

S A N D I E G O

VOL. 48 | NO. 3 | JANUARY 19, 2023

Rough Rider

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January 19, 2023



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE MEDINA / @SOULCAPTOR

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

DEL MAR

Ocean view vs. ADU

City seeks ways to fight construction by right

For years, Del Mar's housing element — which indicates how cities will provide their fair share of housing for residents of all income levels — has been out of compliance with state law. And according to the most recent enforcement letter from the state, issued in August of 2022, revisions are still needed. "We spent a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to do the 6th cycle" housing element, says mayor Dwight Worden. "How we're going to get our 175 housing units," which must be built by 2029 to meet state-mandated housing requirements. "This other stuff, just more units coming into our town — it doesn't feel right."

That "other stuff" is the result of over 40 new



Why would you ever ruin such an adorable addition by making it low-income housing?

residential development. Things can get even bigger, up to 25 feet above grade or two stories, if the ADU is attached to a main home. And the city can't set a lower maximum height in its local ordinance.

As the city sees it, state-level incentives to spur ADU production actually work against local strategies to build more low-income units and so meet housing element obligations. Namely: to create fifteen low-income units by making incentives available. A new concept within the laws is the building of low-income

at the meeting. "It could take reinventing your local coastal plan, a different look at your parking standards" or environmentally sensitive resources. At this point, the Coastal Commission hasn't yet provided any guidance on the new laws, some of which take effect in July.

The council tossed around ideas like identifying major public view corridors where "massing" could be in conflict with the local coastal plan, changes to the views ordinance and using open space easements to block ADUs in "inappropriate locations."

SHEILA PELL

responded to the area and identified seven vehicles and several drivers who participated in the event." The estimated street damage was \$5000, per the report.

Kerns Street and Drucker Lane meet at a cul-de-sac a mile west of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry heading into Tijuana. This area is a popular spot for folks who want to perform donuts — getting their cars to spin in a tight circle, often leaving a circle of burnt rubber on the pavement. R. Bryan says he knows the Kerns and Drucker intersection well, noting, "On weekends and holidays, zero traffic. None. That's why they go there." Others I spoke to about the drifting sideshow say the practice is not new. "In the mid-2000s, we'd race and burn rubber up and down there, and motorcycle stunt riders would pull up too," Cat Garcia said. "There's no talent in what they do — donuts are a joke. Now, if they are drifting, that's another story."

The police report indicated that in this case, the Corvette and Mustang drivers were drifting — sliding sideways after coming out of a turn. The term "sideshow" or "sideshow takeover" refers to the practice of blocking off a section of street for the sake of such maneuvers, and it can result in more than merely street damage. Added Garcia, "Some of those people who are chasing, filming with their phones, get too close to the action

"We spent a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to... get our 175 housing units, This other stuff, just more units coming into our town — it doesn't feel right."

state laws that are casting shadows over local control of housing. The changes affect affordable housing, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and multi-unit housing in commercial zones. Del Mar says the laws are one-size-fits-all, would create a burden on local infrastructure, and were drafted more for inland communities — communities that might not have to deal with the question of whether there is a right to an ocean view that existed prior to a neighbor's construction of a new two-story accessory dwelling. State law allows a detached ADU of up to 16 feet above grade. But the height can bump up to 18 feet if it's within one-half mile walking distance of a major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor, or if it's within an existing multi-story

housing in commercial zones, city planners said. It can be 100 percent affordable or mixed-income. In Del Mar, it applies to the central commercial and professional commercial zones, allowing 20-50 dwellings, with a 45-foot height. (It won't apply in beach commercial zones, city staff said.) But because state law accommodates large, two-story ADUs through a by-right process, officials say it's harder for Del Mar to promote the creation of those low-income units. They'll have to adjust their strategy, focusing on sites with existing multi-unit development instead of single units and duplexes. To complicate matters further, accessory dwelling units aren't being built as low-income housing, councilmember Dave Druker said at a recent city council meeting. "ADUs are being

used as extra bedrooms and offices; people are gaming the system."

What to do? It might help that cities in the coastal zone must comply with the Coastal Act. "Clearly your strongest ability is through the Coastal Act," said Ralph Hicks, assistant city attorney,



Will Del Mar have to rename Ocean View Avenue or Seaview Avenue?



It remains unclear how police spotted the extremely inconspicuous vehicle.

ON THE ROAD Cops ice Christmas show drift

Critics say they're late to the party

On Christmas Day, the San Diego Police Department arrested the drivers of three Chevy Corvettes and a Ford Fox Body Mustang for participating in a "drifting sideshow." They impounded all four vehicles and posted photos from the bust on their social media accounts. "Multiple individuals participated in the sideshow at the intersection of Kerns Street and Drucker Lane," read the police report on Facebook. "Officers from the Traffic and Southern Divisions

and get hit by the cars. Another dude I saw didn't close his driver's door all the way and wasn't wearing his seatbelt. And when he mashed the pedal and [proceeded] into sorta a donut — holy shit — his door opened, and he flew out on the street."

Nehru, an import car builder, was unimpressed by the SDPD's Christmas post. "These events have been going on every year, and you guys are just now finding out about it. I don't know why all of a sudden, you people care. The city isn't fixing the roads; they can't even fix the potholes throughout the city — lol." Many others

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 2

online agreed with the the “pothole versus takeover-skid-marks” sentiments.

The SDPD report continued, “Individuals connected with these activities were also involved in ‘drifting sideshows’ later in the day in the City of Chula Vista, damaging the city streets and private property.” A Chula Vista resident said that an event took place at the intersection of Birch and Magdalena, and that police were called but never showed up. Nevertheless: county-wide, police and sheriffs are cracking down on the sideshow takeovers, which often trend on TikTok and Instagram. In August, the El Cajon Police Department and the San Diego Police Department worked together

to monitor six sideshow takeovers around the county. In September, SDPD linked up with the CHP and the National City Police Department “in a county-wide effort to reduce street takeovers,” according to the department’s Facebook page. “Together, we arrested 11 people and cited another 51 during sideshow takeover events.” Police cited seven drivers for reckless driving and/or exhibition of speed, and their vehicles were impounded for 30 days. Even spectators were busted; law enforcement “issued 37 hazardous and equipment citations, and impounded ten of these vehicles.”

Around the same time, on September 19, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 2000, which prohibits street racing, takeovers, and sideshows in parking lots across the state, including San Diego County.

MIKE MADRIAGA



O marks the spot.

Neal Obermeyer



UNDER THE RADAR

Throwing Goldstones As city hall’s controversies continue to burgeon, Democratic mayor **Todd Gloria** has gotten his reelection paperwork in early, in the form of a January 4 candidate intention statement filed with the city clerk’s office. The move is presumably intended to forestall any viable challengers from taking the field against him, but the dam may have already broken. As the 2024 mayoral primary draws nearer, growing homeless counts, city council blowback against a sweeping downtown redevelopment scheme, and increased attention to a costly Gloria advisor have put the mayor on the defensive, possibly opening the door to a big dollar challenge backed by local Republicans or dissident pro-business Democrats. As noted here this past July, Gloria’s longtime mentor, then-acting Chief Operating Officer **Jay Goldstone** — tied to several high-profile city

financial debacles, including the costly Ash Street high-rise deal — was officially replaced by the ex-Houston chief of public works **Eric K. Dargan**. Besides the Ash Street controversies, Goldstone had been hit for double-dipping from the public payroll by collecting a \$55,829 pension from San Diego because of his prior stint as Chief Operating Officer with GOP mayor **Jerry Sanders**, and also \$111,059 in retirement compensation as onetime City of Pasadena finance director, bringing the total taxpayer payout, including his San Diego salary, to \$439,530, per 2021 figures on the website *Transparent California*. But other than criticism by onetime GOP city council member, former mayoral candidate, and current radio talk show host **Carl DeMaio**, Goldstone’s handsome compensation had remained under the radar. That ended last week, when an apparently freshly energized *Union-Tribune* reported that Goldstone was still on the public payroll as a consultant to Gloria, and noted the aide’s history as a double-dipper “Now, even as Gloria has installed a new

full-time chief operating officer, Goldstone is working up to 720 hours a year — the equivalent of 18 weeks,” according to the paper’s January 8 account. “He is paid almost \$200 an hour for his efforts shepherding some of the mayor’s most pressing initiatives, but no longer accrues increased pension benefits.”

