

S A N D

VOL. 48 | NO. 1 | JANUARY 5, 2023

# Reader

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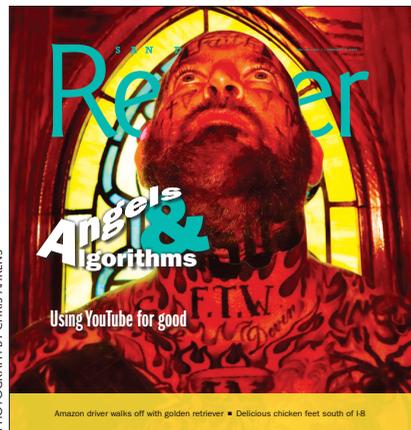
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January 5, 2023



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS AHRENS

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ENCINITAS

## Retriever retrieved

### Amazon delivery driver dropped off package, picked up pooch

In early 2021, Denise Reppenhagen was on a waiting list for a golden retriever puppy. She saw ultrasounds of her prospective pets, pics of the newborns, and more pictures every two weeks after that. After eight weeks, she picked one out of the litter, named him Finn, paid \$4000, and brought him home. "So I was involved with Finn since he was in utero," she testified later, in court, after her dog went missing some 20 months later on October 9.

That Sunday morning, the 62-year-old Reppenhagen came home from the gym sometime after 10 am and found her dog was gone. Reppenhagen said her adult daughter had driven into her garage that morning while she was away at the gym, and that her daughter did not realize that Finn had gone out to the street before she closed the garage door behind her and went into the house. "We frantically started searching," said Reppenhagen, who traveled around her neighborhood on Hollyridge Drive in Encinitas, handing out fliers. Finn had been micro-chipped (and neutered) when he was one year old, so Reppenhagen contacted the chip company and reported him lost. She sought help from an online dog forum called PAW BOOST. And she contacted local deputies, one of whom came and picked up some fliers to help get the word out.



Finn was found, despite his lack of collar and misinformed microchip.

It was more than two weeks later, on October 26, when one of her neighbors carefully reviewed video from her Ring home security camera and saw that on October 9, at 9:43 am, a small white car stopped in front of the Reppenhagen home. It appeared that the female driver of that car was delivering Amazon packages. The neighbor could see that when the female walked away from Reppenhagen's home back to her car, a fluffy golden retriever was with her. The dog jumped into the car through the driver's side door, and the car drove away.

Reppenhagen had received an Amazon package, delivered to her front door, on the morning of that day. She checked with Amazon, and they showed her a photo that the delivery person had taken of the package she put on her porch. Her dog Finn was in the

photo. She then gave the neighbor's video to Michael Chen of Channel 10 ABC, who broadcast a story about a "dog kidnapper." She hoped someone might recognize the white car or the driver. "It was overwhelming," said Reppenhagen, choking up. And

Channel 10 ABC broadcast a story about a "dog kidnapper." She hoped someone might recognize the white car or the driver. "It was overwhelming."

someone *did* contact the sheriff, having recognized the delivery driver as living in a certain apartment in San Diego.

On October 29, San Diego County Sheriff's detective Monica Delatorre showed up with warrants and six other deputies at the address of their suspect, in the 5000 block of Ducos Place in San Diego. Investigators believed that suspect, Dena Marie Vindiola, 36, lived with her boyfriend, who was on probation and had an "extensive criminal history." The search team found a baggie of meth (two grams), and a glass bowl (bong) with white residue in Vindiola's bedroom closet, according to the detective's testimony. They found fentanyl on a chair in her bedroom, and a lock-picking kit in the home. And they found a picture of a golden retriever in Vindiola's car; the picture was labeled, "My boy." There was dog feces in the backyard, and a tennis ball — but no dog.

Investigators saw text messages on Vindiola's phone, one text asked if

someone had any "wakeup" or "white" (meth) and if someone had any "F" (fentanyl). Investigators also found searches for "Can you get in trouble if a dog jumps in your car?" and "Can you get in trouble for dog napping if you don't have the dog?" and "If your dog is chipped what does that mean?"

There was bodycam video of deputies speaking with Vindiola on her back patio. They wanted to know where the dog was. At first, Vindiola said she delivered a package and saw a loose dog, and the dog jumped into her car. She said she was going to take it to the pound, but then he started to whine, so she went around the corner and dropped the dog off because she thought he was a smart dog and would be able to find his own way home. Then she told another story, according to detective Delatorre: that the friendly dog followed her to the car and jumped in on its own, and that it was a good boy so she took it home. She claimed she had the dog for only one day, because her mother liked the dog and wanted to keep it, so she gave it to her mother, who lived elsewhere in San Diego County. The detective told the judge that texts in Vindiola's phone suggested she had the dog at least until October 14th, some five days after Finn went missing. Vindiola was arrested.

When investigators spoke to the mom, she said she did take the dog, but then she gave it to a neighbor, and that person gave

it to a person at her church, and *that* person took the dog to a shelter. Detectives contacted an animal shelter in El Centro and learned that Finn had been placed with a foster family in Santee while waiting to be adopted. The dog shelter never contacted Reppenhagen because the information on the dog's microchip was incorrect; the detective said there was another name and info on that chip. It was not explained why Reppenhagen was not correctly identified as the owner on the microchip.

On Sunday, October 30, deputies coordinated with the dog owner and the foster family to meet at a Petco store in San Diego for the safe return of Finn. An overjoyed Reppenhagen got her dog back, and the Sheriff declared in a news release: "We're happy to report the reunion was a success."

During the pre-trial hearing on December 15, attorney Ryan Cannon made a vigorous defense of Vindiola, complaining that Vindiola had been handcuffed while she was on her back patio and surrounded by deputies in tactical gear. He said she was emo-

*continued on page 3*



Denise Reppenhagen

October 26 · Nextdoor · 🌐

Amazon Driver delivers package and STEALS OUR FAMILY GOLDEN RETRIEVER FROM OUR HOME.



Amazon Ring video helps catch Amazon delivery driver in the act.

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

tional and cried while being interrogated, and that the seven armed officers “pressured her,” with one causing her particular stress by saying, “Stop fucking around.” The defense attorney produced two witnesses (neighbors) who claimed that Reppenhausen was known to allow her dogs to roam the neighborhood. One witness told the judge, “Her dogs are loose all the time.” The defense attorney pointed out that Finn had no collar on that day, and claimed that after Vindiola delivered the package, she first tried to make the dog stay in the fenced yard, but the dog pushed through the gate, happily walked with her to the car, and then eagerly jumped into the car without any encouragement. He said that the dog appeared to be a stray, and that Vindiola never had any intent to steal it. Further, the dog was never mistreated. He noted that Vindiola had no criminal history, and that she had lost her job and been kicked out of her apartment because of this incident. He asked the judge to reduce all charges to misdemeanors.

Judge Laura Duffy declined to reduce the felony theft to a misdemeanor and ordered Vindiola to answer all charges: felony grand theft dog, and two misdemeanor drug charges. Dena Marie Vindiola pleaded not-guilty and currently remains at liberty. She is next expected in San Diego’s North County Superior courthouse on January 12, to confirm a date for trial in February 2023.

EVA KNOTT

## NORTH PARK

### Bikes vs. business

#### Bike lane brings problematic paucity of parking, argues lawsuit

Pat Sexton says that ever since a 2.25-mile bike lane replaced over 460 parking spots on 30th Street between Normal Heights and North Park last year, some 34 businesses have shut down. Today, some of the buildings that housed them are boarded up, “because there’s nowhere for customers to park, and many of the customers, who are older, can’t bike in or walk long distances to the businesses.”

Sexton, a retired North Parker and founder of *Save30thStreetParking.org*, said the latest business on 30th Street to close its doors is Hontech Automotive, Inc., an import car mechanic service just north of Lincoln Avenue. “Other employees and customers in the area were taking up Hontech’s private parking spots,” Sexton explained. So when Hontech customers would pull up from 30th Street and find that the car shop’s parking lot was packed, they’d drive around the block, only to discover they couldn’t find a place to park. I called Hontech on December 19 — the shop has over 200 Google reviews, averaging a 4.9 out of 5 — but the phones were disconnected.

Craze Burger sits just south of Hontech’s former location. Chef Edgar, who works there, said that customers complain about not finding parking on and around 30th Street “every single time. The parking spots were removed because of the bike lanes, and we see zero bikes on the street.”

“You’ll see the lowest [number of bikes] when it’s coldest in December or January,”

continued on page 13

# UNDER THE RADAR

**Lorena’s loot** With traditional local news outlets under financial duress and the *Union-Tribune* expected to go exclusively online most days of the week, the word that ex-Assembly Democrat **Lorena Gonzalez** has set up a \$1.1 million political slush fund with leftover campaign contributions ended up being broken by *CalMatters*, the Sacramento non-profit website. Under the headline “Buried treasure: California politicians stash \$35 million in leftover campaign cash,” *CalMatters* reported on December 27 that Gonzalez had, in May, set up a new political committee called The Future of Workers Action Fund. Spokesperson **Evan McLaughlin**, in a text message, declined to provide further information on the goal of the account “beyond the obvious motivation reflected in the committee’s name and the reputation of its sponsor,” *CalMatters* reported. The piece added that the cash, raised from a bevy of special interests during Gonzalez’s time in the legislature and as a one-time state Secretary of State hopeful, could have been refunded to donors, though that is a “rarely used option” among California elected officials.

Through September 24, the most recent disclosure period, the sole recipient has been Retirees for Walker for CalPERS 2022, which got \$1000 on July 17. Beneficiary **Yvonne Walker** “is the unofficial winner of the runoff election for the retired member seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration,” according to a December 8 CalPERS release. She is the ex-boss of Local 1000 of the Service Employees International Union, “coordinating with other unions to shepherd through proposals for a \$15 minimum wage and housing affordability,” according to a December 9 *Sacramento Bee* account.

Gonzalez, who currently runs the California Labor Federation, is widely expected to spend much of the remaining funds to aid the political career of her husband, San Diego County supervisor **Nathan Fletcher**, serving his final term before being timed out of office, and currently talked of as a potential state Senate candidate. Fletcher’s first supervisor bid in 2018 was boosted by six-figure transfers of Gonzalez’s campaign cash to the San Diego County Democratic Party, which backed Fletcher using so-called member communications to avoid campaign contribution limits and conceal the true sources of the funds. Another sign that Fletcher is gearing up for a busy political future is the campaign-like nature of his County website, adorned with the headline “We Changed San Diego County” over links to twelve YouTube videos promoting what

the site says are his achievements over the past four years, including boosting County cash for mental health and homeless services. A paean to the supervisor in the form of a December 28 *Union-Tribune* B-1 column by **Michael Smolens** drives home Fletcher’s talking points, but does not mention Gonzalez’s ready stash of political cash. A 2024 battle for the state senate seat of lieutenant governor hopeful Toni Atkins looms. “The County government is much different than it was when Fletcher was elected four years ago,”



Lorena Gonzalez: funding the future.

reads the column. “There have been big investments in mental and behavioral health care, more attention to homelessness and housing, an overhauled climate plan, a reversal on suburban-style development in outlying areas, greater focus on poorer and traditionally underserved communities, increased social services, better pay for county workers and improved access to county government.”

Republicans haven’t been completely silent in the face of Fletcher’s juggernaut, most notably KUSI TV, owned by longtime GOP donor **Mike McKinnon**. “Our San Diego County Supervisors have tried housing the homeless in hotels throughout the county, mainly in El Cajon, but the results have been increased crime and drug use at the locations,” says a December 23 introduction to an interview with News Director **Steve Cohen** on the station’s website. “So that program is clearly failing, yet our elected officials from both sides of the aisle constantly lie, saying the situation is improving.”

**Expensively astute** Another locally unreported but potentially costly part of Nathan



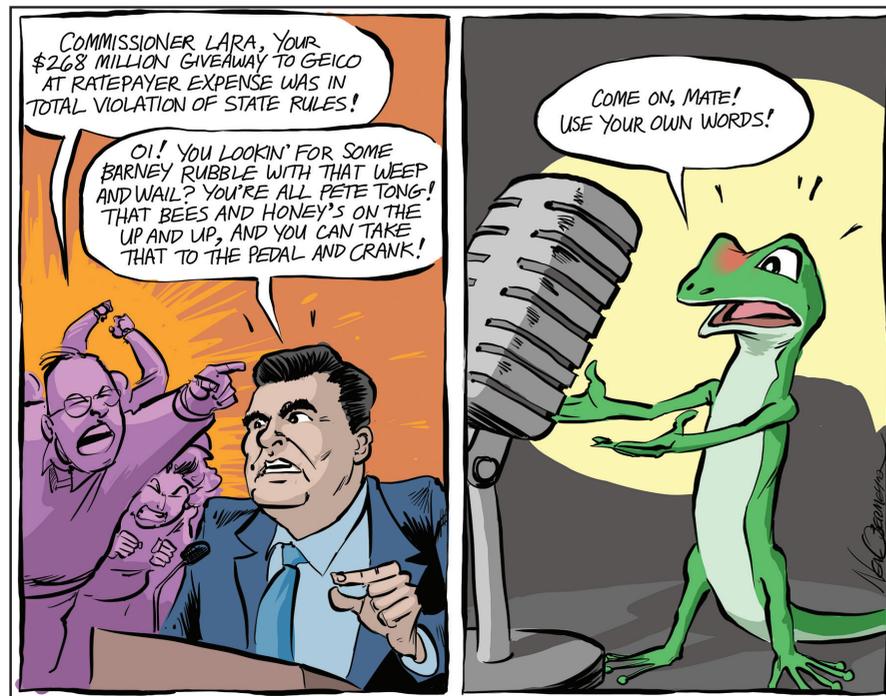
Nathan Fletcher: a well-funded future?

Fletcher’s campaign puzzle is coming into view in the form of a national recruiting drive for a new County Chief Administrative Officer. “The salary for this position is highly competitive for the region, with generous executive level benefits, including [San Diego County Employees Retirement Association] Retirement. The Board will also consider reimbursement of moving and relocation

expenses for the selected candidate to encourage participation on a broader scale,” per a job post by Ralph Andersen & Associates. “Requires a Bachelor’s degree and significant, substantial, and relevant executive-level experience. County-related experience, particularly in California, is desired, although all highly qualified candidates on a national basis will be given full consideration. A Master’s degree or advanced degree is preferred. Knowledge and experience in working in the greater San

continued on page 29

## Neal Obermeyer



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### What's the real Torrey story?

Regarding the dispute over protected Torrey Pines obstructing views, I would like to know whether the trees in dispute were there before the Deftos purchased their home and whether they moved in accepting they are there. I also wonder what environmental groups they support. Seems these days everyone is righteous about protecting trees and the environment until it inconveniences them.

Name Withheld  
Mission Hills

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

### San Diego - Fentanyl City

**Cover Story, December 14, 2022**  
As the mother of a 33 year old son who is addicted to fentanyl I thank you for this article! I myself have 28 years of recovery from drugs and alcohol and can not even fathom the truths I just read! I tried a in home detox for my son but after the second day he bolted, even though his children were there to watch it all it wasn't enough to get him to stop. Sadly, he wasn't done. Just like anything as the saying goes you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. My heart is heavy as I write this but hope is always part of my relief! I have forwarded this article to help educate others as it did for me. We all need to get involved in some way please help by passing this article along to all your contacts!!

-Heavy Heart  
December 20, 2022

### Leonard Patton's Jazz Lounge risk pays off with first big-name booking

**Blurt, December 29, 2022**  
Go ahead, Leonard Patton! Best of luck with this new venue! I look forward to checking it out. Thanks Robert Bush for getting the word out on this new invaluable contribution to the jazz music scene in San Diego!

-Well Wisher  
December 29, 2022

Thanks for covering another listening venue, Mr. Bush. Noisy party places that feature jazz have their place, but so many of us want to hear the true depth of what jazz really is!

-Kenneth G  
December 30, 2022

Another venue for jazz music. This is a good thing. I remember when Joe Marillo was in charge of booking jazz acts in San Diego at places like the Catamaran Hotel. There was a golden era in San Diego. I remember seeing Bill Evans at the Catamaran just months before he died.

It was a once in a life time opportunity for a young jazz lover like me. So more power to you, my friend. Book those acts and spread the word. Keep the music alive.

-Jazz Fan  
December 30, 2022

### Trans-Catalina Trail from Avalon to Two Harbors

**Room, December 21, 2022**  
For anyone reading this to get a sense of the full trail, it's worth noting that this article only covers a few sections of the Trans-Catalina Trail, the entire trail is 38.5 miles long and is worth taking your time to complete:

- Avalon to Blackjack
- Blackjack to Little Harbor
- Little Harbor to Two Harbors
- Two Harbors to Parsons Landing
- Parsons Landing to Two Harbors

-Hiker/Nit Picker  
December 27, 2022

### Otonomy, La Jolla ear cure stock, falls to 11 cents

**News Under the Radar, December 28, 2022**

Why does Matt Potter have to be so cruel in his postings? Otonomy wasn't funded to invent another weapon or mindless video game. It was trying to find medical cures for what can be a debilitating condition. And no, the name isn't any odder than that of the typical biotech firm. It's a play off of otolaryngology, the scientific description for an ear, nose and throat specialty. But Potter knows that, which makes his snark even more despicable.

-William Sandstrom  
December 29, 2022

I'm not sure that Matt wants to be cruel or heartless; this biotech industry has its ups and downs like few others do. I do know that when such a firm bellies-up, as with Otonomy, good people suffer the consequences. My daughter-in-law is one of them, having worked there for 14 years, and is now having to restart her biology career.

-First Hand Explainer  
December 30, 2022

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Owners Kim and George Murray of Fallbrook's Beach House Winery

**A wine time was had by all**

"Watch your step," says the girl. "Watch your... oh dear. You okay sir?"

I brush off dust, drink, pride, and reply, "Yes of course."

