

SAN DIEGO

VOL. 48 | NO. 2 | JANUARY 12, 2023

Reader

The latest effort to rejuvenate

JACUMBA

Hot Springs Eternal



Uber drivers make Dunkirk exits to Las Vegas ■ Festivus fun at the Til-Two



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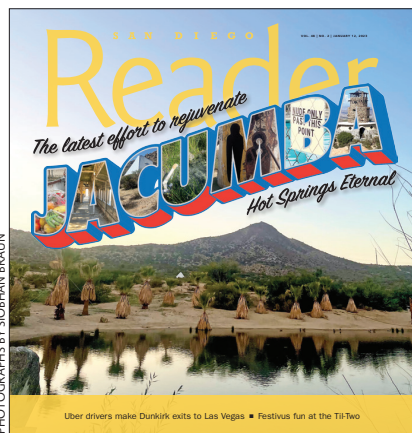
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January 12, 2023



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIOBHAN BRAUN

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East County is turning green — page 16



Not to be confused with Yacht Rock — page 22

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

HILLCREST

Housing vs history

You can't unring the Bell, but you can tear down a landmark

Even as Hillcrest considers turning its core into a historic district, the city's LGBT community is losing one of only two sites dedicated to its history. Two weeks ago, the planning commission voted unanimously to approve a development permit for a mixed-use project that will demolish the Albert Bell Building, also known as the Gayzette, at 3780-3786 5th Avenue. The site, now occupied by several businesses, served as a community support center, founded by local activist Albert Bell, during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. It



Albert Bell welcomed AIDS patients here in the 1980s.

Kolonymous. The building that will be demolished is composed of four sections, all built at different times. The historic designation covers a two-story 1968 addition, a 1932 Spanish Eclectic building, and

mitigate some of the losses. According to a staff report, those mitigations will include a Historic American Buildings Survey, photos, written history, and a metal plaque or display with a QR barcode link to online material outlining "the historical events and activities associated with the former community spaces and occupants of 3870 Fifth Avenue."

Charles Kaminski, speaking as a historian for the San Diego LGBTQ Historic Sites Project, urged the commission to approve the mitigation measures. "The Historic Sites project would have preferred that the developer retain and incorporate

ON THE ROAD

Lyfting Las Vegas Rideshare drivers service the stranded

After thousands of people found themselves stuck at the San Diego International Airport during and after Christmas because of canceled flights, many of them rented cars inside or near the airport and drove to their destinations. One local family drove a rental 1000 miles: "We decided to rent a car and drive 17 plus hours, 1000-plus miles to Colorado," tweeted Marcella Lee of News 8 San Diego. "The amazing @budget operations manager told me they'd rented out 900 cars by 11 am! He was moving things along as fast as possible." Other travelers hopped on Greyhound buses and trains, while still others utilized rideshare services such as Uber or Lyft — some traveling as far as Las Vegas.

Cesar Delgadillo, a local Uber and Lyft driver, picked up passengers around Christmas and drove them from the San Diego Airport to Los Angeles International Airport. He said he earned \$110 from Uber for the drive, and then drove another passenger for "\$50 to return from Oceanside to San Diego." When asked if it was worth the gigs, he responded, "Definitely not — worthless." Traffic was at a crawl heading both northbound and southbound on the I-5, and holiday drivers posted online that the drive time to and from Los Angeles was double and even triple the usual. But after the "worthless" drive

"We are not thrilled by the loss of the historic site. In fact, it's something we wouldn't normally support, particularly in this type of site, which is a civil rights site."

was designated historic on April 28, 2022.

The designation came as no surprise to the Los Angeles-based developer who was already at work on plans for a mid-rise apartment tower with commercial and office space on the site. "When we started the process two years ago, we soon found it was likely to be designated historic," said Max Zeff, with the real estate firm

the courtyard between them. Currently, there are 10 multi-family residential units housed in three of the buildings. The new seven-story project will provide 43 dwellings, including two very low-income, and 22 visitor accommodation units.

In 2020, there were 24,203 homes in Hillcrest, only 849 of them designated as affordable housing. The in-progress Plan Hillcrest aims to protect the neighborhood historical resources important to the LGBTQ community while also adding more housing. "We are not thrilled by the loss of the historic site," said Bruce Coons, executive director of Save Our Heritage. "In fact, it's something we wouldn't normally support, particularly in this type of site, which is a civil rights site." However, he added, the developer has worked diligently with SOHO for over two years to



Teri B. would be glad for the highway miles of a long trip, but shies away from the Terminal 1 tangle.

the resource into the new development," he said. "Unfortunately, that has not occurred." He was not there to oppose the development, he said, but to remind them that the LGBT community is represented by only two sites, and that there will be only one left going forward.

The new building will be named in honor of Albert Bell.

SHEILA PELL

to LAX, he received a day-after-Christmas gift: "Someone was really happy with my delivery [and gave me a] \$100 tip," he said.

J.P., another Uber and Lyft driver, got a big tip, a gas fill-up, and a free meal in return for a 700-mile drive. The mid-city rideshare driver said on NextDoor after Christmas that he had just returned from Las Vegas. "I took two people from the

continued on page 3



Remember AIDS? How about the community center that welcomed AIDS patients? If not, you'll be able to check the QR code here for help.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

San Diego Airport to Vegas. Southwest Airlines had them rescheduled for January 1. I asked what the fare was, and they said \$430, but they split it, so \$215 each. I got paid \$350 as the driver. I'm not sure I made [money] on that 700-mile run since Uber does not allow drivers

ing on miles per gallon. So that I will take those in a minute." Teri then hopped onto the Lyft app on her phone to get a price quote on a San Diego to Las Vegas trip. "OK, so Lyft costs \$404, and the driver would probably make \$325 or so out of that." But California-based share drivers cannot tap into the Las Vegas or Nevada pool of customers, so "you would have to get back across the California state line before you could go online," Teri explained. "And the problem with being

"He said it took about 10 hours, so it worked out to about \$35 an hour, and that's really not a bad rate."

to pick up out of state to come back, but it was fun."

I spoke to Teri B., an Uber and Lyft driver from San Diego, as she got ready to make her New Year's Eve rounds. She saw her fellow driver's post about the San Diego to Las Vegas \$350 trek. "He said it took about 10 hours, so it worked out to about \$35 an hour, and that's really not a bad rate," she said to me. "Overall, just driving around the city, you can expect somewhere between \$25 and \$35 an hour, and with a long trip like that, you're sav-

that far out is that you might get a bunch of short little rides around Barstow."

I asked Teri why she didn't post up at the San Diego airport when the more than 6000 flights (per *Flightaware.com*) were canceled on December 26-27. "There can be upwards of 50 to 100 drivers at any given time, so, no thank you," Teri said. "Besides, drivers right now are avoiding the airport because of the construction at Terminal 1 — because it's tough to get in and out of."

MIKE MADRIAGA

UNDER THE RADAR

Rainmaker's run-in Fresh from a \$1.8 billion March 2021 buyout by Roche of his previous employer, San Diego-based GenMark Diagnostics, the company's Chief Financial Officer **Johnny Ek** signed on in with Specific Diagnostics of Mountain View in the same role. "Johnny brings the perfect set of skills and experience to Specific at this dynamic time in our commercial growth," proclaimed Dr. **Paul A. Rhodes**, Specific's Chief Executive Officer, in an August 2021 news release. "Beyond his

deep finance and accounting expertise, Johnny brings considerable credibility and relationships in the public investor community, as well as hands-on commercial operations experience directly within our product space." A month later, in an October 2, 2021, release, Rhodes announced that former GenMark CEO **Scott Mendel** was joining Specific's advisory board. "His 8-year experience helping to navigate

GenMark to a superb outcome in a competitive market speaks for itself. I look forward to working with him closely across a wide range of activities," Rhodes said in an October 5 statement. Then last spring, Specific was sold for about \$426 million to French pharmaceutical giant bioMérieux in a deal said by the financial website *Evaluate.com* to be the fourth largest drug firm buyout so far that year.

But now, according to a December 21 U.S. Justice Department news release, Rhodes, along with Specific, and iSense, another Rhodes-founded firm, are paying more than \$10 million to the federal government in penalties to "resolve allegations of mischarging federal grants." The alleged misdoings, which occurred before the arrival of Ek and Mendel at Specific, included "allegations that from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2019, iSense, owned primarily by Dr. Rhodes, knowingly misallocated to itself costs incurred by Specific, which was partially owned by Dr. Rhodes," says the document. Other charges settled in the case, per the release, related to "National Institutes of Health grants in which iSense submitted the costs for employee work hours from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2019, in amounts that exceeded the applicable salary cap and otherwise overcharged for hours worked by employees. Specific is alleged to have engaged in similar conduct from February 1, 2017, to December 31, 2018. Lastly, the settlement agreement resolves allegations that from February 1, 2018, to July 28, 2020, Specific and Dr. Rhodes knowingly submitted

backdated services agreements with iSense as properly dated." Said U.S. Attorney **Stephanie M. Hinds** in a statement: "This office continues to combat fraud wherever it lurks in Silicon Valley. Federal awards for biotech research are a critical aspect of this country's strategy to promote and support innovation and research. Regrettably, some recipients mislead auditors and divert funds to enrich themselves — misconduct that we will tirelessly pursue."



Scott Mendel made his GenMark, then took on a Specific project.

Ups and downs

County Supervisor and state Senate hopeful **Nathan Fletcher**, widely expected to benefit from a \$1.1 million political fund made up of leftover political contributions to his wife, ex-Assemblywoman **Lorena Gonzalez**, is already transferring previously collected campaign cash. Money from his Nathan Fletcher for Democratic Central Commit-

tee 2024 fund has been shifted to the newly established Nathan Fletcher for State Senate 2024 committee, state disclosure records show. Recent transactions include \$8800 originally given to Fletcher's central committee by home medical insurance provider Unicare Systems, Inc. of Chula Vista on October 20, 2022... Democrat **Toni Atkins**'s Yes on 1 pro-abortion state constitutional amendment campaign committee, which won its November ballot battle, was still collecting cash through December. Disclosure filings show that the Thoroughbred Owners of California, a long-time Atkins giver, contributed \$8100 to the state senator's cause on December 12, with

Blue Shield of California coming up with \$5000 on December 6.

As a shortage of elevator inspections and increasing breakdowns across the state become a growing California contagion, San Diego police are looking after their own by installing a new high-speed set of vertical conveyances in their downtown headquarters. "California has a serious backlog in elevator inspections,"



Toni Atkins: winning is no reason to stop taking donations!

reports the *Palo Alto Weekly* in a December 16 dispatch, which calls out inspector shortages. "Cal/OSHA acknowledges the need for elevator inspectors to ensure this critical work can be accomplished in a timely manner," says an agency statement cited. "Hiring is a top priority for the Division." Meanwhile, back in San Diego, officials aren't waiting for relief from Sacramento. The city has posted a January 5 request for proposals for Police

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LETTERS

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

God: not so great at fixing stuff

Dear Editor,
In his letter to the editor printed in the December 29, 2022 issue of The Reader, Mark A. Peter of Solana Beach claims that “Father Joe’s Village, the Salvation Army Koch [sic] Center, and the San Diego Rescue Mission provide the real solution” to homelessness. His statement that “these great organizations ... have [been] working to solve the crisis for decades” proves that God and his tax-exempt “faith-based” organizations are no more successful than government agencies and NGOs.

Mark Jonas
Oceanside

Pointed paeen for PR pro

Dear Mr. Howard,
On January 2, 2023, Damar Hamlin’s heart stopped beating. It was a rare and devastating moment. Players knelt and prayed. The game was suspended. People openly wept. I wonder if, perhaps, among this outpouring of anguish, you might have been more deeply troubled than most.

You are ultimately responsible for monitoring and shaping public perception of the league, You are its Chief Public Relations Officer. In light of this, Is it possible this horrific moment might have been uniquely troubling to you?

On the one hand, here is a human being, lying on his back in the middle of a football stadium, hovering very close to death. At the same time, another horror immediately confronts you. It is a public relations horror.

You had it under control. You re-designed helmets, put private examination tents on the field, and cre-

ated a “concussion protocol.” You successfully turned the spotlight away from NFL injuries. You stabilized public perception. Millions of fans, once again, entered the undisturbed throes of hero worship and fanatical team loyalty. Life was good.

Then, Damar. You must have entered crisis mode, literally in a heartbeat. This was a great human tragedy. It may also have been the most intense and direct threat you’ve experienced as the head of public relations for the NFL. Here we sat, millions of us, not simply looking at a serious injury, but possibly a death.

How many calls, emails, chat threads, videos, and social media posts would be shaping the national conversation over the next 24 to 48 hours? I recall, the day after the event, multiple television interviews with NFL naysayers revisiting the perils of catastrophic NFL injuries. But then, something happened. And Mr. Howard, I am not exaggerating when I say that what happened was

unlike anything I have ever seen before.

I am not a military expert. The only thing I could compare it to would be a brilliantly choreographed military invasion. Within 24 hours you had started the campaign. It was broad, comprehensive, and so perfectly executed, it could have easily been seen as an organic, public groundswell. Suddenly the number 3 was everywhere. Before the Charger game today Russell Wilson, number three, of the Broncos, and Derwin James, number 3 of the Chargers, met at midfield and knelt in a moment of silence.

Any hostility or resentment toward a “barbaric” game had been completely overwhelmed by the power of love and national unity. This was no longer a story about the victims of NFL violence. It was a story about remembering what “really matters”.

As the hours and days moved on we held our collective breath. Less than a week after the incident, we are elated that this young man appears to be out of danger and is well on his way to recovery. It’s as though, Mr. Howard, that very feeling of unity you so carefully cultivated and nurtured, was the power that restored Damar. “Love For Damar”. In those three words, you defined a

national conversation.

As I said, I have never seen anything like it. Whatever the NFL is paying you, Mr. Howard, I have a feeling it’s not enough. Your unprecedented skills may qualify you for something even more challenging than the NFL. Something, perhaps, like the White House.

Robert Canaan
Pacific Beach

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

Padres vs. II Padre

SD on the QT, December 28, 2022

They did not lose to the dodgers they lost to the Philadelphia Phillies. Looking forward to see Tatis next year.

-Tatis Truther
December 28, 2022

The Swinging Friar responds: Yes, I know the Padres lost to the Phillies this year. The crisis of faith that followed our playoff loss to the Dodgers took place in 2020, as the my homily states.

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

News Under the Radar, December 28, 2022

lots of pump and dump crooks out there. whether this was one of them i don’t know. but, i wouldn’t bet against Matt.

-Potter backer
January 4, 2023

Under the radar

continued from page 3

HQ Elevator Modernization. “This project consists of the full modernization of four passenger elevators within the Police HQ building located in Downtown San Diego,” says the document. Among mandatory requirements is “installation of a new Elevonic control system that is a digital closed-loop microprocessor-based control system. The RSR Plus® software dispatches elevators based upon real-time response to actual demands on the elevator group. The software is designed to maintain optimum elevator system performance

by evaluating and reassigning hall calls quickly in response to changes in elevator demand or performance.” A new Seismic Operation System, along with a “New Emergency Service and Intercom,” are also part of the project, as well as “upgrading the existing machine room(s), associated electrical systems, sprinkler system, and life safety systems to comply with building code sections affected by elevator upgrades.”

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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

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Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Bachelors in Paradise

Pair of male gorillas set up safe space at San Diego Safari Park

"We see this all the time in the wild," says San Diego Zoo gorilla therapist Elaine Silverback. "Monroe and Frank had been living in a troop led by 50-year-old Winston, but when they reached sexual maturity, things started to get tense. Frank was getting into arguments with Winston, and Monroe simply wasn't getting along with the troop's females. It became clear that Frank and Monroe needed to leave home in order to live the life they wanted. It's just a fact of life that some male gorillas simply will not develop the, ah, potential to breed. Their interests just lie elsewhere. One morning about



Monroe, left, is here shown leaving his glamping tent to attend a luxury picnic with fellow bachelor Frank, who has prepared a bouquet of dried wildflowers for the occasion. The sculpture atop the stone pedestal is a P. Rimate original that showed at last year's Art Basel gathering in Miami.

a month ago, I noticed that Frank was using a burlap sack to keep his feet dry as he walked. We took to calling it his Frankie Blankie. Imagine our surprise when he later used a whole bunch more burlap sacks to construct a tasteful glamping tent for Monroe! I guess it's true what they say about bachelors and good taste."

PedWest Promise

Biden Administration unveils new slogan to celebrate reopening of border gate: "You'll be fine, just stay in line!"



"The new process is orderly," reassures the winking Biden hologram above the gate. "It's safe and humane, and it works."

San Ysidro's PedWest border crossing is reopening this week after more than two years of closure in the wake of covid-19, and to celebrate, President Biden outlined a plan by which 30,000 people per month will

be accepted into the United States through it for the next two years. But, he warned, "do not just show up at the border. There is a two-million case immigration court backlog. That's a pretty long line, Jack."