Meanwhile, the *U-T* has also turned its spotlight on incidents of violence amidst the growing hordes of homeless — another potential anti-Gloria talking point, this one inspired

by the non-profit Lucky Duck Foundation, which has been loudly praised by the paper’s editorialists. “This type of criminal behavior and lack of action to prevent and eliminate it is entirely egregious,” the *U-T*’s January 8 story quoted **Dan Shea**, a wealthy Republican Fairbanks Ranch denizen, as saying. “What kind of society are we living in where someone on the streets is wearing a bulletproof vest and then starts chasing people with a weapon?” Now a self-styled homeless expert as a member



Why is Eric K. Dargan smiling? Because he has a solid Goldstone aide!

of the Lucky Duck Foundation’s board of directors, fast-food baron and Padres partner Shea has championed the group’s so-called “Shamrocks & Shipwrecks” awards, which have repeatedly slammed the city — and by implication, Gloria — for the festering homeless crisis. Lucky Duck doings also get priority coverage on KUSI, which is owned by longtime Republican **Mike McKinnon**. “The Lucky Duck

Foundation made national headlines in September 2022 when they held a press conference with icon **Bill Walton**, who explained how America’s Finest City has been destroyed under the leadership of Todd Gloria,” the station reminded viewers in a January 11 post. “Walton declared the new, failed state of San Diego to be called, ‘Gloriaville,’ before calling on Gloria to resign.”

Bye, bye Tegna Are even more jobs at stake at KFMB as a pending buyout of the San Diego broadcaster creeps closer to approval by the Federal Communications Commission? That’s the worrisome question left hanging



Elisabeth Kimmel in happier times for both herself and KFMB.

after statements of reassurance put out by would-be buyer Standard General Corporation, run by hedge fund maven **Soo Kim**. In a December 22 missive to federal regulators, “the company pledged it will not cut any journalism jobs for at least two years post-transaction,” per a December 29 post by *Fierce.com*. “Yet Standard General noted in the letter it ‘cannot predict how future economic conditions

or changes in the broadcast industry may require broadcasters to make adjustments in the composition or size of station staffing to best serve the needs of the public.” Though the FCC has invited further public comment on the takeover through January 13, with replies to comments due a week later, the website quotes investment advisors as saying “the deal is still in the end game, with the FCC likely to resolve the matter within 60 days after reply

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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.

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

\$37K sidewalk repairs needed in San Diego

Neighborhood News, November 9, 2022

Thousands of sidewalks causing people to trip, file lawsuits against the City, the City pays out big bucks. Yet, somehow there's money to pay off the lawsuits, and money for roundabouts, and unconnected bike lanes. BUT, no money for sidewalk repairs or to hire the people/contractors to get them fixed, along with the streets City wide,

with huge pot holes. No money to fix those either unless there's a bike lane on it, which takes a special asphalt to provide a softer ride. Gloria needs a lesson in how to budget money.

—Budget Skeptic
December 24, 2022

Beery Christmas (and other holidays)!

Booze News, December 22, 2022

Santa's little helper... too funny. I wonder how it tastes.

—Santos L. Halper
December 23, 2022

The effect of parking spots deleted from North Park

December 26, 2022

One very important fact was absent from your story. You wrote that some people want a network of safe bike lanes throughout the city. We already had them. Years ago, the City laid out bike routes on secondary streets parallel to busy streets. There were even signs along the routes, let people know which way to go to reach various cities or neighborhoods, and there was a complete map

posted on a Caltrans Web site. I should know; I used to use them, and one includes the street upon which I live.

The beauty of the bike routes is that were on quiet streets. Bike riders on the new allegedly protected bike lanes on 30th Street are separated from car traffic by paint on the asphalt and flimsy little vertical plastic markers. My wife learned about these when trying to park at December Nights to set up a table for her charity. She was trying to get to her assigned parking place, but was cut off from it by the flow of traffic. A helpful policeman told her to just drive through the plastic stanchions. She did as instructed, and the stanchions leaned over as she drove across them, then popped back up once she had passed. I'd much rather ride a bike on a quiet side street than expose myself to 30th Street traffic with no real protection.

The radical bikers were just wanting to prove how influential they are by ruin-

ing 30th Street for cars and businesses, rather than use the network of quiet, safer nearby alternative routes.

That's the part of the story that no one is telling. Maybe you can be the first.

Jim Greene
December 28, 2022

The desired effect, force out small businesses so connected developers can get the properties at "distressed" prices

—Mr. Correct
December 27, 2022

The entire San Diego City Council is now infested with these fools. Todd Gloria is chief fool. Catherine Blakespear was rewarded with a State Senate seat. Same bike lane fool. When will voters wake up? When it's too late.

—Not a Gloria Fan
December 28, 2022

People are not against bike lanes and absolutely in favor of legit Climate Goals... We object to these badly located, senselessly designed disasters that are piggybacking on the trend of Climate Goals. Environmentalists filed a Lawsuit Against the City of San Diego in September for failure to explain how they'll implement changes; failure to identify funding; and no plans to upgrade public transit. In other words, they've been called

out for being all talk; no meaningful action and sued to insure they produce a plan by Feb 2023.

—Plan Demander
December 29, 2022

If the Mayor and Council had genuine concern for reducing emissions, they'd remove the bogus bike counter (which has been proven to register several digits for one bike)... Replace it with an air quality sensor and submit an Environmental Impact Report for these bike lanes. They've forgotten that the point isn't to increase number of bikes; The point is to improve airquality. Even if they show 5000 bikes an hour, it's not evidence that air quality has improved.

—Hot Air Detector
December 29, 2022

This issue isn't about an individual; it's about a shady City Administration known for misrepresenting the intentions of their actions. Why is such a sure fire shining example of an "environmentally friendly project" so obsessed with being exempt from an environmental report? And why the deflecting to number of bikes instead of monitoring any improvement in air quality?

—Shade Sensor
December 29, 2022

Under the radar

continued from page 3

comments are due. Meaning the transaction will likely close sometime in February."

Meanwhile, Standard put out an upbeat January 10 statement: "Many have pointed to our proven track record of enhancing stations' service to their local communities, increasing local news content, and investing in the resources stations need to compete successfully. We are confident that the acquisition of Tegna will open a new chapter in American media distribution, marked by an expansion in representa-

tion, diversity, and innovation." Job loss fears have haunted the KFMB corridors ever since the sale of the operation for \$325 million by owners **Elisabeth Kimmel** and family to Tegna, a spinoff of what used to be called Gannett, in December 2017. Kimmel was subsequently charged and convicted in the Operation Varsity Blues college admissions bribery scandal, did prison time, and was disbarred.

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOANIN TOMASEK

Daddy's pregnant: Weedy sea dragon with eggs on tail.**Dragon eggs!**

"People are very intrigued by seahorses," says Leslee Matsushige, associate curator at Birch Aquarium. And intriguing fish — signs of whimsy in the relentlessly efficient natural world — are good PR for an institution hoping to make people care about the state of the ocean. So it was good news when, "many years

ago, someone collected a Pacific seahorse in San Diego Bay and brought it to the aquarium. We tried our best to keep it alive and have it for visitors to see," but that species of seahorse doesn't live much longer than five years. "We ended up getting another seahorse from the wild that was pregnant, and that started our whole program." — maybe call it Operation

"They transferred the eggs right around the full moon. There are about 150 eggs on the male."

ago, someone collected a Pacific seahorse in San Diego Bay and brought it to the aquarium. We tried our best to keep it alive and have it for visitors to see," but that species of seahorse doesn't live much longer than five years. "We ended up getting another seahorse from the wild that was pregnant, and that started our whole program." — maybe call it Operation

**Leslee Matsushige, dragon wrangler.**

Population. "We had a very generous donor, Dorothy Munro, who gave us money to build a propagation room. Now we raise 13 different seahorses," and share the surplus with aquariums around the world.

Eventually, Matsushige and the Birch team

dragons, looked at their habitat, and tried to incorporate all that" into the exhibit. "They love being underneath piers with pilings, so we incorporated pilings. They hang around sea grass, so we put sea grass on one side of the exhibit." And they need room to boogie: "We built the tank deep — it's 9 feet deep and 18 feet wide. We felt they needed that space in order to do their dance and subsequent egg transfer."

Of course, it's not always enough to merely set the scene. "Nutrition is probably the most important thing. We feed them tiny little shrimp every day, and we enrich those shrimp with probiotics and vitamins and fatty acids. And we give the sea dragons environmental cues for seasonal changes. We give them temperature changes, changes in length of daylight. We have some species in the ocean that get cues off the phases of the moon — it could be because of the tides. So we try to simulate those phases, too," with the help of a skylight above the exhibit.