And it's true — except for the pride part. I'm with a bunch of wine-happy people as we leave this "Grand Decant" soiree in Liberty Station, like a herd of polite buffalo stomping down the steps: heads-down, as if we're trying to make it out onto the prairie. Except, now I look out over it, there's something civilized, French about this campus, this restoration of the old, many-arched Naval Training campus. Especially here tonight, at Carruth Cellars. Hundreds of savvy wine drinkers have converged on this old barracks, and for \$85 a head, have gone in to sample wines grown and bottled everywhere from Fallbrook to France.

"Watch your step, Ma'am." This time, the gal says it to the next clump bulging out through the doors. Inside, people tried not to be pushy as they filled the intra-table rows, but still wanted to get their entry fee's worth, and to fill their free "San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival" goblets with "free" wine and then lean away from the table to take a sip. "Easy, darling. Long way down," says one wife to her tall husband.

But it's not just free wine that's on offer. "This 'Broken Shed' vodka is from New Zealand," a spokesman named Tom is saying at the very first table. "It's specifically from the South Island, in Wanaka. It's made of milk whey, and two sources of New Zealand water. There are no additives whatsoever; the milky whey — heh heh — provides a really nice creamy mouthful, so there's no need to add sugar, like most brands do. The whole experience here is completely different from what you might be used to with vodka. ...And this is rum from Fiji. The Rum Co. of Fiji...Two

kinds: 'Bati' means 'warrior' in Fijian, and 'Ratu' means 'chief..."

Table after table boasts these loquacious salesmen and women with really interesting stuff to say about their products, mostly wines. Me, I've come looking for Mexican wines, probably Valle de Guadalupe wines, given that 80 percent of Mexican wines are produced right down there in that Baja valley.

**"I don't view other wineries as competition. I view this as a collaboration. We're all helping grow the industry."**

Except nobody I talk to knows of any being here tonight.

Bummer. I've been interested in Mexican wines ever since one night when I was in Tijuana, eating some Baja Med pizza at El Taller ("The Workshop") restaurant, near "El Big," the still-extant Big Boy coffee shop across Aqua Caliente from the old bullring. Got talking with this gent who said he was heading north to Chula Vista. "I have a vineyard here in Baja California," he told me. "In the Guadalupe Valley. My problem is the Mexican government puts such a heavy tax on it that even I can't afford to buy my own wines! Tonight I'm crossing the border so I can go buy a few cases of my own wine. Because it's cheaper to buy Mexican wine in the United States than it is in Mexico."

It turns out Mexican wine-makers are victims of their own success. Back in the day — the 1600s — when Mexico was a Spanish colony,

missions not only multiplied up and down the length of what was a single California, but initiated the first plantings in the entire New World of grape vines, to make sacramental wine (just as they imported palm trees to grow mainly for use on Palm Sunday ceremonies). Northern Baja seemed to have the more perfect climate for grapes. Vineyards expanded, and became such a success that the Padres started getting surpluses. Naturally, they sent that extra wine back to sell in the Motherland, Spain. Spanish wine growers felt so threatened that they petitioned the king to forbid all wine growing in the Mexican colony, and in 1701, Spanish King Charles II ordered all vines in the New World destroyed.

Mexican leaders proved little better. "Once Mexico gained its independence in 1821," said my new friend at El Taller (who preferred not to have his name used), "the Revolution's new leaders couldn't resist imposing a 100 percent tax on all wines Mexico produced. That didn't apply outside Mexico. Which is why I'm traveling out of my country to buy my own wine!"

Which could also explain why, still, according to the website *Uncork Mexico*, Mexicans only drink on average six glasses of wine per year. And most of those are women. Compare that to the U.S., where people drink three

glasses of wine per year. And most of those are women. Compare that to the U.S., where people drink three



Tom, with his Fiji rum and New Zealand vodka

gallons of wine each in an average year, while the Portuguese down 17 gallons! Part of the reason for the contrast between the U.S. and Mexico? California imposes a total of about 8 percent tax on wine. The Mexican government currently imposes 42 percent.

But the main wines sluicing around tonight's event are more famous: Napa Valley and Sonoma vino. Yes, there is a good scattering of San Diego vineyards represented, but many are small operations. "We're just a mom and pop," says Fallbrook's Beach House Winery owner George Murray. He's exhibiting along with his wife and co-owner, Kim Murray. "Kim and I don't view other wineries as competition, I view this as a collaboration. We're all helping each other to grow the

industry. We want to create a destination area that includes us all." But you can't help feel the irony. This brave new world is just happening now? In San Diego, where California wine began — hello! — in 1769, way before the gold-rush start-ups like Napa and Sonoma muscled in? Yet here's our fair city, the motherlode of California wine's history, still knocking on the door of oenological respectability, wanting to be accepted. And one thing for sure, at this show anyway: Right here on the

border, there are "No Mexican wines here." This feels like some sort of travesty. Mexico, which gave birth to the first vineyard, Casa Madero, in 1597, and the missions including San Diego de Alcala, the granddaddies of Baja wine producers, is treated like a Johnny-come-lately, where growers are glad of any "competitors" to join them in the struggle for respectability against the giants from Napa and Sonoma. Kim and George Murray cheerfully exclaim "We band together!" But you'll be hard put to find any San Diego wines in your local liquor store. ■



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# UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Luxury and opulence are obviously the prime factors underpinning what we do here at *Unreal*. Whether that means ultramodern sleekness in a living space rivaling the size of a large grocery store, a penthouse unit atop one of the tony high-rises Downtown, or the classic refinement of the turn-of-the-last-century, posh living is usually what dominates. Still, just because you're rich doesn't necessarily mean you're fancy. So this week we've got a treat for our expansive multi-millionaire readership, the sort more at home clomping along a hiking trail, strolling farmland to check on the crops, or boating out on a lake. Except, you know, the lake and trails are all privately owned, so you don't have to share them with anyone.

"Welcome to Rosa Sattoria, a beautiful Oasis located here in Southern California," opens the pitch for 6036 Rainbow Heights Road, a 100-acre



Bars on the second story windows? Must be some big skeeters up there in Rainbow.

plot of land with a Fallbrook ZIP code that's actually closer to the tiny hamlet of Rainbow, just a couple of miles from the county's northern border. Our photo tour opens with a heavily-photoshopped but still compelling photo of the aforementioned private lake, which occupies about two acres, and which and the listing tells us is as deep as 16 feet. "Get ready for a summer to remember...jet skis, rope swings and a jumping platform provide fun for all ages." While summer may not be exactly around the corner, we should probably take note that the property has been on and off-market for a few years now, so perhaps at one point, this copy made more sense.

We get several more shots of the lake before we proceed to the gated entry that leads us (judging by the fact that we get four successive photos of it) down a very long, tree-lined driveway to the 3568-square-foot main residence, built in 1970 and featuring four bedrooms and three baths. The front isn't particularly impressive, though I do like the path down to the front door, with the lower level sunken below road level. Still, I'm left wondering why there are bars on some of the windows, particularly the second-floor ones. Who is getting through the gate and fence (the listing says "approximately 95% of the property is already fenced"), and are

they really bringing a ladder to get up to that level? Even in my considerably less savory neighborhood, barred windows are generally reserved for the ground floor.

Before we get inside, there are more photos of the grounds, which "offer private picnic areas or camping grounds, with guest bathrooms and showers nearby." There's some water flowing through a ditch with a small bridge at one point — maybe this is the stream that feeds the lake? Off to the side is one of those picnic areas with granite slab tables and tree stumps hacked down into chairs.

We finally make it to the arched brick entryway (also heavily fortified, with more iron across the door and windows) and into a Saltillo-tiled living room. The space is very much from 1970, with exposed brick walls and rough-hewn beams supporting the thick plaster ceiling. It seems well preserved, and the heavy wood coffee and end tables contribute to the retro look and feel of the space, which I like.

The kitchen seems to have received some

updating sometime in the last decade or two, and it's functional and spacious without calling for any boasting about "chef's delight" this-or-that in the way of appliances or appointments. We pass from there to an efficient office that appears to feature some sort of teddy bear wearing a pilgrim's hat straddling a porthole high on the wall, and then to a bedroom outfitted with a huge four-post bed. The orange-reddish tile continues to flow from room to room, which I guess explains why there's a bath mat next to the bed. Better not to start your day on a mountain winter morning by getting out of bed and shocking yourself on a freezing stone floor.

The baths seem to have been updated around the same time as the kitchen, and in some of the other bedrooms, we actually do see a bit of carpet on the floor. I know trends have shifted over time, from the durable hardwood flooring favored a century ago to wall-to-wall carpet in the latter half of the 1900s and back to solid surfaces again, but hear me out: carpet belongs in bedrooms, solid floors go everywhere else. I want my bedroom warm and comfy, but whoever decided to carpet the kitchen in the first house I owned can get right the hell out. Bathroom carpet comes in a close second.

An interesting flooring choice can be found in a low-ceilinged room that might be an attic: it looks like the floor is just 4x8 sheets of plywood, but they've been sanded down smooth and then stained to form a surface simpler and cheaper than hardwood, but not altogether unattractive. If I had a

finished attic, I might do something like this.

The listing doesn't mention the garage size, but it must be huge. We first get a shot showing a black sedan taking up just a tiny chunk of space otherwise given over to storage; then in the next photo, there's an old red Ferrari surrounded by more mountains of stuff. We didn't even get a hint of the latter vehicle in the first picture.

Back outside, we get a few photos of the two-bedroom "caretaker's house" that seems to have been nicely (if modestly) remodeled, a building that looks like a public park bathroom (they did tell us there were a few of these), and some of the other garages and sheds. We don't see the two "farm worker trailers," but given that this is the full description of them, I don't imagine they're very attractive. We also get more shots of the grounds and lake, including a small waterfall from a stream that looks much more natural than the ditch we saw earlier.

We've been focusing on the forest and park settings of the property on our tour, but we're also reminded that Rosa Sattoria Ranch is a working farm: 70 of the nearly 101 acres are dedicated to an avocado grove, one that we're told is capable of producing over 950,000 pounds of fruit per year. There's also "an arboretum with labeled species, genus, and origin, 100's of palm trees, in addition to macadamia nut, oranges, lemons, pear, and grapefruit trees."

An old listing for the property promoting it as a business more than a residence tells us that the

*continued on page 29*

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## Using YouTube for good

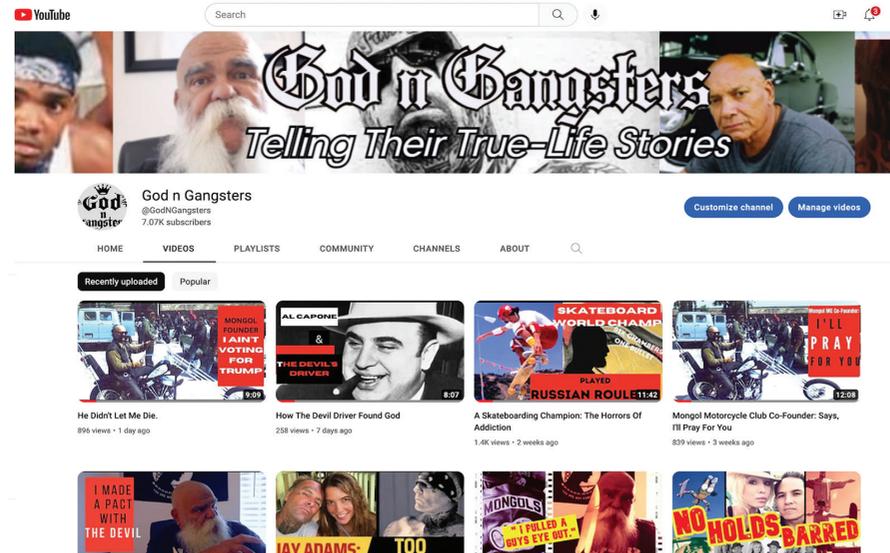
**T**he painter Michael Cassidy is either the least or most practical person I know. Least in that he doesn't measure success in terms of money; most in that he is deeply concerned with the effect his art has on the public. As he puts it, "Art with real meaning that speaks to people's hearts has to have something to say about what is true. Most of you have had moments of magic in your life. Moments we grasp at but can never seem to capture and hold onto. They're fleeting — brief looks from the mountaintop through foggy glasses. Artists help us

# Angels & Algorithms

Taz, a former Skinhead, is featured on the God n Gangsters YouTube channel and is now the pastor of Set Free Church in San Diego.

pause and look for those moments. I paint pictures of paradise” — Tahiti, for example — “so that when I look at them, I’m reminded of what I was made for. Somewhere in my soul, I know beyond a doubt that I’m made for paradise, for heaven. I make pictures of horse Indian culture and cowboys because it reminds me of the wildness and freedom that is also heaven.” Lifting his brush skyward, he hopes his paintings provide a glance at heavenly things to come.

This attitude puts him completely out of step with materialistic, modern thought; as he notes, “I’m a non-person in the modern art world.” He sums up his neo-bohemian/Christian philosophy this way: “If I have to choose between the opportunity of selling a painting or fishing, you’ll know where to find me.” Despite this, he is successful in his work, often selling his paintings — representational, figurative, reflective of a creation that points him toward the creator — for up to \$40,000. He meticulously puts oil on canvases one stroke at a time, stretches his canvases by



“God n Gangsters reveals tales of the rise, fall, and redemption of some of America’s most daring criminals.”

hand, and hand builds his own magnificent frames.

Cassidy is a close friend of mine, and it’s probably not surprising to learn that a man who labors in a craft birthed long before the Industrial Revolution is something of a fellow technophobe. He owns a cell phone, but intentionally loses it, and refuses to be interrupted by such trivia as retrieving a phone message or sending a text. As for me, I am a faithful member of the incredible shrinking tribe who vow to live and die on print’s sacred hill, and I long for the days of my old IBM Selectric

typewriter. What is surprising is that Cassidy is the person who suggested that I, a fellow Luddite, take the plunge into the digital deep of YouTube.

About five years ago, sick of a ramen diet supplemented by the dandelions I picked from backyard, I called Cassidy to ask how I might make a better living through writing. He thought for a minute, and then suggested I write a book about the penitent gangsters I knew.

“How do I make money on that?” I asked.

“You don’t, you give it away,” was his reply.

He paid for the first printing, and six months later, *God & Gangsters, 21 Tales from Gangland* rolled off the presses. To this day, nobody has ever paid a dime for that book. Cassidy, like many among the faithful, believed I would be rewarded for my sacrifice. He also put

feet to faith, sending me checks from time to time, always assuring me of rewards in the next life. I confess to being skeptical, until, seemingly out of nowhere, I was hired to write three books for three different people. These full-length biographies paid well and led to my most profitable year ever.

When the money from book sales dried up several years later, I called Cassidy again, to ask what he recommended I do next. “Start a YouTube Channel,” he suggested before hanging up. I was incredulous. Didn’t he realize I had only recently learned how to send a photo with my phone? But with no work on the horizon and nothing to lose, I determined to follow his advice.

A few days later, I emerged from my so-called office, having given

birth, painfully, to *God n Gangsters*. As I put it in my welcome video, “*God n Gangsters* reveals tales of the rise, fall, and redemption of some of America’s most daring criminals. We talk to them ourselves, bringing you along in the dark rooms, back alleys, and prison cells, plunging deep into their stories. They lived hard, they survived the fall, and now they have a story and a warning shot for you, your children, and your grandchildren.”

### The Breakthrough with Big Al

After a few dozen lackluster postings, I contacted Mongol Motorcycle Club co-founder “Big” Al Aceves via Facebook. I had never met Al before, but he agreed to be interviewed. During our two hour and 21 minute conversation, he recounted his violent past, includ-

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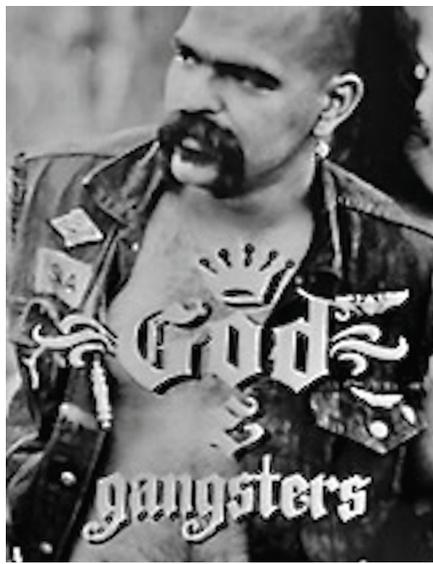
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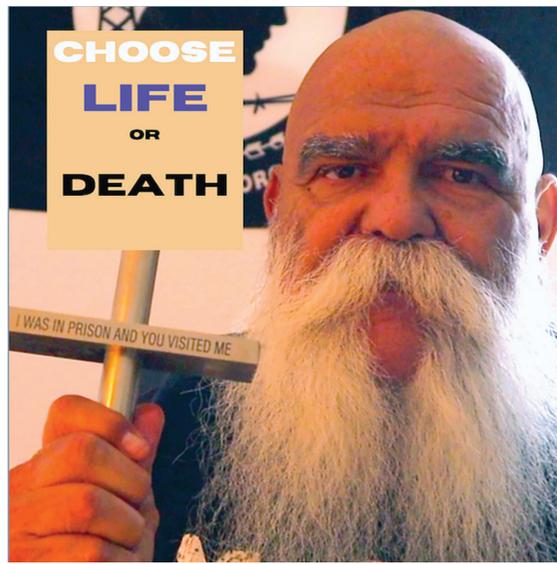
ing his time as Airborne Infantry in Vietnam, where he psychotically cut the ears off his enemies, slicing their throats and carving his name on their chests before leaving them to decompose in the jungle.

Upon his discharge, Aceves returned to the U.S. and sought to fill the adrenaline gap left by civilian life. It was then that he helped found one of America's most notorious motorcycle clubs, the Mongols. As an enforcer for the club, Aceves terrorized anyone who got in his way or owed him or the club money. According to Big Al, "I once whipped a guy with a chain; took half his face off. And I have no idea how many guys I've stabbed. I'm not making excuses, but I was numb from using heroin for nearly 35 years."