Secretary Sends Flowers

Buttigieg visits site of Great Southwest SNAFU, offers deepest condolences

Southwest Airlines left over a million passengers stranded over the Christmas holiday, thanks to a combination of terrible weather, even more terrible management and systems updates, and a government so hands off it might as well have been on vacation in Portugal. And anyone unlucky enough to find themselves in San Diego Airport's Terminal 2 could not have been blamed for thinking that at least half of those million stranded souls was stuck right here in America's Finest City. Hours stretched into days, with no relief in sight. But then, on December 28, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg appeared on the news to say that Southwest's system had melted down and that "they're going to be responsible to us." And just one week later, he put actions behind his words, paying a visit to that self-same Terminal 2 and laying down a bouquet of flowers on the floor that was for so long the sight of miser-



Secretary of Transportaion Buttigieg: "What these airlines need is some kind of oversight, some sort of regulatory agency to make sure they're doing what they're supposed to do to prevent these kinds of disasters, headed by someone with the backbone to use his or her authority when necessary. But until such an agency and such a person exist, please accept these winter blossoms as a memorial for what you endured this holiday season."

able crowds of homesick travelers. Speaking to reporters at the event, Buttigieg noted that "while these brief blooms cannot fully compensate for the suffering of so many Americans, it's all they're going to get from me. I'm not the President, after all — not yet, anyway — so there really isn't anything more I can do without repercussions. But I should note that I did make Southwest pay for the flowers."

WHO PLAYS WHO

GUY FIERI EDITION



In *Man of Steel*, **Russell Crowe** played Jor-El, a visionary who gifted earth with a salvific visitor.



The owners of Nutmeg Bakery & Cafe are hoping that **Guy Fieri's** visit for *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* proves salvific.



For his role as an addict-doctor on *House*, **Hugh Laurie** would sometimes eat bananas to stimulate beard growth.



Nutmeg co-owner and chef **Drew Hoffs** hopes that his addictive Bananas Foster French Toast stimulates business.



In 2016, **Sarah Silverman** almost died as a result of a closed airway caused by a freak disease.



In 2020, Co-owner **Michka Hoffos'** restaurant almost died as a result of closure caused by a freak pandemic.

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Downtown street-level

Adult Orphans

A Wednesday afternoon, hot. Half the stools at the State Hotel Deli are taken. Talk is quiet, desultory. Mama Sofia perches on her stool near the cash register, her daughter — mending again — in her chair by the window. No one's seen Carlos lately. Chris is at work. Bobby's driving. Johnny, who hasn't yet moved from the State, and Sonia, with her six-pound, three-month-old infant asleep in his portable bassinet beside her, share a table near the crucifix, the portraits of Jesus. — *Judith Moore* **OCT. 13, 1988**

Any Trouble Finding a Place to Park?

At Grape a left turn, heading west to Second. This area often proves fruitful: parallel parking on the left, angled parking to the right. But packed solid today, probably by those pesky people from Sixth Avenue. At Second another left again, heading back toward downtown, though this block seldom delivers; too many apartment buildings on the right, houses on the left, driveways, red curbs, even a bus stop. But up ahead, there on the left — a space! — *Michael Ziskin* **JUN. 28, 1990**

Loiterers in Heaven

"Most of us librarians are very protective of these people. We have a lot of respect for whatever information they want, no matter how weird we might think it is. It satisfies

some need for them. When people come in and start dumping on them, saying, 'Get the homeless people out of here,' we're the first people to go, 'Wait a second! They have every bit as much right to be here as anyone else.'" — *John Brizzolara* **OCT. 31, 1996**

600,000 Square Feet

We head for the opposite side of the building, which affords a view of Balboa Park and Hillcrest. An orange and red Southwest airliner glides past at eye level. "We're probably standing about 485 feet above mean sea level right here," Dietrich says, "because the building itself is 500 feet. There's a code here in town, a restriction that you can't be over 500 feet above mean sea level. That includes our aircraft warning lights. — *Ernie Grimm* **OCT. 2, 1997**



Sonia: "Even guys who usually swear will say when they hear someone cussing, 'Watch your tongue. There's a baby around here.'"

Swing the Boom

"I've been working downtown 12 or 13 years now. I've worked on about six buildings — the Hyatt, Great American." He worked in rigging, binding loads and hooking them onto the crane. "You learn the crane down there — how it moves." From there, he moved into ground-based hydrocranes and then into tower cranes. Now, he served as the connection between the equipment and supplies on the ground and the workmen dotting the top of the

building. — *Matthew Lickona* **JUN. 28, 2001**

Black on the Street

"I'm always in a good mood. Learnin' how to deal with life. I can take a man down, though, if I get angry. A guy came up to me today and asked me for money, and I told him I ain't got any. Then later he saw me eatin' food, and he got angry 'cuz I told him I didn't have no money. He tried to hit me, and I had to take him down." — *Abe Opincar* **NOV. 10, 1988**

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The latest effort to rejuvenate JACUMBA Hot Springs Eternal



ntering Jacumba Hot Springs — a “census designated place” in the high desert just north of the Mexican border some 70 miles east of San Diego proper — is

like stepping into a Steinbeck novel, where the dreams may have gone to dust but something stubborn and vital endures, despite the rust and ruin. Something seductive even, beckoning a certain sort of person — okay, me — to explore its faded glories and even imagine their return. And it does take some imagining: when I amble into town on an overcast Monday, a dead coyote is slumped on the shoulder before the exit ramp. While coasting down old Highway 80, a tumbleweed rolls languidly in front of my



Melissa, Jeff, and their business partners own 80% of the commercial and residential properties in town, including the Downtown shuttered businesses (shown above).

car. A falcon circles above, its wings spread wide as it soars through the chilly mountain air. I slip past homes with boarded-up windows, a dilapidated trailer park, and a group of border patrol agents. Clad in armored vests, they’re

trudging through a field, guided by a dog who is sniffing for — drugs? Illegal border crossers? Who knows?

I pass Jacumba’s downtown strip. The businesses are shuttered, and have been for years. The only “Open” sign is on the

Mountain Sage Market. The town is quiet. Apart from the border patrol, the only person I see on the street is a man on a bicycle, a cigarette clenched between his lips, dragging a wagon hooked onto the frame of his back wheel. A blanket covers its contents. He watches as I park in front of the market. I am early; I need to kill time before I drive down the road, past the library, toward the border fence, and out to the baseball diamond where I will join local volunteers in handing out food through Feeding San Diego. I am happy to give some small thing back to this community in return for what it has given me. This is my third visit in a month, and each one has brought a new discovery. There is magic here; I know there is, because I'm not the only one who has fallen under its spell. Back in early October, I drove out here to meet with the new owners of the Jacumba Hot Springs Hotel. One of them, Melissa Strukel, told me that after taking a day trip out here during peak covid, she fell in love with it. She could not get it out of her mind, so much so



In the late '20s and early '30s, Jacumba was a tourist destination, thanks largely to its famed healing water: Hollywood types drove down to sit in the town's hot springs. The bathhouse offered apartments, pools, and a hydrotherapy clinic.

that today, she and her business partners own 80% of the commercial and residential properties in town.

A new beginning?

In the late '20s and early '30s, Jacumba was a tourist destination, thanks largely to its famed healing water: Hollywood types drove down to sit in the town's hot springs. The bathhouse offered apartments, pools, and a hydrotherapy clinic. Today, residents are among the poorest in San Diego County; the average income is \$17,589. The Wagon Wheel Trailer Park in the middle of town is rumored to have the lowest rent anywhere in San Diego County. There is no mail carrier or

police station. The town's only school was shuttered a few years ago. And 75% of our city's violent sexual predators have been relocated here. But Strukel and fellow dreamer Jeff Osbourne, together with their business partner, Corbin Winters, aren't daunted by all that. They are looking beyond the present and toward a future that looks more like the glorious past. They want to turn Jacumba Hot Springs into a destination, like Palm Springs. As Osbourne puts it when we meet up, "I want this to be place that people discover and never forget for the rest of their lives. It is going to be a place that impacts people. It is going to be somewhere people tell their friends

that it was almost like a mirage that they ran into in the middle of the desert." Like I said, magic.

For her part, Strukel had long dreamt of opening a small hotel, or a retreat center. Then she found Jacumba. (She pronounces it "ha-coom-ba," while I had always thought it was "jacum-ba.") After that, she says, "I knew that I needed to get ahold of the people who I had been dreaming about doing something like this with. I reached out to Jeff and Corbin. Jeff came down from Fresno. It was a lot to take in. We quickly realized that we just had to do it. We all knew we had to move to Jacumba. And this had to become our home." She smiles at Jeff as she says this. So far, their hold-

ings include the Jacumba Hot Springs Spa hotel, the bathhouse, numerous downtown storefronts, Lake Jacumba, some residential property, and acreage on the southern side of town — much of it purchased from Dave Landman, a local eccentric, entrepreneur, and longtime owner and resident of Jacumba's nudist colony. Landman purchased the spa, bathhouse, and other parcels for \$1.5 million in 2012; he had big plans for revitalizing the community. Those plans never reached fruition. "I did not meet Dave when I first came out," recalls Strukel. "I had no knowledge of the owners. I had no knowledge of any of it. I was just drawn to [the property]. When I found out that the

resort had gone up for sale, I traveled back out here. A realtor showed me the hotel, and proceeded to tell me that it wasn't just the hotel that was for sale, it was essentially 80% of the town."

I'm here for a tour of the future, beginning with the spa. You can tell it was once a sight to behold, but now, the roof is long gone, the interior is covered with graffiti, and weeds sprout triumphantly through cracks in the concrete. But Strukel is giddy. "We love this building so much. It is one of our favorite properties we own. These iron gates" — she points up at the hardware on the windows — "are not original. We had them made in Marrakesh. We want it to look like they were always there. We see this as [becoming] the plaza of town, where we can have music, art shows, and weddings." Past the spa is Jacumba Lake. In 2020, it was nearly dry and choked with trash. But the dreamers have done more than dream: as I step onto the white quartz sand of the lakeshore, I am awed into silence by the beauty of the spot. Palm trees line the shore. Kayaks bob in the sparkling water. A rope

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Concrete mineral bath at the The Institute of Perception.

swing dangles from a tree branch. It looks like the future is coming soon.

Art and commerce

On a warm Saturday morning, I drive east to explore present-day Jacumba with my friends Kelly and Cori. Our first stop is The Institute of Perception, off Railroad Street. (The property is visible from the lake, and when we met, Osbourne told me that the couple who live here refer to themselves as the town's warlocks. More magic?) Art installations sprinkle the property. A bright white pyramid stands out against the desert backdrop. Owners Kirk and Noor are in Mexico, but they've agreed to give me a Face Time tour of their property. When I call, I smile at Noor's wild electric-blue hair and Kirk's Rip Van Winkle beard. Noor explains that they bought the land — which included an abandoned railroad warehouse — in the late '90s, as a haven for the arts. They encourage people to use

the property for vision walks, and invite both hikers and artists to use the space for meditation. The rehabilitated warehouse serves as artist's space and Airbnb. "We thought it was important to preserve this land and keep it a wild space out in East County," says Kirk. "This land has been used by Shamans and tribes."

The Institute of Perception butts up against Jacumba's old Train Depot. Abandoned trains litter the landscape. Kirk explains that the colorful graffitied one sitting on their property was the inspiration and cover art for a recent Stephen King novel.

"Did you get to meet him?" I ask.

Kurt shrugs.

As I explore, I spot a group of old tires lined up in a row, creating an optical river. Further on, rocks form a labyrinth. There are murals, sculptures, and concrete mineral baths set up in a compass formation. Kirk encourages me to step inside their echo chamber made from a discarded old water heater. The more I

wander, the more I discover. I am continuously shouting to Cori and Kelly, "Come check this out!" but they are not under the spell. Noor and Kirk, on the other hand, are getting a kick out of my enthusiasm. "I wish we were there to let you into the warehouse and Pyramid," Noor says. When I finally hang up with the Warlocks, I turn to Cori and ask, "Isn't this place the coolest?" She wrinkles her nose in response.

We move on to the monthly Jacumba Bazaar at the old bathhouse. It's one of Jeff and Melissa's community events. Artists display original work and vendors sell vintage clothing and knick-knacks. A leather-faced woman wearing a turquoise choker tempts me with a vintage Ralph Lauren vest, but it costs \$50. A bearded old man in dirty jeans uncovers a small blue marble in the dust near my feet. He wipes it off with his t-shirt and hands it to me.

"For good luck," he says with a wink.

I ask if he lives in town. He nods, "Just down the road. I am an artist." He pulls out his cell phone and shows me photographs of his paintings.

"They are beautiful," I say, earnestly. "Do you sell them?"

Deep smile lines form around his mouth. "I haven't sold one in a long time, but I plan on doing a show next year when they open the spa," he says optimistically.

By now, I am starting to get hungry, and there are a handful of other spots I want to visit before the sun sets. We head next door to the Mountain Sage Market for a couple of waters. Two old guys in faded jeans and flannels loiter near the entrance. A group of teenagers head for the chip aisle. They are barefoot. I think

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of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer and smile.

Kip the cashier rings us up. I ask how long he has lived in Jacumba.

"I have been here about 3½ years. I worked in the post office for about two years before this. [My wife and I] lived in San Diego for 30 years, but our business went bad. We had to move to Imperial Valley. Then, we wound up out here to escape El Centro."

"Did anything surprise you about the community out here?"

Kip nods, "You know, Jacumba has a reputation for having a lot of eccentric people and a reputation for..."

Before he can finish his sentence, one of the old guys at the door shouts: "A reputation for pedophiles!"

Kip laughs sheepishly and explains, "Jacumba is a dumping ground for all the sexual predators in San Diego. They are trying to stick another one out here. I knew them all from my time at the Post Office. But they don't come in here. They need to travel with their handlers. They can't come in by themselves, because they are pedophiles."

I comment on how unfortunate that must be for the locals in town.



Fernando at DeAnza Springs Resort: "We do have swingers that visit. We have some here this weekend. They are nice and they promote the place. They bring a lot of people in. But they know we have boundaries here."

Kip shrugs. "Well, that is just how it is. Where else are they gonna put 'em? You get a cross section of a lot of mentally ill people out here."

I thank Kip, and as we head out the door. I ask one of the old guys if there is anywhere to eat in town.

"The only restaurant is at the nudist resort across town," one says with a cackle.

While I put DeAnza Springs Resort's address into my GPS, Cori asks, "They have to wear clothes to make the food, right?"

I shrug.

Naked lunch

The road to the resort is rough; it's not a place you're likely to visit by accident. In 2020, a group of new investors bought the resort from Dave Landman around the same time Strukel, Osbourne, and Winters purchased their own real estate holdings from him. According to folks in town, the new owners are young and hip. They host events in an effort to lure people in: a nude 5K, Nudestock (like Woodstock, only naked), and wellness retreats. As a result, the average age of the res-

idents has dropped a bit. But the place itself shows its age: it looks like a KOA campground. We spot a community building with a pool out back and figure the restaurant must be inside.

When we enter, we find that the bartender is shirtless, but to Cori's relief, he is wearing pants. A sign on the wall advertises an \$8 lunch special: chips, a draft beer, and a wiener. The bartender's name is Joshua Dorval. "One of the owners, Fernando, called me up and asked if I wanted a bartending gig in Jacumba," he says. "He gave me the address, no information. I showed up out here, rolled through the gates, and I saw an older gentleman walking around nude. I actually

pulled over to look up the non-emergency sheriff's line because I was worried about him. Thankfully, I did not have cell service. So, I headed towards the office. I saw another nude person, and another, and another. I was just like, "Oh, my God, what is happening?" But I have been here about a year now, and I love it."

I have taken to imitating Strukel's use of "ha-coom-ba," but Dorval laughs at my pronunciation. "That is not how you say it. Those people, the owners of the Hot Springs, all say it that way, but I am 99% sure that the way I have said it, growing up out here my whole life, is the right way. They just want it to sound fancy."

Cori interrupts our conversation to ask a more pressing question: "Do you ever get used to the nudity?"

He laughs, and admits that it takes a minute. He advises us to maintain eye contact and not look below the neck. The advice proves difficult. There are naked people everywhere. I try to keep my eyes on my plate, but the old guy bending over one of the pool tables wearing only a cowboy hat and boots is distracting. He peacocks around the table on full display. An old guy wearing a towel demands that we join his pool tournament, and Kelly and I

agree. There is a lot of bending and squatting, so I am thankful for the towel.

Co-owner Fernando comes out from his office to greet us. He is fully clothed. Cori wants to know about the hygiene in the bar: "Are we sitting on chairs that bare butts have sat on?"

Fernando shakes his head. "You won't find anyone sitting on a chair unless they have a towel. On your first visit here, we will tell you a few rules: 1. Be kind. 2. No getting drunk and stupid. 3. No sexual types of things. 4. We let you know to sit on a towel. If for some reason you forget, you will be reminded by a resident." Sexual types of things? "We aren't a sex club. We do not advertise as such. Nudity does not mean sex. We don't allow touching or fondling in here. We do have swingers that visit. We have some here this weekend. They are nice and they promote the place. They bring a lot of people in. But they know we have boundaries here."