Sometime in the night between January 8 and 9, a pair of weedy sea dragons finally got in sync. "They transferred the eggs right around the full moon. There are about 150 eggs on the male, which is a huge deal, because the last time we had a transfer, which was behind the scenes, it was just five eggs. Two of those ended up hatching, and we raised the babies and they are currently in our exhibit. But this is just huge. You don't typically see this in aquariums."

Deep calls unto deep

A conversation among the inscriptions scribbled amid the doodles on the ochre walls of the Georgian restaurant Pomegranate — layer upon layer, the ink fading like echoes, dim voices from the forgotten past. Remember QAnon and "Where we go one we go all"? Already, the Trump in "Trump 2024" has been crossed out and replaced with "Kanye." Perhaps "Invest in Bitcoin!" will join them soon.

Most common are the simplest sort of declarations: identity, relation, and presence. "My name is Jeff." "Allison + Emil = Baby Eva — forever love." "Supper Club 2014." This last gives rise to argument: "Our supper club is better than yours!" Both are likely better off than "Alex, by himself," especially since "He who eats alone chokes alone." Maybe Alex also

Gladiator: "What the Euphrats do in a lifetime will echo in eternity!" (Well, something like that.) But then again, set against that defiant cry, we read: "There comes a time when you look into the mirror and realize that what you see is all you will ever be, and then you accept it or kill yourself."

A possible aid in acceptance: "Be yourself, everyone else is taken." Besides, "We've come too far to give up who we are," and "You are perfect the way you are." Well, maybe. But if that's so, what to make of this? "Be brave, take risks. Nothing can substitute for experience." Or the unrealized ambition of "I'm gonna be a famous athlete"? Or these confessions of cowardice? The first is concrete: "What would I do if I was brave? I would travel to Vietnam, meet the love of my life, marry..." The second is abstract: "1. Make eye contact. 2.

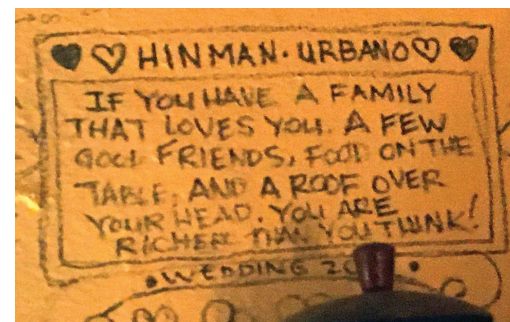
**"Please do not write on this wall!"**

wrote the plaintive "Tinder me!" or the even more plaintive "Remember me!" Perhaps he should meet the author of "Where can I find a good Russian man that cooks?" A sensible question, since this is a Russian restaurant. A reminder of this: "I eat Georgian. I go rule world. I come back. I eat more Georgian." And drink: "In Russia, vodka drinks you!" Drink gives rise to joyous declarations: "Wine, women, freedom!" But also melancholy. "I need 4 ply when I cry." "Birthday dreams are fun, unless we have no goods to trade."

Ah, dreams. "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined." As as you go, you may be encouraged by Coelho's promise that "When a person really desires something, the universe conspires to help that person." *Rocky IV*'s Ivan Drago may declare, "I must break you," but recall the line of Maximus in

Ask her exactly what [you want]. 3. Run away." Instead of self-soothing talk, better perhaps to acknowledge that "Success is rented, due day, everyday." The best we can hope for is "Fair winds and following seas."

A joker has written, "Please do not write on this wall!" Should you ignore him, a piece of advice: "Don't tell me the moon is shiny, show me the glint of light on a piece of broken glass." — Anton Chekhov, quoted by Roxanna, 2013."

**Wisdom: let us attend.**

4532 RANCHO DEL MAR TRAIL | SAN DIEGO, 92130

CURRENT OWNER: Xia/Jia | LISTING PRICE: \$8,180,000 | BEDS: 6 | BATHS: 7 | HOUSE SIZE: 12,000+ sq. ft.

UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Even longtime San Diegans who consider themselves experts in the city's geography can be forgiven for overlooking Rancho Pacifica. Perched at the northernmost point of the city's inland boundaries — past where the coastline has been given over to Del Mar and Solana Beach — the gate-guarded neighborhood contains just 142 homesites, situated along bluffs overlooking Rancho Santa Fe immediately to the north. But we've actually visited the



Dinner is swerved.

neighborhood in these pages before — though it has been several years.

Let's head back now to have a look at what the Zillow agent's remarks

dub "one of the best view lots in Rancho Pacifica...This magnificent estate defines 'Resort-Style-Living' with ocean views from almost every

room," continues the ad copy for 4532 Rancho Del Mar Trail, a 12,000-plus-square-foot estate constructed in 2005 (development of the neighborhood

dates back just to the turn of the century, and few homes here are more than a couple of decades old).

The first few listing photos we see are of a boulder-lined pool with a waterfall, flanked by a handful of palm trees, and photographed both by day and at sunset. There's just a hint of the home's view potential, as the backyard seems to drop away to a steep slope just out of frame. We then enter the home through what appears to be a main foyer opening onto a living room. The high ceilings with exposed beams, the arched passageways separating rooms, and the enormous window looking into the backyard are all attractive, but a stone arch separating the entry from the living room seems a little too perfectly smooth and uniform in

tone, almost like someone decided to paint drywall to look vaguely like rocks.

From here we pass down a long hallway — it already seems like quite a lot of living area is being given over to hallways, though I suppose, given the home's size, you could dedicate twice the square footage of my whole house to halls and still have more than plenty of room left over. This one takes us to a second, cozier living room, equipped with the second of what we're told are seven fireplaces. Wait — I suspect this may be part of the "grand upstairs [main] suite," because we pass from this living room into what I think is a bedroom, given that there's a bed somewhere in the massive space, which also includes an-

continued on page 9



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The Squatter and the Don

Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, 1885

THE ENTIRE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO was buoyed up with hopes of prosperity, which now seemed founded upon a solid basis.

As for the town of San Diego itself, the dwarfed and stunted little city, she went crazy with joy. Her joy, however, was not of the boisterous, uproarious kind, it was of a mild character, which smiles at everybody, and takes all that comes in good part, ready always to join in the laugh on herself, provided everybody enjoys it. She was happy, seeing a broad vista of coming prosperity in the near future. Why not? She had every reason and every right to expect that the Texas Pacific would be built....

"They have not an earthly right to oppose the Texas Pacific, and all their motive is that they don't want competition to their Central

Pacific Railroad. They have already made millions out of this road, but they want no one else to make a single dollar. They want to grab every cent that might be made out of the traffic between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and they don't care how many people are ruined or how many homes are made desolate in the South or in California."

"Oh, George, but this is awful! If those men are so very rapacious and cruel, what hope have we? They will certainly sacrifice San Diego if their influence in Congress is so great! Poor San Diego! my poor, little, native town, to be sacrificed to the heartless greed of four or five men..."

And thus this young couple went on discussing San Diego's chances of life or death, and their own hopes in the future. They were not the only couple who in those days pondered over the problem of the "to be or not to be" of the Texas Pacific, which never came! That aid which was to bring peace and comfort to so many homes, which at last were made forever desolate!

Yes, aid was refused. The monopoly

triumphed, bringing poverty and distress where peace might have been!

Yet in those days — the winter of '74-'75 — everybody's hopes were bright. No clouds in San Diego's horizon meant misfortune. Not yet!

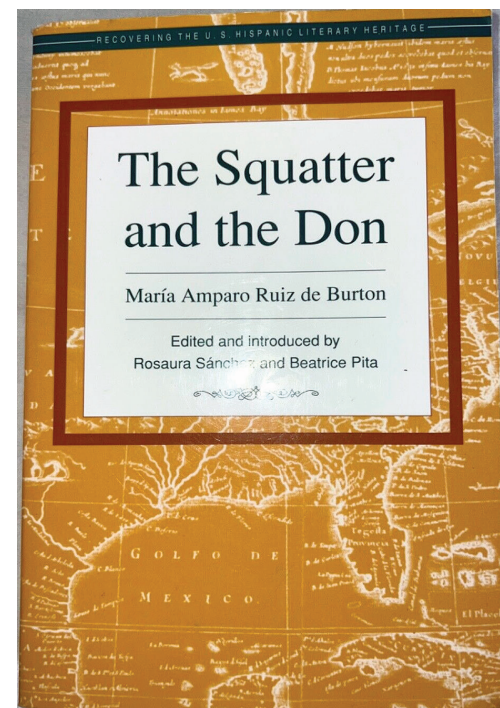
And of all of San Diego's sanguine inhabitants, none surpassed in hopefulness the three friends who had invested so heavily in real estate, viz.: Mr. Mechlin, Senor Alamar and Mr. Holman. They exhorted all to keep up courage, and trust in Tom Scott....

