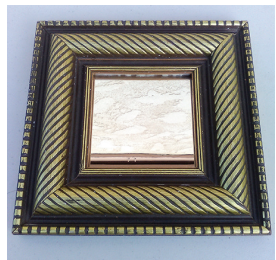
CLIFF BROWN AUTOMOTIVE		
FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE	SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$31.75* <small>Smog Test or All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through January 17, 2023.</small> + \$8.25 cert	 SMOG CHECK TEST ONLY \$51.75 <small>+\$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice. Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older.</small>
FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE	ENGINE STEAM CLEAN AVAILABLE <small>Most Vehicles</small>	30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from \$279.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles. <small>Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis • Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension</small>
NEW CV AXLE from \$159.95 <small>Parts & Labor</small>		
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ties. Make lots of fun noises. All new and never used. \$25 for all 53 pieces. Text (619) 796-5680 for more information and/or pictures. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

BLACK SQUARE MIRROR (24"X 24") This good looking contemporary wall mirror w/ gold trimming would compliment a nice home or office. Actual mirror size is 17.75"x 17.75"). Heavy duty hanging hardware is included. Clean and in good condition. \$25. Text (619) 796-5510 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com



BEAUTIFUL RED SWIVEL BAR STOOL This heavy duty counter height (25") barstool is very sturdy and well constructed. It has comfortable 3" foam pad on seat & backrest. Black steel frame construction & legs. Like new and in excellent condition. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com



VINTAGE GOLD & BROWN MIRROR The beautiful ornate wooden frame (10-1/4"x 10-1/4" & 7/8" to 1-3/8" thick) of this mirror (4-5/8"x 4-5/8") is very beautiful & decorative. The mirror is in excellent condition with no scratches or blemishes. \$25. Text (619) 800-5568 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

2 BRAND-NEW LIONEL TRAIN SETS All complete with other Lionel train parts and HO train parts. All good working condition, very collectible. Call Joe for information (619) 357-1844

9' SHUFFLEBOARD TABLE Shuffleboard in a 9' Table Fits

in Any Space Poly-Coated Playing Surface Offers Smooth, Fast Puck Action Pedestal Legs with Levelers Provide Optimum Stability Abacus-Style Scoring Includes 8 Pucks (4...Red 4 Blue, cover \$400 obo cash only. (858) 302-6376 / dustbutcher1026@gmail.com

SHOES AND TRAVEL BAG 3 or 4 pairs of women's shoes, new, size 7 or 7.5. And a travel bag, new. Each item is \$10 each. (619) 283-8417

STAMPS FOR SALE lot's of stuff, (858) 257-8520.

1971 VW BUG DUNE BUGGY Cash only - 60k miles, like new, 11,500 obo - street legal - updated registration. (760) 420-3641 / kent.alisha1@gmail.com

FLOOR LAMP WITH 2 GLASS SHADES This 72" vintage dark brown torchiere lamp has a side light with an adjustable goose-neck, beautiful tan glass shades (13" & 5.5"), rotary on/off switches, 1" metal pole & 10.5" base. Very good condition. \$75. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

TABLE LAMP METAL CYLINDER BODY The body of this unique table lamp is 4.5" in diameter and 12" tall. The cream soft deep drum linen shade is 10.75" in top & bottom diameter & 9.25" on the side. Modern and good looking. Very good condition. \$20. Text (619) 800-5568 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

VINTAGE SOLID WOOD MIRROR This mirror (31-3/4"x 16"x 1-7/8") w/ 3/8" wood frame weighs 18.5 lb. Hanging hardware not incl. The glass is 1/2" thick & has some dark spots, scratches and discoloration which reflect its vintage nature. \$20. Text (619) 796-5680 for more info/pics. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

09 BMW 3 SERIES 2D CONVERTIBLE Excellent condition - approx 102,000 mileage. \$18K OBO. White exterior & red leather interior. Automatic 6 speed. 6.0 cylinder 3.0 liter. Power door locks, windows & Steering. Air conditioning. Anti-theft. AM/FM stereo & bluetooth. Keyless entry & start. 110217AA@gmail.com

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. / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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Not Your Job

— Mary K. Brown, 38, of Durand, Wisconsin, was charged with physical abuse of an elder person after she performed surgery on a man under her care, WQOW-TV reported. Brown was working as a hospice nurse at Spring Valley Health and Rehab Center, where she cared for a patient suffering from severe frostbite on his feet. On May 27, Brown took it upon herself to remove the victim's right foot — without a doctor's order or permission. Another nurse, who held the victim's hand during the procedure, said he was moaning and squeezing her hand, and he told yet another nurse that he felt everything, and it hurt very bad. Brown told one nurse that her family has a taxidermy shop and she intended to preserve the foot and put it on display with a sign saying, "Wear your boots, kids." She is due in court on Dec. 6.