Before we leave, Fernando offers to loan us his golf cart to cruise around the property. Judith in the front office gives us the keys and points out various spots we might visit. She indicates a red highlighted section on the map. "This isn't really part of the nudist colony. It is called Nomadic. The owner — we

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Sam Schultz on desert tower property: "I spend every Monday morning feeding people in this town. We feed up to 150 people and there are only about 500 residents that live here. If you want to see the real Jacumba, show up for that."

call him Kecho — is a big shroom grower. He does wellness retreats there. He is a partner, but he is not really a part of DeAnza Springs — not the nudist part anyway. You'll probably see him and his group out there. They do frog shots. I don't even know what that means! Some sort of spiritual cleanse."

When we see Kecho and his frog licking crew, we think they look like movie stars. Their hair spirals sensuously in the mountain air as if invisible fans are tousling it. "Of course, *they* aren't naked!" Cori says.

If it weren't for all the naked people, I wouldn't mind living there. According to Fernando, campsites are only \$10 a night and to live there full-time in an RV costs just \$545 a month.

A lookout on the future
Our next stop is the Desert View Tower, a kitschy old-timey tourist destination on the far edge of

town, facing the southern portion of Anza Borrego State Park. It offers caves for guests to wander through, a campsite, an Airbnb cabin, and the titular tower, which in turn offers a 360-degree view of the In-Ko-Pah mountains. Before we pull into the parking lot, we pass a junkyard of sorts: the sign reads "Coyote's Flying Saucer Retrievals and Repair" It looks intriguing, and I have read about it in *Atlas Obscura*. But Cori shakes her head. "We are not going there. Nothing to see. It is not an art installation piece. Its literally trash."

When we pull up to the tower, the sun is low enough in the sky that the boulder-covered mountains shimmer. It looks unreal. For a cool \$2.25 million, the place could be mine. It has been on the market for five years; so far, no takers. Talking to the owners, brothers Ben and Sam Schultz, I learn that they hope the new re-

sort in town might bring a bidder. Ben Schultz bought the tower for \$350,000 in the early 2000s. "My dad would take us out here when I was a kid. I just loved the whole thing. In my kid imagination, it was a mysterious place. It had been up for sale for ten years when I bought it. It was falling apart. All the cool places like this that I grow up with in San Diego have been destroyed, and then an Arco goes up in its place. This is one of the few spots like this left-over from my childhood. I think whoever I sell it to will want to use it in some way. I thought about making a stipulation in the sale that whoever buys it needs to open it up one day a month free for whoever wants to go into the caves, but stipulations are hard to enforce."

Sam adds, "We have a high price tag on it. We are selling it as a business, not residential. It's highly unlikely that your normal businessperson would want to buy this. Then again, maybe there is someone crazy enough out there. I mean, my brother bought it. I am not saying it's not going to happen, but it's not a hot item. I fully foresee living here until I die," he concludes, his voice heavy with resignation.

It's possible that the new projects in Jacumba could help attract a buyer. But even if the Desert Tower doesn't become an Arco, things won't stay the same. Explains Ben, "The way I look at it is, towns out here have two choices: they can either be a Walmart/Dollar Store town, or a gentrified community. There is no room for anything but that. If you really have to choose, you probably want to be on the gentrified end. It's sad, but Jacumba will be gentrified. Jeff Osbourne is spending so much money.



Kirk explains that the colorful graffitied train car sitting on their property was the inspiration and cover art for a recent Stephen King novel.

He owns half the houses in town. He is going to raise the rent. I mean, that is coming! I am not criticizing him, it's just the truth." Hearing Osbourne's name inspires me to ask about "ja-cum-ba" vs. "ha-coom-ba." Ben laughs. "That's what Melissa calls it. She has lived here all of ten

seconds. That is not how you say it. That is not going to stick."

Back to the subject at hand: "[Jacumba] Lake is wonderful now. It was nasty before. When they came in, we didn't know who the fuck they were. We were worried. But that lake — no corporate

group would've done what they did with it. A lawyer would've called it a liability. All the work they did on that was for the people in town. They are sweet people. But they are also taking over. Not everyone likes that, but there is nothing they have done that has not been good



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for everybody in town. However, it is going to be gentrifying and it is going to push some people out.”

Sam nods his head vigorously, adding, “What Jeff and [his partners] are trying to do is actually really great. The thing is, where is that going to leave all the people that live in Jacumba now who can’t afford to live anywhere else? There isn’t anywhere for them to go. Jacumba is an urban sacrifice zone. The city spends as little on services here as they can. This is where the riffraff goes. Why do you think they have so many sexually violent predators out here? Jacumba has been this way for a long time. I spend every Monday morning feeding people in this town. We feed up to 150 people and there are only about 500 residents that live here. If you want to see the real Jacumba, show up for that.”

The real Jacumba

So here I am, three weeks later, meeting Sam Schultz behind the Jacumba library. A dozen or so volunteers — retired guys, a few gals, and a couple of young men — sit at picnic tables, waiting for the Feeding San Diego Truck

to appear. Behind us, the border wall looms. To our right sits Snob Hill — formerly Knob Hill, but renamed by locals due to the many large houses that look down on the valley below. The truck pulls up; the driver unloads pallets of oranges, squash, onions, peppers, green bananas, and over-ripe kiwis before driving off. The men shake their heads. Old-timer Scotty Lopshire explains, “This is the first time they have done a dump and run on us. Usually, they bring tables, and everything is pre-bagged, and they stick around to take the pallets back.” An older gentleman picks up a squash and says, “Looks like this stuff didn’t fit in their dumpsters, so they brought it out here for us! Rotten onions and peppers!” The volunteers are disappointed, but shruggingly so. They seem well versed in life’s disappointments. Many of the bags of onions have mold on them.

“If you would not buy it from a grocery store, don’t hand it out,” instructs Scotty. “Toss it to the side.” The reject pile grows steadily. At 9 am, people in cars start pulling up to col-



Old Jacumba hotel sign

lect their food. Over 100 cars come through before we finish.

I loo up at Snob Hill. “Who lives up there?”

“Jeff Osbourne bought that one,” says Scotty. “He is turning it into an Airbnb, or something. Basically, any property that comes on the market, they buy it.”

An older guy with a ponytail says, “They are doing a really good job [at the spa]. But that is not ever going to be a place for locals to hang out at. They spent too much money on it. It will be too expensive. But, I heard that they are talking about turning Jays [an out of business restaurant in town] into a local

hangout. That would be cool!”

Pipes in Sam, “They have been really great about hiring locals to work there.”

I ask the group if they think their home values with rise once the spa opens. They look at each other and shrug. Scotty says, “I moved here in 2007 because of the bad economy in town. I lived in Lakeside at that time. I came out here, and I have been here ever since. I ended up buying the house that I was in and the lot next door for \$40,000. That’s not even a down payment in town. And I’ve got room! But I can’t move back to town. Even with the housing properties the highest they have ever been here. I got an offer on my property for \$330,000. Even if I tried to move out of state, I can’t get much with that. So, I am just going to have to stay here, I guess.”

Scotty’s biggest silver lining in moving to Jacumba was meeting his wife, Sammie. “Sammie has been here forever!” he says, pointing to his wife as she places a box in the back of a truck. “She has been here longer than anyone else that is still coherent!” It was 1968 when Sammie Lopshire stepped



Palm trees planted at Lake by Melissa, Jeff, and Corbin

off a Greyhound bus from Texas, children in tow, and into Jacumba. The ground was covered in a soft blanket of snow. She was reuniting with her then husband, who worked for the railroad. They were given an old trolley car to call home. They lived in it for a couple of years, squirreling away money to buy a home of their own. Then the railroad failed and the workers disappeared, but Sammie remained. In her 54 years in Jacumba, she has seen various investors attempt to recapture the place’s glory days. Asked how she feels about the hotel and other properties being renovated by new investors, she says, “Everything here pretty much stays the same.”

Sky’s the limit

It’s a frosty 50 degrees in Jacumba Hot Springs. I’ve driven down for the candlelight concert at the old bathhouse featuring musician Deacon Dimes. In front of Mountain Sage Market, a group of locals smoke cigarettes. They watch as visitors arrive from out of town for tonight’s concert; it’s as if they’re observing a movie. Two women, one in a floor-length white fur coat and the other in a vintage ‘70s leather jack-

et, pose for a photo outside a renovated bungalow across the street.

Construction is progressing at the spa. The renovations offer an eclectic mash-up of decades past: the 1970s meets decadent Morocco. The bar is dark and dreamy, painted in heavy romantic tones; its walls are adorned with vintage nudes. Even halfway done, everything looks luxurious. I trudge past the bungalow, behind the bathhouse, and out toward Jacumba Lake. Passing one of the natural hot springs, I remove a shoe and dip a toe in the water. A dozen frogs make room, some leaping into the tall grass. A middle-aged woman is immersed in the spring. She smiles at me, her teeth bright white. Steam rises off her body. “It’s wonderful in here,” she says, and I wish I had brought my suit.

The bathhouse is drenched in candlelight. Wooden chairs with woven seats face a makeshift stage. A southwestern tapestry hangs on the wall, surrounded by the old graffiti. I watch as guests file in. A group of locals sit one row in front of me. I ask one of them about the crowd: how many are from here in town. He scans the room. “About 50% or so. I like going to these shows. It’s fun to watch the artists because they will look up at the stars and just get lost,” he says dreamily. I look up; hundreds of stars sprinkle the sky. It gives me goosebumps. I have been to concerts in eclectic spots before, but nothing quite like this roofless, romantic, dilapidated old bathhouse. Sitting amid this mix of rugged locals and eccentric city folk, I am brought back under the same spell that has enchanted Strudel and Osbourne. I can’t help but root for them.

— Siobhan Braun

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Your Week

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Friday | 13



IDLEHANDS

IDLEHANDS AND GHOST PARADE

Idlehands has reunited to play music again for the first time in around five years. The band is celebrating the ten-year anniversary of their breakthrough EP *Common Soul*, which was recently released in its first vinyl incarnation. Co-headliner Ghost Parade is a side project of Idlehands singer Johnny O'Hagen.

WHEN: Friday, January 13, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights.
sodabarmusic.com

COMIC SAVVY: NEW YEAR'S EDITION

Little Fish Comic Book Studio was founded in 2012 by Alonso Nunez

with Patrick Yurick and is dedicated to developing the skills of students interested in the comic art form through classes and camps. Enjoy comics, conversation, and donuts. Peruse the stacks of comics and graphic novels. Free comics and graphic novels are available for attendees to go through and take home.

WHEN: Friday, January 13, 7 pm to 10 pm

WHERE: Little Fish Comic Book Studio, 6822-B El Cajon Boulevard, Rolando. lilfish.us

Saturday | 14

WINTER FESTIVAL IN POWAY

Build a snowman, sled down the snow hill, roast marshmallows by the campfire, use the photo booth, or skate around the synthetic ice skating rink. Food vendors will be on-site. Free shuttles to and from the event will be available from Poway City Hall

parking lot and the Boys and Girls Club parking lot.

WHEN: Friday, January 13, 5 pm to 9 pm and Saturday, January 14, 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: Poway Community Park and Auditorium, 13094 Civic Center Drive, Poway.
poway.org



SATURDAY, JANUARY 14: WINTER FESTIVAL IN POWAY

ODDITIES & CURIOSITIES EXPO

Browse and shop for rare and unusual items from local and national vendors: taxidermy, preserved animal specimens,



original horror and Halloween-inspired artwork, antiques, handcrafted oddities, skulls, bones, and funeral collectibles. Photo ops, tarot reading, sideshow performers, and concessions. Plus: the Oddities Museum presents *The Cryptic Collection of a Mad Clown*. Encounter beasts, a real mermaid, a six-foot man-eating chicken, and genetically engineered monsters.

WHEN: Saturday, January 14, 10 am to 6 pm

WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260

Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar.
showpass.com

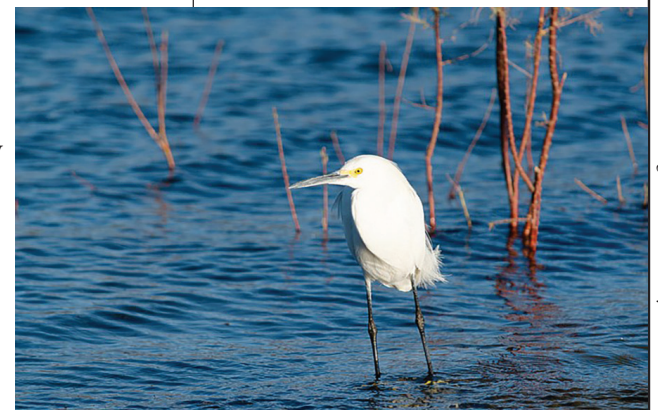
Sunday | 15

MIGRATORY SHORE BIRD HIKE

Join a free ecologist-led nature hike along the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Learn about the bird life and restored wetlands on the approximately 2620 acres of land and water in and around San Diego Bay. Using the eBird app, record the birds you see and learn how our observations can contribute to community science. Bring binoculars if you have them.

WHEN: Sunday, January 15, 9 am to 11 am

WHERE: San Diego Bay Refuge.
535 Florence Street, Imperial Beach.
earthdiscovery.org



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

ART

Discovery Art Reception The Escondido Art Association will host a reception for its first show of the year, Discovery. There will be a chance to meet and talk with the exhibiting artists. Refreshments will be served Saturday, January 14, 4pm; **free**. 18 and up. Artists Gallery, 121 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Drawing Skills 101 Learn how to draw shapes and objects and ways to create interesting compositions using a variety of easy-to-do mark-making methods. Pencil, charcoal, and ink will be used. Four 2.5 hour sessions, 18 years old & up. Tuesday, January 17, 6pm; \$165. 18 and up. And Something Different Studio Gallery, 2690 Historic Decatur Rd., #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Photographer Dan Winters: Time & Space Photographer Dan Winters has photographed President Obama, Sandra Bullock, Tom Hanks, Bono, and more. Winters will share photographs and stories from years spent behind a camera capturing influential people. Thursday, January 12, 6pm; \$15-\$25. San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza. (BALBOA PARK)

Wood: A Furniture Show WOOD, A Furniture Show, hosted by Brian Murphy of Murphy's Fine Woodworking, will feature a gathering of furniture makers in Southern California showing their work. Handcrafted furniture will be exhibited in a variety of wood mediums and techniques, including innovative contemporary, traditional and whimsical art furniture, as well as detailed veneering and marquetry works. Saturdays, 11am; through Friday, February 24, **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

OUTDOORS

Green and Gold Replaces Yellow and Brown, Fabled Green Flash

Green and Gold Will Be the Colors of the coastal region's natural landscape in early 2023. The recent rain will trigger the growth of annual grasses and weeds, with greens replacing yellows and browns. At the same time, some autumnal colors remain in the riparian areas, particularly among willows, cottonwoods, and a minority of sycamores.

The Fabled "Green Flash" at sunset or sunrise can sometimes be seen on crystal-clear days in January. At the instant the sun's upper rim is last visible at sunset (and also at the instant when it is first seen at sunrise), a flash of emerald-green color may be observed,



THE "GREEN FLASH" SEEN JUST UNDER THE OCEAN BEACH PIER



RAIN TRIGGERS ANNUAL GRASSES AND WEEDS

especially on a flat horizon. Physicists say this peculiar phenomenon is due to color-dispersion (as in a prism): the scattering of sunlight through the earth's atmosphere. Binoculars (or a small telescope) are helpful in spotting it. For green-flash hunting at sunset, any site with a view of the ocean horizon suffices. For the sunrise green flash, try any spot overlooking the low desert (Sunrise Highway in the Laguna Mountains, for example).

Ceanothus, or Wild Lilac, normally a late-winter or early-spring blooming native plant, can sometimes be triggered by rain and sunny winter days to bloom early around coastal and inland San Diego County. Blue- and white-flowering varieties of ceanothus are common wherever native sage-scrub and chaparral vegetation grows, from the bluffs of Torrey Pines to the edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert. Black Mountain Open Space Park is a great place to see California lilacs sprout in spring.