When all were seated, Governor Stanford said in his low, agreeable voice, which anyone might suppose would indicate a benevolent, kind heart:

"What can I do for you, gentlemen?"

Don Mariano laughed outright. The situation struck him as being eminently ridiculous. Here was this man, who held pitiless their destiny in his hands — held it with a grip of iron — and not one thought of the distress he caused; he, through his associate, Huntington, was lavishing money in Wash-

continued on page 9



"Oh, George, but this is awful! If those men are so very rapacious and cruel, what hope have we? They will certainly sacrifice San Diego if their influence in Congress is so great! Poor San Diego! my poor, little, native town."

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Squatter

continued from page 8

ington to kill the Texas Pacific, and thus snatch away from them (the three friends) the means of support, absolutely deprive them of the necessities of life, and he asked them what he could do? and asked it with that deep-toned, rich melody of voice which vibrated softly, as if full of sympathy, that overflowed from a heart filled with philanthropy, generosity and good will. This was a sad and cruel irony, which to Don Mariano made their position absurd, to the point of being laughable.

"This is like laughing at a funeral," said Don Mariano, apologetically. "Please pardon me. What made me laugh was that I felt like answering you by saying, 'Governor, you can do for us all we ask.' But — but —"

"Say it out. But what?" said the Governor, smiling.

"But will do nothing for us," finished Mr. Holman.

"That is to say, for San Diego," added Mr. Mechlin, afraid that it might seem as if they came to ask a per-

sonal favor.

"Ah! it is of San Diego that you wish to speak to me? Then, truly, I fear I can do nothing for you," the Governor said.

"But you can hear what we wish to say to you,"

Mr. Holman interposed, with a sickly effort at smiling.

"Certainly, but really, gentlemen, you must excuse me for saying that I am very busy today, and can only give you a half hour."

They all bowed.

Mr. Mechlin and Don Mariano looked at Mr. Holman, as it was understood that he would be spokesman. But Mr. Holman's heart was leaping with the indignation of a lion, and then shrinking with the discouragement of a mouse into such small contractions — all of which he in no way must reveal — that for a minute he could not speak.

"I suppose the San Diego people wish me to build them a railroad, isn't that it?" said the man of power, slowly arranging some papers on his desk.

"Or to let some one else build it," said Mr. Holman.

The Governor colored

slightly, in evident vexation.

"Tom Scott, for instance," said he, sneeringly. "Take my advice, gentlemen, and don't you pin your faith on Tom Scott. He'll build no Texas Pacific, I assure you."

"Then why don't you build it?" asked Mr. Mechlin.

"Because it won't pay?" was the dry reply.

"Why won't it pay? We have plenty of natural resources, which, if developed, would make plenty of business for two railroads," Mr. Holman said.

"Only the San Diego people say so. No one else thinks of San Diego County, but as a most arid luckless region, where it never rains."

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UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 7

other fireplace, another sofa/loveseat/recliner combo, a dining room set, a desk, and what looks like some exercise equipment. It sounds like a lot, but even adding a couple of dressers, it's by no means a tight fit in here.

Next we pass through a bathroom with a walk-in shower that just on its own is the size of a normal bathroom, and then we're back into another hallway, this one lined with various works of art. I hope the next room we come to, lined with mismatched desks shoved against all of the walls, isn't the "presidential executive office" we were promised. We fol-

low it with a few shots of bedrooms and bathrooms that are nicely-appointed and decently sized, but they look decidedly pedestrian after our visit to that massive owners' suite.

The formal dining room isn't necessarily special on its own, but the swirled wood table that matches a few we've seen in the halls is quite impressive, and if I had a dining room the size of a small restaurant, I would very much like to own it. Continuing on, we get seven straight pictures of hallways, staircases, and an elevator, interrupted just briefly to peek inside a half-bath before heading upstairs. I'm not necessarily a fan of the patterned carpet used in the public spaces (it belongs in a two-and-a-half-star hotel that's due for a re-

fresh), but it thankfully doesn't continue into the bedrooms.

Now we're looking at a smattering of view shots taken from a second story deck (and some possibly from on top of the roof). They're quite pleasant, but I can't say that the ocean, a few miles to the west, figures prominently in any of them. A ten-seat private theater looks comfortable enough, and even though the splotchy gray ceiling doesn't look very good with the lights up, I imagine it helps keep focus on the screen when the room is darkened, which is how you want to spend time in a theater anyway.

We get some more bedroom shots (pro tip: make your bed and clean your nightstands if you're trying to make a multimillion-dollar impression),



A little of the old arch and beam — for that olde-timey feel in your recently built home.

including one with what looks like a basic hotel kitchenette in one corner, before continuing to a weird space that resembles a low-countered wine bar. There's more of the indoor rock work here, though this photo is up close enough to see that there is some texture to the stones — maybe these rocks are actually real (or at least manufactured capstones), even if

they look fake.

On to even more bedrooms and baths, including one that's been repurposed as a very small home gym with another fireplace in the corner. This house has six bedrooms, but I feel like we've seen close to a dozen. Then there's another office, with rich brown wood lining the walls and ceiling, built-in bookshelves, a desk,

and leather chairs. The overall effect is very brown, and maybe not quite "presidential," but it's much nicer than the first office, which looked like a telemarketing call center. We finish with some more shots of the pool and grounds, which the listing tells us provide room for entertaining over 200 guests. I have no idea how to gauge that claim, so we'll go with it.

Public records list a Min Xia and Ling Jia as owners of the Rancho Del Mar estate, with the last public sale taking place in late 2019 for a reported \$5.38 million, a half-million less than the previous owner paid for it in 2014. The home was re-listed just after the first of the year with an asking price of \$8,180,000 that remains unchanged to date. ■

Rough Riders

“In Mexico or Baja California, there is a lot of corruption done by the municipal police force as they arbitrarily arrest people and the officers ask for a bribe to release them, without going before a judge,” Ensenada resident Daniela Ramírez said in a recent *Reader* interview. “Between 2006 and 2009 in Ensenada specifically, there was a lot of harassment by the municipal police towards skateboarders — men, young people, older people — where their skateboards were confiscated, and they were arrested for simply skating on the street.”

So beginning in 2006, Ramírez started organizing events, promoting pop-up skateparks, and advocating with the government for skateparks in Baja. Ramírez believed that safe and dignified places to skateboard in the state would help end the prejudices and harassment perpetrated against her skateboarding comrades.

Ramírez, now in her 30s, is a lifelong skateboarder. She is also the president of Skate Baja, A.C. (Asociación Civil), a non-profit organization formed in 2010. Through Skate Baja, Ramírez and her partners have continued her work, promoting events and advocating for public spaces for skateboarders in Tijuana, Tecate, Ensenada, Rosarito, and Mexicali. Ramírez explained, “We collaborated with skate shops, brands, and people who had the interest and desire to do better things for the skateboarding community.” In 2011, they promoted the skatepark and skate spot at Ampliación Guaycura in Tijuana, and afterward, a skate contest at Colonia El Descanso skatepark in Tecate. Over the years, the number and size of those events continued to grow.

A favorite Skate Baja site was the boardwalk in Ensenada. In 2011, the or-

ganization temporarily closed off the boardwalk area by the beach and set up a wooden ramp circuit for the skateboarders; soon after, a “best trick” contest ensued. Because of the popularity of such pop-up skateparks, a more permanent half-pipe was built across the street from the boardwalk, Recalled Ramírez, “Those ramps belonged to Club Revolución, an organization from Ensenada that for many years maintained a wooden skatepark in front

Playa Hermosa Surf & Skate Shop in Ensenada. “When I was 8 years old, we moved to another house, and it was next to a San Miguel surfboard factory for many years. I used to skateboard out there, watch the surfers arrive, and see the immense passion. But here in Mexico, it is challenging to skate because of the condition of the streets. So sometimes we have to go to parks” — or empty pools. Haro, 37, recently closed his shop by the

“It seems awesome to me now that we are considered Olympic athletes when our whole lives people have cataloged us as lowlives.”

of the beach. They always utilized their resources and donations and never had government support. It was outdoors, open to the general public, and free to watch. Many pleasant gatherings were held there. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, a building began to be built on that land, so the skatepark disappeared.”