After gagging my way through the bloody details of the gangster portion of Al's life, I was relieved when the kinder, gentler God portion began. He told how he had gone from crime to faith, and from faith to service: to his friends, family, and the homeless people he now cares for on a nearly



Big Al Aceves: "I once whipped a guy with a chain; took half his face off. And I have no idea how many guys I've stabbed."



daily basis. Big Al's story was the hit that launched the *God n Gangsters* channel: it received 26,863 views in a single day.

#### Murph the Surf

Other *God n Gangsters* stories include that of Jack "Murph the Surf" Murphy, the young surfing champion out of Florida who, in 1964, pulled off the biggest jewel heist in history. Murph made international headlines after breaking into the New York Museum of Natural History and liberating 23 of the world's most precious stones from the J.P. Morgan Gem Collection. The rock

star of the collection, The Star of India, is the most valuable star sapphire in the world, and it wound up being carried by Jack like a two-dollar rabbit's foot in his pants pocket. Wanting to show off to his friend, famed jazz musician Gene Krupa, Murph bragged, "Man, you'll never guess what I've got in my pocket." Decades later, I accompanied Murphy into Donovan State Prison and he told me of his years of living dangerously before his miraculous conversion.

#### Crips & Bloods

Timothy Jackson was

once a highly respected member of the Deep Valley Crips. Now, he is the equally well-respected business owner of Quality Touch Cleaning. Hailing from Oceanside, Jackson was jumped into the gang at age 14. By his mid 20s, he was eight years, eight months, and eight days into a 13-year sentence for attempted murder. When he was paroled on February 23, 2017, some fading tattoos were the only remaining evidence of Jackson's violent roots. Even the officer who helped put him away years ago remarked, "I can't believe this is the same person I

once arrested."

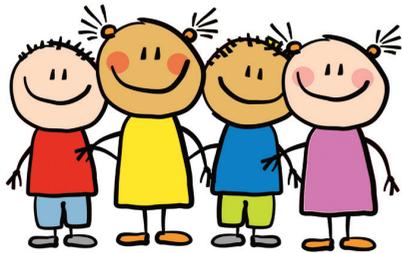
Jackson, who went by the street moniker "Baby G-Man," spent much of his youth planning attacks against his gang's biggest rival, the Deep Valley Bloods. Atiu "Joe" Taulau, whose crazy ways earned him the moniker Maniak from his fellow Bloods, remembers Jackson well from those days of blood and bullets. According to Taulau, "Timothy's name rang bells like a church on Sunday. I didn't want to see him breathing, and he didn't want to see me breathing." According to Jackson, "Joe was younger than me, and he'd drive

by, and flash a "B" with his fingers from the car his older brother was driving. I knew we had to take care of him right then, or we would have to take care of him later."

Both Taulau and Jackson recall being shot at by their rivals in the ongoing wars that raged in the area. According to Joe, "When you hear that sound, and know the bullets are close, that's scary. But it wasn't until I first got incarcerated that it hit home for me. I watched my best friend and my youngest brother get broken off with life sentences, and I realized that prison was not for

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me. I don't think it's for anybody. You call home on Christmas, and you hear the party going on. I wasn't there when my youngest daughter was born. Hearing that baby talk over the phone; that hits a place in your heart."

Jackson recalls the time he got up to answer a phone and a shotgun blasted a hole in the chair he had been occupying just moments earlier. According to him, "That would have killed me, but it didn't slow me down at all. It wasn't until after my last arrest that I realized that even if I were to serve life in prison, I wasn't going to do it gang banging. That's when the big changes began in my life." One of those changes occurred when he was visited by La Jolla entrepreneur Mark Bowles, part of a group known as "The Five Ventures." In a *Shark Tank*-type contest, Jackson took second place for his proposal regarding unique ways of sanitizing highly trafficked business areas. Upon Jackson's release from prison, Bowles aided and mentored the former gang member so that he could start his cleaning business.

The gang feuds continue in and around Oceanside's Deep Valley, but both Jackson and Taulau are now at peace with each other. An ex-Blood and ex-Crip have done the unthinkable by joining forces to work for a common goal. They are both mentors at "Resilience," a youth mentoring program for at-risk kids, based in Oceanside and run by another former Deep Valley Crip featured on *God n Gangsters*, Pastor Larry Sauls. According to Sauls, "I was a good kid, but after I got jumped on my way to school, another kid helped me out. When I

saw him getting jumped a while later, what do you think I was gonna do? I had to help him. Later, I was recruited by the gang at the Boys & Girls Club. I had my first son while I was still in high school, and by my 21st birthday, I was married, and on my way to serving a 13-year prison term."

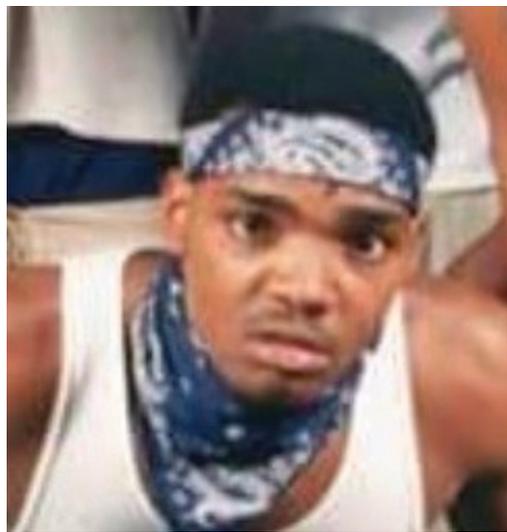
Pastor Larry believes that the biggest problem facing youth today is absentee fathers. His latest effort, "Improving Fatherhood Project North County, seeks to encourage dads to step up and take responsibility for their families. Besides that, he splits his time between working as the Senior Pastor at Atmosphere of Faith Christian Church in Vista, being an attentive husband and father of six, and serving as the Program Supervisor for Resilience.

#### Mexican Mafia

Another *God n Gangsters* video concerns "big homie" prison legend and Mexican Mafia co-founder Donald "Big D" Garcia. Garcia was a convicted killer, a prison boxing champion, and a heroin addict for decades. After his release, however, he turned his energies to stopping crimes rather than instigating them. After spending years working with law enforcement to helping curtail gang activity in the Los Angeles area, Big D passed away in 2012.

#### Manson's Righthand Man

Not a gangster by strict definition, Charles "Tex" Watson is serving a life sentence in San Diego's Donovan State Prison for crimes that would sicken even the most violent gangster. Considered Charles Manson's righthand man, Watson once slaughtered seven strang-



**Timothy Jackson was jumped into the gang at age 14. By his mid 20s, he was eight years, eight months, and eight days into a 13-year sentence for attempted murder.**

ers with a knife, including the pregnant actress Sharon Tate. According to Watson, "Once I came down from the drugs I had been taking, I began to see the horror of what I had done. Sometimes at night I would have visions of blood and Charlie [Manson] and the desert and knives. When that happened, the prisoners would call for the guards because I would be going crazy in my cell, throwing myself against the bars and screaming. I couldn't eat, and my weight dropped from my usual 165 to 110. I was on suicide watch and would be bound in a cot with four-point restraints, both ankles and wrists. As I lay on my back, the words of the 23rd Psalm which I had heard as a child, began to run through my head. Eventually, through study of the Bible, I learned that the penalty had been paid, even for guilt and sin as gross as mine."

#### Market the Mousetrap

"Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

For most of my life, I had taken Emerson's prov-

erb to heart; the result was that I ended up with hundreds of what I considered better mouse-traps in my garage. It was my neighbor Curt Conant who showed me that the world was done with path-beating; now, you have to beat the path and tell the world about

your creation.

It was a year to the day since its inception when *God n Gangsters* finally slow-dripped its way to 1000 subscribers, which is the minimum amount YouTube requires in order for a channel to become monetized. We were growing, slowly

but steadily. That started to change on June 3 of last year, when Conant started working the algorithms. I still don't know what an algorithm is, and I really don't care. I'm satisfied with Conant's explanation: "I turn the dials that get YouTube to put your videos on the 'dessert tray' for viewers." He often adds, "You make the paintings, I get them in front of customers" — and once again, I find myself thinking of *God n Gangsters* in connection with Michael Cassidy's art. Since Conant came on board, *God n Gangsters* has multiplied both views and subscriptions by a factor of five, and the channel now averages around \$1000 per month in ad revenue.

#### Telling stories with a camera

Michael Cassidy writes

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that “if you had a pie chart that represented what a fully developed artist looked like, it would have small slices of natural talent and huge slices of self-discipline, hard work, desire, and stubborn determination.” Anyone who’s spent any amount of time on YouTube knows that there are huge variances in quality, and just getting your work on the dessert tray isn’t enough. You have to work to make a compelling product, the same way I had to work on good sentences and solid stories when I was banging away on my IBM Selectric. That’s why I’m glad I had Dina Treibel to help me learn how to better film and edit my interviews.

Dina and her husband Paul have deep backgrounds in film. She began as a news anchor in Guam. Paul worked behind the camera for the same TV station. Today, she works as the film studies and multimedia teacher at the Grauer School in Encinitas, and runs Treibel Productions on the side. She is enthusiastic about the egalitarian possibilities presented by new media. “Anybody



Atiu “Joe” Taulau’s crazy ways earned him the moniker Maniak from his fellow Bloods.

with a cell phone can start a YouTube channel,” she says — but there’s still that matter of standing out. “A lot of my students already have channels, but my goal is to help them become better at filming and editing. I introduce them to the work of some of the better filmmakers, and suggest they learn from them and apply these proven techniques. Wes Anderson, for instance, has a style that can be recognized as his own immediately. One former student of mine, Will Fallmer, won the 2019 iVIE (Innovative Video in Education) Award in the category

“Healthy Teen Relationships” after he adapted Wes Anderson’s style to his assignment. The concept seems straightforward enough, but Will was able to put a new spin on it.”

#### Dodgers2080

Tim Rogers has been a Dodger fan ever since watching his first Major League Baseball game in 1973, at age eight. (He can’t help it. He grew up in Los Angeles before being transplanted to San Diego.) As a self-proclaimed baseball fanatic, it was natural for Rogers to eventually begin reporting on the sport. In

2018, he became a writer for the website *DodgerNation*, which led to his starting the YouTube channel *Dodgers2080*. “2080 is a term used by scouts to rate players,” he explains. “Twenty’s not good, and eighty’s great. I have good access to all the players on the Quakes, one of the teams that Dodgers prospects play on. I sit in the dugout near them during the games, and they’re really accepting of me. I film them and put them on my site, and they share the interviews with their families, some of which are thousands of miles away. That’s one reason I do this; to help the players connect with their families. It’s a labor of love.

“The prospects are paid \$500 a week, plus housing. A lot of them are from Venezuela. Quite a few are from the Dominican Republic and Cuba, and a few are from Mexico. But only about five to ten players will ever play in the Major Leagues, even for a short time. Two of prospects who made it that I’ve gotten to know are Darien Nunez from Mexico, and Miguel Vargas from Cuba.”

Rogers has learned this much in the algorithmic trenches: “It’s helpful to

use a name like Vargas’s. In your video descriptions, the algorithm won’t go to 1000th word, so you need to put your keywords closer to the front. If you begin your description with, ‘At the baseball stadium,’ only ‘At the’ will be counted. So I’ll put a name like ‘Miguel Vargas’ right up front in a description, and then use his name in a hashtag and in the title. He’s one of the top guys, and that causes me to get more views.”

#### An 11-year-old YouTuber

Eleven-year-old Clairemont resident Lucas Rohfok has been making things ever since he excited infancy. Paper airplanes, newspaper kites, and stomp rockets litter his earliest memories. Today, he is saving the money he makes walking dogs to buy components for a home-built computer. The juxtaposition is apt: Rohfok seems to do a good job of straddling the worlds of technology and the great outdoors. “I’m not really into cell phones,” he says. “I have an Apple Watch, so I can call my parents on it when I need to, but I can’t play games on it. I don’t understand why some people play games on their phones when they’re already playing outside. I can wait to play a computer game when I get home.”

Last summer Lucas started his own YouTube channel, *Animal Saver*. “I wanted to start a YouTube channel, but I didn’t know what I wanted it to be about. I was looking at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) website where you can donate to the type of animal you want to try and save. I thought, ‘I’m into helping animals,’ so I started *Animal Saver*. I work on my chan-

nel randomly now, but I hope to work on it more soon. I have around 3000 views and around 28 subscribers right now.” He’s also helping his seven-year-old brother Marley start his own YouTube channel about the video game *Minecraft*.

#### God N Gangsters

Technology comes more naturally to the young. But it’s not out of reach for the rest of us. Starting a YouTube Channel sounded like fun when I first considered it, and it certainly has been — at times, anyway. It’s also been inexpensive, with minimal paperwork, and easy enough for anyone with more computer knowledge than I have, which means nearly everyone. And when instructions seem inadequate, countless YouTube gurus are just a click away — on YouTube.

Most of the time, *God n Gangsters* is the most emotionally rewarding project I have ever been involved in. The project seeks to provide a truthful counterbalance to the more glamorous image of gang life sometimes portrayed in pop culture. Any honest former inmate will tell you that prison life alternates between terrifying and boring, and is only glamorous when viewed through the lens of some suburban kid who has yet to earn his first jailhouse beatdown. That kid has no real idea that bad choices made today could lead to death, or life in a cell for 23 hours a day, surrounded by a bunch of angry guys, some of whom want to end your life. But if he finds my YouTube channel, he may learn something. And while the book *God & Gangsters* has reached thousands, the channel

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has reached millions. Viewer comments suggest that it is making a difference, that many are tuning in to hear about gangsters who made U-turns, and are now attempting to repair the wreckage of their lives and of those they hurt.

At other times, the work proves so frustrating that I contemplate making twice the amount I make from views by, I

dunno, twirling signs. Recently I was putting the finishing touches on a video featuring Anthony Kiedis of The Red Hot Chili Peppers (Kiedis is not now, nor has he ever been a gangster, but he was once a thief and a drug addict. Also, his father was a gangster, so he qualifies for our channel.) I had crammed roughly 24 hours over two days into that video. Then, at

2 am, I pushed a button, and the audio in the editing software disappeared without a trace. Had it been earlier in the day, I would have figured out how to retrieve it, but at that late hour, with sleep deprivation gnawing away at my remaining brain cells, I began having a meltdown. I glared at my laptop, and briefly considered introducing it to the blacktop of my

driveway. Within moments, sanity returned, and I began the tedious task of retracing my steps and figuring out how to correct my mistakes. We've all been there, right?

Where I haven't been is where so many young gang members grew up. Many of them can tell you the exact day when the cops broke down the door and took mom

away. Others tell of being jumped on the way to school and being sent off to dreamland to the sounds of gunfire. When I consider that, I begin to understand that we who live safely behind our gated communities would react no differently than these individuals have in to face such horror. While we can't excuse such actions, neither can we condemn those who commit

them. *God n Gangsters* is about revealing such gruesome realities, and the subsequent U-turns some brave people have made to break the chain and not inflict the gang lifestyle on loved ones. It's about redemption and helping wash clean the streets that have been stained by an enemy's blood. It's my attempt to speak to people's hearts.

—Chris Ahrens

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 3

said Will Rhatigan, the Advocacy Director for the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, on CBS 8 news in October. "Every year, you'll see the highest ridership in July, and San Diego has more people in it, in general, with the tourist season in the summer,"

Jesus, an employee of the AutoZone on the corner of Lincoln and 30th, wasn't so sure. "I didn't see as many bikes as I hoped" over the summer, he told me. "Anytime there is warm weather, I expect to see people [on bikes] around and about." What he did see: "People steal our parking spots and say they are going to the hair salon, the nail place, to a bunch of bars — no one respects parking up here." And when Jesus and his co-workers tell people to move their vehicles so that AutoZone customers can park in the designated spots, the rogue car parkers "try to get physical. There's just no respect."

Claudia, a lifelong North Park inhabitant, has noticed all of the closed businesses on 30th as well. "I counted 33," she said. "And now that the businesses are closing, the buildings are now abandoned, so the homeless go in there at night. The business on the corner of 30th and University on the northeast side (next to the now-defunct Paras News) is totally gutted. That



The shops are shuttered, but are the bikes to blame?

place was supposedly going to be a tequila/Mexican restaurant. They were already going in to do the total remodel, and suddenly it just stopped, and they took their signs down." She added that an additional "eight homes on 30th are boarded up, and the boards are filling up with graffiti and tagging. It's like North Park back in the 1970s and 1980s."

But C.G., a nearby resident who rides an electric bike on the bike lanes, questioned Sexton's and Claudia's numbers on the NextDoor app. "I'd also like to see what the '33 boarded businesses' include. Are we counting 3994 (under construction to be a Vietnamese coffee shop)? 3960 (under construction to become a new Consortium Holdings restaurant)? 3645 (under construction to be an

e-bike and e-scooter sales location)? Would 33 even be above average prior to the bike lanes going in, given the same methodology? Businesses are always turning over." Other people who are OK with the new bike lanes say the business closures were due to covid,

ton's campaign say provides ample parking. However, he argues that "It does not provide parking for customers near Adams Avenue or Juniper, or those who live two blocks away, when they have a car full of groceries, two or three little kids, or those retired folks who have physical limitations."

Save 30th Street Parking began its ongoing lawsuit against the city in August 2019. "Our lawsuit was based on the fact our City Master Plan and North Park Community Plan, both of which were signed off by the council and mayor at the time, stated that North Park 'needs more parking,'" Sexton said. "The North Park Community Plan was signed off in 2016. The state-mandated California Environmental Quality Act was not conducted. A CEQA would have proven how removing 482 parking spaces would negatively impact the air quality of the surrounding residential area, with cars repeatedly circling, searching for parking so that

"Because there's nowhere for customers to park, and many of the customers, who are older, can't bike in or walk long distances to the businesses."

inflation, and skyrocketing property values.