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.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Matt Witten: Killer Story Warwick's will host Matt Witten as he discusses and signs his new book, *Killer Story*, in conversation with Matt Coyle. 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/witten-2023-reserved-seat. Wednesday, January 18, 7:30pm; **free**-\$27. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Meet the Authors: Shaking the Tree Warwick's will host Chili Cilch, Lauren Cross, Jen Laffler, Kathleen McCabe, Lindsey Salata and Kenny Sucher as they read selections from the new collection, *Shaking the Tree - brazen. short. memoir (Vol. 4)*. To ensure admittance, reserve seating for everyone in your party by pre-ordering one book per seat @ warwicks.com/shaking-the-tree-2023-reserved-seat. Thursday, January 12, 7:30pm; **free**-\$14. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Weekends with Locals: Marlene Wagman-Geller Weekends with Locals will be hosting Marlene Wagman-Geller, author of *Secret*

Lives of Royal Women: Fascinating Biographies of Queens, Princesses, Duchesses, and Other Regal Women. Sunday, January 15, 12pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Adult Ceramic Adult Valentine's Day Craft for Ceramic Registration required Saturday, January 14, 2pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Backyard Composting & Bokashi Basics Join Solana Center for this free 1-hour presentation where you will get an introduction to bokashi, a fermentation method that will enable you to compost all your food waste, including meat, dairy, and liquids. Thursday, January 12, 6pm; **free**. Crown Hills Clubhouse, 1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine 91901

Macrame Air Plant Wall Hanging Craft Workshop This workshop includes step-by-step instructions along with all of the supplies. Tickets include a flight of wine and \$10 off a bottle of your choice. Wednesday, January 18, 6pm; \$55. La Mesa Wine Works, 8167 Center Street. (LA MESA)

Macrame Floating Shelf Craft Workshop Learn how to make your very own Macrame Floating

Shelf. Admission includes step-by-step instructions and supplies. Thursday, January 12, 6:30pm; \$45. Original 40 Brewing Company, 3117 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

COMEDY

Carrot Top Thursday, January 12, 8pm; \$59-\$69. 21 and up. Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre, 5469 Casino Way. (EL CAJON)

Comedy Friday, January 13, 7:30pm; **free**-\$10. 18 and up. Five Suits Brewing, 2575 Pioneer Avenue STE 104. (VISTA)

Free Comedy Night Mark Christopher Lawrence Headlining! Featuring Christian Ricketts Veronica Gordon Andrew Parker Davi Al Gavi & Alex Petit. Friday, January 13, 6:30pm; Duck Foot Brewing Company, 8920 Kenamar Drive. (MIRAMAR)

Gene Pompa Friday, January 13, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, January 14, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$17. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Nate Jackson Nate Jackson has appeared on HBO's *All Def Comedy*. Friday, January 13, 7pm; Saturday, January 14, 7pm; Sunday, January 15, 7pm; \$20. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Open Mic Night Featuring 5-8 minute sets from local comedians,

poets, and other talents trying new material, followed by karaoke. Thursday, January 12, 8pm; **free**. 21 and up. Shooters Cocktails, 10761 Jamacha Boulevard. (SPRING VALLEY)

Open Mic Night Featuring 4-8 minute sets from local comedians, poets and other talents trying new material. Wednesday, January 18, 9pm; **free**. 21 and up. Landing, 1185 E. Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Patrick Warburton: Letters From A Nut Sunday, January 15, 8pm; \$30. 21 and up. Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

Rosebud Baker As seen on Amazon Video docu-series, "Inside Jokes", Comedy Central's "This Week At The Cellar" and "Stupid Questions w/Chris Distefano." Thursday, January 12, 8pm; Friday, January 13, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, January 14, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$15. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

The Fusion Floor: Opening Night The Fusion Floor is a 2 hour open floor for dancers of all backgrounds to come and practice their craft. Sunday, January 15, 5:30pm; \$5. 18 and up. Dancehouse Point Loma, 2180 Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

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SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

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Contact: 3502 Adams Ave, San Diego 619-230-5832

www.meditateinsandiego.org

Membership: 70

Resident Teacher (Gen): Kelsang Lhadron

Age: 49

Born: Chattanooga, TN

Formation: Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Kadampa Meditation Center, Glen Spey, NY; Manjushri Center, Ulverston, England

Years Ordained: 16

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend preparing your Sunday-morning teachings?

Gen Kelsang Lhadron: We have a Sunday morning class with a 20-minute guided meditation and we give a 45-minute teaching on some aspect

of Buddhist philosophy that I hope people find practical for their daily lives, such as teachings on patient acceptance, karma, overcoming anger, how to develop a more pure love, and the difference between love and attachment. These are some of the basic ideas of Buddhism. We have a different meditation each week. I usually take two or three hours in the morning of the meditation to prepare, with some time the night before to familiarize myself with the topic I'm going to teach on.

SDR: What is your favorite topic to teach?

GL: The difference between real love and attachment. Buddhism has some real insights to offer on this topic which people

might not be able to get somewhere else. It's so important because we mix up love and attachments. All the problems and pain in our relationships come from attachment and not love. We need to be able to discriminate between these two to have better relationships—not only romantic relationships but also familial relationships and friendships. One easy way to discriminate between the two is to see that love says, "I want you to be happy." Attachment says, "I want you to make me happy." So how much do we want of each in our relationship? If you want 50-50, you're going to have 50% good times and 50% pain. The more we can increase our pure love and the more we can decrease

our attachment, the happier we'll be in our relationships; they'll be more long-lasting and fulfilling.

SDR: What is the mission of your community?

GL: To help people find their inner peace, cultivate their good qualities, and develop wisdom and compassion. People who come to the center like the teachings because they're practical and they can try them out... I find it so fulfilling when people tell me that a particular teaching works in their lives. People appreciate hearing something that's practical and makes sense to them.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

GL: Buddhism is very specific about this. When we



Kelsang Lhadron

die, we enter a dream-like state called the bardo—which means "intermediate state" in Tibetan—where we can be up to 49 days. Then we take rebirth into another body. The mind leaves the body like a bird leaves the nest. The body dies, but the mind never dies—it's eternal. It's a similar process to sleeping, dreaming and waking. But in Buddhism,

it's more than an analogy... The difference is that at death, the karmic link between body and mind is broken... Some believe that we're blown by the winds of karma into our next rebirth, and don't have control over that process unless we've deeply trained in meditation and we are able to bring our awareness into the subtle levels of our minds. But an ordinary person does not have control over that process. This process is never ending on its own, but we can achieve nirvana when we gain enough control of our minds to realize the ultimate nature of reality, which is emptiness, and we can transcend this uncontrolled cycle.

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

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Highlights: World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies The Hemlock Society of San Diego invites you on Zoom for a presentation recapping the 2022 annual conference of the World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies. Sunday, January 15, 1:30pm; **free.** hemlock-societysandiego.org. (ONLINE)

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

Veterans Resource Fair VA Benefits Presentation: The County of San Diego Office of Military and Veterans Affairs will be on-site to provide the following services: Benefits Counseling & Disability Claims Development, Veteran Driver's License & CalVet College Fee Waiver Application Support, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs enrollment assistance and housing. Thursday, January 12, 10am; **free.** Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

FOR KIDS

Dance Pants Party Recommended for toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary-school age kids, this simple dance program will feature "The Wheels on the Bus," "Baby Shark," and more. This program will be held outdoors. Audience: Recommended for ages 1+. Wednesdays, 10:30am; through Wednesday, January 25, **free.** Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

LECTURES

Victorian Fashion Still Inspires

Marty Ornish, textile artist, will present a short history of Victorian fashion and show her artwork influenced by Victorian, Edwardian and other fashion eras. A discussion of some of the dangers of Victorian Fashion, and how clothing styles were updated, will be included. Wednesday, January 18, 7pm; **free**-\$5. Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

NATURE

Guided Nature Walk Join an MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk. Walk includes a visit to the lush riparian habitat of the Kumeyaay Lake shoreline and if time allows, we'll explore the Grasslands Trail which leads to a Kumeyaay grinding rocks site and the picturesque Old Mission Dam overlook. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 14, 8:30am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany Hike with a Ranger During this Ranger-lead trek of moderate difficulty, patrons will learn about the various uses of local plants. Whether harvested for food or medicine, our vegetation has long been cherished by indigenous peoples. Note that this hike is 2 1/2 miles long on dirt surfaces with some hills and steps. Bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome. Meet near the comfort station at the north end of the parking lot. Saturday, January 14, 1pm; **free.**

Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive. (OAK PARK)

Migratory Shore Bird Hike Free Ecologist led nature hike along the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and learn about the rich birdlife and restored wetlands. Using the app, eBird, record the birds we see and learn how our observations can contribute to community science. Sunday, January 15, 9am; **free.** San Diego Bay Refuge, 535 Florence Street. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade The 41st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade is filled with dazzling floats, phenomenal Bands, Drill Teams, Colleges/Universities, Fraternities, Sororities, Churches, Civic and Youth organizations. Sunday, January 15, 2pm; **free.** Embarcadero, Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

MLK Day: Terence Blanchard Terence Blanchard to Speak and Perform at UC San Diego Spaces for MLK Day Monday, January 16, 6pm; **free.** UC San Diego Park & Market, 1100 Market Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

SPORTS & FITNESS

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

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)

San Diego 50 Mile & Trail Marathons The San Diego 50 Mile and Trail Marathons is our annual trail running experience that features trails of the San Dieguito River Park Trails. The course is a mix of double track, single track

surrounding Lake Hodges. We offer something for the whole family to enjoy. Choose from the San Diego 50M, Trail Half Marathon, Trail Heavy Half Marathon, and Trail Kid's 1M Fun Run. Saturday, January 14, 6am; \$70-\$135. Lake Hodges, Lake Drive at Via Rancho Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

THE ODDITIES & CURIOSITIES EXPO

SATURDAY - JANUARY 14TH, 2023

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS - O'BRIEN HALL
2260 JIMMY DURANTE BLVD. DEL MAR, CA 92014

ODDITIESANDCURIOSITIESEXPO.COM

ON STAGE IN SAN DIEGO

THEATER LISTINGS

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

Edgar Allan Poe's Gruesome Gallery of Grotesquerie

Dare we call it a Poemnet? No, we do not. But between this and *The Pale Blue Eye* on Netflix, the spooky scribbler seems to be having a moment. Through tales of murderous madmen or supernatural mystery, Poe's enigmatic musings endure because they allow us to confront some of our greatest fears and delight in the darkness while reflecting on our own life. Co-developed in collaboration with Junior Theatre students and performers, this wholly original production will fuse storytelling, poetry, music, movement and puppetry to explore the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This celebration of all things macabre is a JT World Premiere. Recommended for ages 10 years and up.

CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1600 VILLAGE PL., BALBOA PARK. 7PM FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JAN. 15.

Frozen - The Musical

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

winner Robert Lopez. Oscar winner Jennifer Lee (book), Tony and Olivier Award winner Michael Grandage (director), and Tony winner Rob Ashford (choreographer) round out the creative team that has won a cumulative 16 Tony Awards.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7PM WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18.

Joyce DiDonato

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

CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 7600 FAY AVE., LA JOLLA. 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Alice in Wonderland

The City of Temecula offers the fifth session of Temecula Presents' Student-Led Arts Education Internship Program allowing students to gain experience in the theater industry. This free program provides local youth access to three months of mentorship from professional artists and expert advisors and encourages dynamic, innovative community building, and learning through youth-focused arts and cultural projects. Enjoy *Alice in Wonderland* with book, music, and lyrics by Janet Yates and Mark Friedman based on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. This brand new musical version of the timeless classic takes you down the rabbit hole with the ever-curious Alice to a land of zany adventures where nothing is as it seems.

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

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

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

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

The Ferryman

The Tony Award winning Best Play *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth will be the first production in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center starting January 27. The show takes place in Armagh, 1981 during the heart of The Troubles. The Carney farmhouse in Northern Ireland



Frozen: Cool story, bro.

is a hive of activity with preparations for the annual harvest. A day of hard work on the land and a traditional night of feasting and celebrations lie ahead. But this year they will be interrupted by a visitor.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. JAN. 27 THROUGH MAR. 5.

Godspell 2022

Godspell was the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side." This musical is a retelling of the Gospel of Matthew set in modern-day times with the disciples of Jesus spreading his message of love.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. APR. 14 THROUGH APR. 16.

Into The Woods

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

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

Lucky Stiff

Lucky Stiff, a Musical by Ahrens and Flaherty. Directed by Kathy Brombacher. Harry receives the unexpected news that he has inherited a fortune from his late Uncle Anthony, on the condition that he takes Anthony's dead body on a special trip to Monte Carlo. If Harry fails, the money will go to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn. However, also hot on the tail of Uncle Anthony's money is Rita, Anthony's

lover with whom he embezzled \$6 million behind her husband's back. And hot on Rita's trail is her brother Vinnie, who has been blamed for the crime! With mistaken identities, love interests, disguises, farcical chases, and an omnipresent corpse, *Lucky Stiff* is an offbeat musical murder mystery. This life-affirming musical will keep you entertained and enthralled as the story of a dead man's holiday is played out in front of your eyes. A co-production with Oceanside Theatre Company. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. JAN. 27 THROUGH FEB. 19.

The Main Line: A Musical Revue

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

Mean Girls - The Musical

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

The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was one of the greatest thinkers of all time. Now Tony Award winner and MacArthur Genius Grantee Mary Zimmerman (*The White Snake*, *Metamorphoses*) shapes a genre-busting play entirely from da Vinci's own notebooks. A cast of actors takes us on a journey through da Vinci's mind as he considers everything from math and engineering to philosophy and love. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. JAN. 21 THROUGH FEB. 26.

Peter Pan Jr.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the

Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, the fierce Brave Girls, a band of bungling pirates, and the villainous Captain Hook. Musical based on a play by Sir J.M. Barrie. Music by Morris "Moose" Charlap. Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh. Additional Lyrics by Betty Comdem and Adolph Green. Additional Music by Jule Styne through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. JAN. 20 THROUGH JAN. 22.

San Diego Opera: Ghosts (Eden, Dormir, & House)

Ghosts is an evening of three one-act, horror-inspired operas by San Diego composer Nicolas Reveles. Comprised of the works *Eden*, *Dormir* and *House*, San Diego Opera is excited to present the world premiere of these operas. *Eden*, which features a libretto by director John De Los Santos, explores the boundaries of madness and obsession and is a tribute to Edgar Allan Poe. *Dormir* is an imaginative exploration of what might happen when Old World spiritual practices meet the Christian belief system, when portals open and unknown, powerful entities appear. *House* explores the idea that trauma haunts many of us, and that trauma remains in our bodies like ghosts. *Ghosts* welcomes the return of mezzo-soprano Emily Fons. Directed by John de los Santos and conducted by Bruce Stasyna.

BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. APR. 14 THROUGH APR. 16.

San Diego Opera: The Puccini Duo

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

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. FEB. 11 THROUGH FEB. 19.

Have an event? We want it!

Food festivals, sporting events (including surfing, kayaking, and sailing), book signings, art gallery openings, expos, and classes — all are welcome.

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SAN DIEGO
Reader

CURRENT MOVIES

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

Avatar: The Way of Water — A person might argue that once you've figured out how to download a person's consciousness into a lab-grown, giant blue superhuman body, you don't absolutely need to travel across the galaxy to hunt whales that produce minute quantities of stuff that stops human aging. But that person would be missing the point of director and co-writer James Cameron's sequel to Avatar, a sequel that deploys even more high tech (or at least, high frame rate) than its predecessor in service to its message that happiness lies in reconnecting to nature. Because once humanity lost sight of that, erm, native truth, what else was left but the itch for innovation, expansion, and conquest?

It would also be missing the point to lament the incessant addition of "bro!" and "cuz!" to the ends of lines spoken by the dreadlocked blue teen offspring of gone-Na'vi soldier Jake Sully, or the weird dramatic and personal vacancy of their torn-between-two-worlds human friend Spider. Because dialogue and character and even plot mechanics must here bend the knee before spectacle and dynamics. And those are things Cameron knows well enough to make you feel them in whatever part of you has made him so unerringly successful at the box office. Here, it's the spectacle of a well lighted life below the ocean waves, and the dynamics of fathers and sons, of hosts and refugees, of hunter and hunted.

And it would be missing the point in truly special fashion to call the proceedings indulgent to the point of self-infatuation: Cameron has built a new world from the remixed bits of this one, and he seems determined that we should not simply visit Pandora, we should, for at least three hours, live in it.