Bummer

— College dreams were scattered across a highway in El Paso, Texas, on Oct. 28 when a UPS truck lost its load of SAT tests that had been completed on Oct. 27 at El Paso High School, KTSM-TV reported. Senior class vice president Santiago Gonzalez said the school called a meeting to discuss the lost tests. All but 55 of them were recovered; the College Board is working with those students to set a retest date. Student body president Zyenna Martinez is worried about identity theft: "(The tests) have all of our identification and information ... where we live, our address, our date of birth ...

and it stinks because our identity is out there right now."

Two Weirds for the Price of One

— TSA officers at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport made a "hen you believe it?" (their pun, not ours) discovery on Nov. 8 as they screened luggage: a pistol stuffed inside a raw chicken. The Associated Press reported that both raw meat and firearms are allowed on airplanes — just not packed together. TSA posted a photo of the bang-bang chicken on its Instagram account but did not identify the traveler or whether it made any arrests.

Goals

— Alexander Tominsky, 31, of Philadelphia invited the public to assemble and watch him eat an entire rotisserie chicken — for the 40th day in a row, *The New York Times* reported. Dubbed "The Chicken Man," Tominsky placed fliers around Philly to advertise his consumption of the 40th bird, and dozens of people showed up at a pier on the Delaware River on Nov. 6 to watch. "Eat that bird!" they chanted. And he did. Why? He told the *Times* that much of the world is in pain, so he needed to do something painful to himself that would make others smile. After 40 days of cramping and bloating, Tominsky was looking forward to a sushi dinner.

What's the Point?

— Japanese convenience store Lawson is testing a new candy that tastes like empti-

ness, *Oddity Central* reported. "Aji no Shinai? Ame," or "Tasteless? Candy," apparently has a slight odor but almost no flavor. The makers are hoping that people who use candy just to keep their mouths and throats moist will appreciate the flavorless variety.

One Man's Trash...

— German collector Alexander Smoljanovic is on the hunt for a special item to complete his collection, *Metro News* reported. Smoljanovic wants a purple Sulo 240-liter wheeled trash can, available only in the United Kingdom, to round out his collection of more than 100 full-size wheelies. "I have miniatures and real wheelie bins from USA, Australia, France, U.K. and Germany. Almost every color is available. The most valuable colors are purple, gold, silver and transparent," he said. He hopes for a donation, but he's willing to pay for the elusive purple wheelie. "Some people tell me, 'Now I consider my wheelie bin from another angle.'"

Look, Up in the Sky!

— Dustin Procita lives in rural northern California among cattle ranches and farms. On the evening of Nov. 4, Procita "heard a big bang. I started to smell smoke and I went onto my porch and it was completely engulfed in flames," he told KCRA-TV. Procita saved one of his two dogs from the fire, which he believes was caused by a meteorite landing on his house. Video taken by people nearby shows a bright ball of light falling from the sky; the Taurid meteor showers were happening in that area when the

fire occurred. Firefighters battled the blaze for several hours before getting it under control. Procita said he might have to buy a lottery ticket: "They said it's a 1-in-4 trillion chance."

Least Competent Criminals

— Two unnamed thieves stole merchandise from the Ross Dress for Less store in Springfield, Missouri, on Nov. 5, KY3-TV reported. They apparently then hopped into two separate cars to make their getaway — and crashed into each other. Police said the suspects tried to flee on foot but were quickly apprehended; they'll face misdemeanor theft charges.

But Why?

— Stouffer's, of TV dinner fame, has a new offering sure to appeal to ... Garfield. Stouffer's Lasagna Inspired Bloody Mary Mix, the company's first foray into drink mixes, claims to sport a "bold and savory" flavor, *Food & Wine* magazine reports. "For decades, Stouffer's Lasagna has had a special place at holiday tables," said Megan McLaughlin, the company's brand marketing manager. Really? But here's the good news: While you can't buy the mixer, they'll be giving away bottles starting at noon Eastern time on Nov. 14 through the online merchandise store. Mark your calendar!