Local cyclists argue that a connected network of safe and convenient bike lanes in our city is necessary to meet the city's goals of eliminating traffic fatalities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And San Diego's 2015 climate action plan relies heavily on shifting commuting habits from driving cars to using public transportation, walking, and cycling. However, said Sexton, "MTS cut the bus stops on 30th in half about two years ago." (A 2019 press release from MTS reads: "In order to help improve service reliability and travel time, MTS will be discontinuing or relocating some Route 2 and Route 6 bus stops along 30th Street in areas where bus stops are placed very closely together.")

Then there's the North Park Way multi-level parking structure on 29th Street by University Avenue, which folks opposing Sex-

they could go to eateries, shopping, church, and medical/dental appointments."

But the first trial judge favored the City. And due to covid and court shutdowns, there was a long wait for an appeal — until December 13, 2022. Sexton continued, "We were recently in the appeals court for Save 30th Street Parking v. City of San Diego, and Craig Sherman presented our case. Our attorney was not arguing about bike lanes; it was all about removing 482 parking spaces, including handicapped parking and loading zones on 30th Street. This leaves only 98 slots for all parking from Adams Avenue to Juniper Street (about 2.25 miles), and only 12 handicap spaces total remain."

As this article goes to print, Sexton, North Park and Normal Heights business owners and residents, and the cyclists all await the appellate court's decision.

MIKE MADRIAGA



DC Roofing and the architect next door are gone.

# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

## Thursday | 5



### MICHELLE GABLE: THE LIPSTICK BUREAU

Warwick's will host Michelle Gable as she discusses and signs her new book, *The Lipstick Bureau: A Novel Inspired by True WWII Events*. 1944, Rome: Multilingual newlywed Niki Novotná is recruited by a new American spy agency to establish a secret branch in Italy's capital. One of the OSS's few female operatives abroad, she's tasked with crafting fake stories and distributing propaganda to lower the morale of enemy soldiers. This event is free and open to the public.

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 5, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. [warwicks.com](http://warwicks.com)

Arizona will be composers Christopher Adler, Katherine Balch, Adam Borecki, Franklin Cox, Adam Greene, Kay He, Texu Kim, and Philippe Manoury. International voices include Yu Kuwabara (Japan), Adrian Demoč (Slovakia), and Alyssa Aska

(Austria).

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 5 through Saturday, January 7, 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla. [ljathenaeum.org/sound-on](http://ljathenaeum.org/sound-on)

## Saturday | 7



### WHALE WATCHING ECO TOUR

Take a three-hour marine biologist-guided whale watching and citizen science tour aboard the Flagship Cruises & Events whale watching vessel, the *Marietta*. Use binoculars to observe

## Friday | 6

### SAN DIEGO NEW MUSIC: SOUNDON FESTIVAL

Come hear contemporary music from around the world during the three-day soundON Festival, including works incorporating recorded sound fragments. Representing Southern California and



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8: HAWK TALK WITH HUXLEY THE HARRIS'S HAWK

whales, dolphins, and birds while learning about the annual gray whale migration and marine mammal conservation. Also collect important data using the Whale Alert app, which helps scientists study the whales along our coast.

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 7, 9 am to 1 pm

**WHERE:** San Diego Embarcadero, 990 North Harbor Drive, Downtown. [oceanconnectors.org](http://oceanconnectors.org)

## Sunday | 8

### HAWK TALK WITH HUXLEY THE HARRIS'S

**HAWK**  
Stop by the visitor center lobby to meet local master falconer Bob Gordon and his feathered friend, "Huxley" the Harris's hawk. Get up close to this bird of prey and learn about hawk animal behavior, plus what makes Huxley different than other birds.

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 8, 9 am to 12 pm

**WHERE:** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Carlos. [mtrp.org](http://mtrp.org)

### CYCLOVIA

Enjoy the open streets of downtown Encinitas on bike, on foot, or by other means of self-powered transportation. There will be shops and dining to check out, plus activities: bicycle safety rodeo, bike skills course, bike and helmet decorating station, and information

booths. Bike parking and free bike valet area.

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 8, 10 am to 2 pm

**WHERE:** South Coast Highway 101 (D to J) 818 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. [www.EncinitasCA.gov/Cyclovia](http://www.EncinitasCA.gov/Cyclovia)



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## 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)

**Artist Talk: Lynn Schuette** Lynn Schuette will talk about Still Life, her recent series that uses painting as a way to address social issues and upends what the still life painting can be. The second installation in the series Still Life #2 (for Uvalde) is currently on view at the PHES and includes 19 paintings. The artist will discuss her research and work process and her previous related work. Still Life #2 (for Uvalde) is on view through February 4, 2023 Sunday, January 8, 6pm; free. PHES Gallery, 2633 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

**Daniel Ketelhut: Figmented Reality** San Diego artist Daniel Ketelhut kicks off 2023 with his solo exhibition, "Figmented Reality." The series invites the viewer to bring his or her own perceptions to each piece and, with open sensibilities, allow the imagery to let them experience their own figmented reality. Ketelhut's works will be on view at Sparks Gallery from January 8 – March 5, 2023 with an opening reception on Sunday, January 8, 2023. RSVP online. Sunday, January 8, 11am; free. Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Gem Faire** Fine jewelry, precious and semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold and silver, minerals and much more at manufacturer's prices. Buy direct from the importers and wholesal-

ers. Jewelry repair and cleaning while you shop. Friday, January 6, 10am; Saturday, January 7, 10am; Sunday, January 8, 10am; free-\$7. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**Serendipity Opening Reception** The San Diego Watercolor Society presents the Opening Reception for Serendipity, an Art Exhibition with over 95 ready-to-hang original paintings plus refreshments and the fellowship of other art enthusiasts. The exhibit runs from Jan 4-28. Friday, January 6, 5pm; free. San Diego Watercolor Society, 2825 Dewey Road #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Vietnamese-American Stories: Hùng Viet Nguyen Opening** Celebrate Vietnamese-American artists with a solo art exhibition with Hùng Viet Nguyen. His works will be in the Art Gallery. Known for his oil paintings of landscapes on wood panels, his work has been exhibited all across California, and metropolitan cities such as New York City and Miami. Tuesday, January 10, 6pm; free. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**Douglas Brinkley: Silent Spring Revolution** Warwick's will host Douglas Brinkley as he discusses and signs his new book, *Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening*. This event is free and open to the public; free admittance is subject to available space. To ensure admittance, reserve seating for everyone in your party by pre-ordering one book per seat @ [warwicks.com/event/brinkley-2023](http://warwicks.com/event/brinkley-2023). Monday, January 9, 7:30pm; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Matthew Black: Operation Underworld** Warwick's, in partnership with Coronado Public Library, will host Matthew Black as he discusses and signs his new book, *Operation Underworld: How the Mafia and U.S. Government Teamed Up to Win World War II*. This event is free and open to the public; free admittance is subject

to available space. To ensure admittance, reserve Guaranteed Preferred Seating for everyone in your party by pre-ordering one book per seat @ [warwicks.com/event/black-2023](http://warwicks.com/event/black-2023). Tuesday, January 10, 7pm; free-\$27. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

**Michelle Gable: The Lipstick Bureau** 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 open to the public; free admittance is subject to available space. Limited open seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve seating for everyone in your party by pre-ordering one book per seat @ [warwicks.com/event/gable-2023](http://warwicks.com/event/gable-2023). Thursday, January 5, 7:30pm; free-\$16. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Fruit Tree Pruning & Training** This course is focused on fruit trees. Saturday, January 7, 10am; \$50. Wild Willow Farm and Education Center, 2550 Sunset Avenue. (NESTOR)

**Middle-Eastern Drumming Classes** Middle-Eastern Drumming with Frank Lazzaro, all levels welcome. Extra drums available. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, December 18, \$15. 18 and up. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

**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)

**Tea Blending Workshop** Learn to create your own tea blends in this class series with Stephanie Knight. All materials included; appropriate for ages 16+. Wednesday, January 11, 7pm; \$30-\$40. Casa Romantica

Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada.

## COMEDY

**Bryan Callen** Bryan Callen is an actor, comedian, and podcaster. He is best known for his recurring role as "Coach Mellor" on ABC's *The Goldbergs* and as one of the original cast members of *MadTV*. Thursday, January 5, 8pm; Friday, January 6, 7pm; Saturday, January 7, 7pm; \$25. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

**Michael Blaustein AS SEEN ON: "Stiff Socks"** with comedian Trevor Wallace. Comedy Central, Amazon Primes original series "Inside Jokes," CBS, MTV & more! Thursday, January 5, 8pm; Friday, January 6, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, January 7, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$29. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Voicebox** Voicebox is a music and storytelling adventure. Each month, a theme song leads to story submissions. The evening opens with the theme song, followed by each storyteller. After each story, our acclaimed musician, David Bowers creates an original, improvised song based on the story. A song leads to a story, and a story leads to a conversation. Sunday, January 8, 7pm; \$10. 21 and up. Finest City Improv, 3746 Sixth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

## DANCE

**WDO Inclusive Welcome Back Workshop** Inclusive dancers of all ages and skill levels will come together for their post-holiday Welcome Back Workshop. Participants will learn 2-3 short dance routines in a fun, easy to follow format. Saturday, January 7, 10am; free. Mary Murphy's Champion Ballroom Academy, 3580 5th Avenue. (DESCANSO)

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Community Model Train Swap Meet** Find deals on hard-to-find items from vendors around Southern California. Saturday, January 7, 7am; \$3-\$5. San Diego Model Railroad Museum, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Move Forward After Loss** Free Workshop Helps People Move Forward and Find New Relationships After Loss Tuesdays, 6pm; through Tuesday, February 14, free. 21 and up. The Elizabeth Hospice 8989 Rio San Diego, Suite 190, San Diego, 92108

**Networking Mixer** Super Fun Casual Networking Mixer Wednesday, January 11, 3pm; \$40-\$55. 18 and up. Mavericks Beach Club, 860 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

## FOR KIDS

**Astro Camp** Mission to Mars: Astro Camp is a one-day program led by coaches from the Cleueless First Tech Challenge (FTC) and All Girls STEM Society. Geared for kids in grades 3-8, participants will conduct various interactive, educational activities to delve into the science behind NASA's Mars Rover mission. Registration is required. Saturday, January 7, 12:30pm; 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)

**Mission Valley Kids Book & Craft Club** Giscuss a great kids book, do a related craft, and enjoy snacks. The book for January is *Front Desk*, by Kelly Yang, and free copies are available at the library for participating kids while supplies last. This program is recommended for readers ages 8-11. Monday, January 9, 4pm; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

## Highlights of the WORLD FEDERATION of RIGHT-TO-DIE SOCIETIES 2022 Conference



The Hemlock Society of San Diego invites you to join us on Zoom for a presentation recapping the 2022 annual conference of the World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies. HSSD members who attended the conference will share the latest news, insights, and developments from global leaders in the Right-to-Die Movement. Open to the public. Free. Register to receive the Zoom link on our website [hemlocksocietysandiego.org](http://hemlocksocietysandiego.org) For information: 858-837-0999 Visit Hemlock Society of San Diego on Facebook and on our YouTube Channel

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**Sesame Street Live: Make Your Magic** In partnership with the non-profit educational organization Sesame Workshop, this production features favorite Sesame Street pals Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more in a magical adventure live on stage. Friday, January 6, 3pm and 6pm; \$20-\$80. Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**Toddler & Preschool Storytime** Recommended for ages 2-5, this storytime program includes books, songs, games, and early literacy fun. This program will be held outdoors. Thursdays, 10:30am; through Thursday, January 26, free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Trail Tykes** The free program includes a read-aloud story, and a craft/activity or a short walk with MTRP Foundation staff and volunteers. Created for children 2 to 5 years of age. Please register to reserve your space. Sunday, January 8, 10am; Monday, January 9, 10am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

## NATURE

**Free Interpretive Nature Walks** Have the opportunity to hear two different perspectives of the amazing plants and wildlife at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Walks are moderately paced on the lower creek trail and begin in front of the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. Sunday, January 8, 9am; free. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Road. (ESCONDIDO)

**Guided Nature Walk** Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 7, 9:30am; and Sunday, January 8, 9:30am. free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Guided Wild Life Tracking Walk** Join experienced MTRP

# OUTDOORS

## Lowest Temps Occur in January, Highest Rainfall, Tree Aloes

Recent Chilly Days and Nights Confirm that San Diego's lowest temperatures (according to more than a century of weather records) tend to occur during the month of January. January's mean temperature at Lindbergh Field is about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. (July's mean is a balmy 70 degrees.) To experience much colder temperatures, journey to the Cuyamaca Mountains; -1 and -4 degree readings — the lowest in the county — were once recorded there.

**Highest Monthly Rainfall Totals in San Diego** are most likely to occur in January and February (about 1.9 inches each on aver-



BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS ARE ATTRACTED TO THE CLUSTERS OF TUBE-SHAPED BLOOMS THAT SHOW UP IN WINTER.

Tracking Team members for an adventure in wildlife tracking on the Oak Grove Loop Trail. Learn the art of discovering and identifying tracks and other signs left behind by the park's seldom-seen wildlife. These easy walks are suitable for the whole family. Walks start from the front of the Visitor Center. Walks are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Don't forget to wear long pants for kneeling on the ground. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring along water. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 7, 8:30am; free.

Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Hawk Talk with Huxley the Harris Hawk** Stop by the Visitor Center Lobby to meet local Master falconer, Bob Gordon, and his feathered friend, "Huxley" the Harris' hawk. Get up close and personal with this majestic bird of prey, while learning all about what makes it so special. Sunday, January 8, 9am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**New Year Full Moon Hike** Full Moon Hikes are for all ages

and most hiking levels and are pet approved. Friday, January 6, 7pm; free-\$5. Iron Mountain Trail, 14847-14909 CA-67. (POWAY)

**View Stars** Join members from the San Diego Astronomy Association at the far end of the Kumeyaay Lake Campground's Day Use Parking Lot to view the nighttime sky through telescopes. There will be a bright full moon so the planets; Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn (sets at 7:47) will steal the show. Rain or cloudy skies cancel event. Sunset 4:59 pm Friday, January 6, 5pm; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Hidden Gems Walking Tour** The Balboa Park Hidden Gems Tour takes you on a 1.5 hour guided walking tour highlighting some of the most iconic locations in San Diego. We'll talk about the history of the area and I'll show you where several important events have taken place over the past 100+ years. This is a small group walking tour with a maximum of 12 guests for each time slot. Sunday, January 8, 9am, 12pm and 3pm; \$45. Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)



A RAINY DAY IN TIJUANA

age) according to weather-service statistics. If low temperatures accompany the typical Pacific storms of this period, there's a chance of snow in the mountains, including a very slim chance of snowfall as far west as the coast.

**Tree Aloes, the Familiar Succulent Plants** with red-hot-poker-like flower clusters, are at their showy best in January. Large clumps of aloes can be seen at La Jolla Cove, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and scattered along the embankments overlooking Highway 163 in Balboa Park.

**The Full Moon on Friday**, January 6 rises impressively from the dusky east horizon at around 5:10 pm, just ten minutes after the sun has set. Some folk names for the January full moon include "chaste moon," "quiet moon," "snow moon," and "wolf moon." Jupiter Joins Venus in the western sky at dusk on Sunday, January 9. The two lie about 10 degrees apart from one another — a noticeable yet not spectacular pairing.

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.

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**Boost Your Circulation with Sun Salutation** Workshop presented by Jaruska Solyova will offer personal adaptations and Vinyasa variations for different flexibility levels. RSVP solyoga@yahoo.com Tuesday, January 10, 10:30am; \$20-\$30. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**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)

**Children's Ballet 6-Week Program** Explore ballet without the long term commitment many studios require. Dance with Blossom & Bloom to explore the fundamentals of ballet in a positive environment that focuses on good technique, safe stretching, emotional wellness, and fun. Saturdays, 9am; through Saturday, February 11, \$50-\$60. CrossFit Elite, 1735 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Cyclovia** Enjoy downtown Encinitas on bike, on foot, or other

means of self-powered transportation. There will be plenty of great shops and dining to check out and activities: including a bicycle safety rodeo, bike skills course, bike and helmet decorating station, information booths, and more. S. Coast Hwy. 101 (D to J) Sunday, January 8, 10am; free. Downtown Encinitas Mainstreet Association, 818 S. Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

**Lamrim Meditation Retreat** Receive step-by-step guidance on the meditation practices called 'Kadam Lamrim', the condensation of all Buddha's teachings. These teachings are presented in a way that is easy to follow and put into practice on our own. Friday, January 6, 9:30am; Saturday, January 7, 9:30am; Sunday, January 8, 10:30am; Monday, January 9, 9:30am; \$5-\$50. Kadampa Meditation Center San Diego, 3502 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**San Diego Gulls Home Game** Wednesday, January 11, 7pm; Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

**San Diego Monster Jam** World champion athletes and their 12,000-pound monster trucks tear up the dirt in wide-open competitions of speed and skill. Saturday, January 7, 7pm; Sunday, January 8, 3pm; \$30-\$210. Snapdragon Stadium, 2101 Stadium Way. (MISSION VALLEY)

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

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

### Alila Marea Beach Resort:

Thursday, 5pm — Christian Taylor.  
Friday, 5pm — Helena Holleran.  
Saturday, 5pm — Farrah Camu.

### Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Thursday & Friday, 7:30pm,  
Saturday, 7:30am — San Diego New Music: soundON Festival.  
\$12-\$85.

### Barefoot Bar and Grill:

Friday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.  
Saturday, 6pm — Mike Myrdal.

### Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, 6pm — Andrew Peña.  
Friday, 6pm — Dave Schulz.  
Saturday, 6pm — TJ Moss.

### Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Cayucas and Trouble in the Wind. \$15-\$27.  
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — The California Honeydrops. \$35.  
Wednesday, 8pm — Steely Damned 2. \$40-\$70.

### Brew Coffee Spot:

Saturday, 9am — Java Jazz Quartet. Free.