However, it might not be missing the point to note that the devotion to ever-higher CG resolution and ever-more immersive 3-D has a tendency to drain the drama — the visceral, vital impact — from hand-to-hand combat, and to make the biggest battles feel like video-game cutscenes. To reduce, ultimately, the experience's sum total of felt life. But then, there is more than one way to see this particular movie, so your mileage may vary. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Babylon — Does Damien Chazelle like the movies? His big splash, La La Land, told the story of a gal who gives up true love with a true artist (a jazz man, as it happens) to pursue stardom, because c'mon, it's stardom. (Come to think of it, it's all there in the first line of the song that opens the show, in which a girl sings about leaving her own true love for the lights of L.A.) A sad story, but still sweet and wistful and fun to look at. Here? We open with shit (from an elephant on its way to an Early Hollywood orgy) and follow with piss (from a Champagne-swilling ingénue at said orgy) before moving onto ersatz semen (from a bazooka-sized member wielded by a performing dwarf) getting sprayed



Plane: "This is your captain growling."

all over the riotous crowd. Projectile vomiting is held in reserve until the film's middle, but still: the magic of the movies, people. A party like this attracts a certain sort of someone: in this case, Nellie (Margot Robbie), the daughter of a con man and a crazy woman, on the run from home and bound for cinematic glory. Within minutes of her arrival, she's hoovering up cocaine and listening to errand boy Manny (Diego Calva) yammer on about how movies are meaningful, bigger than life. Maybe so, maybe not, but the industry that produces them turns out to be, surprise surprise, a money-making machine that runs on people — emphasis on machine. The coming of sound is the big technical advance here — the torture of Nellie under the sound man's tyranny gets especial and excruciating attention — but as the crazy pants closing montage makes it clear, technology is god in Babylon, and the artist onscreen is at best a handmaiden, at worst a sacrificial victim. (One guess as to which sort of artist is the only one to make it out with his dignity intact.) What comes before that montage is long and frequently unpleasant, but at least there's a point to all that decadence and despair: first time as tragedy, second time as hit musical. Of course, there are consolations along the way — Chazelle knows his business, after all. Casting Brad Pitt as a big shot on the wane is both bold and engaging. And a visit to the "asshole of LA" doubles nicely (and nastily) as a journey into moviedom's carney roots. But for all the parties and pretty people, it's not a fun ride. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Banshees of Inisherin — Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, lifelong friends Pádraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson) find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, aided by his sister Siobhán (Kerry Condon) and troubled young islander Dominic (Barry Keoghan), endeavours to repair the

relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Pádraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences. Starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Kerry Condon, and Barry Keoghan. 2022. Sgt. Tiki (LA PALOMA)

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

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

M3GAN — Her gave us a female AI that gradually lost interest in her human user because he was so limited. It was a sad experience. *Ex Machina* gave us a female AI that gradually grew to hate her human user because he was so limiting. It was a frightening experience. But *M3GAN* gives us a female AI that doesn't discard or hate her human user, because her whole *raison d'être* is to take care of her. And

despite its sad setup — a little girl loses her parents in a car crash — and a smattering of frightening moments, it is first and foremost a fun experience. Machine learning may one day be the death of us all, but we're still far enough out from the Rise of the Machines to indulge a wry chuckle at the prospect. Pretty roboticist Gemma (Allison Williams) is a victim of her own genius: the "smart toy" she's built — essentially, a pet that never dies and can talk — is getting dinged in the marketplace by a cheaper, dumber knockoff. Her boss wants her go lower, but that's not how geniuses operate. She's got something really special in mind, but then life dumps a just-orphaned niece in her lap, and the deadline is looming. But wait! What if her new invention is just what a grieving little girl needs? Someone to be with her, to console her...to protect her from the mean dog next door. There's nary a surprise in sight plotwise (and while we're at it, blessedly few jump scares); what's unexpected is how human, and even funny, the story of a robot girl gone rogue manages to be. 2023. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Man Called Otto — Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks) is a grump who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife. Otto is ready to end it all, but his plans are interrupted when a lively young family moves in next door, and he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol. She challenges him to see life differently, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world around. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Plane — Pilot Brodie Torrance (Gerard Butler) saves his passengers from a lightning strike by making a risky landing on a war-torn island - only to find that surviving the landing was just the beginning. When most of the passengers are taken hostage by dangerous rebels, the only person Torrance can count on for help is Louis Gaspare (Mike Colter), an accused murderer who was being transported by the FBI. In order to rescue the passengers, Torrance will need Gaspare's help, and will learn there's more to Gaspare than meets the eye. 2022. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

MEDIA ARTS CENTER SAN DIEGO

DIGITAL GYM CINEMA

A FILM BY
JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI

EO

PLAYING
JAN 6 - JAN 19

1100 Market St, 2nd fl, San Diego, CA 92101
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Drinks All Around

BY AMANDA
TASCHER

GERRY BEDOLLA

Zama
467 Fifth Avenue
Gaslamp



“**B**ienvenida a la selva,” reads a neon green sign inside one of Gaslamp’s newest restaurants, Zama. Greeting me with an exuberant smile, Bar Manager Gerry Bedolla explains, “That’s our

theme here, our vibe. Our concept here is like Japan meets South America, with a little bit of Tulum. So once you come in, we want you to feel like you’re in the jungle — in the selva.” On that note, he adds, “a lot of my cocktails feature either a Japanese fusion or some sort of spice from South America.”

In my experience, you can’t go wrong with anything named after the house, so I opt for the Zama-Tini. “The martini is a fun cocktail,” says Bedolla. You’re gonna get sweet and tart elements, some good citrus elements, and a nice pomegranate sweetness right at the finish — to where you’re going to want another one, and another one...”

Adapted from a former recipe, “it started off as a traditional pomegranate martini. I was like, ‘How can we modify this to make it something a little more elaborate, more flavorful?’” He started off by swapping vodka for tamarindo mezcal produced by Divino Maguey — one of Bedolla’s personal favorites. “If you grew up in Mexico or you grew up in a Hispanic family, you’ve probably eaten tamarind candies your

whole childhood. The first time I had this [mezcal], it reminded me of all my childhood memories.” That bit of extra sugar content, he says, also helps make it smooth and approachable. “When you mix it in a cocktail and it’s balanced, you should be able to get that subtle smoke in there, but you should be able to get all of the other flavors as well.”

A bright red dust swirls around a pristine white head of foam on the tarty pink drink. “And now we’re doing this elderflower foam — I didn’t want it to be all sugar, so that added a really nice sour element to it.” It’s a blend of citrus, egg whites and elderflower liqueur, with a tad of sugar to balance everything out. “And we do a nice dehydrated hibiscus powder on top.”

Eventually, Bedolla brought in the big guns, professionally known as iSi canisters, to help expedite things. “My biggest pain was doing a 30 second shake on [the original] cocktails,” he recalls. “If you don’t have one of those fancy whipped cream makers, you can still make it easily, you just gotta work out your biceps a little bit.”

ZAMA’S ZAMA-TINI



- 1.5 oz tamarind mezcal
- 1 oz lemon
- 1 oz pomegranate syrup
- St Germaine foam
- Hibiscus Powder

Mix ingredients in a shaker tin with ice and strain into a coupe glass. Add elderflower foam topping and dust with dehydrated hibiscus powder. Garnish with a dehydrated fruit round.

HAPPY HOUR

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

BANKERS HILL

Barrio Star: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 3-5pm: \$6.50 beer and wine. \$8.50 margarita, Sangria, michelada, \$18 margarita flight. \$5 a la carte tacos. Tuesday, 3-close: \$6.50 beer and wine. \$8.50 margarita, Sangria, michelada, \$18 margarita flight. \$5 a la carte tacos.

BARRIO LOGAN

ReBru Spirits: Thursday-Saturday, 3-5pm: \$5 well drinks and Thorn Brewing beers, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$2.50 tacos (carnitas, shrimp, pulled pork), \$4 chips & salsa, \$12 brisket sliders (three). Sunday, 3-5pm and 7-8pm: \$5 well drinks and Thorn Brewing beers, \$8 specialty cocktails. \$2.50 tacos (carnitas, shrimp, pulled pork), \$4 chips & salsa, \$12 brisket sliders (three). -

CARLSBAD

7 Mile Kitchen: Wednesday, 5-10pm: \$2 off glasses of wine, half off select wine bottles.

Chandler’s: Wednesday-Sunday, 3-6pm: \$2 off wines by the glass, draught beers, and signature cocktails. \$3 off appetizers.

CARMEL VALLEY

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

CHULA VISTA

Shake & Muddle: Monday, 4pm-close: \$2.00 off all signature drinks, \$5 Pacifico, \$7 Mondavi Red Blend, \$7 Mondavi Chardonnay. Happy hour menu available all night

CITY HEIGHTS

Alcove Wine & Beer: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: \$1 off beer, \$2 off wine & appetizers.

CORONADO

McP’s Irish Pub and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: Half off House Chardonnay & Cabernet by the glass, \$1 off beer or cocktails

DEL MAR

The Goat: Daily, 7-9 pm \$3 beer, \$2 tacos, \$3 off all menu items.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Gaslamp Fish House: Daily, 3:30-6:00pm: \$4 Fireball shot, McCormick bourbon, shot of Torado Silver tequila, \$5 craft beer on tap, vodka soda, select wine by the glass, \$7 skinny margarita, select signature cocktails.

Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off drafts, wine, specialty cocktails, \$5 wells. \$2 off appetizers.

Greystone: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6:30pm: Whole dedicated menu for happy hour

Johnny WAHOO! Golf Bar: Monday, \$5 house drafts, \$6 all other drafts, \$7 well cocktails. \$2 off appetizers.

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

EAST VILLAGE

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday, 7-9pm: \$6 signature cocktails. Friday-Saturday, 5-9pm: \$6 signature cocktails.

ENCINITAS

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

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine Escondido: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, well drinks, featured wine, \$5.75 house margarita.

Vintana Wine + Dine: Daily, 3-5pm: \$8 martinis and appetizers.

HILLCREST

Urban Mo’s Bar and Grill: Thursday, 5-8 pm: \$6.50 Martinis

KENSINGTON

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

LA JOLLA

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

LA MESA

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

LAKESIDE

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

LEMON GROVE

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

LITTLE ITALY

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

Cloak & Petal: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 sake, \$7 glasses of wine, \$10 specialty cocktails. \$3-\$6 appetizers, \$10 specialty rolls.

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

MIRAMAR

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

MISSION BEACH

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

MISSION HILLS

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

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

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LOCAL five

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DARING GREATLY

Nominated for Best Rock Artist at the 2022 San Diego Music Awards, Canadian transplants Daring Greatly will headline a packed Music Box bill on Thursday, January 12 in Little Italy. Co-headliner Ash Easton released her third studio album *Rough & Tough* this past summer, previewed by a single for “Blow My Mind.” The lineup includes blues/soul/funk/Americana artist Shane Hall, who took home a trophy for Best Americana, Jazz or Blues Song at the 2021 SDMAS, as well as singer/guitarist Daniel Cervantes (Whiskey Circle, Howlin Rain, Creature & the Woods, Mrs. Henry).



BLAZING JANE

Female-fronted rock/soul/funk/pop band Blazing Jane has played venues such as the Holding Company, Winstons, and the mobile Wonderbus. Their 2021 debut album *Heading To the Sun* spawned four music videos, including footage of the group performing tracks such as “Watching” and “Something Beautiful.” On Saturday, January 14, Blazing Jane is playing a pre-release listening party for their second album at Duck Foot Brewing in Miramar from 2 to 5 pm.



LOCALS ONLY

Wednesday, January 18 will see the Belly Up in Solana Beach hosting four area bands for a Locals Only theme night. Veni Sun is described by frontman Jared Henry as his “backyard music project,” new Oceanside blues band Audio Perdisco features rising guitar star Enrique Sotelo, Born to Rise is soon to release their sophomore album *Along For the Ride*, and Wave Parade was founded by former members of West Beast, Archery for the Blind, Ricksha, and Skyline Union.



HUTCHINS CONSORT

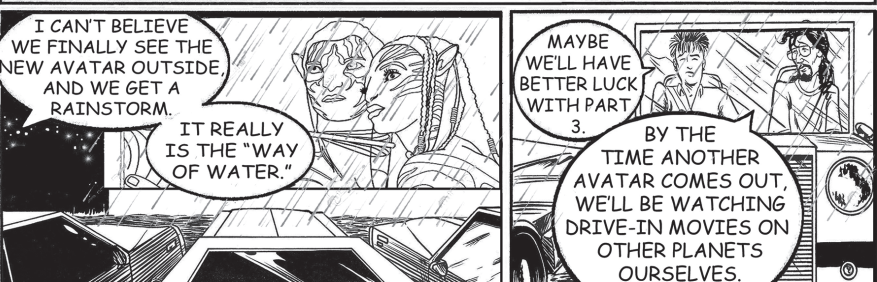
The Hutchins Consort performs on the eight scaled models of the violin octet designed and built by famed luthier Dr. Carleen Hutchins. On January 20 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Encinitas, the ensemble will pair the music of J.S. Bach with rock and roll arrangements. The event includes the premiere of Steve Huber's arrangement of selections from the Who's *Quadrophenia*.



STANLEY DRUCKER

North county musician Stanley Drucker is listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as having the longest career of any clarinet player, having spent 61 years with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Aside from performing with icons such as Leonard Bernstein, his son Lee Rocker became famous as a founding member of The Stray Cats. Drucker passed away December 19 at the age of 93.

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Wednesday, 7:30pm — Early Eyes. \$18.

Soul of Yoga:

Saturday, 7pm — Rising Hearts World Music Gathering. \$25-\$30.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:

Friday, 7pm — Gunhild Carling.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:

Saturday, 8pm — Richard Marx. \$69-\$79.

Sunday, 6pm — Tony Orlando. \$69-\$79.

Tidal:

Thursday, 5pm — Helena Holleran.

Friday, 5pm — Orion Song.

Til-Two Club:

Thursday, 8pm — Planet Mercury and Townies. \$10.

Saturday, 9pm — The Rocketz and Ghost Town Hangmen. \$10.

Sunday, 5pm — DJ Fast Eddie. Free.

Tipping Pint Brewing Co.:

Saturday, 6pm — Sonic Tonic.

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Thursday, 12pm — Ben Benavente.

Friday, 12pm — Tyler F. Simmons.

Saturday, 12pm — Jesse Johnson.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 8:30pm — That 1 Guy. \$10.

Saturday, 4pm — The Funk All Stars. \$5.

UPCOMING SHOWS

BNS Brewing & Distilling:

Friday, Feb. 10 — West of 5. Free.

Balboa Theatre:

Saturday, Feb. 11 — KODO. \$28-\$70.



Fri, 1/13

SINCRETISMO

Philistine

Department of Education Body Worship • Life of Vice

Sat, 1/14

DJ CHANGO REY

Go-Go Guillermo

BB Ruffins • Snarf D

Sun, 1/15

DUST STAR

Neutral Shirt • Crush 23

Mon, 1/16

LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS

Tue, 1/17

SOMETHING FUNKY

Funk, Jazz, Blues, Soul, & Boogaloo

Sat, 1/21

INCITING RIOTS

Wabash Cannons • Dying Species

Sun, 1/22

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Bellamy's Restaurant:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Jake Taylor Smith.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Orion Song.

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Jake Taylor Smith.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Dalton Gazette.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Johnny Martin.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Mapache. \$18.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Yonder Mountain String Band. \$35-\$62.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — 12th Annual Beat Farmers' Hootenanny. \$24-\$42.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Railroad Earth. \$32.

Monday, Jan. 23 — Marshall Tucker band.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Marshall Tucker band.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Robert Cray.

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Colin James.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Led Zepagain.

Bloom Nightclub:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Sage Armstrong. \$10-\$20.

Booze Brothers Brewing Company:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Sonic Tonic.

Brew Coffee Spot:

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

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Within Destruction and Distinguisher. \$14-\$18.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Orianthi. \$30-\$35.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Damage Inc. \$18-\$20.

Cannonball:

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Jehua Evans.

Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Jemille Violet.

Carruth Cellars Urban Winery:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Soto Six. Free.

Casbah:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Tropical

Casbah:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Tropical



Fuck Storm and Michael Beach. \$18.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Emo Nite. \$16.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Trebels

40 Year Anniversary Party. \$12.

Monday, Jan. 23 — Stones n

Roses, Oasis, Headmaster. \$8.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Alexa Villa,

Manganista, Pip Lewis. \$7.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Will Sheff

and Okkervil River.

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Frankie &

the Witch Fingers.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Junior Boys.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — The

Neighbors and Agonista.

Sunday, Jan. 29 — Love for L

Dula.

Che Café:

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Scalp, Livid,

Mongrel, Serenity, Influencer.

\$15.

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Candy and

Bib.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Read Or Die

Book and Zine Fair. \$10.

Chula Vista Civic Center

Library:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Chula Vista

Library Family Concert Series.

Free.

Conrad Prebys Performing

Arts Center:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Monterey

Jazz Festival On Tour. \$44-\$84.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — 123 Andres.

\$15-\$25.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — 123 Andres.

\$15-\$25.

Duck Foot Brewing

Company:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Deadheads

Night.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Bluegrass Jam.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — San Diego

Jazz Collective.

Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Kekoa.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Farrah Camu.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Orion Song.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Ke' Ahi.

Sunday, Jan. 29 — Farrah Camu.

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and

Spa:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Gabriele

Dagrezio.

Thursday, Jan. 26 — David

Shyde.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Helena

Holleran.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Rachel Jay.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Helena

Holleran.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — David Shyde.

Farmer & the Seahorse:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — DevvLov.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Danielle

Angeloni.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Puro

Feeling.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Sean McCole.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Freddie

Walton.

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of San Diego:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Tasha Smith

Godinez Album Release Concert.

Free.

Frankie's:

Sunday, Jan. 29 — Jazz Jam. Free.

Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Adam Bergoch.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Adam

Bergoch.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Adam Bergoch.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Adam

Bergoch.

THE GONZO REPORT

The feats of Festivus

Bukowski should be tipping here at the Til-Two

I've always imagined the Til-Two Club as the kind of haunt where you might have found the late author Charles Bukowski buzzing around. If he dressed in black leather and lived in San Diego when he was still alive and sippin', it could've been a real possibility: the joint has been standing since 1942, erected during the thick of World War II when the Germans were dominating Europe. One Bukowski quote in particular comes to my mind during this time of year: "My beer drunk soul is sadder than all the dead Christmas trees of the world." Bukowski, I feel, would have been a perfect participant in Til-Two's third annual Festivus party, held every December 23 on El Cajon Boulevard in

City Heights.