Two people who felt the loss of that half-pipe were Alfredo Haro and Jose “Chacho” Anaya — long-time friends, surfers, and skaters. “With skateparks, many children and adults get away from the streets and the drugs,” said Haro, former proprietor of the now defunct

Ensenada boardwalk, which was often visited by San Diego skateboarders and surfers. In 2020, thieves broke into the shop and “stole skateboards, wetsuits, surfing accessories, leashes, tees, close to \$3500 USD worth,” he said. And because Mexican nationals at the time couldn’t travel across the border due to covid restrictions, Haro and his business partners couldn’t replenish their merchandise. The business went downhill, and “the cops did nothing.”

On the flip side, cops are quick to bust skateboarders for no reason, as Ramírez noted. “In the 38 years of skating, I was stopped by



SKATEBOARDING
IS NOT A CRIME



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE MEDINA / @SOLCARTON

Natalie Krishna Das at Baja Surf & Skate.

police many times,” Anaya said. Anaya, now 52, was never locked up because he “is a living legend of Ensenada,” said Haro. “He started skateboarding when he was 14 years old.” Haro and Anaya, both avid surfers who currently reside in Ensenada, used to skateboard at the that famous half pipe by the beach and boardwalk that locals call Malecón de Playa Hermosa.

In 1988, Anaya won one of the first organized skateboard races held in Tijuana, held next to what we now know as the Caliente Hipódromo; back then, it was called the Agua Caliente Casino and Resort. “There were 120 skaters,” Anaya recounts. “It had lots of ups and downs, about 14 kilometers. I used a Dog

Town skateboard, which was the norm during those times.” Today, an OG Dog Town skateboard is selling on eBay for \$10,000. Unfortunately, Anaya doesn’t have his old skateboard, but he does have the original 1988 trophy, which cemented his street credibility.

Speaking of streets: “I like to skate on the downhills on the highway,” said Anaya, “and sometimes, the Federales intervene and stop me.” But never for long. In 2011, Anaya was the only skateboarder to enter one of the Rosarito-to-Ensenada bike races. Riding a bike over certain uphill stretches on the Carretera Federal 1 highway is strenuous; just imagine propelling a skateboard. But Anaya persevered, and finished

the 50-mile race in 5 hours and 38 minutes. “I always look for the best fairways to ride my skateboard,” Anaya continued, “and if you have to, adapt to bad fairways. Nowadays, some are impossible to skate,” he noted — and that’s not even considering the places through which those roads pass. (Travelers are often advised to pay the \$2+ for the Carretera Federal 1D unless they have business along the free frontage road.)

On Anaya’s trek from Rosarito to Ensenada, he would have passed by the K-38 Surf Shop, a popular surfboard and skateboard shop where surfers from all over the world stop in before hitting what *surflife.com* calls “a moderately powerful, bowly right point breaking over a rocky reef.” It’s also one of the go-to spots for skaters in the region. The shop’s owner, 62-year-old Jacinto Garcia, sells skate accessories and fixes boards. Garcia is a well known surfer in Rosarito, but he’s also one of the original 1970s Tijuana skateboarders. “I still have my original board from 1975,” he said. “I started skateboarding when I was 15; it was 1975. My girlfriend’s family at that time opened up the first skatepark in Tijuana, Skapistas De Mexico. And people from all over came down. It had a place where kids

At Risk for Alzheimer’s?

The image depicted contains models and is being used for illustrative purposes only.



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Baja Surf & Skate Airbnb in Ensenada.

could party, really family [oriented] stuff. My specialty was handstanding,” he recalled. “So I used to handstand until I got dizzy. My favorite [section] was the large pool,”

Skapistas De Mexico closed in 1978. But it paved the way for future skateboarders. One of them, Freddy Palazuelos, skated there when it reopened in the 1980s. “We found out there was a place called Las Skapistas, which was a famous bowl-type place to skate in

the city. Here, we learned for the first time to skate in an empty pool-type spot.” Palazuelos said that San Angel is now the best place to skate in Tijuana, because it has the best bowl in the city. And then there’s La Bandera Skate Park, with its large Mexican flag marking it as something of the culture, and not opposed to it. “We continue working with the boys in the Fundación Actitud Extrovertida,” he said, “keeping boys away from drugs and violence.”

Besides dispensing goods, advice, and repairs at K-38, Garcia keeps an eye out for trouble. Skateboarding may not be a crime, but that doesn’t mean there won’t be trouble with the authorities. On July 3, 2020, at about 2 pm, Garcia noticed a truckload of American surfers and skateboarders being harassed by Mexican police officers across the street from his shop. He clicked the record button on his phone, then walked across Federal Highway



COURTESY OF ANA GASPAR LEON

Ana Gaspar Leon pulls a backside grab at the Baja Surf & Skate bowl.

1 towards the group. He sent the footage to the *Reader*, and the Spanish dialogue between Garcia and the police officers in the footage was translated into English.

Garcia: “They are my friends. What problem do you have?”

Officer: “If you want to know, meet us at the police station.”

American woman in truck: “It’s the paper [license] plates. They’re trying to take the car.”

Garcia: “Do you have a registration paper?”

American man in truck: “Oh no, it’s in the mail.”

Garcia then looked at the two police officers and said, “You can check your database to see if the car is stolen, or by his license plate to see if it belongs to him.”

“No,” responded the police officer, “that permit is [valid] for the United States, not here.”

“Look, sir,” Garcia began.

“Who are you? Who are you?” yelled the police officer as he rushed Garcia.

Jorge Nieto, a Baja reporter, surfer, and skateboarder, saw the incriminating video footage. “When [Garcia] sees an injustice, he acts on it,” Nieto told the *Reader*.

“As in this case, defending the tourists in the gray Tacoma truck. I am very sorry that the city authorities treated the surfers that way. [Garcia] was then illegally beaten and arrested,” Nieto continued. “Then his wife” — now his ex — “approached the scene to claim physical abuse by the Rosarito municipal police.” In the video, the two policemen are on top of Garcia and restraining him with handcuffs. One of the Americans from the truck appears to be filming the tussle from about seven feet away. Garcia’s ex-wife is seen attempting to pull the officers off Garcia, with no success. Then the policeman toss Garcia in the back of the police truck.

Nieto continued, “They also arrested his wife. And when their neighbor, an employee of the pharmacy, wanted to take a photo of the patrol number, she too was loaded [into the police truck] by force. This altercation sends a bad image abroad, because Baja is famous for its waves.”

The *Reader* followed up with Garcia a week or so after the local police arrested him. “I spent one night, like 30 hours in a terrible jail cell full of

tweakers,” Garcia said. “They made me sign some papers and let me go.”

Around the same time he spoke with the *Reader*, Garcia also interviewed with a news station from Mexico City. The news station then interviewed the Mayor of Playas de Rosarito, Araceli Brown. Garcia noted, “Those cops were fired. The Baja Board of Tourism is monitoring any abuse. Once the tourists are stopped by police, they should dial 078, and they will be immediately assisted with a translator. Tell the readers that they are safe here. Then, if you are stopped and you have made an infraction, ask for your ticket and go to the police station and pay your fine. They will take your license, and you will get it back. If you haven’t broken any laws, just keep asking for a ticket, and do not give them any money.”

Javier Morales, a 34-year-old Rosarito skateboarder and bodyboarder, knows how the police roll in Baja. He treks back and forth across the border to his job at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. “The police are OK,” he told the *Reader*. “But they do mess with us skaters all the time. They can stop you and do a [random] search.

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COURTESY OF JOSE CHACHO ANAYA

In 2011, Anaya was the only skateboarder to enter a Rosarito-to-Ensenada bike race; he finished the 50-mile course in 5 hours and 38 minutes.

The last time I had to bail a friend out of jail, it was a pro skater from Spain. They broke into a school to skate some stairs, and the cops showed and took the three dudes to jail." Morales said he slipped the police officers at the jail "\$50 USD, and they got released very fast."

While some American skaters might be terrified of the prospect of getting sweated and shaken down by the policia, others feel that's just part of the fun and excitement of skateboarding in Baja. It's still a little bit outlaw down there. Even local skate legend Tony Hawk couldn't avoid the allure. He rolled down to Playas de Tijuana to skateboard and film the last portion of "The End," which was part of his Birdhouse video line. "We rented this bullring in Tijuana for two weeks in 1998 for a whopping \$1500," Hawk posted on his Facebook page. "It took ten days to build the ramp and four days to shoot all the skating."

A key feature of the \$40,000 custom-built half pipe built by Tim Payne in the Plaza Monumental de Playas de Tijuana, according to the *Skateboarding and the City* YouTube page, was a 360-degree loop. Before Hawk's visit, nobody had completed the loop. And video posted by Skateboarding and the City shows Hawk eating it at least two times. ("I always got hurt somehow along the way of learning it," said Hawk in another interview.) Then on the third shot, Hawk makes it all the way around.