### Cannonball:

Thursday, 5pm — Israel Maldonado.  
Tuesday, 5pm — Kai Kalama.

### Casbah:

Friday, 8pm — Vanguard, Malison, Mouthguard.  
Saturday, 8pm — The Fall of Troy and Gold Necklace. \$30.  
Sunday, 7:30pm — David Bowie Birthday Bash. Free.  
Wednesday, 8pm — The Planet Smashers. \$15.

### Che Café:

Saturday, 7pm — World Peace, ATM, Madrugado, Intercom.  
\$15.

### Crafted Culture:

Friday, 6pm — Mike Myrdal.

### Duck Foot Brewing Company:

Thursday, 6pm — Deadheads Night.  
Tuesday, 7pm — SD Jazz Collective.

### Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, 3pm — Orion Song.  
Sunday, 4pm — Keni Yarbro.  
Tuesday, 4pm — Divina Jasso.

### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Thursday, 6pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
Friday, 6pm — Tim Rose.  
Saturday, 6pm — Andrew Peña.  
Tuesday, 6pm — Johnny Martin.  
Wednesday, 6pm — Puro Feeling.

### Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Friday, 6pm — Jemille Vialet.  
Saturday, 6pm — David Shyde.

### Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, 4:30pm — Alex Elisabeth.  
Friday, 4:30pm — David Shyde.  
Sunday, 11am — Joanna Gerolaga.

### Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday & Saturday, 7pm — Adam Bergoch.

### L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, 5pm — David Shyde.  
Friday, 6pm — OttoPilot.  
Saturday, 7pm — Joanna Gerolaga.  
Sunday, 11am — Jackie Foster.

### La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 5:30pm — Johnny Martin.  
Friday, 6pm — Jackie Foster.  
Saturday, 11am — Jemille Vialet.

Saturday, 6pm — Orion Song.  
Sunday, 11am — Jesse Johnson.

### Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, 7pm — Rachel Jay.  
Saturday, 7pm — Kekoa.

### Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, 6pm — Orion Song.  
Friday, 6pm — Farrah Camu.  
Saturday, 6pm — Matt Heinecke.  
Sunday, 6pm — Jason Hibler.  
Monday, 6pm — Puro Feeling.  
Tuesday, 6pm — Gabriele Dagrezio.  
Wednesday, 6pm — Kristi Krause.

### Mission Trails Regional Park:

Sunday, 1pm — Native American Indian Flute Circle. Free.

### Morgan Run Resort and Club:

Friday, 5pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

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

Friday, 9pm — Thea the Band. Free.  
Saturday, 9pm — Tube Amp'd. Free.

### Music Box:

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Purple Ones. \$20-\$80.  
Sunday, 2pm — LaRussell.

### Nick & G's:

Friday, 6pm — Nathan Welden.  
Saturday, 6pm — Joe Rathburn.

### Nova SD:

Saturday, 8pm — Night Trip. \$10-\$20.

### Observatory North Park:

Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Social Distortion. \$40.  
Tuesday, 6pm — The Sound of Animals Fighting. \$30.

### Pal Joey's:

Saturday, 9pm — West of 5. Free.

### Panama 66:

Sunday, 3pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

# blurt

the inside track

## The singing luchador

"I started the San Diego Super Padres motto," says masked fan Padre Libre, whose new baseball rap will debut next opening day, March 30. "I found some guys to make

yelled out, 'Padre Libre!' one day. So people started calling me that, and it's been my name ever since. I have officially been Padre Libre for about five years now."

Hornbeek, a season ticket



Masked fan Padre Libre's new rap song debuts opening day, March 30

the music for my song, and [Fernando] Tatis is part of the new 'San Diego Super Padres' song." Padre Libre (real name Mercury Hornbeek) is a longtime fan, and rocks a Padres-themed Lucha Libre-style mask at games to pay homage to his team. "I would randomly wear the blue lucha mask the Pads gave away years ago," he recalls, "but I didn't have a character name yet."

Since then, the 40-something-year-old south San Diego professional tiler has customized various Mexican wrestling-style masks with the brown and yellow motif. First, he draws them out by hand, then passes his blueprints to the mask makers. "I have two masks made by the folks who made Rey Mysterio Sr.'s masks, and two others were produced in Mexico." He also found a couple of masks at vendor booths and then added Padres' patches he purchased from the Padres store. He currently rotates between nine masks. "People loved it more and more, and then these guys

holder, watched almost every Padres home game last year from Section 119 at Petco Park. "This kid in my section caught three foul balls in a matter of a week. The last one was by Albert Pujols, so I went down there and gave him my championship wrestling belt." Hundreds of fans take photos with Padre Libre, even at away games.

In June, Hornbeek drove 2000 miles to Chicago to watch the Padres smoke the Cubs 12-5. A hater stepped up online and said "Every fan should wear [a] bag over their face; they shouldn't charge a dime to see that pathetic team, total embarrassment." Hornbeek was at the game proudly rocking his Padre Libre merch and luchador-style mask, yelling "PAAADRES!" He does this regardless of whether the Pads are winning or losing. "If we don't cheer for our city, who will?"

On October 23, Hornbeek was at Petco Park with his fellow-diehard fans, watching the Pads' last game of the season on the big screens:

game five against the Philadelphia Phillies. But despite the disappointment of that loss, Hornbeek was already planning for the opening day of 2023. "Most people already think I work for the Padres. They [assume] I'm the new mascot." (He is not.) "I am honored, humbled, and excited to even be mentioned in the same breath as the [San Diego] Chicken and [Swinging] Friar," he says, referencing past official team mascots. His ultimate goal for the freestyle-rapping Padre Libre character "is to let the Padres eventually take full reign of my character when I can no longer do it. I feel Padre Libre has great potential for the future and is a fun element at Petco."

A YouTuber who calls himself RPS said of Hornbeek, "San Diego is fortunate to have this man! The Padres would be wise to put Padre Libre on the payroll and officialize him. The dude oozes SD!" Before getting nods from Padres fans, Hornbeek gained notoriety for songs he recorded about the San Diego Chargers — before they bolted to Los Angeles, including "Save Our Bolts... On The Real," "Bolt Up!" and "Don't Be a Traitor Like a Raider!"

"I used to freestyle rap when I was younger with my peers and such," he explains. "We loved battling, and we always challenged each other. I am not a rapper, so to say, but people know I have skills."

John S., a Padres fan and hip-hop head, has watched Hornbeek since the Charger days. "Merc's got the potential to be an SD icon like the KGB Chicken and the guy dressed as a padre. Merc needs to work on his flow on the mic and some dance steps to get more airtime [on TV]. Since when have you seen a mascot bust a rhyme?" A sample: *Let's go! I'll see you down at Petco! Machado, Tatis, Soto, Let's go! / Let's get a win! A win for Tony Gwynn. Are you in? / San Diego, are you ready? Another win for Caminiti / Let's go!*

— Mike Madriaga

Find Blurt online at [SDReader.com/blurt](http://SDReader.com/blurt)

### CONTRIBUTORS

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

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Department of Education  
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**DJ CHANGO REY**  
Go-Go Guillermo

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# LOCAL *five*

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## THE TOURMALINERS

The Tourmalines were founded by Deven Berryhill, son of Bob Berryhill, of the '60s surf rock group the Surfaris. The new Tourmaliners CD on local Pacific Records, *Surfidia*, continues the band's exploration of cinematic surf sounds with guest players such as Bob Spalding of the Ventures, Ron Blair of Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, and Eddie Angel of Los Straitjackets.

CLARION CALL MEDIA



## TRITON

*Sundown in Oaktown*, the new album from Triton (AKA San Diego-based musician Scott Murphy), due January 27, is preceded so far by singles for "Embrkdro" (featuring Thursday bassist Tim Payne) and "Orchid" (with Jarrod Alexander of My Chemical Romance and Alkaline Trio). The album was co-produced by Geoff Rickly (Thursday, No Devotion), who also performs on "Alcatraz."



## HOCUS

Hocus is fronted by Lando Martinez (aka Fat Lando), a self-described "Mexican from Texas" who retired from the U.S. Navy in 2008 after serving 20 years. The band has a new single and video for "Hey Girl," recorded at local Tiny Haus Studios by Yago Duarte. The video mixes performance footage with shots of models carrying snakes, reading, and posing in front of ornate hanging carpets.



## SPICE PISTOLS

Formed in 2016, the Spice Pistols feature five middle-aged men wearing dresses and mashing the music and visuals of the Spice Girls and the Sex Pistols. Their self-titled EP dropping this month features cover artwork by local San Diego Comic-Con co-founder and noted Flintstones illustrator Scott Shaw! The January 13 release party at Pour House in Oceanside also features Rebel Star.

HEYCALAMITY.COM



## CALAMITY

Founded in 2013, all female folk-rock-country-pop ensemble Calamity features founding members Cathryn Beeks, Nisha Ca-tron, and Marcia Claire, along with Patric Petrie (Skelpin, Rogue Wave) and Jules Stewart (Golden Howl, Love Angeles). Their radio musical *Trouble* is "A story about us on our way to a gig in Las Vegas," according to the band. "It's a mystery, a musical, a comedy, it's a radio play, and it's a good time." The band will soon debut a new production called *Calamity: The Adventure Continues*.

## OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: WHISTLE STOP JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVERHEARD? EMAIL [JAS2669@AOL.COM](mailto:JAS2669@AOL.COM) - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

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## Pilgrim United Church of Christ:

*Sunday*, 4pm — Java Joe's Reunion Show. \$25-\$30.

## Pure Project:

*Sunday*, 2pm — Weekend Records: Vinyl Night. Free.

## Pure Project Vista:

*Saturday*, 7pm — Saturday Sessions: Riley Hoover. Free.

## Rustic Root:

*Tuesday*, 6pm — Andrew Peña.

## San Diego Civic Theatre:

*Thursday*, 7:30pm, *Friday*, 8pm, *Saturday*, 2pm, *Sunday*, 1pm — Ain't Too Proud: Life and Times of the Temptations. \$39-\$143.

## San Diego Marriott Del Mar:

*Friday*, 6pm — Jonny Tarr. Free.

## Seabird:

*Sunday*, 4pm — Farrah Camu.

## Side Yard:

*Saturday*, 6pm — Alex Elisabeth.

## Soda Bar:

*Thursday*, 7pm — The Reckless, Blackwater. \$10.

*Friday*, 8pm — Rodeo Rave: DJ Dance Party. \$18.

*Saturday*, 8pm — ForevAvicii: EDM House Party. \$18.

*Monday*, 8pm — Auz Fontaine. Free.

*Wednesday*, 7:30pm — Hot Moms Club and Dad Bod. \$15.

## Soma:

*Friday*, 7:30pm — Jeff Rosenstock and Cheekface. \$20.

## Tidal:

*Thursday*, 5pm — Tim Rose.

*Friday*, 5pm — Puro Feeling.

*Saturday*, 5pm — Jonny Tarr.

## Tower Bar:

*Saturday*, 8pm — The Grim and The Humblers. \$8.

## University Club Atop Symphony Towers:

*Saturday*, 11am — Joanna Gerolaga.

*Tuesday*, 4:30pm — Mike Myrdal.

*Wednesday*, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

## VYBZ Nightclub:

*Thursday*, 9pm — The Industry TakeOver. \$20-\$75.

## Waterbar:

*Thursday*, 4pm — Jackie Foster.

*Thursday*, 6pm — Ryan Hiller.

## Westfield University Towne Centre:

*Thursday*, 12pm — Ben Benavente.

*Friday*, 12pm — Joanna Gerolaga.

*Saturday*, 12pm — Dalton Gazette.

*Sunday*, 12pm — Mike Myrdal.

## Winstons Beach Club:

*Friday*, 9pm — Sam Grisman Project. \$20-\$25.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### Alila Marea Beach Resort:

*Thursday*, Jan. 12 — Keni Yarbro.

*Friday*, Jan. 13 — Nathan Welden.

### Barefoot Bar and Grill:

*Friday*, Jan. 13 — Israel Maldonado.

### Bellamy's Restaurant:

*Thursday*, Jan. 12 — Jake Taylor Smith.

*Thursday*, Jan. 19 — Jake Taylor Smith.

*Friday*, Jan. 20 — Orion Song.

### Belly Up Tavern:

*Thursday*, Jan. 12 — Tunnel Vision and Dubbest. \$17-\$30.

*Friday*, Jan. 13 — The PettyBreakers. \$22-\$39.

*Saturday*, Jan. 14 — Tommy Castro & The Painkillers. \$25-\$44.

*Tuesday*, Jan. 17 — Sam Outlaw.

*Wednesday*, Jan. 18 — Locals Only.

*Thursday*, Jan. 19 — Mapache.

*Friday*, Jan. 20 — Yonder Mountain String Band.

**GRAND COMEDY CLUB**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT**  
 Thu, 1/5 @6:30pm

**KARAOKE EVERY MONDAY!**  
 Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7pm  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
 Thu, January 5  
**DJ WENZO**  
 Tasty tunes & delicious vegan burritos

Fri, January 6  
**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
 Sucio · Kilfeather  
 Cars On Fire · Art Disposal  
 Astronaut Fight

Sat, January 7  
**PUNK RIFFS & MOSH PITS**  
 Just In Case · Twin Cities  
 Sloka · Lost Dakota

Sun, January 8  
**TARYN DONATH TRIO**

Tue, January 10  
**OPEN VINYL DJ NIGHT**

Thu, January 12  
**PLANET MERCURY**  
 Townies  
 Deathboys · Sleep It Off

Fri, January 13  
**ROCK, SHIMMY & SHAKE**  
 Glamorbomb Burlesque's 5  
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 Fri, 1/13 @6:30pm & 8:30pm  
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Sat, 1/7 @ Soda  
**FOREVAVICII**  
 EDM HOUSE PARTY

Sat, 1/7 @ Casbah  
**FALL OF TROY**  
 GOLD NECKLACE

Mon, 1/9 @ Soda  
**AUZ FONTAINE**  
 THE FAZES PARTY  
 SHRUBRAVO • LOVERVOID

Wed, 1/11 @ Soda  
**HOT MOMS CLUB**  
 DAD BOD  
 THE PLASTIC CHERRIES

Thurs, 1/12 @ Soda  
**R.A.P. FERREIRA**  
 AJ SUBUDE  
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Fri, 1/13 @ Soda  
**IDLEHANDS**  
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# THE GONZO REPORT

## Punk's progress

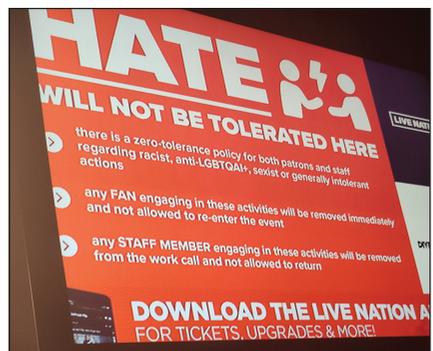
### A clean scene at the House of Blues

A short trolley ride brings me to San Diego's House of Blues, where a video monitor at the entryway — emblematic of the modern concert venue — warns "Hate will not be tolerated here!" The sign discourages racist, homophobic, sexist or "generally intolerant actions," with instructions to notify management if any fan or staff engages in such behavior. I endorse the sentiment, but it strikes me as odd to tattle instead of simply reacting. Then again, I'm not the target of those particular brands of assholeism. The sign next offers a commercial that assures me the venue is sanitary, because it's cleaned with Clorox products. I wonder if the company provides cleansing supplies to the venue in return for free commercials, then I burst out laughing at the next video signage: a commercial for personal loans. I remark to no one that, since House of Blues is a

piece of the Live Nation monopoly with its inflated "service fees," a lot of music lovers might need one of those loans to afford tickets for the next mega-tour. ("My mortgage for Taylor Swift tix!") A blue-shirted staff member hurries me along.

I discover a new (to me) band called The Last Gang and purchase one of their shirts, because nothing shows support like cash — or rather, a debit card, since this is a "contactless" venue. I'm so ecstatic at discovering new music that I'm not affected by the cheese crisis at the bar. The crisis: I need some carbs to keep my energy up for the next two bands, so I order a soft pretzel, only to have the bartender apologize for not having any cheese to go with it. He offers me free refills on my diet Pepsi. Three other customers decline any purchase if it lacks their condiment of choice; I seem to be the only person at the bar capable of eating a plain pretzel. One couple is appalled enough at the thought that they pressure the bartender to locate some cheese. Perhaps upstairs? The restaurant? The bartender offers them pizza — because *it* has cheese — and they leave, inexplicably despondent. Who gets disappointed by pizza?

The House of Blues was built with music lovers in mind, and the sound can be heard loud and clear from everywhere tonight. Floor tickets are general admission; for those who need a break or choose not to stand, there's the Delta Lounge, a



PHOTOGRAPH BY

No hate please, we're punk fans.

side room with a bar and seating, where the show plays on a live monitor. Upstairs is another bar and "V.I.P. seating" for those who wish to sit and watch the performance. HOB staffer Lyndsey wears a blue jacket but proves much cooler than the jumpy counterpart below, giving me the okay to shoot a pic from the balcony when the headliner starts. She shares a memory of someone trying to get into a performance by Japanese rockers Band-Maid with a sex doll. The doll wasn't admitted, because it was classified as an oversized item.

San Diego is represented onstage by El Vez, *aka* The Mexican Elvis, and the headliners, Me First and the Gimme Gimmes, with Hot Snakes/Rocket from the Crypt/Pitchfork/Drive Like Jehu guitarist

John Reis. Between sets, my Motorhead back-patch inspires conversations. I discuss seeing them live at this very venue, and am reminded of my mortality when the people who have engaged me express sorrow that they never saw the band before front-man Lemmy died.