Why would Bukowski have been a great candidate for Festivus? Mostly because of the traditions of the fictional holiday (originated on the '90s sitcom *Seinfeld*), which include the airing of grievances, feats of strength, and a plain aluminum pole that substitutes for a Christmas tree. Bukowski aired his grievances all the time, through his writing about his own toxic relationships, alcoholism, shitty jobs, and dysfunctional family dynamics. His feats of strength were the creation of his stories, and I have no doubt that he would have approved of a metallic spike with no distracting tinsel — how beer drunk would your soul have to be to get sadder than *that*? It's almost like the holiday was made for him. The boozy poet has been dead since 1994, but we can celebrate Festivus in his drunken spirit.

When I walk into the always-red-lit dive bar, I find two baskets holding markers and paper. One basket is for writing down the grievances you'd like to air out publicly, and the other is to sign up for "feats of strength." I sign up for "feats" and save my grievances to share with my loved ones later. Everybody celebrates Festivus in their own way. A table of food is placed near the entrance: anybody can indulge in pizza, baked sweets, and mounds of bagels. They might be day-olds, but I can't be sure.



Sassy Stiletto shares the story of Festivus.

The variety show kicks off with long-legged dancer Sassy Stiletto reading the story of Festivus from an oversized, homemade book of poems. The reading is followed by a pair of red-dressed vixens taking the stage. They call themselves *Schadenfreudes*, a German word meaning pleasure derived from another person's misfortune. The *Schadenfreudes* begin pulling out the first names for the opening "feats of strength" competition, which will be thumb-wrestling. One challenger holds his own Festivus pole in hand as his other thumb is pinned down for the

count. I'm told that, in previous years, feats such as being thrown into beer kegs got too wild, so events have been tamed down — a wise way to avoid liability issues. Festivus is a sensible sort of holiday.

Following the thumb-wrestling matches, the *Schadenfreudes* begin sampling from the "airing of grievances" basket. They read the disappointed gripes people have had over the past year into a feedback-filled microphone. These include "Someone left a giant turd on my lawn, you suck" and "Idiots who think they know shit about fuck." The tipsy crowd boos and shouts out their judgements of each grievance. "Fuck them!" one dude cries out. It may be a holiday, but that doesn't mean it's happy.

Chickenbone Slim keeps the party going with a live set featuring guitarist Laura Chavez. Their bluesy tones help to raise the Festivus spirit and to keep the degenerates wiggling. I go outside for a smoke and meet the owner of the club. It turns out that this is his birthday. We engage in friendly debate over who's the bigger *Seinfeld* fan. "I left my TV on at home with *Seinfeld* playing so my dogs could watch," he offers. That, and the fact that his birthday falls on the day of Festivus, is enough to make me give him his props. Then I hear my name being called from inside. It's the

(continued on page 24)

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<p>TUE. JAN. 17</p> <p>DEFEATED SANITY Malignancy, Prophecy, Strangle Wire</p>	<p>SAT. JAN. 28</p> <p>DAMAGE, INC. with special guests</p>
<p>THU. JAN. 26</p> <p>WITHIN DESTRUCTION Fox Lake, Carcosa, Shawshank, Good For Nothing</p>	<p>FRI. FEB. 10</p> <p>D.R.U.G.S. Varials, The Callous Daoboys, 156/Silence</p>
<p>FRI. JAN. 27</p> <p>ORIANTHI with special guests</p>	<p>SAT. FEB. 11</p> <p>THE FLATLINERS Broadway Calls, Bandaidd Brigade</p>
<p>SAT. FEB. 17</p> <p>WACKEN METAL BATTLE Gravity Grave, Fadrait, The Oathbreakers, Maskeratt, Parasitic Existence, Drillbit</p>	<p>SAT. FEB. 18</p> <p>WACKEN METAL BATTLE The Bastard Saints, Druide, Cranial Detriment, Corpsemaker, California Villain, Godhammered</p>
<p>SUN. FEB. 19</p> <p>NITE Persekutor, Salacious</p>	

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February's fine musical forecast

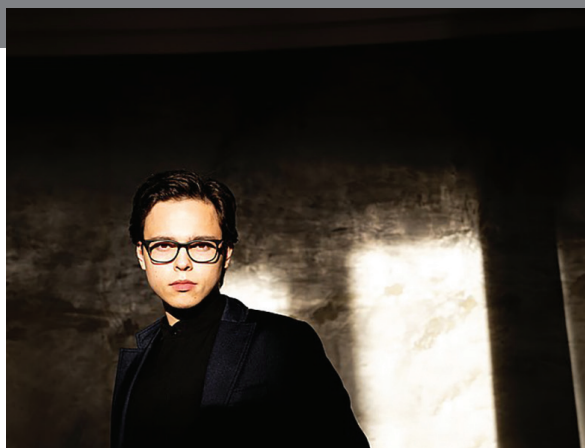
With the holidays all wrapped up, we are free to look toward what could be considered the meat of the classical music season. January is generally quiet, but things get rowdy in February. On February 2 and 3, a 22-year-old conducting phenom from Finland makes his U.S. conducting debut with the San Diego Symphony. Tarmo Peltokoski has made several sensational debuts in Europe over the last few years and now he's coming to San Diego to conduct Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*. Of course, Sibelius was from Finland as well. His second

symphony is well known for having one of the most gorgeous tunes to fall out of the pen of any composer anywhere. Also on the program is Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 3*, with San Diego Symphony Concertmaster Jeff Thayer featured as the soloist. This concert takes place at two different venues. Thursday, February 3, is at The California Center for the Arts Escondido; and Friday, February 4, takes place at Southwestern College. Elsewhere, two of the three one-act operas which comprise Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico* open on Saturday,

February 11, at San Diego Opera. The company is billing this as "The Puccini Duo." The two operas are *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. *Suor Angelica* is an undervalued operatic experience. The all-female cast spins the story of Angelica, who has been sent to the convent to atone for having a child out of wedlock. Angelica's final aria, "Senza Mamma," is one of Puccini's finest efforts, and the closing scene is opera at its best. *Gianni Schicchi* is a happier opera than *Suor Angelica*, and is genuinely funny. It too has a famous aria, "O mio babbino caro." But while "Senza Mamma" suffers from underexposure, this aria suffers from overexposure. The more interesting aria in *Gianni Schicchi* is the

Classical Music this week

Dmitry Kirichenko, pianist The Pleasure of Your Company music series presents pianist Dmitry Kirichenko. His program will include works by Chopin, Schubert and Beethoven. Sunday, January 15, 2:30pm; **free**. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive.



Young man with a baton: Tarmo Peltokoski

tenor aria "Firenze È Come Un Albero Fiorito." And more interesting than the tenor aria is vocal-force-of-nature Stephanie Blythe singing the baritone role of Schicchi. This isn't a case where she sings the role an octave up and transforms Schicchi into a female role. No: from what I've been led to believe, Blythe is singing

the role at pitch. Incredible. February ends with an all-Beethoven concert at The San Diego Symphony. Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3* and *Symphony No. 4* will be performed on February 24 and 25, at The Civic Theatre. I would prefer *Piano Concerto No. 4* and *Symphony No. 3*. Maybe next time.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

House of Blues:

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Windsor. Friday, Jan. 27 — Morat.

Jazz Lounge:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Gregory Page.

Jolly Joker Tavern:

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

L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Johnny Martin. Friday, Jan. 20 — Jonny Tarr. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Jarred Matthew. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Olivia Rohde. Thursday, Jan. 26 — Jemille Violet. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Whitney Shay. **Free**. Sunday, Jan. 29 — Jesse Johnson.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Christian

Taylor.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Keni Yarbro. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Jemille Violet. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Keni Yarbro. Friday, Jan. 27 — Keni Yarbro. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Jemille Violet.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Gabriele Dagrezio. Friday, Jan. 27 — Shay Skylar.

Madam Bonnie's:

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

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Appetite 4 Destruction. \$15-\$55. Friday, Jan. 27 — Prince Again: Tribute to Prince.

Mingei International Museum:

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

Mission Bay Resort:

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Jehua Evans. Monday, Jan. 23 — Jesse Ray Smith. Tuesday, Jan. 24 — DevvLov. Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Keni Yarbro. Thursday, Jan. 26 — Johnny Martin. Friday, Jan. 27 — Israel Maldonado. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Helena

Holleran.

Sunday, Jan. 29 — Freddie Walton.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Rick Trotter Band. **Free**. Friday, Jan. 20 — Custard Pie. **Free**. Saturday, Jan. 21 — The Reud. **Free**. Thursday, Jan. 26 — The Edge. **Free**. Friday, Jan. 27 — P-Tek. **Free**.

Music Box:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Carry the Stone: All-Star Tribute to Pink Floyd. \$17-\$77. Friday, Jan. 20 — Bad Bunny Night. \$15-\$20. Saturday, Jan. 21 — B-Side Players and Boostive. \$21-\$61. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Macy Gray. \$40-\$100. Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Elise Trouw. \$22. Thursday, Jan. 26 — Inspector. Friday, Jan. 27 — Dolly Disco Dance Party. Saturday, Jan. 28 — The FABBA Show. Sunday, Jan. 29 — The Music of Steely Dan.

Nick & G's:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Farrah Camu. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Johnny Martin. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Anna Ballew.

Nova SD:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Joyryde. \$25.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, Jan. 20 — Unwritten Law. \$25-\$35. Friday, Jan. 27 — Niko Moon.

Panama 66:

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

Parq Restaurant:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Lil Jon. \$24.

Poway Library:

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Ukulele Jam Session. **Free**.

Sandbox:

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

Seabird:

Sunday, Jan. 29 — DevvLov.

Side Yard:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Tim Rose. Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Christian Taylor.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Grady Spencer & the Work. \$15. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Hibuo. \$15. Monday, Jan. 23 — Auz Fontaine. **Free**. Friday, Jan. 27 — Semi-Charmed Kinda Night - A 90s Party.

Soma:

Thursday, Feb. 2 — JID and Smino.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — The Soto Six. **Free**.

Spin Nightclub:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Fatima Hajji.

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.

Sycuan Casino:

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Collective Soul. \$69-\$274. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Engelbert Humperdinck. \$69-\$99.

Til-Two Club:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Slappin' Hands with Ric Scales. **Free**.

THE GONZO REPORT

continued from page 23

next round of "feats," and I brace my thumbs for battle, but when I get to the stage, a *Schadenfreude* hands me a can of Tecate. It's a beer-chugging contest.

Across from me is my opponent, a shorty strapped in black lingerie. The rules are simple: whoever finishes their beer first wins. Just before we start, she throws me the bird, jamming her middle finger up in my face. "You got a license to fly that bird?" I yell over the rollicking mob. Then we're off. About ten seconds in, she slams her can down and raises her arms in perceived victory. I'm still chugging and refuse to stop until my can is completely empty. There is confusion. The *Schadenfreudes* are spinning, trying to assess the situation. It turns out my opponent threw her can down prematurely, with beer left inside. A *Schadenfreude* awards me two more cans of Tecate as a prize. The black lingerie shorty realizes her folly and storms away in defeat. Or maybe she has to yack. ■

Friday, Jan. 20 — Strikers and Howlin Roosters. \$10. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Rapture. \$5. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Turnstiled, Junkpiled. **Free**.

UC San Diego Park & Market:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Intersections Event Series. \$20-\$30.

University Club Atop Symphony Towers:

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Tim Rose. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Mike Myrdal.

Viejas Arena:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Paquita La Del Barrio Y Sus Amigos.

Vigilante Coffee:

Saturday, Jan. 28 — The Soto Six. **Free**.

Vista Library:

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — The Swingin' with Dean show. **Free**.

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Thursday, Jan. 19 — Ben Benavente. Saturday, Jan. 21 — Casey Turner. **Free**. Sunday, Jan. 22 — Kekoa.

Winstons Beach Club:

Sunday, Jan. 22 — The Doors & Cream Tributes. \$10. Saturday, Jan. 28 — Brian Jones Rock 'n' Roll Revival. **Free**.

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Coming back for the yak

It must be the most Himalayan of all dishes.

I came for yak, the classic mountain meat from the Himalayas. I ended up with *tikka masala*, the classic Indian dish from, uh, Scotland? But I'm getting ahead of myself. It was the yak that brought me here, to this new Nepalese Indian eatery up in Little India near Miramar College. The place is quite modern. I like the visual patterns — like the pattern of white mountain peaks against the gray wall at the back. (And next to them, a riot of multicolored actual Tibetan prayer flags fluttering over a row of booths.)

I was first attracted because this place's name, "The Dancing Yak," is just so cool. I've always



Making life possible in the Himalayas: the irreplaceable, surprisingly intelligent yak

liked those slow, strong, long-haired beasts of burden — the ones with the wavy, dark or even orange hair that sways off their sides, back and forth, as they carry ginormous loads up and down narrow mountain passes. I'm eager to find out if I like them on a plate as much as I do in the wild: it turns out this place offers yak to eat. Feel bad for the yaks, if you like: they're known to be smarter than cattle, calmer than bison. But I still can't help wondering what they taste like. The word on yak meat is it's fat-free, nutritious, healthy, soft and juicy. Taste? Well, that's something I've got to experience for myself. At least once. It must be the most Himalayan of all dishes.

I check the menu, and yak is all over it, though not cheap: a small plate of yak chili is \$16.99. *Momo jhol* is ground yak-stuffed dumplings drowned in soup (\$19.99). I'm just deciding on the yak chili when this gal Kishu comes up and says they are out of all yak meat. "I'm not sure when we'll get more. It comes from Colorado."

Uh, oh. Also: not imported from the Himalayas? A little less romantic. So we're back to hunting down something else that sounds properly Nepali. Actually, what is Nepali food?

Here's what I know going in: it's basically Indian food with a touch of Chinese. Makes sense, since Nepal straddles the mountains

between the Indian and Chinese civilizations. Thing is, it's way up high. Weather's cold. Not so much grows. Here on the menu, we're looking at basics like *biryani*, the classic celebration dish of India. Okay, okay, it probably started off in Iran.

A kind of fried rice with some sort of meat or veggie, but famous for the seductive herbal scents it wafts forth, a kind of invitation to celebrate. Here, the chicken *biryani* costs \$16.99; the goat, \$18.99.

Probably the comfort food dish

Nepalese people go to most is *Dal Bhat Tarkari*: rice with lentil soup and vegetable curry. It's the go-to every-day dish everyone has at home. Then

the big Chinese presence on the menu is in the *momos* from Tibet. These are dumplings, stuffed with ground meat. Here, eight steamed veggie *momos* cost \$11.99, chicken are \$12.99, and yes, yak are \$18.99. Oh, and chow mein is the other popular Chinese-Nepalese dish in Kathmandu. The yak version costs \$15.99.

The Indian family at the next table is having *momos* ("The chili *momos* are the best.") and *biryani* ("This is the most popular dish in India.") But I suddenly remember reading a news item the other day about how Ali Ahmed Aslam, the self-proclaimed creator of "the most popular dish in the U.K." had just died at age 77. That most popular British dish? Chicken *tikka masala*. Story said it beats out any dish in Britain, including fish and chips, for popularity. Yes, it's the cliché "Indian dish for people who don't know Indian food." But there was no such thing back in 1964. Ali Ahmed Aslam was a Pakistani chef who lived in Glasgow, Scotland. He wanted to please a bus driver customer at his *Shish Mahal* ("Castle of Glass") restaurant. The bus driver complained that his chicken *tikka* — basically a boneless version of tandoori chicken — was too dry and too spicy. Couldn't Chef Ali do something? Chef Ali could. He tipped the customer's tandoori-grilled chicken pieces into a hot pan, added a can of tomato soup concentrate (plus some spices, sliced onions, and maybe some cream?), stirred, simmered, and slid the plate back to the bus driver. The bus driver ate, and then couldn't stop talking to everybody about this creamy Indian dish that had been invented just for him. The word was out, just in time for the curry house boom of the 1970s. It was that creamy, spicy, garlicky, oniony, tomatoey thing that sold Ali's dish to the western palate. Now it's everywhere, from fast food outlets to airline menus.

**TIN
FORK**
ED BEDFORD



Tibetan prayer flags decorate booth area



Basmati rice and chicken in masala mix: westerner's idea of Indian paradise

Aah. Kishu brings out a nice frosty bottle of water, a bottle of Taj Mahal lager beer (\$6.99), a fresh, hot tandoori-baked garlic cilantro *naan* (bread, deliciously crisp-skinned, light, and floppy, \$3.99), plus a little saucepan of rice and a bright orange mini-bucketful of chicken *tikka masala*. Not specifically Nepali, and okay, not even totally Indian. Sort of Scottish! But an outreach of a dish, and one that's rich and delish. Plus, it's creamy, and oh man, slightly peppery



Momo dumplings: Chinese side of Nepali diet

too, with big honest chunks of tandoori chicken, drowned in the sauce Chef Ali threw together and gave to the world. Scrumbo! And the small bucket holds just enough of the stuff. I don't care if it's cliché; talk about umami! It hits the spot. I don't even miss the idea of the yak that I'd come here to find. Actually, I'm half relieved about that. Can imagine it being a bit gamey.