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

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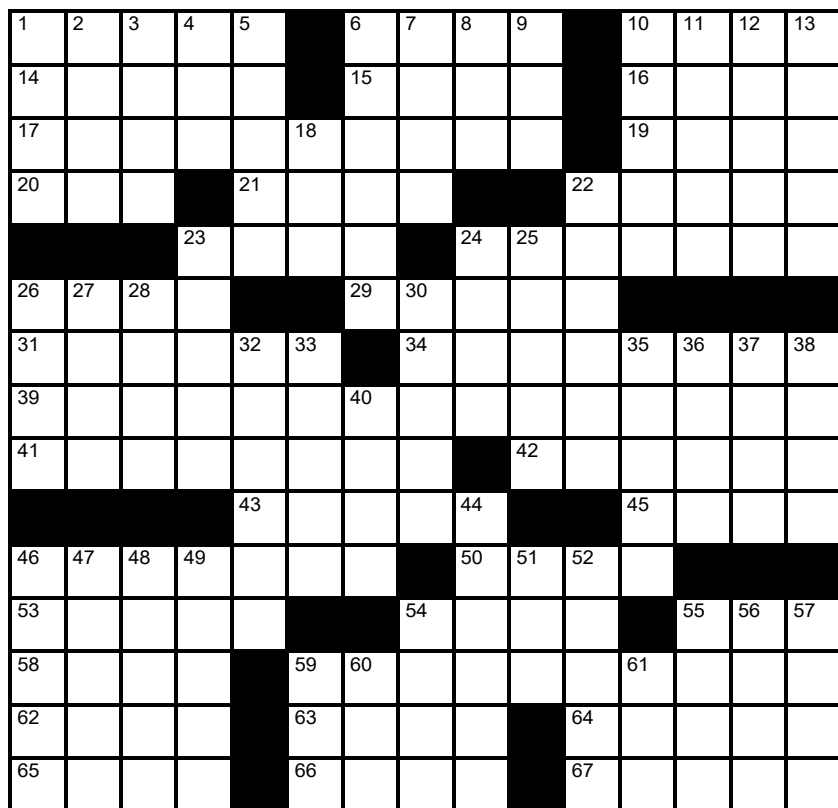
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Across

1. Teeming throng
6. Fargo's state: Abbr.
10. Result of branching out?
14. Unfamiliar
15. East Indies tourist destination
16. "I feel pretty, _____ pretty" ("West Side Story" lyric)
17. Zed?
19. What sirens do
20. Lombardi Trophy org.
21. Dish next to stuffing and cranberry sauce
22. You might sleep on it

Down

23. Security guard's viewing, for short
24. Ornamental projection on some 1950s cars
26. Classic name for a poodle
29. Kitchen doohickey
31. Lacking scruples, say
34. Ladies' man
39. Al?
41. It might get under your skin
42. "_____ the Spider" (classic African folk tale)
43. Watering holes in deserts
45. They're heard in herds

Across

46. Stop patronizing
50. "Let's ... never do that"
53. Gabrielle of "Being Mary Jane"
54. "Hamilton" won one in 2015
55. 401(k) kin
58. Treats with a cold pack
59. Nelson?
62. _____ classic
63. Hammock support
64. 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature winner
65. Converse alternative
66. "Race Matters" writer Cornel
67. 1865 and 1945, e.g.

Down

1. Kathryn of "WandaVision"
2. Singing snowman in Disney's "Frozen"
3. Small stream
4. 100%, in slang
5. Britannica, for one: Abbr.
6. Award won twice by Giannis Antetokounmpo
7. Häagen-_____
8. Pub pick
9. Josh
10. Spa handout
11. Fisherman's spot
12. Three-word question from Judas
13. Mideast's _____ Heights
18. Tell (on)
22. When repeated, name

Down

23. Wispy clouds
24. Picard's counselor
25. Health insurance giant
26. Website help sections
27. Sleepyhead's response
28. Young horse
30. Emmy winner Woodard
32. When some do lunch
33. Unleash upon
35. Hertz competitor
36. What a GOP member might call their pro-immigrant, pro-choice colleague, for short
37. "This _____ unfair!"
38. Redding in the Memphis Music Hall of Fame
40. Take five
44. Rent what you've rented
46. General Motors brand
47. Promptly
48. Defer (to)
49. Expenses
51. 60 secs.
52. High-maintenance
54. Flamenco cheers
55. Fisher of "Wedding Crashers"
56. 2013 Katy Perry hit
57. St. _____ Bay, Jamaica
59. Online initialism of rejoicing
60. Suffix with text or fail
61. Ingredient in soapmaking

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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

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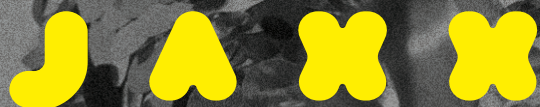
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