I snap my picture from the balcony and look at the V.I.P. seats, silently judging anyone who can sit for a punk show — even though I should accept that I may be up in that balcony someday, enjoying the show in my own way, given my own trajectory. My pit days are over; the last time I leapt off a stage was at the 9:30 Club during a Corrosion of Conformity and Prong show. The lengthy healing process was enough to serve as prohibition against such antics in the future. As it is, even my jumping up and down on the HOB concrete floor will hurt when I wake up, and my throat will be sore from scream-singing along to adrenaline-charged versions of John Denver songs — things I'm free to do because staff made this show asshole-proof. I'm already feeling it, even as I wait for my ride home (the trolley stopped running), standing amidst a different downtown than I remember.

It's quieter, cleaner, and safer down here now. Like the venue, with its good manners and contactless transactions. It occurs to me that, due to my age, I've seen more shows than I have left to see. But at least I won't regret missing Lemmy before he died. ■

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TUE. JAN. 17 <b>DEFEATED SANITY</b> Malignancy, Prophecy, Strangle Wire	SAT. JAN. 28 <b>DAMAGE, INC.</b> with special guests
THU. JAN. 26 <b>WITHIN DESTRUCTION</b> Distinguisher, Fox Lake, Carcosa, Shawshank	FRI. FEB. 10 <b>D.R.U.G.S.</b> Varials, The Callous Daoboys, 156/Silence
FRI. JAN. 27 <b>ORIANTHI</b> with special guests	SAT. FEB. 11 <b>THE FLATLINERS</b> with special guests
THU. JAN. 13 <b>SUPER DESTROYER</b> Death of California, Upon the Water, Samsara, Ikana	WED. FEB. 22 <b>TSUNAMI BOMB + DEATH BY STEREO</b> The Hammerbombs
THU. JAN. 26 <b>WITHIN DESTRUCTION</b> Distinguisher, Fox Lake, Carcosa, Shawshank	SUN. FEB. 26 <b>SHOW ME THE BODY</b> Jesus Piece, Scowl, Zulu, TRIPPJONES
FRI. JAN. 27 <b>ORIANTHI</b> with special guests	THU. MAR. 2 <b>THE SPILL CANVAS</b> Arms Akimbo

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Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Kekoa.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Kekoa.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Farrah Camu.

#### Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Farrah Camu.  
Wednesday, Jan. 18 — Jackie Foster.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Gabriele Dagezio.

#### Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Friday, Jan. 13 — Johnny Martin.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Helena Holleran.

#### Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Johnny Martin.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Sean McCole.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Jason Graham.  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Whitney Shay.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — DevvLov.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Danielle Angeloni.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Puro Feeling.

#### Five Suits Brewing:

Saturday, Jan. 14 — Into The Void. Free.

#### Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Adam Bergoch.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Adam Bergoch.

#### House of Blues:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Two Idiot Girls: On Tour featuring Drew and Deison Afualo. \$25-\$35.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Best Night Ever: Taylor's Version. \$15-\$20.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Emo Night Brooklyn. \$15.

#### 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.

#### L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Jemille Violet.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Rachel Jay.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Helena Holleran.  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Keni Yarbro.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Johnny Martin.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Jonny Tarr.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Jarred Matthew.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Olivia Rohde.

#### La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Jordan Whitlock.

## IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

### ABBA v opera at year's end

As 2022 came to an end, Spotify informed me that I was in the top 0.5 percent of ABBA listeners for the year. I wasn't surprised. However, this week, my ABBA is musical gold, and I was all about "Angel Eyes" before it became a thing on TikTok. I also spent a lot of time listening to Yacht Rock in 2022. Neil Diamond got a fair share as well.

Why not classical? One reason: I spent a lot of time driving, and don't find classical music to be car-friendly. The recording levels are generally lower and the vast range of dynamics makes the music difficult to hear one moment and devastatingly loud the next. I also spent a lot of time working with

others in a situation where we could have music, and classical isn't at the top of my co-workers' list.

However, this week, my 2022 listening habits came home to roost. I had an uncharacteristic feeling of heaviness and general disappointment, even though my circumstances were unchanged. Nothing drastic happened in a positive or negative way. I found myself listening to one of my operatic stand-bys, *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini. As is always the case with this opera, I was astonished by the consistent revelation of melodic beauty in Puccini's composing. I found myself getting goosebumps during

Butterfly's entrance music in the first act, and again at certain choice moments in the second and third acts. It occurred to me that I need opera more than it needs me.

That appears to be an obvious observation, but I will admit, at times, I feel as though I'm doing opera a favor by being a fan. Yet here I was having my mood revitalized by one of the war horses of the operatic repertoire.

I went on to listen to two more of my operatic mood enhancers: *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin*, both of which were composed by Richard Wagner. As I listened, it became clear that I had been neglecting my primary musical relationship: opera. Lo and behold, my feeling of general disappointment evaporated in the mists of *Lohengrin's* "Grail Music." My heaviness lightened during the singing contest in the second act of *Tannhäuser*. I'm sorry to break the news to you ABBA, but the winner



Melodic master Giacomo Puccini.

takes it all, and the winner when it comes to my emotional equilibrium is opera.

With that being said, I have specific performances of these operas that work. I've seen plenty of opera performances that encourage me to consider the abyss of Yacht Rock. The only version of *Madama Butterfly* that I listen to is the 1974 studio recording with Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti. I have two versions of *Lohengrin*, both with Plácido Domingo in the

title role. I find his 1990 live performance from the Vienna State Opera, with Cheryl Studer, to be undeniable. For *Tannhäuser*, I also have two. The first is a studio recording with Domingo and Jesse Norman under the baton of Sir Georg Solti. But my top *Tannhäuser* is a live version from the 1978 Bayreuth Festival with the obscure Spas Wenkoff in the title role and dame Gwenth Jones singing the roles of both Venus and Elisabeth.

### Classical Music this week

**Le Salon de Musiques** Enjoy Schubert "Winterreise" for Baritone & Piano. Following the concert, meet the artists and fellow concert-goers while savoring a high tea buffet catered by The French Gourmet. Sunday, January 8, 4pm; \$45-\$95. La Jolla Woman's Club, 7791 Draper Avenue.

**SD Symphony Jacobs** **Masterworks: Meyers Plays Marquez** Domingo Hindoyan, conductor. Anne Akiko Meyers, violin. Albert Roussel: Suite No. 2 from Bacchus et Ariane. Arturo Márquez: Fandango for Violin and Orchestra. Igor Stravinsky: Petrushka (1947 version)

Friday, Jan. 13 — Keni Yarbro.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Jemille Violet.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — David Shyde.  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Kai Kalama.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Christian Taylor.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Keni Yarbro.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Jemille Violet.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Keni Yarbro.

**Loews Coronado Bay Resort:**  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Gabriele Dagezio.

**Madam Bonnie's:**  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — SD Jazz Trio. Free.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Trio. Free.

**Magnolia Performing Arts Center:**  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Appetite 4 Destruction.

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

**Mission Bay Resort:**  
Thursday, Jan. 12 — Lauren Leigh.  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Jesse Johnson.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Jehua Evans.

**Morgan Run Resort and Club:**  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Jonny Tarr.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — David Shyde.

**Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:**  
Thursday, Jan. 12 — James Allen. Free.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — 2lil2late. Free.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Circasonic. Free.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Rick Trotter Band. Free.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Custard Pie. Free.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Reud. Free.

**Music Box:**  
Thursday, Jan. 12 — Daring Greatly and Ash Easton. \$18.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — One More Time: A Tribute to Daft Punk. Saturday, Jan. 14 — Taylor Rave. \$20.  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — Zoso.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Carry the Stone: All-Star Tribute to Pink Floyd.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Bad Bunny Night.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — B-Side Players and Boostive.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Macy Gray.

**Nick & G's:**  
Friday, Jan. 13 — David Shyde.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Farrah Camu.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Johnny Martin.

**Nova SD:**  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Trivecta. \$20.  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Joyryde.

**Observatory North Park:**  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Unwritten Law.

**Parq Restaurant:**  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Lil Jon.

**Pechanga Arena San Diego:**  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Subtronics.

**Rancho Bernardo Library:**  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Giacomo Woodwind Quintet. Free.

**Rustic Root:**  
Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Helena Holleran.

**Sandbox:**  
Friday, Jan. 20 — SeoulFul: A KMUSIC Dance Party. Free.

**Seabird:**  
Sunday, Jan. 15 — DevvLov.

**Side Yard:**  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Andrew Peña.  
Wednesday, Jan. 18 — Jemille Violet.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Tim Rose.

**Soda Bar:**  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Idlehands and Ghost Parade. \$18.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Take On Me 80s New Wave Party. \$21.  
Monday, Jan. 16 — Sean Bonnette and Tim Kasher.  
Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Auz Fontaine. Free.  
Wednesday, Jan. 18 — Early Eyes.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Grady Spencer & the Work.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Hibuo.

**Soma:**  
Thursday, Feb. 2 — JID and Smino.

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:**  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Hutchins

Consort: Bach and Rock. \$20-\$35.

**St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church:**  
Friday, Jan. 20 — Ars Lyrica Houston: Crossing Borders. \$10-\$50.

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

**Tidal:**  
Thursday, Jan. 12 — Helena Holleran.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Orion Song.

**University Club Atop Symphony Towers:**  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Tim Rose.

**Westfield University Towne Centre:**

Thursday, Jan. 12 — Ben Benavente.  
Friday, Jan. 13 — Tyler F. Simmons.  
Saturday, Jan. 14 — Jesse Johnson.  
Thursday, Jan. 19 — Ben Benavente.  
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Casey Turner. Free.  
Sunday, Jan. 22 — Kekoa.

**Winstons Beach Club:**  
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.

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# Feet meat at the Palace

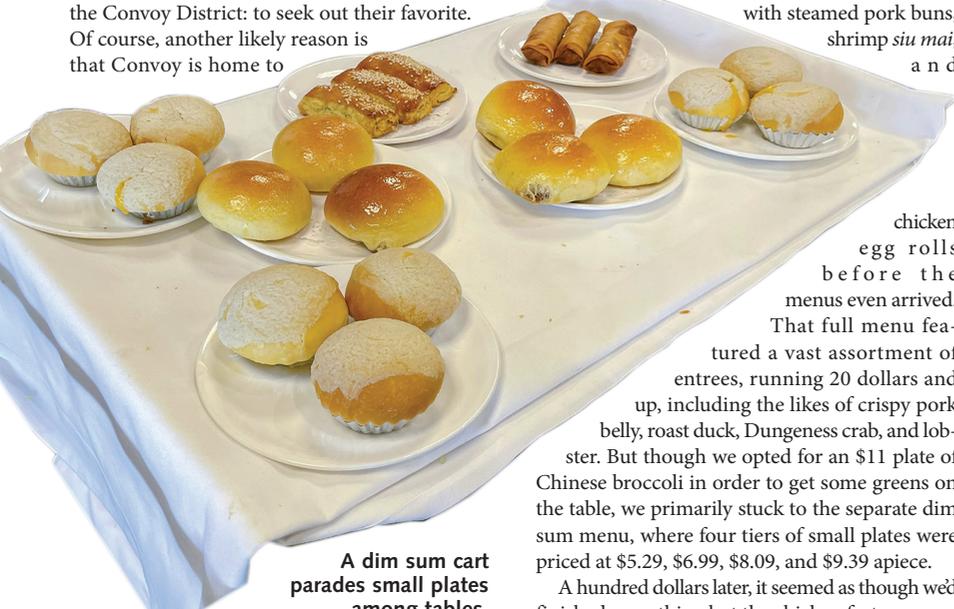
For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit [SDReader.com/feast](http://SDReader.com/feast)

## Dim sum closer to home at Diamond Palace

**Diamond Palace**; 3993 54th St., City Heights. People get attached to their favorite dim sum. That's certainly one reason many San Diegans who seek out the dim sum experience are happy to drive to the Convoy District: to seek out their favorite. Of course, another likely reason is that Convoy is home to

it's kind of a huge venue. Housed in what had been a banquet hall, the place boasts just shy of 70 tables and 300 seats. There was no way it would be anywhere near capacity when we showed up for a late weekday brunch, but we did find enough fellow customers that a normal sized-restaurant would have seemed full.

Only moments after we were seated, someone rolled a cart up to our party, and the meal was under way. Our table was filled up with steamed pork buns, shrimp *siu mai*, a n



A dim sum cart parades small plates among tables.

most of our region's dim sum spots, so it's either that, or drive deep into Mira Mesa.

So when a massive new dim sum restaurant opened up closer to home, I just had to drag my family out to pay a visit. Diamond Palace sits at the edge of City Heights, right about the spot where Chollas Creek meets El Cerrito, so the location will still feel out of the way to most, but it sits considerably south of the 8 freeway, and that's kind of a big deal.

And

chicken egg rolls before the menus even arrived. That full menu featured a vast assortment of entrees, running 20 dollars and up, including the likes of crispy pork belly, roast duck, Dungeness crab, and lobster. But though we opted for an \$11 plate of Chinese broccoli in order to get some greens on the table, we primarily stuck to the separate dim sum menu, where four tiers of small plates were priced at \$5.29, \$6.99, \$8.09, and \$9.39 apiece.

A hundred dollars later, it seemed as though we'd finished everything but the chicken feet.

Admittedly, I've never had the nerve to try chicken feet before, and hadn't planned to at the outset. But that gets me back to peoples' attachment to their favorite dim sum. The kids were disappointed that the *har gao* and *xiao long bao* dumplings didn't live up to their favorites at another restaurant. Fair enough. *Let's try something different*, then, I encouraged them, *It's a big menu, I'm sure we can find something new to appreciate.*

I don't know whether he overheard me, but before I knew it, a server was at our table, dropping off a beef rice roll and casually mentioning that chicken feet were one of the restaurant's most popular and talked-about dishes.

Well, that put me in some kind of hot seat. So of course, with manufactured bravado, I said *bring it on!* Without much wait, there appeared a dish of so-called phoenix talons, fried and braised, and dauntingly claw-shaped.

To the kids' credit, we all dug in — at least, so far as you can dig in to chicken feet, which

Chicken feet, not pretty, but considered a delicacy of sorts.



Diamond Palace: a large restaurant in a former banquet hall.

offer far more bone and skin than flesh. But to a certain extent, they weren't much different than eating skinny chicken wings: messy but super flavorful. I can see why — for the initiated — they're recommended. We might even have finished them all, had the desserts not arrived: the sweet rice cakes, mango pudding, and egg tarts looked immediately more appetizing.

During the shorter-than-usual ride home, we agreed Diamond Palace might not be our favorite dim sum destination, but sometimes it's about learning to order what a place does well. As I explained to the kiddos, *Let's be thankful our server didn't recommend the tripe!*

by Ian Anderson

## FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

**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)

**Tijuana Street Food Tour** You'll enjoy tastings at 5 food stops, 1 non-alcoholic beverage stop, and 1 dessert stop. Everything included: food, transportation, shopping, sightseeing, and a tour guide. Meet in San Diego at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station. Passports required, visit [wildfoodietours.com](http://wildfoodietours.com) for reservations. Saturdays, 12pm; through December 31, \$69. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

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## PERSONALS

**BEULAH** The peanut butter box is here.

**LEARNING WHAT NOT TO DO** is par to criticize. Plus you can criticize what u do know about. There's a difference.

**THERE'S LITTLE** I don't understand.

**WILLIAM BARKING ESSEX** England, 31 Crosby st. New York City, unplastered brick wall, electrically wire ceiling, carpeted storefront, our studio 1972. Hello, happy new year 2023.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR KUDA!!** 2023 will be amazing!!! Kuda

**I DON'T WANT TO BE HAPPY** I just want to see you.

**MY DARLING FRANK** please let the cat out. He needs to go outside. The 20 pounder is anxious to eat. Love, Katherine.

**THE BOOK CLUB** is starting this week. Everyone read something and report back on how fascinating it was you can do it!

**BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR AMY** I lost my best friend, Amy, the most gorgeous person I have ever met in my 64 years, will be celebrating a milestone birthday on Friday the 13th. Let's see how many birthday wishes she can get. She deserves peace, happiness, and love!

**DEAR ALEX P. OF LEUCADIA** you are only supposed to block people that are actually harassing you, not girls that you're messing around with. maybe cop a better attitude and life will be nicer to you. i think you know who this is.

**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.

**VENDING MACHINE CONFESSIONS** You are invited to ANONYMOUSLY contribute a secret to a vending machine. @thexperiencemachine.forms.gle/FacRRLIGzxnz7wvQ7

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

**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.

**LOOKING FOR ELISA CORDERO MARTINEZ** Located in Escondido, CA last time I knew. If you are here or know her, please have her call (442) 341-1308.

**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

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

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

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

## NOTICES

**BIBLE STUDY IN PROGRESS** Please contact Tina, (424) 703-7286 91945 in Lemon Grove, CA.

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## CLASSES / LESSONS

**TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES,** Meditation In Movement. First class is free. Join us Thursday, January 19, 7-9pm, for a 2-hour class on Taoism and how it relates to the practice of Taiji, \$25. Sign up on our website. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, (619) 692-1155. taoistsanctuary.org.

**WERE YOU A LEMURIAN?** Do you wonder about life's purpose? Discover many little-known secrets to find inner peace, your true place in life, and how to have more success and satisfaction in your relationships and job. Ask for a Free Brochure today! www.lemurianfellowship.org/learnmore/

**SEEKING LOCATION 4 WORKSHOPS** Do you have a beautiful private courtyard available for rent? Professional seeking serene outdoor space for specialized workshops for therapists and couples. Please email courtyard@mailbox.org

**HAND DRUMMING LESSONS** Learn hand drumming from world percussionist Frank Lazzaro. Over 20 years teaching experience. Middle-Eastern, African, Latin, Drum circles. Private and group classes. Extra drums available. (760) 703-1487

**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@intervalmagic.com

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## ROOMMATES



**ROOMMATE NEEDED** Looking for a new roommate (preferably female) 2br/2bath in Spring Valley. Expecting couple with a private room and private full bath upstairs. Dogs/cats ok. Rent and utilities \$1000/month. (619) 241-1930 / jennycarroll8@yahoo.com

**ROOM NEEDED FOR TRADE... NOW!!!** Single mature female with no kids/pets seriously seeking a place to live in January! Please don't contact me w/ inappropriate offers. I'm drama free with no addictions/issues! Furnished private room is so preferred (van/RV/garage/etc is fine). Plz email. sandiegolady13@gmail.com

**ROOM FOR RENT** Independent living. Nice view home. Quiet. Wi-fi, tv, meals, laundry. Shared room \$800 La Mesa (619) 750-4447. A place to call home!