The Tijuana half-pipe inspired DIY builders from both sides of the border, including Morales. "I built this mini ramp at home," he said, showing pictures of half pipe that looks about 5 feet tall and 30 feet wide, made with bricks as a base and cement up top. "I just do it for fun with free material I scout around," he continued. "It depends on size and material, [whether it's] concrete or wood.

But with cash in hand, it can be done very fast, like three days. There is also a DIY pool in Ensenada," he added.

In 2021, Analay "Ana" Gaspar Leon and her friends built a DIY skate pool in Ensenada behind her home. "The idea of the pool was born because they removed the place where I skated in front of the beach in Ensenada" — the same ramp that Haro and Anaya once skated. "In 2019, I bought my land and was allowed to create something on my property." Leon's diyskatepool_ens Instagram page depicts Leon and her skater friends building what folks all over the world now know as DIY Skate Pool Ensenada. The project took four months: they dug a hole in the soil, laid the rebar, created a perimeter with wood and cement blocks, poured the cement, and smoothed it out. The crew then painted the skate pool Tiffany Blue. Leon, now 30, began skating in 2005, and loves the sport so much that she built two additional concrete ramps next to the pool.

She held her first two skate tournaments in June and July of 2021. Others followed. Former Clairemont residents and partners Denise "Ivanna S. Pankin" Grimes and Trish "The Dish" Ethier cruised down to Ensenada to compete and hang out at the Summer 2021 skate tournaments. "So we got there at DIY Skate Pool Ensenada at 2 pm," recalled Grimes, "and at the time when we first met, Ana didn't speak a lot of English, and we didn't speak a lot of Spanish. So like, we just skated with Ana for a couple of hours, and then the contest started later, and then no one else showed up until like five."





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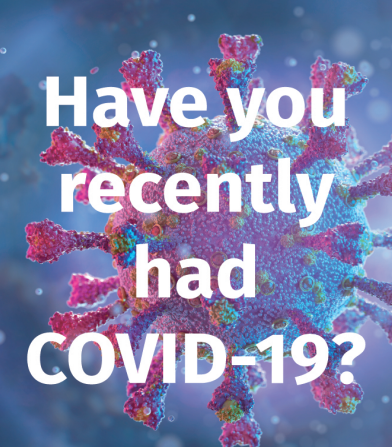
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COURTESY OF FREDDY PALAZUELOS

Freddy Palazuelos skating in Tijuana.

Grimes and Ethier had just relocated to La Misión, a small municipality in the northern part of Ensenada between Rosarito and downtown Ensenada. Grimes continued, “And we met Misa, who’s from Tijuana. He has a Tijuana skate shop called Manos Sucias.” (Misa and his Manos Sucias staff were in charge of #GoSkateDay in Tijuana in June 2022; they provided kids with decks, grip tape, t-shirts, and slaps for free at the San Angel Skate Park in Tijuana.)

Grimes and her new Baja skater friends would reconnect at their La Mis-

ión property in September 2021 to commence building another Baja DIY. “Misa brought a bunch of people from Tijuana, and Ana came with a bunch of people from Ensenada and then returned every Sunday. So it took nine months or something of Sundays. We only missed two Sundays. And we would work on cement all day long, then just barbecue and drink beers, and then everyone would go home at night. It was a super fun way to do it.”

During the week, when it was just Grimes and Ethier, they would work on their house, getting

it ready to be an Airbnb. Then they’d get back to the DIY work. “We would do all the prep,” Grimes continued, “like all the digging and constructing the forms, so that when everybody was over, we could actually focus on pouring in the wheelbarrows of cement. So it was like the same basic core crew almost all the time. Because of that, we kind of got to know many people in Mexico.” The La Misión DIY skate bowl features coping at the pool’s edges, hips, and two roll-ins. The two also added a wooden mini-ramp halfpipe near the bowl.

Grimes and Ethier also converted two rooms within their 4000 square foot home into Airbnb units. On the Airbnb site, the rental is referred to as “Baja Surf & Skate Apt. #1 or Apt. #2 with a mini ramp and skate bowl,” the spaces each cost \$59 a night.

Grimes, Ethier, and Leon threw their first collaborative event, titled “Women’s DIY Baja Skate Contest,” at their spot on August 27; the following day, a second contest was held at the DIY Skate Pool Ensenada. The two DIY skate events were promoted online and attracted women skateboarders from both sides of the border, including Natalie Krishna Das, a professional skateboarder from Eureka, California. “I went with one of my best friends and Las ChicAZ crewmates Laura Logue,” Das recalled. “We took her 2018 Jeep Cherokee.” On the way down, the two skateboarders made sure they had their passports and purchased Mexican auto insurance online. “We were concerned that our Google Maps would not work during the drive,” Das continued, “but we were elated to find that they worked perfectly fine, and we had WiFi and phone service the entire way with Verizon.” The Baja Surf & Skate Airbnbs were already booked, so Das rented an Airbnb about 15 minutes away, still in La Misión. “We spent about \$130 per night for a beautiful penthouse with a huge upper deck balcony. It was perfect, with a Frida Kahlo theme and an epic ocean view.” On August 27, skaters pulled up to the Baja Surf & Skate DIY property line, where the pavement turns into dirt. The road to the house and skate park runs a mile over hilly terrain.



COURTESY OF JACINTO GARCIA

The original flyer from the Tijuana skate park, Skapistas De Mexico.

Visitors can hear roosters, donkeys, goats, horses, dogs, and peacocks. At the competition, “all women, non-binary and trans folks of all skill levels are invited to compete,” read the flier’s caption on Instagram in both English and Spanish. Awards were given for: best trick, highest air, weirdest trick, fastest learner, most creative run, smoothest run, most technically proficient run, crazy train, used every feature, 110 percent send, most run, trick master, and fast AF. More than 40 people showed up, many of whom competed. On her newly installed Cherries Wheels, Das performed a 50/50 grind, a rock to fakie, a frontside air, and a slew of other tricks on her board. “I got third place,” Das said. Ana Leon took first place, and Das’s buddy Logue took second place. The next day at DIY Skate Pool Ensenada, Das took first place, Logue came in second, and third place went to a San Diegan, Trisha Miller. (Grimes and Ethier knew what they were do-

ing as hosts: the couple competed in the Las Vegas roller derby competition circuit, and founded RollerCon in 2005. Then in 2009, the couple moved to San Diego, where they joined the San Diego Derby Dolls. Grimes would eventually captain the team, leading them to a championship. They also opened Sin City Skates, a roller derby equipment shop. They sold the shop in 2016 to focus on their new projects, including the La Misión DIY. They still run the RollerCon.)

But despite the joys of DIY, and despite advances in both cultural acceptance and public support, skateboarding in Baja is still playing catch-up on the world stage. The covid-delayed 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo saw the games’ first-ever skateboard events, and San Diego was well represented, with Bryce Wettstein, Jordyn Barratt, Cory Juneau, and Heimana Reynolds skating in the park-discipline preliminaries at the Ariake Urban Sports Park in August 2021. The other

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Olympic skateboard event was referred to as “street,” and resembled much of what you’d see in certain parts of Tijuana: curbs, handrails, stairs, walls, benches, and slopes.

But, said Skate Baja’s Ramírez, there are complications. “In Mexico, the skateboard organization for the Olympics is FEMEPAR (Federación Mexicana De Patines Sobre Ruedas) at the national level. And at the local level, we must communicate with the associations that have the state’s presidency. Unfortunately, in Baja California’s case, not many skate associations have approached the state presidency. Consequently, for athletes to approach events for Olympic ranking, there is little information, slow communication, and no support, especially in funding. Here, the government structure can’t meet skateboarding needs in public spaces and for athletes. It already happened to the CONADE National Games recently.” Comisión Nacional de Cultura Física y Deporte is a division in the Mexican government which oversees the promotion and fostering of promoting sports, physical education, and



COURTESY OF JOSE CHACHO ANAYA

Jose Chacho Anaya rips his backyard ramp in Ensenada.

recreation throughout the country. “But of the five municipalities signed up, only two participated with athletes because the other three did not know how to organize themselves.”

Continued Ramírez, “In the Baja California skate community, there is a disenchantment with the Olympics because we see that there is not a good national organization, and that means that only a few people have access to compete, especially those skateboarders who are in the center of the country. But, on the other hand, many young athletes would like to be

able to reach that level of competition and are enthusiastic about being in those Olympic venues. So what can we do from here? Keep promoting events, promote decent skateparks, and support those who seek to travel to compete.”