But I'll be returning — for more of this deliciousity. And yes, someday, I'll be back for the yak. ■

The Place: Dancing Yak, 9474 Black Mountain Road, Little India, off Miramar Road, Miramar 858-267-6109
Prices: Vegetable pakora (in batter, 5 pieces), \$4.99; two samosas, \$4.99; Small plate of yak chili, \$16.99; momo jhol (yak-stuffed dumplings in soup), \$19.99; Himalayan wings (5), \$9.99; house salad, \$7.99; daal soup, \$5.99; goat biryani, \$18.99; chicken chow mein, \$13.99; chicken tikka masala, \$15.99; garlic cilantro naan, \$3.99; paneer (cheese) tikka masala, \$14.99; achari chicken, \$15.99; gulag jamoon dessert, \$3.99
Hours: 12pm - 9pm daily
Buses: 20, 31, 110, 235, 237, 921, 964
Nearest Bus Stops: Miramar College Transit Station (n.b. 30-minute walk to restaurant)

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PERSONALS

A HOUSE WITH NO ADDRESS on it! A Pacific neighborhood in La Mesa! If you live in this neighborhood call John from the Chula Vista PD (619) 669-5151. A person's life is in danger 24/7 suffering hate crime victim.

BE A VERY CLASS ACT, join the Sweetwater Campus Syndicate and enjoy fresh air, peace of mind and, when in Rome, rum. In Geneva, gin and tonic; and in Cancun, tequila. Never wonder "Is it classic lit, or just s?"

BEULAH, you don't look broke. **I'M BETTER THAN I USED TO BE** but not as good as I was. DEJ

LOOKING FOR SHILOH'S FRIEND in the Kearny Mesa area: Shiloh stole my sleeveless peach blouse with white polka dots on it. I want it back! Now! Nancy (858) 505-0685.

READILY AND GLADLY GIVE and graciously accept nothing less than anyone should naturally expect merely common courtesy and only due respect.

SEARCHING FOR HECTOR M.B. in the city of Tijuana. Where did you go love? I miss u. Call me (619) 513-5236.

THE SINNERS PRAYER Dear lord, I'm a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross, and rose again on the third day so that I may live. Dear lord, I accept you into my heart right now as my lord and savior.

Thank you Jesus for saving me and I'll do the best I can to live for you the rest of my life. In these things I pray, in Jesus name amen. If you said that prayer, you are eternally saved, you will be going to heaven one day. If you said it, please give me a call, Travis (619) 706-7529. God bless.

YOU ARE BETTER THAN MOST at some things and better than some at most things.

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 KUDAI! 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!

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

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

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

INTO POETRY, SPOKEN WORD? Poetry and spoken word artists, and scholars, sought for local radio show. The Electric Picnic. KNSJ 89.1 FM is an FCC licensed, non-profit, all-volunteer radio station. Ask for Marie. Interested listeners see KNSJ.org - Public Affairs. (619) 283-1100 / info@knsj.org

RIGHT TO DIE CONFERENCE: Highlights of the World Federation of Right-To-Die Societies 2022 Conference, 1:30pm Sunday, January 15, 2023. 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. www.hemlocksocietysandiego.org/. For information: (619) 233-4418. Visit Hemlock Society of San Diego on Facebook and on our YouTube Channel.

EPIPHANY Explore San Diego County and Find Hidden Treasures. iTreasureSanDiego.Com

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

TO SURRENDER A BABY IN CALIFORNIA within 72 hours of birth call 211 or 1-877-222-9723. Free call, or go to fire station. No questions asked.

PEN PALS WANTED Older man, currently hospitalized desires pen pals. Write to Dave DiMino 3102 East Highland Ave #21 Patton, CA 92369.

CLASSES / LESSONS

ADULT MAGIC CLASSES IN 2 WEEKS 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/ intervalmagic.com/classes/intro/adult/index.html (619) 800-3780 / tom@intervalmagic.com

LEARN SPANISH BY SINGING "Learn Spanish with music - fun and effective! Explore how using music can help you reach fluency. Sing along to your favorite tunes and make language learning enjoyable. Let's rock our way to fluency with headphones on!" Please text me. (760) 847-6417 / singing_learning@yahoo.com

LEARN A NEW CRAFT THIS YEAR! Learn a new hobby & craft this year! At San Diego Craft Collective, we'll be exploring: Adirondack Foraging Pack-making, Ceramic Wheel Throwing, Paper Marbling & Fused Glass Garden Art. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN A NEW FIBER ART TODAY! Learn to basketweave a foraging pack, quilt with finesse, warp a loom, weave with silk &

wet felt with silk this month at San Diego Craft Collective, a nonprofit arts center in Liberty Station. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org and save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

LEARN TO WEAVE THIS WINTER! Learn to weave this winter! At San Diego Craft Collective, we'll be covering: Warp + Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom, Handwoven Silk Wall Hanging, Clasp Weft Weaving & Intuitive Weaving. Visit us at sandiegocraft.org & save your space today! (619) 273-3235 / make@sandiegocraft.org

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/

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ROOMMATES

TWO ROOMMATES WANTED 4 bedroom house, San Carlos/Allied Garden. \$1100 a month, \$500 deposit. Furnished rooms. No smoking or pets. (619) 247-9047, available now

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

MUSICIANS WANTED AVAILABLE Composer seeks assistant/ copyist/ piano/ sightreading. Room / board/ stipend, composition lessons. Busco musico asistente que sepuede leer musica/toca piano. Cuarto, comidas, felia. (619) 457-8516, jebroe5@gmail.com

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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

NORTH PARK, 55+ one bedroom, one bath, top floor, AC, \$1400. (619) 321-7808.

AVAILABLE 1 BED APT Available now for immediate move in. Spacious remodeled everything new one bedroom one bath unit located in San Diego \$1600/month. secure parking. Furnished including kitchen. Rent includes all utilities - WIFI as well. josfarhadian@gmail.com



HOME FOR RENT This charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is ready for your personal touch! Enjoy the coziness of this darling

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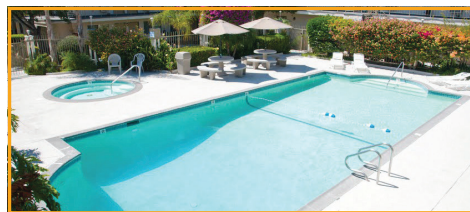
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MUSIC



LUNAR NEW YEAR @ POWAY LIBRARY Come to Poway Library on January 28 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm to celebrate Year of the Rabbit. Join us for Balloon Animals, Crafts, and Entertainment. Lion Dancers at 3:00 pm! tiffany.hanson@sdcounty.ca.gov

GET MIDI OUT OF YAMAHA P-250? \$150 to 1st one to tell/show me how to get MIDI out of Yamaha P-250 keyboard to computer and it happens. \$50 more if you make house call (in far East County). I've tried "everything" with no success. 1st contact: Michael m492tow@gmail.com. (609) 957-3396

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MUFFLER	from \$95 + Labor	PREMIUM SHOCKS Monroe or KYB+ Labor	from \$150 per pair
PREMIUM STRUTS Monroe or KYB + Labor	from \$250 per pair	STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR	from \$150 + Labor
<p>*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition *Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing</p> <p>Brandon Auto 6670 Miramar Rd. # C, San Diego, CA 92121-2559 858-452-9999</p>			

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST Becton, Dickinson & Co. seeks a Business Intelligence Analyst– Customer Exp. & Analytics in San Diego, CA to develop visualizations to help explain patterns and trends in large data sets. Reqs. MS + 2 yrs. exp. or BS + 5yrs. exp. Salary range for position: \$106,769.00 – \$138,100.00. To apply mail resume to (BD), Attn: Debbie Tucker, 3750 Torrey View Ct., San Diego, CA 92130. Must reference Job Title and Job Code: 001126. EOE.

JOB CAPTAIN 3 RJC Architects Inc., San Diego, CA Analyze feasibility studies, schematic designs, work. drawings & prj manual/specs prod for medium & large prj; dvlp dsgn & tech doc in all phases of prj per design intent; provide strong tech detailing skills in various constr. materials; manage large nbr of consult., delegate assgmts & provide direction to Jr. staff; proactive participation in internal meetings to ensure design specs are coord. w/ drawings; support Prj Managers in devlp proposals, budgets, work Hans, sched & bidding & construction adm. srvc. for med to large size prj. Not an Architect position. Bachelor's degree in Architecture & 5 yrs. of related exp, incl. exp. with archt. drafts for public-sector market, nat. defense and/or higher ed. design prj. oversee prj exec. prj deliverables & prod. Telecommuting from any location in the US in an option. Salary range is: \$87,000 to \$117,000 /year. Send resume to Karen Jamieson, 320 Laurel Street, San Diego, CA 92101

RESEARCH SR. SCIENTIST Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc. is seeking a Research Sr. Scientist in San Diego, CA to develop solutions and strategies within own expertise to identify and apply novel technology to enhance drug discovery research programs. Requires travel up to 10%. Apply on-line at www.takedajobs.com and search for Req #R0085201.

RESEARCH STUDY Healthy subjects, ages 18-65, without psychiatric diagnoses needed. Earn up to \$165 Call (619) 543 7201 for more information.

RETIRED DISABLED GENTLEMAN needs assistance once or twice/week with housework

Stormy weather keeping you in the slip? No worries, there's always fresh fish in San Diego.

Dock Totals 12/25 – 1/7: 1108 anglers aboard 45 half-day to 3-day trips out of San Diego landings over the past two weeks caught 10 bluefin tuna, 24 bocaccio, 2 bonito, 1 black seabass (released), 49 calico bass, 30 halfmoon, 4 lingcod, 47 spiny lobster (98 released), 1725 rockfish, 126 sand bass, 51 sanddab, 460 sculpin, 89 sheephead, 4 spider crab, 2 triggerfish, and 394 whitefish.

Saltwater: Despite the holiday season and a couple of back-to-back storms, the fleet still managed to get out and get some fishing done. All indications are that bluefin tuna will still be out there as seas settle and boats are able to venture to the grounds and find them. The areas 120 miles west near the Tanner Bank and the offshore high spots 30 to 60 miles off the northern stretch of the Baja coast is where the tuna have been biting. I expect to see the numbers rise again for the 1.5- to 3-day boats as we ease into 2023, weather permitting.

Along with the normal Christmas and New Year's lull, there were several days over the past couple weeks that kept even the local ½-day trips from heading out. A major winter storm sliding down the west coast during the first week of the year kept all San Diego-based boats in their slips January 3rd through 5th. That said, anglers fishing the bays between the rain and blows found decent spotted bay bass and halibut action, while those who usually pound the beaches had to basically sit it out due to high surf.

The good news about that high surf is that, once it has settled, there will be new cuts and holes to explore. As with sand dunes, the ocean bottom is always changing. Fish aren't as susceptible to the roiled water as we humans; when the big waves churn out crabs, worms, baby clams, and other prey that lives in the swash zones between the tides, surf perch and corbina will tend to feed on them just outside of the break as they are displaced and washed out in the rips. As the surf settles behind the storms to a workable situation for anglers, often, fishing from the beach, jetties, or piers can be very good.

As rockfish fishing is closed in California waters until March first, ½-day boats are offering extended trips into Mexican waters along with local trips that are targeting mostly sand bass, calico bass, and halibut. 1.5-day to 3-day trips should be doable for mostly rockfish and bluefin tuna, depending, and there is always a possibility of a yellowtail or two once out by the islands or down the coast toward the banks off Ensenada to San Quintin. All in all, for the “slow” time of year, fishing has been pretty good — when the weather allows.

Another bonus for San Diegians who love fresh fish is that, even when the weather is rough, our commercial fleet continues to provide. A trip to Tuna Harbor Dockside Market on any Saturday can result in a plethora of fresh-caught seafood, while Tommy Gomes' new Tunaville Market and Grocery, just a short distance down Regatta Walk from the landings on Harbor Drive, offers not only fresh filets, but some really tasty in-house creations, such as dry-aged bigeye tuna, and sausages Tommy makes out of various species, including thresher shark. Tommy Gomes, also known as “Tommy the Fishmonger,” has been a fixture in the San Diego commercial fishing industry for decades.



CREDIT: TRIBUTE SPORTFISHING

Happy angler with bluefin tuna caught on the final 2022 trip aboard the *Tribute*.

fly down, enjoy the warm climes, and save the long boat ride. Their trips fill up quick, so anyone interested better book soon.

San Diego is Americas finest fishing city, even now in the cold depths of winter and during, at least by recent patterns, a wetter-than-normal season. From the offshore banks to the east county lakes, there are always options for anglers and lovers of fresh seafood.

Our fishing photo contest has ended for the season, and I enjoyed all the great photos and anecdotes received. I wish I could have given every entrant a prize. I would like to thank all who sent in photos, and especially Catherine Miller at the San Diego Sportfishing Council for her tireless support of San Diego's fleet, and for providing passes to the winners. Thank you!

Tight lines and Have a fishtacular 2023! They're out there, so go get 'em!

Notable catches:

12/28 – 10 hoop-netters caught 46 spiny lobster aboard the *Alicia* ½-day twilight lobster trip. 36 of the 47 lobster caught were released.

12/29 – The *Dolphin* afternoon ½-day run returned to the dock with 1 sheephead, 2 calico bass, 8 sand bass, 10 rockfish, and 39 sculpin for 12 anglers.

12/ 31 – The *Tribute* ended the year on a high note, with 115 rockfish, 50 whitefish, 4 lingcod, 13 sheephead, and 10 bluefin tuna caught by 29 anglers aboard their final 1.5-day trip of 2022.

1/7 – Fine hoop-netting after the storm for 8 anglers aboard the *Jig Strike* Twilight run who caught 38 spiny lobster and 4 spider crab. 27 of the 38 lobsters were released.

Fish Plants: 1/9 - Lake Wohlford, trout (1500), 1/12 – Lake Poway, trout (1500), 1/14 - Santee Lakes, trout (2500 lbs. for Trout Re-Opener Lakes 4, 5, 6, 7)

DANIEL POWELL

in small apartment, downtown area. \$20/hr. Call or text (619) 403-2781.

SOCIAL MEDIA JOB WITH NO PAY KNSJ 89.1 FM, FCC licensed, non-profit, all-volunteer radio station, needs social media person(s), professional or not. KNSJ is dedicated to social justice issues, alternative views, and unique music. See KNSJ.org. Contact Tim.Taylor@KNSJ.org.

SR PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING Rohr, Inc. d/b/a Collins Aerospace seeks Sr Principal Engineer, Structural Engineering (Chula Vista, CA). Write technical reports/handbooks/bulletins. Execute complex/specialized projects (e.g., structural engineering analysis including dynamics & loads, stability & stress fatigue & thermal analytics on conventional & composite blends) to ensure best practice in eng'g designs. Must have at least master's degree or equivalent in Mechanical/Aerospace Eng'g or related field & 8 yrs experience in Aerospace structural stress analysis & load development, OR bachelor's degree or equiv & 10 yrs progressive exp. Must also have: 8 yrs exp w/ aerospace structural stress analysis using Classical method & FEM analysis; 7 yrs exp w/ Engine, Pylon & Nacelle Structures & w/ FEM Analysis using Nastran; & 5 yrs exp w/: PATRAN, HYPERMESH &

CATIA; writing certification stress & load reports; managing technical team; & developing technical presentations & interfacing w/ customers. Apply at careers.rtx.com, Keyword/Job ID 01594697.

TECHNOLOGY ServiceNow Inc is accepting resumes for the following positions in San Diego, CA: Sr Software Engineer– Platform Security (5143-3716014): Learn the existing platform security & cryptography offerings to write robust, well tested, highly scalable, thread safe, well documented code. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$150,000-180,000. Email resume to servicenowresumesUS@servicenow.com. Or mail resume

to ServiceNow Inc, Attn: Global Mobility, 2225 Lawson Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Resume must include job title, job ref. #5143-3716014, full name, email & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

CAREGIVER RANCHO BERNARDO We are looking for a woman. We need an assistance with daily duties for. senior man with minor mobility problems. We'll help to get REQUIRED IHSS registration. Up to \$20/hr - 65 hr/month. Ad is not for unso- licited services or offers. (858) 360-0388

HANDYMAN/CAREGIVER Provider for a patient. \$15/hour available plus room available if interested. Please help and call (619) 773-6485.

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 & 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 CARE-GIVER 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 / cvar-gas@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 (EAST COUNTY). Active Quadriplegic male seeking PT caregiver in East County area (Santee/Lakeside La Mesa/El Cajon). Must have reliable transportation and be dependable, energetic, enthusiastic, compassionate. Experience preferred but will train right person. Must pass fingerprint and background check. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Duties include: personal care, transferring, dressing, bathing, grooming, cooking, cleaning, shopping. Please send resume or brief description of why you are an excellent candidate to agar-clajr14@sbcglobal.net or leave message at (619) 596-9343.

KAYAK/PADDLE BOARD DELIVERY MANAGER in PB. Seeking outgoing person with truck who lives in Pacific Beach to deliver/retrieve SUPs and Kayaks M-F. Great, cash pay. Fun outside job, will learn new business ownership skills. Call (541) 517-0057.

RESEARCH STUDIES AVAILABLE IN OCEANSIDE looking for schizophrenia volunteers, 18-65 years old. Also PTSD may be available, for those who qualify. Compensation will be paid, transportation is also provided. 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.