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

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

## RENTALS



**1 BDRM SMALL DUPLEX** We are located in the Barrett Junction Valley. \$1400 rent \$1400 deposit. Utilities not included, electric, trash, propane. Pets with renter's insurance. Appointment only to view, message me to confirm appointment and directions. (619) 438-0765 / paitheladee@office-wife.biz

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**ATTENTION COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS:** SD-based mail order business established 1974 needs 2,000 to 2,500 sq. ft. for \$1/sq. ft per month or less, in SD-area. Almost no walk-in traffic. Any type of commercial prop. is ok. (619) 403-2781

**RV STORAGE 24 HR ACCESS** Elm Gardens RV Storage best prices in town. Store any vehicle with us! On Site dump station! 24 hr access. (619) 443-1447 / kat.elmgardens@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**EGYPTIAN DRUM** Hand drums from Egypt and Turkey, known as Darbuka or Doumbek drums. New and used, \$40 and up. Lessons also available. (760) 703-1487 / info@southpacific-vacations.com

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tant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico assistante que sepuede leer musica/ toca piano. Cuarto, comidas, felia. (619) 457-8516, jebroes5@gmail.com

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**MISSING** Please help us find our baby! He was last seen outside Murphy's market on Fairmont & Dwight in City Heights on the 16th- Friday between 3-4pm and then he was taken by someone!! He is tan with a white line on his head and black mouth cash reward!! (571) 225-6750

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**SKI BAG/POLES** two ski boot bags, and duffel bag by Marker, \$55. Men's Descants one piece ski outfit, XL, \$150, L, \$100. (619) 218-4031

**1965 WILT CHAMBERLIN** 76ers road jersey with letter of authentication, (619) 933-6302.

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## AUTOMOTIVE

**FOUR GM ROCHESTER QUADRA JET** carburetors, used with 350 or 454 cubic inch v8 engines. \$25/each, (619) 435-6561, leave message.

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**TRAGBARE JAMMER 8** Antenne 8W 5G 4G LTE 3G WIFI GPS L1 Handy-Storsender, Stör-radius bis zu 30m. www.jammer-store.de/handheld-8-antenne-8w-5g-4g-3g-wifi-gps-storsender.html (031) 153-5728 / fueircv23894@protonmail.com

**2016 MAZDA CX5 GRAND TOURING** Automatic, AWD, 2.5L, 4 cylinder engine, 4 door, red metallic color, black leather seats, 94,700 miles, original owner, well cared for and maintained by a nurse, the reason for selling-the car was replaced by a new Tesla, \$17,500 call (760) 746-7209.

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

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**1967 VW BEETLE** Good restoration project orig. owner, rare deluxe crank sunroof, 1776cc motor. 1st yr. 12 volt last year solid metal dashboard \$3000 obo serious inquiries only please. louracer38@aol.com

**1967 FORD MUSTANG FASTBACK** Very good condition, 27300 actual mileage, asking \$22500, more info at: fastback@

viasolero.com, manual transmission.

**1971 VOLKSWAGEN MANX** style dunebuggy body Fiberglass. Onroad/offroad. Street legal, street license 2023, clear title. Excellent condition, 60k miles. Ready to sell. (760) 420-3641, San Marcos, best offer, can trade.

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

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

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

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

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

**1995 GMC VANDURA 2500** high top conversion van. TV, stereo, new \$500 tires. Needs oil pump. Sell as is, \$2000 or best offer. (619) 408-9517

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LOOKING FOR 1990 OR OLDER** Ford cargo van, fgrss0421@gmail.com.

## HELP WANTED

**HANDYMAN/CAREGIVER** Provider for a patient. Housing and \$15/hour available. If interested, please help and call (619) 733-6485.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER** Globe Trade Services Inc. has an opening for an Operations Manager at our Otay Mesa location. Oversee and coordinate the customs brokerage compliance & all aspects of company's import and export operations, including logistics, distribution, etc. Prep and process import and export documentation according to Mexican Customs regs, etc. Interact with domestic and international customers. Must be available to work full time. Req. Bachelor's Degree in International Business or a related field or foreign equivalent. Req. 3yrs experience as logistics manager, logistics assistant manager, or related. Req. 1yr experience US CBP Automated Broker Interface, etc. 50% international travel required. Mail resumes to: Global Trade Services, Inc. ATTN: Ricardo de la Torre, 2275 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 6, Otay Mesa, CA 92154.

**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.

**SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST** Cortica, Inc. San Diego, CA and other unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. has an opening for a Speech Language Pathologist (Job Code DV1207). Establish speech/language treatment goals. Provide individual/group/co-treat therapy sessions. Reqs: M.S. or FDE in Audiology & Speech & Language Pathology or closely related field of study & 2 yrs. Of exp. In the job, as a CF & SLP, or performing similar job duties. Must hold a CCC and

current CA license in SLP. Salary range: \$74,464 to \$95,000/yr. Mail resume w/job code to Dorothy Sorensen, 6160 Cornerstone Court East, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121.

**LOOKING FOR IHSS CAREGIVER** Certified IHSS caregiver needed for a woman in LA Gardens w/vehicle, cooking, cleaning, shopping. LF a permanent provider. Available 5 hrs./day from Mon-Sun (40hrs/week). 2 shifts available will discuss in interview. (619) 651-3116 / cvargas@chgsd.com

**PAID FLU VACCINE STUDY 65+** Adults 65 and older are needed for a paid Flu vaccine study. Participants will receive \$125 per visit. Call us to Learn More: (855) 367-8834. / recruitment@artemis-research.com

**CAREGIVER RANCHO BERNARDO** We are looking for a WOMAN. Light assistance with daily duties for. senior man with minor mobility problem. We'll help to get IHSS registration. Up to \$20/hr - 65 hr/month. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 Live a msg

**CAREGIVER RANCHO BERNARDO** We are looking for a WOMAN. Light assistance with daily duties for. senior man with minor mobility problem. We'll help to get IHSS registration. Up to \$20/hr - 65 hr/month. Ad is not for unsolicited services or offers. (858) 360-0388 Live a msg

**LABORER** need someone to assist me getting the rentals ready. must be able to follow directions (760) 410-6605

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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

**CAREGIVER (EAST COUNTY).** Active Quadriplegic male seeking PT caregiver in East County area (Santee/Lakeside La Mesa/EI 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.

**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.

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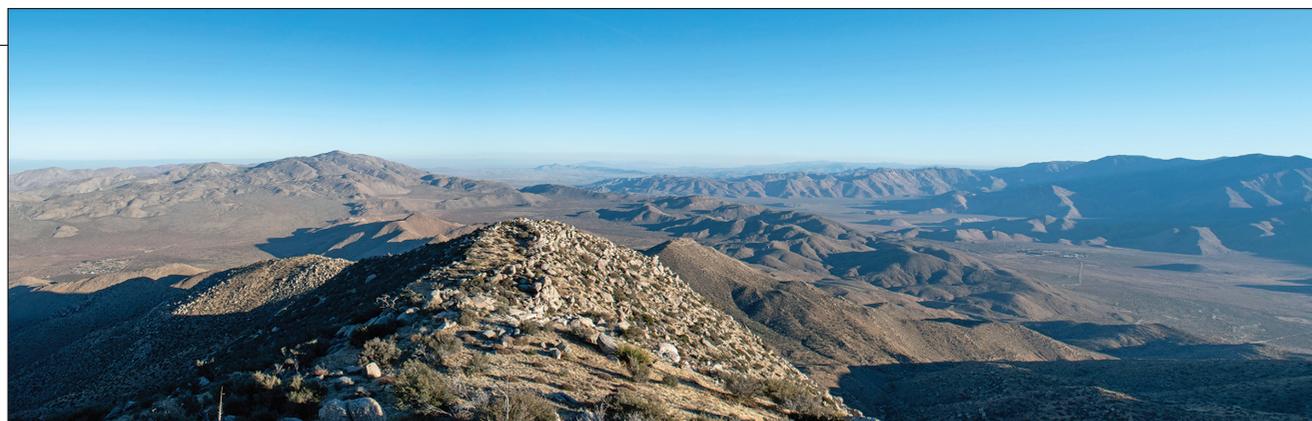
# ROAM

It was a crisp, stark, sunlit desert morning with just the right amount of warmth in the air. I was out past the Laguna Mountains in Anza Borrego, where the earth falls off into a far larger world. A land of sand and stone, where rugged mountains unfold in a maze of canyons, between which stretch colossal, barren valleys. Standing in a broad sandy wash with the sunlight pouring on me, I was wrapped in perfect silence, though I wasn't alone. I had two companions: a watchful raven that cocked its head at me from a nearby rock and a Jeep Wrangler with a sunshade that read: "Desert Girls Rock."

I nodded to the raven then tightened the straps on my trail running vest and checked whether my valuables were still tucked away. As I did, I looked at the trail before me and felt its weight deepen in my mind. My plan was to follow the arroyo through a rambling corridor of rock and stone until I reached the roots of the mountain about a mile away. Then I'd bushwack up a slope of brittlebush, avoiding the sharp rocks, agave, and various cacti that could dig cruelly into my flesh until I reached the ridgeline a thousand feet up. Once on this shoulder, I would come to a boneyard of burnt juniper and a meadow of ankle-high grasses, beyond which I would scramble up a series of false peaks consisting of large granite boulders while gaining 1600 feet in elevation.

I sighed and started. After walking half a mile, I crossed paths with the owner of the Wrangler; a woman in her late 30s with braided hair and burgundy leggings. She carried an Osprey pack with a thermos on one side and a Nalgene on the other. Unlike me, she was smart enough to bring trekking poles and we passed one another with a friendly, "Hello."

As I approached the fork, I recalled the last time I hiked this mountain. Back then, I made

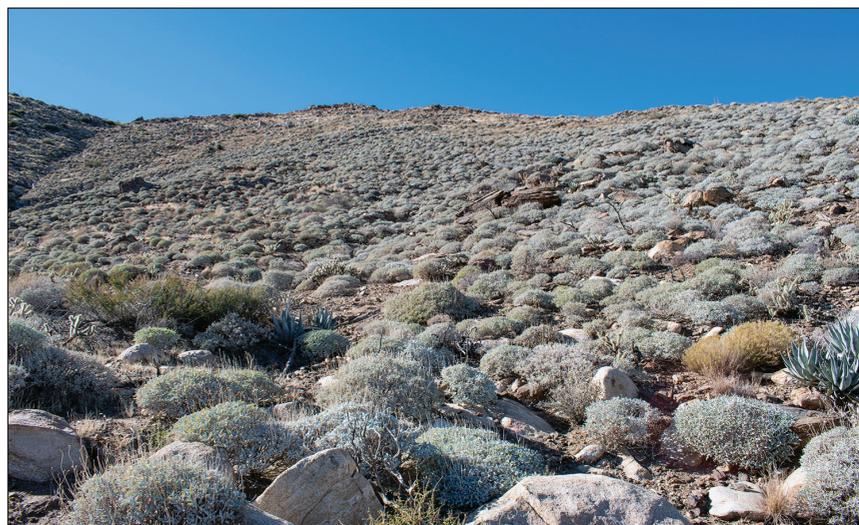


Granite Mountain Panorama.

the mistake of turning right and meandering through the canyon, climbing up rocky chutes until I backed myself against a steep couloir. Not wanting to turn back, I scuttled up it on all fours, looking like a red-faced fool.

Determined not to make the same mistake this time, I reached the fork and turned left; though the path proved no less of a fool's errand. At first, the way was easy to follow. For several hundred feet, I carried on as I had before, but then the path became choked with brush. Desert apricot overtook the wash, and I bent, ducked, and crawled for as long as I could, but my clothes kept snagging on the branches. Facing defeat, I decided it would be less painful to hike straight up the slope like a fool — again. Fortunately, it was far less steep and miserable than before. (Later I discovered that the best path is to hit the fork and turn right, then walk 50 paces and make an immediate left into a narrow gully.)

As I climbed, agave and cacti seemed to gasp for life in every open nook and cranny. I paid them little interest until a cholla sank its thorns into my ankle. A familiar yet bitter discomfort radiated from my leg and I hobbled over to a boulder to sit. There were a dozen barbs in me, and I picked up a nearby stick and wedged it between my skin



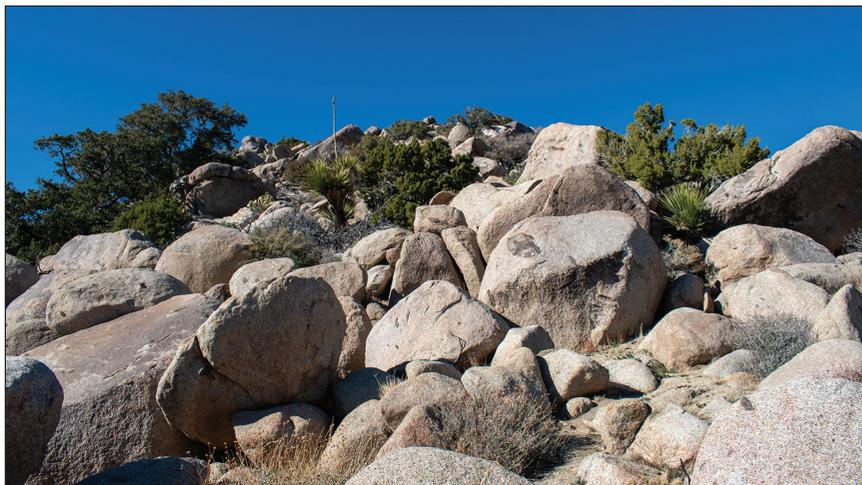
Climbing a slope of brittlebush..

## GRANITE MOUNTAIN

Located at the end of Cool Canyon Road in Anza Borrego, Granite Mountain is a grueling grind that will test your endurance and tolerance for pain. With a length of 7 miles and an elevation gain of around 3200 feet, the hike will take most people 5 to 8 hours. Dogs and young kids are not recommended. Bring hiking boots with good tread, a map, 2L of water, and a warm layer of clothes for the summit. Do not attempt unless you have good judgment and keen wayfinding.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 76 miles

**Hike length:** 7 miles • **Difficulty:** Extremely strenuous • **Season:** November to April



Scrambling up granite boulders.

and the cactus to pry it off. It fell to the ground like a dead tick. The remaining thorns I pulled out with my fingers. Then I spat on the wound to wipe away the blood and pulled my sock over it.

The rest of the way up was a sweaty blur. I slipped into an aerobic void, aware of nothing but the urge to keep going. I clambered up and over car-sized granite boulders, pausing to catch my breath. During these breaks, I would watch the pinyon pines sway in the cool winter breeze until the wind began to bite, then I'd push on to keep warm.

After nearly three hours, I reached the peak with the delight you might feel in sighting an old friend. But the feeling was short-lived, as a fierce wind blew in from the west. I struggled to keep its icy touch from settling in my bones, but it was hard. My clothes were soaked through with sweat and I needed to get them dry. Near my feet, I found a nest of stones huddled around a rusty tin can, inside of which was the summit book. My hands were too numb to pick apart the pages, so I grabbed a handful of stones from the pile and put them in my pockets. Then I untied the jacket from around my neck and placed it on the ground, followed by my wet polyester sun hoodie and my pants. The rocks kept the wind from stealing my clothes as they dried in the low winter sun.

Standing in my briefs, I shivered as I braced against the wind, yelping and yee-hawing to distract myself from the cold. I tried to take in my panoramic view by looking for familiar faces in the distance. San Jacinto Mountain was hidden from me, but I found San Ysidro Mountain and Whale Peak clear as day; as well as Villager, Toro, and Rabbit Peaks. A few others I might have recognized, but my San Diego blood had trouble

in the frighteningly cool 50-degree weather. After a quarter-hour, my clothes had dried and I got dressed and watched the sun dip behind the horizon. For a moment, the wind quieted and I stood in a rich twilight among purple hues on the cusp between heaven and earth, drawing the desert into me.

During my descent, I found fragments of a trail marked by rock cairns left behind by bygone hikers. They were easy to follow from the false peaks down to the mountain's shoulder. But then the trail went cold, and all I saw was a series of unfriendly paths. The desert air was cooling fast, and I stood on a granite boulder like a watchful meerkat, scanning the nearby slope for a safe path down the mountainside. As dusk descended, the terrain started taking on a uniform, lifeless hue, and it was getting harder to distinguish the details. Whale Peak held onto a bit of color, but the red-orange was draining into the valley below, consumed by a deepening shadow. I eventually found a path, though the way was tedious, slow, and uneventful. Night came and my legs carried me back by the light of the stars. With my adventure at an end, I was glad to return to my warm car.

As I made my way home, the city seemed unfamiliar. I felt dazed by the noise and rush of people. A hollow grew in my chest and I was sad that the evening's desert sunset was receding into memory. I tried to reconcile the two worlds that I live in: one of absence and the other of abundance. But in my post-hike stupor, I felt estranged from both. Eventually, I found comfort wondering in what the next adventure would hold; for who among us knows what the tide will bring tomorrow?

— Ryan Brothers

Please call Travis (619) 706-7529. Referral number only.

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

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## JOBS WANTED

**FREELANCER LOOKING FOR WORK!** Mature female in major immediate need of legit cash paying gigs! Will consider most short/long term gigs but especially want any, domestic jobs such as house sitting, dog sitting, dog walking, house chores, etc... I'm free of addictions/drama! Thanks! sandie.egolady13@gmail.com

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

**GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER** will drive to doctors appointments & hospital appointments, will provide companionship, grocery shopping, prepare light meals. Please 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

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**PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVER/ MASSAGE THERAPIST** seeking private room in exchange for cleaning, cooking, total home maintenance, and pet care for lesser rent. Preferably military personnel. Call Michelle, (619) 228-5843.