It turns out there are limits to DIY: “If our skateboarders want to train in vert or the bigger bowls, they must go to the U.S. If they work in the U.S. and can skate their as well, that gives them an advantage. We’ve collaborated with the Poseiden Foundation, and for a few years, I was looking to take our skaters

to Ladies’ Day at The Berries. But our skateboarders had impostor syndrome, or didn’t have a Visa.”

Olympic-skateboarding coach Will Cortez, a bi-national and part of the Mexican Olympic skateboarding team, told the *Reader*, “There’s a lot more street skaters in Mexico,

but park-skating-wise, there’s not as many. It’s kind of hard to go and practice [skateboarding on vert ramps and bowls in Mexico]. And that’s why Cortez trains here and not there. “Like, per capita, the most ramps in the world are probably in San Diego County,” he said.

For now, anyway. Denise Grimes at the La Misión DIY said they plan to build more skateable DIYs on their property. And if they build it, they’re betting folks will come. “I see, on average, just regular kids in Mexico that come to our DIY that can rival some of the best ones at the Linda Vista skatepark,” she said. “The kids here in Baja will skate anything. They skate in the alley next to Manos Sucias in Tijuana; it’s terrifying. It’s all full of gravel, and everything’s handmade to skate there. So it’s rough and bumpy with kinks in

it. The kids go crazy in there, you know? And I’m like, ‘Oh, I need to wear a helmet,’ coming from Linda Vista, where everything’s perfect and perfectly swept up, and they blow it out every morning with leaf blowers and stuff. So I would love to see some of the kids that come to our place in La Misión skate at a really nice facility, like at Linda Vista, City Heights, or Memorial in Logan Heights.”

In the meantime, there is consolation in how far the sport has come. “It seems awesome to me now that we are considered Olympic athletes when our whole lives people have cataloged us as low-lives,” said Jose “Chacho” Anaya, the 52-year-old skateboarder who fearlessly rode his skateboards on the freeways. “I hope people who do not skate now see us as athletes.”

— Mike Madriaga

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Your Week

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Friday | 20

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S GRUESOME GALLERY OF GROTESQUERIE

Through tales of murderous madmen or supernatural mystery, Edgar Allan Poe confronts fear and darkness in this performance co-developed in collaboration with Junior Theatre students and performers. The production will fuse storytelling, poetry, music, movement, and puppetry to explore the works of Poe. Recommended for ages 10 years and up.

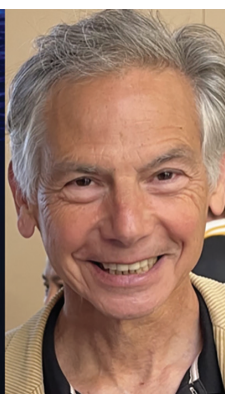
WHEN: Friday, January 20, 7 pm

WHERE: Casa del Prado Theatre, 1600 Village Place, Balboa Park. balboapark.org

WHERE: Wellness Lounge Mission Bay LLC, 1548 Quivira Way, Mission Beach. wellnessloungesd.com

Sunday | 22

WEEKENDS WITH LOCALS: ALLAN HAVIS



Allan Havis is the author of *Clear Blue Silence*, a story in which film professor Jonathan Klein resolves a debt left by his deceased Jewish father due to a New York crime figure. Klein, a single parent in California, learns unsettling details about his late wife, about his brilliant Chinese student, and about his suicidal colleague days before Yom Kippur. The story, set during covid, finds Klein shuttling between California and New York.

WHEN: Sunday, January 22, 12 pm to 2 pm

WHERE: Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. warwicks.com/event/havis-2023

MACY GRAY

Highly influenced by Billie Holiday,



FRIDAY, JANUARY 20: EDGAR ALLAN POE'S GRUESOME GALLERY OF GROTESQUERIE

gravel-voiced soul singer Macy Gray has released ten studio albums and earned five Grammy Award nominations, including a win for Best Female Pop Performance. She appeared in the films *The Crow: Wicked Prayer*, *The Paperboy*, and *Brotherly Love*, and she's played roles on TV shows such as *That's So Raven* and *Fuller House*.

WHEN: Sunday, January 22, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Music Box, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. musicboxsd.com

just fifteen years later, the St. Francis Dam above Los Angeles burst, killing over 400 people and effectively ending his career.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 24, 1 pm

WHERE: Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. sandiego.librarymarket.com

Saturday | 21

WELL + FEST '23

Take part in outdoor yoga and fitness classes, plus enjoy live music, wellness



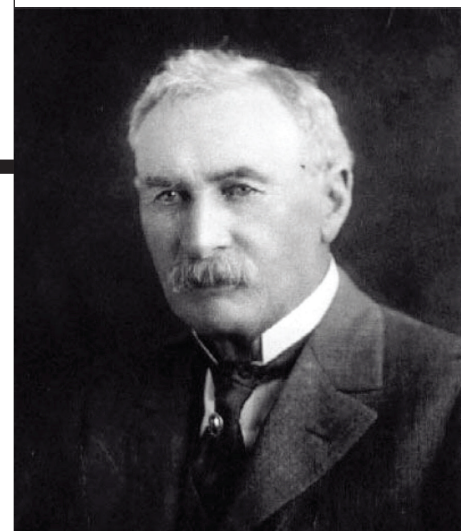
workshops with SoCal instructors, local DJs, bands, artists, SUP yoga and Pilates, psychic healing, sound baths, ear seeding (a traditional Chinese medicine), artist's row, vegan vendors, massage, and chiropractic community.

WHEN: Saturday, January 21, 10 am to 4 pm

Tuesday | 24

WILLIAM MULHOLLAND: THE LA AQUEDUCT AND ST. FRANCIS DAM DISASTER

William Mulholland is responsible for one of the greatest civil engineering feats in American history: he designed and built the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which transported water 233 miles from the picturesque Owens Valley south to Los Angeles. Completed in 1913, the aqueduct made him a hero to Angelenos, but



LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT; ABOVE: WILLIAM MULHOLLAND

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

Candle Making-Crafting Event & Warehouse Sale Mini candle-making workshop & in-person sales event. Saturday, January 21, 10am; \$5. Crafter's Box, 4643 Mission Gorge Pl., Suite A. (MISSION VALLEY)

Fashion & Masters: Perfumed Gloves & Jasmine Fields This lecture will trace the unique chain of events and individuals that ensured the success of perfumery's specialized craft within French culture and society, from the "Sun King" to the Guerlain family. For the second half of the event, look closely at several French paintings from the Timken's collection and pair them with scent, enhancing our visual experience through the sense of smell. Sunday, January 22, 4pm; \$85-\$95. 21 and up. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Featured Artist Redin Winter Reception Opening Reception for an art exhibition featuring San Diego artist Redin Winter's Inner Landscapes. The feature exhibition runs January 17 - January 28. Saturday, January 21, 6pm; **free**. Studio Door, 3867 Fourth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

BOOK SIGNINGS

1001 Fritters: Food in the Arabian Nights Culinary Historians of San Diego will present 1001 'Fritters': Food in the Arabian Nights, featuring Charles Perry. As a collection of wonder tales being recited to hungry audiences in Middle Eastern bazaars, the Arabian Nights naturally included a number of references to foods. The event is free and open to the public. Saturday, January 21, 10:30am; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Emily Calandrelli: Stay Curious & Keep Exploring Warwick's, in partnership with La Jolla Riford Library, will host Emily Calandrelli as she discusses and signs her new book, *Stay Curious and Keep Exploring: 50 Amazing, Bubbly, and Creative Science Experiments to Do with the Whole Family*. Tuesday, January 24, 4pm; **free**. La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Seth Mallios: 100 Seasons of Aztec Football Warwick's will host Seth Mallios as he discusses and signs his new book, *100 Seasons of Aztec Football*. This event is free and open to the public; free admittance is subject to available space. Tuesday, January 24, 7:30pm; **free**-\$129. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Tracy Badua Tracy Badua in discussion with Kat De Los Reyes Thurs-

OUTDOORS

Sensitive sumac, thorny cat-claw, extreme tides

The Frost-Nipped Legacies of last November's and December's cold spells aren't hard to spot. Brown lawns, half-dead-looking avocado trees, and wilted ornamental plants like poinsettias in certain areas of San Diego County tell the story plainly enough. But a common frost-sensitive native plant -- the laurel sumac -- is even more widely expressive. Laurel sumac is one of the largest and most conspicuous plant within the coastal-sage-scrub vegetation community growing on many of San Diego's coastal hillsides. They tend to become noticeably frost-bitten in low lying areas, where chilled air sinks and settles in during the night and early morning hours.