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

JOBS WANTED

FREELANCER LOOKING FOR WORK! 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! sandiegolady13@gmail.com

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.

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

WANTED / TRADE

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

I PAY CASH FOR VINYL RECORDS Turntables, music memorabilia and other cool artifacts. Top dollar paid. (602) 460-0040

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.

LOOKING FOR PERSON WHO KNOWS COMPUTERS I have three rooms for rent and money, \$15/hour. If interested call (619) 773-6485.

PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVER/ MESSAGE 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.

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

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

JUNKY OLD CLOTHING NEEDED \$ 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 diagnosed 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. josh.fogg826@gmail.com

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GARAGE SALES

CHULA VISTA 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.

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

FOR SALE

AUTO JACK STANDS steel, set of 4 for \$50. (760) 757-5445.

AUTO MUSEUM TICKETS Peterson Auto Museum tickets, 2 for \$50. (760) 757-5445.

CASINO STUFF I WON really good deals for you, kitchen stuff, luggage, lot's more. New in boxes, buy more save more, call me. (760) 747-1013

CATERING TYPE PANS stainless steel, square, rectangle, multiple different depths, some with lids, some with handles, some with holes to steam. \$60 and less, (760) 749-8266.

COACH large 14 x 11 x 6 black diaper, multi use travel tote bag. Neoprene, 5975 Hamptons, no changing pad, very nice condition, \$45. Elaine (858) 674-7213.

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

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

HIGH BIAS CASSETTE TAPES can be used for recording ten cents each. Contact Paul (619) 222-0278.

MISCELLANEOUS surfboards, skateboards, bicycle, DVDs, more. All offers considered. Call (619) 296-4065.

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

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

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, arts & crafts, sewing supplies, and other lovely things. \$15. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5510 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

C.CRANE FERRITE AM ANTENNA Powerful AM twin coil ferrite antenna pulls in distant radio stations. Brand new condition and wrapped. All accessories included. \$35. (619) 664-2146

DEADBASE X Complete guide to Grateful Dead concerts and song lists. Hardcover, complete, excellent condition, 596pp. Sells used for \$220 and up online. \$75. (619) 664-2146

RIGID 1/4 SHEET SANDER Moderately used and well maintained, the magnetic motor runs like new, providing 14,000 oscillations per minute. Includes carrying case. \$25. (619) 664-2146

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

WORKING TANDY 1400 LT Powers up, DOS prompt, floppy disk, manuals, power supply carry case, clean as new stuson1954@gmail.com.

1980S HE MAN RECORD tote box. (619) 291-3000

BRAND NEW CRUTCHES 5'2"-5'10" These Guardian crutches are for short adults up to 300 lbs. with push-button height adjustment & wing-nut hand grip adjustment, comfortable crutch pads and hand grips w/ non-skip tips. Brand new and never used. \$20. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

HANGING PLUG-IN PENDANT LIGHT This beautiful pendant light has bronze trim and glass shade with 25 ft. plug-in cord & 8 ft. chain. \$45. Another matching light (some discoloration on trim) is available for \$30. Both glass shades are excellent. Text or email for more info/pictures. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



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

TOY VW BUS 1:25 scale Toy VW Bus by Maisto \$35. (619) 291-3000

VINTAGE SPIDER MAN COOKIE BOX \$39. (619) 291-3000

WONDER WOMAN COFFEE MUG \$22. (619) 291-3000

1980S USA FOR AFRICA SWEATER Vintage t-shirts for sale - call (619) 291-3000 for details!

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

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HOMER SIMPSON DOLL \$25 Call (619) 291-3000 for more details and availability.

KIRBY SENTRIA VACUUM SHAMPOOER Kirby complete whole-home care includes upright & canister cleaners and carpet shampoo system capable of vacuuming carpets or floors, shampooing carpets, and a whole lot more. Clean & in good working condition. \$175. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

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

WOOD JEWELRY BOX W/ GLASS LID This beautiful solid

wood jewelry box (10.5"x 6.5" x 3" high) has 6 top compartments and an open bottom storage. The lid looks very nice with clear glass framed by wood molding. Very good condition. \$25. Text or email for more information or pictures. (619) 800-5568 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



OLD E.T. TOY VAN Call (619) 291-3000 for more details and availability.

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OLD SAN DIEGO CHARGERS SHIRT Vintage t-shirts for sale - call (619) 291-3000 for details!

OLD TONKA TOY TRUCK Call (619) 291-3000 for more details and availability.

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

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

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

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

SCHULTZFORM SLOTFORMER SF12 For Cabinet makers, used to bend laminates for countertops,

858.694.0120

MentorsWanted.com

purchased new for \$5,000., it was used once-like new condition, selling in for \$2,900., (760) 746-7209.

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

BEAUTIFUL RED SWIVEL BAR STOOL This heavy duty counter height (25") barstool is very sturdy and well constructed. It has comfortable 3" foam pad on seat & backrest. Black steel frame construction & legs. Like new and in excellent condition. \$60. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com

HEAVY DUTY LAWN CORING AERATOR This Yard Butler power coated steel aerator is 36.5" tall with 9" cushioned handles. A firm step onto the foot bar of the aerator will remove two 3.5"x 0.5" plugs to loosen compacted soil. Excellent condition. \$25. Text or email for more info/pics. (619) 796-5680 / cadbcscd@gmail.com



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Fish Story

— Bluewater Lakes in Champagne, France, is the home of the Carrot, a hybrid leather carp and koi fish that was released into the fishing lake 20 years ago and has been eluding fishers ever since, the *Daily Mail* reported. That is, until Nov. 3, when Andy Hackett, from Worcestershire, England, landed the 67-pound beauty. Hackett spent about 25 minutes hauling in the Carrot. "I always knew the Carrot was in there but never thought I would catch it," Hackett said. He released the famous fish back into the lake and celebrated with a cup of tea.

The Rules

— In Tennessee, it is legal to collect roadkill for consumption, WJHL-TV reported on Nov. 20. In fact, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency encourages people to take home animals found on the road, with some strict rules in place. For example, deer and turkey must be reported to TWRA or local police within 48 hours of collection. But "bears, on the other hand, require that a TWRA agent come out and issue you a receipt for a black bear," said spokesperson Matthew Cameron. That's because the bear population is monitored, and the TWRA takes a tooth from the animal for the purpose of dating it. In addition, tracking bear kills helps the agency prevent the sale of bear parts on the black market. "It's highly illegal to sell any kind of bear parts in the state of Tennessee," Cameron said, "but it does happen." Small animals such as rabbits, raccoons, squirrels and skunks can be collected without notifying anyone.

Wiener War

— A turf war of sorts broke out late on Nov. 19 in downtown San Diego, CBS8-TV reported: Interloper hot dog vendors from Los Angeles had set up outside Petco Park stadium, where Duke Dumont was playing, and the San Diego vendors weren't having it. A brawl involving 10 to 15 people ensued, with one 35-year-old man being stabbed in the back during the fray. Police arrested Yoni Yates, 21, in the assault, which resulted in non-life-threatening injuries. No buns were injured in the incident.

Stowaway

— TSA agents at John F. Kennedy International Airport saved the day on Nov. 16 when they spotted an unusual item in a passenger's checked baggage: a live cat. NBC2 News reported that the feline could be seen in an X-ray of the bag and was rescued before the suitcase went into the cargo hold. "The cat did not belong to the individual with the suitcase," TSA spokesperson Lisa Farbstein said. "It belonged to someone else in the household."

The Demands of the Job

— In Paris, a court has ruled in favor of "Mr. T," a former employee of Cubik Partners who was fired in 2015 for being "insufficient professionally" because he wouldn't take part in "team-building" activities, i.e., going to the pub after work hours and on weekends. In his suit, Mr. T said the company encouraged a culture "involving promiscuity, bullying and incitement to various excesses." The Court of

Cessation declared that Mr. T "could not be blamed for his lack of integration in the fun environment," *The U.S. Sun* reported. Cubik was forced to pay him about \$3,100 in compensation.

Extreme Measures

— Jermaine Bell, 38, spent more than three years in jail fighting charges against him for an armed robbery in 2018, Local10-TV reported. When he heard the guilty verdict in a Miami-Dade County, Florida, courtroom on Nov. 21, Bell guzzled a cup of bleach, becoming so sick that he had to be removed from the courtroom on a stretcher. He survived the self-imposed attack, but officials are unclear where he obtained the bleach. Rev. Jerome Starling, a distant cousin of Bell's, saw him "drinking something that's not right, and that his attorneys are letting him drink it, the corrections are letting him drink it. And all of a sudden, I see him collapse. And I'm like, 'What just happened?'" Starling recounted. Bell's family members are pursuing the matter.

Oops

— Japanese food shops rely on remarkably realistic plastic samples to showcase their offerings, but one Osaka shop mistakenly sold five plastic pastries to customers on Oct. 22, *Gulf News* reported. At Andrew's Egg Tart, a worker immediately noticed the mistake, and the plastic treats were exchanged for the real thing. From now on, the shop will use stickers to distinguish real egg tarts from their doppelgangers.

Likely Story

— Police in Mathura, India, reported to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act court that more than 500 kg of marijuana, confiscated and stored in two police stations, had been "eaten" by rats, *Gulf News* reported. Officers told the judge that mice and rats, although small, do not fear police. A district judge ordered police to eradicate the "mice menace" and provide proof that the critters actually consumed the weed by Nov. 26.

Family Values

— On Oct. 26, 12-year-old Ayden was picked up unexpectedly by his dad from a birthday party in Los Angeles and was told they were going to a park. Instead, KABC-TV reported, the man started driving to Las Vegas, and Ayden became concerned because he believed his dad was driving drunk. (The fact that Dad was wearing a Las Vegas Raiders helmet might have been a clue.) Ayden called 911 and explained his situation; he told the dispatcher the car has "Raider plates on the front and in the back." Officers finally caught up with the car, and Ayden's dad faces charges of DUI and child abuse.

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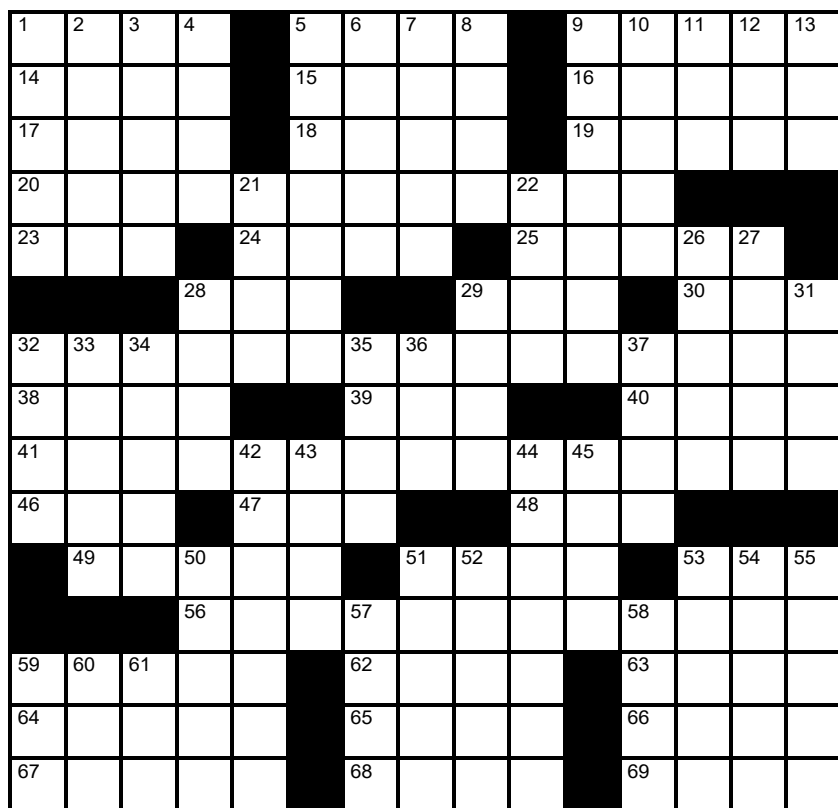
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Across

1. Tests, at a winery
5. Beanstalk climber in a fairy tale
9. Squeeze together
14. Risk territory that borders Siberia
15. ____ all-time high
16. Left, on un mapa
17. Gram alternative
18. Emmy-winning comedian Love
19. Traveling in a Winnebago, perhaps
20. "... don't forget the sulfur!"?
23. Sportage automaker
24. ____ buco

25. Obedient puppy's reward

28. "No Scrubs" group
29. Phillipa who was the original Eliza in "Hamilton"
30. Doomed from the start, for short
32. "Independence Day is good for me!"
38. At an end
39. Museum-funding org.
40. Cinco de ____
41. Fantasy creature that's very much alive?
46. Comedian Vulcano of "Impractical Jokers"
47. Nov. honoree
48. We're in the Phanerozoic

one

49. "I rock!"

51. Seating that might be L-shaped
53. Catch in the act
56. "Don't shoot!" (or this puzzle's theme)
59. Israeli desert
62. Pitching staff, figuratively
63. Teri's "Young Frankenstein" role
64. Stevenson of '50s politics
65. Clear, as data
66. Wow
67. Gooney treat
68. Casual turndowns
69. French word in many bistro names

Down

1. Rishi ____, British P.M. beginning in 2022
2. Farsi speaker
3. Black-and-white vegetarian
4. Big chunk
5. Guadalupe is its capital
6. They bond
7. "Oh, yeah? Watch me!"
8. Make bootees, maybe
9. Tight braid
10. Bank that everyone hopes won't fail
11. "____ was saying ..."
12. Part of a range: Abbr.
13. Tent holder
21. Massage deeply

22. Tweeter's "That said ..."
26. "What ____!" ("Bummer!")
27. City whose name is an anagram of Kyoto
28. Banks of fashion
29. Without a date
31. John Irving's "____ of the Circus"
32. Common campaign promise
33. It's blocked by sunblock
34. "Futurama" woman with one eye and purple hair
35. Fathom or furlong
36. Stimp's pal
37. Its national anthem is "Salute to the Sultan"

42. Film not seen in theaters
43. Stiletto, e.g.
44. Renders harmless
45. Crowd eruption
50. "Get what I'm sayin'?"
51. The Euphrates flows through it
52. Vim and vigor
53. Closer's inning
54. Lock horns
55. "____ Meanz Heinz" (old ad slogan)
57. Curfew for a vampire
58. Money-related: Abbr.
59. "Montero" singer Lil ____ X
60. Oilers, on NHL scoreboards
61. Mop & ____ (floor cleaner)

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

S	H	I	P		B	A	D	A		F	A	C	T	S
K	A	N	E		O	D	O	N		A	L	O	H	A
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SUDOKU

MEDIUM:

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	3		1	7	8	2		
2	7							
	1	4	2					6

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

HARD:

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

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CUSTOMERS

Flight

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ORIGINALS

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1/2 OZ'S • \$60
\$64.65 OUT THE DOOR



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Zips

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2 for
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+ tax

1 full
gram Zips
Cartridge

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(Limit 8)

2 Allswell
100mg
gummies
packs

\$13
+ tax

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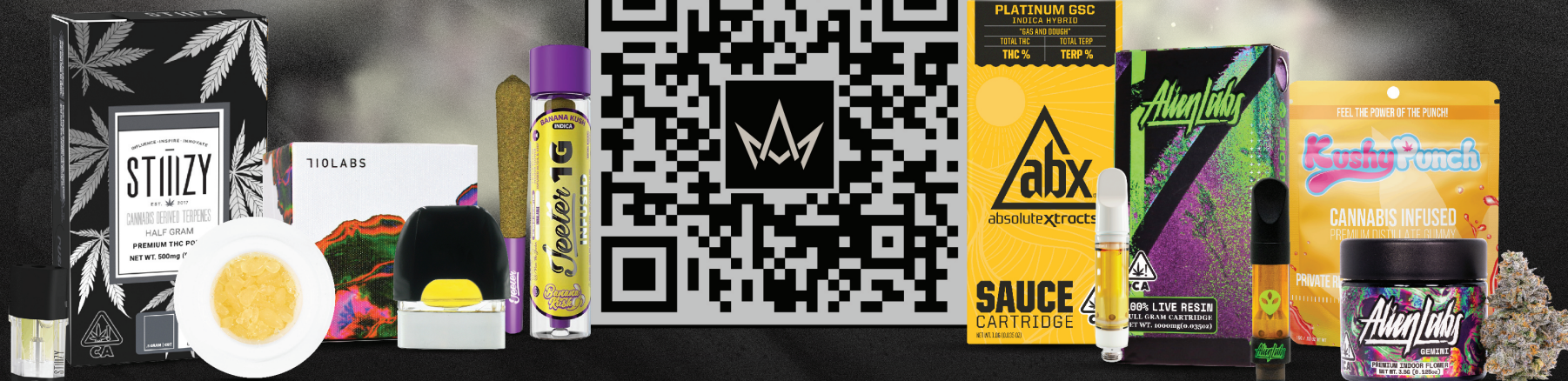
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Chula Vista, CA 91910

CHULA VISTA H STREET
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Chula Vista, CA 91910

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Vista, CA 92081

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