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

**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 / ashscot@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 / ashscot@aol.com

**JUNKY OLD CLOTHING NEED- ED \$** Paying for older clothing from at least 20 years ago. I want the dirty smelly stuff from your garage and attic and will pay well! (619) 704-4257 / igotpolo@gmail.com

**MOTORIZED/GAS SCOOTER OR BIKE** I currently am looking for a Motorized or gas powered scooter or bicycle. I am new diag-

nosed with cancer an Im loosing my ability to walk like i once could making it hard to care for myself. I need something to help me get around that I can pay on.

**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.

**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.

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

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

**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

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

**VINTAGE BEASTIE BOYS T-SHIRT** \$34. (619) 291-3000

## GARAGE SALES

**CHULA VISTA ESTATE SALE** Very nice furniture, over 120 model trains, lot's of books, over 300 tools, car parts, by appt only, call (619) 651-3435.

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

## FOR SALE



**53 NOISEMAKERS - TURN OR BLOW** These noise makers are of different designs & colors for New Year, special events & parties. Make lots of fun noises while having a great time for both adults and kids. All new and never used. \$25 for all 53 pieces. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**BLACK SQUARE MIRROR (24"X 24")** This good looking contemporary wall mirror with 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 or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**KOEHLEH SINK FAUCET** model 10430-cp, plus accessories, new in box, Home Depot cost \$340 + tax. My cost is \$275 OBO, can text photos, (760) 214-3122.

**MID CENTURY** candle holders. (619) 291-3000

**MID CENTURY CHEESE** board. (619) 291-3000

**MID CENTURY PLASTIC CONTAINERS** Mid-century modern plastic containers, which are also modular. (619) 291-3000

**MID CENTURY SALT AND PEPPER** shakers \$10. (619) 291-3000

**PLAYGROUND STATION** Excellent Condition. Price in store is \$6,500. I'm selling it for \$2,800. Wood strong playground. Claudia Solano (619) 600-1558.

**PORTABLE CAMPER'S TV** by Claybrook, mkc65385 model. AC110 or DC, takes 9 C batteries, \$50. (619) 435-6561, leave message.

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

**WASHER/DRYER STACK** space saver, full size! GE cream color, like new, excellent condition, \$399. (619) 466-8663

**BROWN & GOLD VINTAGE DESK LAMP** This classical desk lamp has twin fluorescent lamps (1 working), flexible gooseneck, and a rocker on/off switch on the base. Minor cracks on shade are covered with tapes. The lamp is in good working condition. \$25. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



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**VINTAGE SOLID WOOD MIRROR** This mirror (31-3/4"x 16"x 1-7/8") with 3/8" wood frame weighs 18.5 lb. Hanging hardware not included. The glass is 1/2" thick & has some dark spots, scratches and discoloration which

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**1.25 HP GARBAGE WASTE DISPOSAL** Heavy duty American Standard disposal handles most types of food waste Incl. coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, peelings & small bones. Connectors & accessories are not included. Clean & in excellent condition. \$75. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

**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 or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

**NEW QUEEN MATTRESS \$300** Sleepy rest firm queen prime. Paid \$500. Cash only. You pickup Mapaul16@gmail.com.

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**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 / cadbcasd@gmail.com

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**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.P.U. Mapaul16@gmail.com

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

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

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**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. / cadbcasd@gmail.com

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

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**The Tech Revolution**

— Talk about taking your gaming seriously. Palmer Luckey, a defense contractor and, according to *Vice*, the father of modern virtual reality, has invented a VR headset that literally presents a life-or-death outcome. Inspired by the NerveGear VR headsets in the anime "Sword Art Online," Luckey's headset features three explosive charge modules that detonate and instantly destroy the user's head if the user dies during gameplay. "Pumped-up graphics might make a game look more real, but only the threat of serious consequences can make a game feel real to you and every other person in the game," Luckey said. He admits, though, that he needs to keep tinkering: "There are a huge variety of failures that could occur and kill the user at the wrong time. This is why I have not worked up the (nerve) to actually use it myself. At this point, it is just ... a thought-provoking reminder of unexplored avenues in game design."

**Bright Idea**

— Residents of the Capitol Hill area of Seattle took matters into their own hands after not getting any satisfaction from the city, KOMO-TV reported. Someone painted a crosswalk at the intersection of E. Olive Way and Harvard Avenue E., but on Nov. 16, the Seattle Department of Transportation removed the unauthorized stripes, saying, "Improperly painted crosswalks give a false sense of safety which puts pedestrians in danger. There are better ways for people to work with us." David Seater, co-leader of Central

Seattle Greenways, called it "frustrating" that the city can move so quickly to remove the rogue crosswalk but "it can take years if not decades or never, frankly, to get crosswalks and other safety improvements installed." SDOT said it would evaluate the intersection to see how the unauthorized crossing might be replaced.

**Ironies**

— The Buckingham and Villages Community Board in England admitted that the irony was running thick when, on Nov. 15, it had to cancel a program about protecting your home from flood damage due to heavy rains in the area. The board hoped to provide residents with demonstrations of flood resilience equipment and what to do in case of a deluge, according to the BBC. "However, it was due to take place outside in pouring rain and high winds, so there was concern ... that people would not turn out for this important event," the BVCB said. "A new date will be arranged as soon as possible."

**Least Competent Criminal**

— Police in Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, were able to easily identify a carjacker who followed a woman off a bus at a park-and-ride on Nov. 1, WTAE reported. When they located her stolen car a couple of hours later, the people inside hopped out and ran away -- but one of the thieves left their identity behind via the Bluetooth iPhone connection in the car. "Darrells iPhone" turned up on the car's list of devices, and a security guard at Westinghouse High School identified Darrell Cammon Jr., 19, from

a surveillance video on the bus. Cammon and another suspect are still at large.

**Night of the Living Poodle**

— On Oct. 29, as Kathrin Burleson and a friend walked Burleson's 13-year-old corgi, Emma, at Trinidad State Beach in California, a pack of 10 standard poodles burst from a nearby car and raced toward them, the *Mad River Union* reported. Burleson leaned down to pick up Emma, but she wriggled out of Burleson's arms just as the pack attacked. "I thought Emma and I were going to be killed," Burleson said. To make things even weirder, during the incident, Burleson felt her finger being bitten, but when she looked up, it was the poodles' owner, Frank Mallatt, who had her finger in his mouth. Mallatt later told her he thought he was biting one of his dogs. Emma was severely injured and underwent emergency surgery, from which she is still healing. Mallatt reportedly owns a service dog company that, according to the website, places dogs "with children at little to no cost through the help of donations and volunteers."

**It's Come to This**

— Brandy Bottone of Plano, Texas, who argued successfully in June that her unborn fetus qualified her to drive in the HOV lane, is now the namesake of House Bill 521 in Texas' 2023 legislative session, MSN reported. The Brandy Bill, introduced by state Rep. Briscoe Cain, states that a pregnant driver "is entitled to use any HOV lane in the state." Texas penal code stipulates that

an unborn child is considered a person "at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth." If the Brandy Bill is signed into law, it will take effect in September.

**End of an Era**

— Coventry Club, a 46-acre campground in Milton, Vermont, that's been a haven for nudists for almost 60 years, is closing at the end of the season, WCAX-TV reported. "Our second day here, we fell in love with the place and the people," said camper Gentle Bear. The owners are going to retire, and the land was sold to a family. Vermont's unusual laws about nudity allow flashing the birthday suit in public -- but you can't take off your clothes in public. "This is the only place like this in the Northeast and maybe in the U.S.," said Mark Ozenich, who first visited the park 20 years ago. Good times.

**Money To Burn**

— A pair of "well used" Birkenstock sandals once worn by Steve Jobs has sold at auction for almost \$220,000, the Associated Press reported. The brown suede sandals, which date to the mid-1970s, retain "the imprint of Steve Jobs' feet," the auction said in describing the listing. The buyer was not named. Jobs' home in Los Altos, California, where he and Steve Wozniak co-founded Apple, is now a historic landmark.

Send your weird news items to [WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com).

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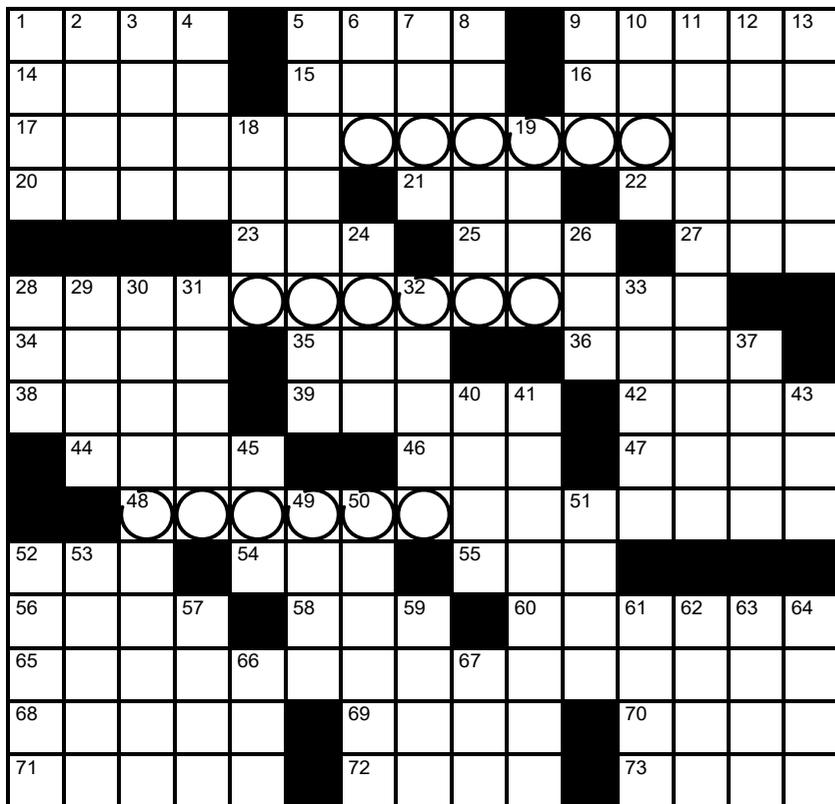
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Thanks to all our winners so far and to those who will keep with us.

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## Across

1. Overnight, maybe  
 5. "\_\_\_ bing!"  
 9. Indisputable evidence  
 14. "Citizen \_\_\_"  
 15. Have too much, briefly  
 16. "Welcome to Hawaii!"  
 17. Says "I gave it 110%," say  
 20. Lapis \_\_\_ (blue gemstone)  
 21. End of the White House's domain  
 22. "Take \_\_\_ a compliment!"  
 23. Having five sharps  
 25. One curl, say  
 27. Competitor of Stridex  
 28. What a kimchi lover might grow in their yard  
 34. "Fascism is \_\_\_ told by

- bullies": Ernest Hemingway  
 35. It's between Can. and Mex.  
 36. Wine region between Turin and Genoa  
 38. \_\_\_ sci (college major, informally)  
 39. Eponymous swindler Charles  
 42. Hiking route  
 44. Forearm bone  
 46. One of the Brady Bunch  
 47. Setting for a classic Agatha Christie novel  
 48. What a gerontologist's patient hopes to do  
 52. "Terrif!"  
 54. \_\_\_ Speedwagon ("Keep On Loving You" band)  
 55. Realm from 800 to 1806:

## Abbr.

56. Lotion ingredient  
 58. Just peachy  
 60. Cape Canaveral countdown term  
 65. Something that might result in a home gym or cozy guest house ... or this puzzle's theme  
 68. NBC foreign correspondent Richard  
 69. Musical artist known as the "Queen of New Age"  
 70. Novelist Tokarczuk who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature  
 71. Actress Thompson of "Passing"  
 72. "That \_\_\_ it!"  
 73. Condé \_\_\_

## Down

1. Vodka brand that sounds like a toast  
 2. "\_\_\_ Nagila"  
 3. "Little" sister in "Hairspray"  
 4. Machu Picchu's land  
 5. Packing in cartons  
 6. Oral health org.  
 7. Snoop of hip-hop  
 8. Goat known for its wool  
 9. Distant  
 10. Jai \_\_\_  
 11. Small rabbit  
 12. Bad thing to get from your boss  
 13. Quick with a clapback  
 18. Director Kazan  
 19. "Best. Day. \_\_\_!"

24. Kiss for a señor or señora  
 26. Making out on the bus, e.g.: Abbr.  
 28. Imposed maximum  
 29. Surname shared by three members of the 1963 San Francisco Giants  
 30. Backwaters, in Australia  
 31. Human \_\_\_  
 32. According to Urban Dictionary, it's a "Hindi word for cannabis ... introduced to Jamaica by Indian laborers"  
 33. College sports channel  
 37. "C'mon, \_\_\_ be fun"  
 40. Actor Galifianakis  
 41. Krypton, for example  
 43. "What's the idea?!"

45. \_\_\_ Lingus  
 49. First, second or reverse  
 50. Firmly set  
 51. Disaster relief org.  
 52. Aspect  
 53. Unaccompanied  
 57. December 24th and 31st, for two  
 59. Casino game similar to bingo  
 61. Pumped metal  
 62. "The Lion King" lioness  
 63. Popular brand of sheepskin boots  
 64. Adjustable bike part  
 66. She, in Portuguese  
 67. Henna, for one

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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

# SUDOKU

## HARD:

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

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

## EVIL:

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

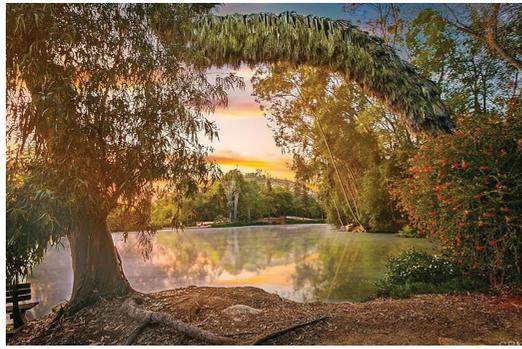
## Under the radar

continued from page 3

Diego region or Southern California is a definite plus.” Adds the recruiting brochure: “This position requires someone who is politically astute with superior interpersonal and communication skills.” The current Chief Administrative Officer, **Helen N. Robbins-Meyer**, who is retiring after 25 years with the county, received a total of \$566,309 in pay and benefits last year, according to the website *TransparentCalifornia.com*. “With a complete changeover of board membership firmly in place, community partnerships and staff levels strengthened, and the County in sound fiscal shape, Robbins-Meyer felt the time was right to let a new CAO move the County forward,” explains a county news release.

— Matt Potter  
@sdmattpotter

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Oceans are so public. Better to just own a lake.

## UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 6

property had \$735,000 in net operating income from the groves in 2020, that those groves are fed by five on-property wells, and that there’s room for a helicopter pad (though with 100 acres, I’d imagine it’s hard for there *not* to be).

Public records list

a Marrocco family as the property’s current owner, which matches the entry signs featured in the photos. There’s no history of any publicly recorded sales in at least the past 20 years, though the ranch has been listed for sale at least three times since 2019. The original asking price of \$10,995,000 was raised to \$11.5 million when it was re-listed in July, a curious choice in a generally declining market. ■

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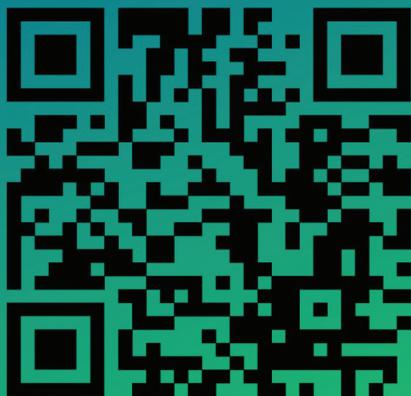


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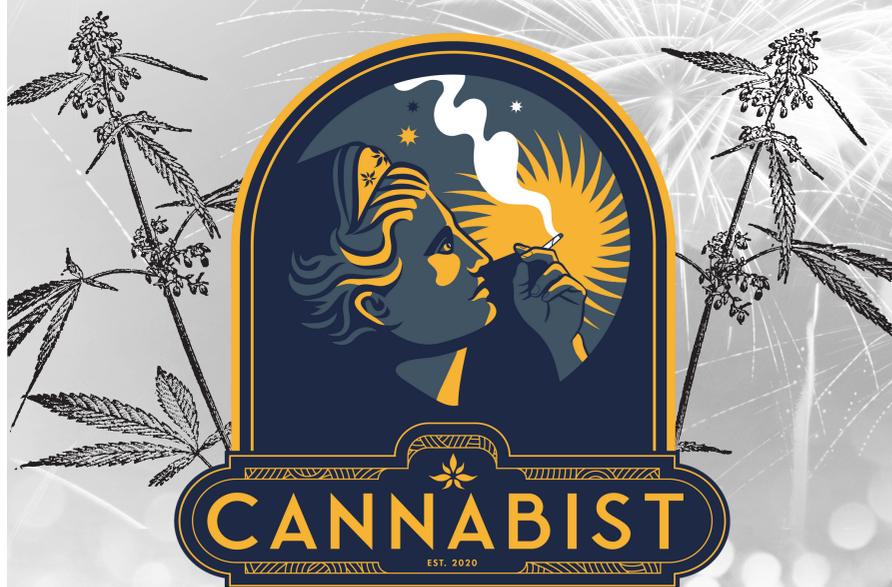
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3365 Rosecrans St, San Diego, 92110  
**619-404-0061**  
[SmileDesignerSanDiego.com](http://SmileDesignerSanDiego.com)

**University Dental** (College Area)  
6324 University Ave, San Diego, 92115  
**619-319-9640**  
[UniversityDentalSanDiego.com](http://UniversityDentalSanDiego.com)

\* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply.  
Offers good through 2-6-23. \*\*No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required.  
\*\*\*Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.



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