Acacias, Festooned with Myriads of Fluffy Yellow Blossoms, are brightening street-sides, freeway embankments, and backyard



NO SURPRISE ACACIA GREGGI IS OFTEN CALLED "CAT-CLAW"



NEW SUMAC GROWTH HAS A REDDISH-BRONZE COLOR

gardens throughout the San Diego area this month. Although many acacias are native to subtropical regions, nearly all we see today in San Diego were introduced from Australia. The Anza-Borrego Desert's native acacia (*Acacia greggii*) is the notoriously thorny "cat-claw," known by early desert pioneers as "tear-blanket" and "wait-a-minute bush."

Extremely High and Extremely Low Tides are set to occur on January 20-22. On Friday, January 20, a peak high tide of +7.42 feet occurs at 7:33 am. Saturday's high tide of +7.68 feet crests at 8:21 am. Sunday's high tide of +7.64 feet peaks at 9:08 am. If any strong winter storm happens to arrive from the west during these peak tides, some flooding of low-lying coastal areas around San Diego is likely. Several exceptionally low tides will also occur within the same string of January dates. On Friday, January 20, the tide falls to -2.03 feet at 2:51 pm. On Saturday, the tide drops to -2.2 feet at 3:33 pm. On Sunday, a low tide level of -2.07 feet occurs at 4:15 pm. Any of these low-tide occasions are perfect for exploring marine life in the tidepool areas along San Diego County's coastline.

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.

COMEDY

Beks 2 Beks 2 Beks Taking off from their online concert "Beksinated," this concert will feature the performing and comedic strengths of the group as a collective and as individual performers — as MC, Lassy and Chad. Friday, January 20, 8pm; \$78-\$128. 21 and up. Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way. (EL CAJON)

Comedy Night: Nazareth Also appearing variety act Michael Rayner

and comedienne Lisa Gilbert. Friday, January 20, 7pm; **free**. Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (ROLANDO)

Jesus Trejo With Eliot Chang and Mary Romeo. Friday, January 20, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; Saturday, January 21, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; \$17. 18 and up. Grand Comedy Club, 340 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Kevin Nealon As seen on NBC's *SNL*, Showtime's *Weeds*, ABC, Comedy Central & more! Thursday, January 19, 8pm; Friday, January

20, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, January 21, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Robert Kelly Robert Kelly's comedy is deeply rooted his own life and relationships. Friday, January 20, 7pm; Saturday, January 21, 7pm; \$25. 21 and up. Mic Drop Comedy, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Break Into Travel Writing Break Into Travel Writing with Lenore Greiner Saturday, January 21, 1pm; \$36-\$42. 18 and up. Inspirations Gallery, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #204. (LIBERTY STATION)

Craftivism Class: Printmaking as Resistance During this 2.5-hour workshop session, participants will be encouraged to experiment with simple printmaking techniques to create a print that raises awareness and expresses a personal statement about what they care about most.

Thursday, January 19, 6pm; \$5-\$15. Joe and Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue. (EMERALD HILLS)

Kids Ukulele Class After-school group ukulele lessons for kids ages 7-12 taught by Omar Bernal Wednesdays, 4:30pm; through Wednesday, March 1, \$90. Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio Street. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Library NeXT: Demystifying College Admissions The course will cover a variety of topics, including financial aid, choosing a major, and determining which college best fits your goals. This course will be held in English and Spanish. Thursday, January 19, 2pm; **free**. Otay Mesa-Nestor Library, 3003 Coronado Avenue. (NESTOR)

Ring Workshop Learn how to use a blowtorch to solder and create high quality stacking rings to take home. Hosted by local artisan Sangeeta Nair of Ember & Onyx. Sunday, January 22, 10am; **free**-\$110. 18 and up. Haven, 3381 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

VITA Tax Help Volunteer income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free tax filing assistance. By appointments only. Tuesday, January 24, 12pm; Wednesday, January 25, 12pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)



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DANCE

Lunar New Year Lion Dance Performance 30-minute lion dance performance will include a live ensemble of instruments and 3 lions. Saturday, January 21, 10:30am; **free**. Village at Pacific Highlands Ranch, 13490 Pacific Highlands Ranch Parkway. (CARMEL VALLEY)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Oasis Presents: William Mulholland Oasis Presents William Mulholland: The Controversial L.A. Aqueduct and the St. Francis Dam Disaster Tuesday, January 24, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Poway Library Knitting Group Spend the afternoon with fellow knitting enthusiasts. All are welcome, including beginning knitters, although no formal instruction is provided. Bring your own supplies. Monday, January 23, 1pm; **free**. 18 and up. Poway Library, 13137 Poway Road. (POWAY)

San Diego Civil War Round Table Attorney and amateur historian Gordon Gidlund will describe how Shakespeare was part of the cultural literacy of the country during the Civil War, both North and South. Tuesday, January 24, 6:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

FOR KIDS

Alice & Wonderland Tea Party & Military Salute Military children who have sacrificed so much can enter Wonderland where they can take a photo with Alice and the White Rabbit at a photo booth, decorate a cookies with the Queen of Hearts, do a drink toast with the Madd Hatter, enjoy a ten minute magic class with a take home souvenir and more. Saturday, January 21, 11am; **free**. Cornerstone Church of San Diego, 1920 Sweetwater Road. (NATIONAL CITY)

Chula Vista Library Family Concert Series Pattern Play Trio Saturday, January 21: Connect patterns in music to math, science, and language arts. Open to all ages. Saturday, January 21, 2pm; **free**. Chula Vista Civic Center Library, 365 F Street. (CHULA VISTA)

Circus Vargas In the all NEW 2023 production, Circus Vargas channels the “City of Lights” in their latest, greatest production, Bonjour Paris! This all-new high-energy, action-packed extravaganza delivers the ultimate live family entertainment experience for 2023! Friday, January 20, 7:30pm; Saturday, January 21, 4pm and 7pm; Sunday, January 22, 12:30pm, 3:30pm and 7:30pm; Monday, January 23, 6:30pm; Wednesday, January 25, 7pm; \$19-\$75. Westfield Mission Valley Center, 1640 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Disney On Ice Road Trip Adventures Families should be prepared for a getaway jam-packed

with unexpected hijinks and surprise, up-close character interaction. Thursday, January 19, 7pm; Friday, January 20, 7pm; Saturday, January 21, 11am, 3pm and 7pm; Sunday, January 22, 1pm and 5pm; \$20-\$110. Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Superheroes Unite: Parent's Night Out Drop your kids off for a night of saving the city. This event includes a 30 minute superhero themed dance session, superhero games, a snack and big screen movie. Kids are welcome to dress up as a superhero and bring pillows/blankets to be comfy while watching the movie. Early drop off is available at 5:00pm for an additional fee. Friday, January 20, 6pm; \$25. Starlight Dance Studio, 6506 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

Trail Tykes The free program includes a read-aloud story, and a craft/activity or a short walk with MTRP Foundation staff and volunteers. Created for children 2 to 5 years of age. Please register to reserve your space. Sunday, January 22, 10am; Monday, January 23, 10am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Unicorn Party Tap into your inner unicorn with crafts, activities, and delectable treats. No registration is required. Recommended for ages 3-9. Saturday, January 21, 11am; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

LECTURES

Dr. Jordan B. Peterson Tuesday, January 24, 7:30pm; \$34-\$105. Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Emerald Keepers Eco-Lecture: Solar Electricity Learn about putting solar panels on your home. Please bring your SDG&E Bill and reusable water bottle/coffee cup. Wednesday, January 25, 6:30pm; **free**. Coronado Library, 640 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

NATURE

Free Wild Animal Tracking Workshop Enjoy a morning of fun and hands-on wildlife tracking training that will enable you to unlock the mysteries of wild animal behavior by reading their tracks. This is a hands-on workshop in the field with certified wildlife trackers looking at real animal tracks. Reserve your spot @ sdt.org. Saturday, January 21, 8am; **free**. 18 and up. Los Peñasquitos Ranch Adobe, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Guided Nature Walk Join a MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park along a scenic trail. Walks start from the Visitor Center, are free and open to the public, with no reservations required. Walks are canceled if raining. Saturday, January 21, 9:30am; and Sunday, January 22, 9:30am. **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)



PHOTOGRAPH BY AARON RUMLEY

Blues in the Night: But also a fair number of red-hots.

Stars at West Sycamore

Join members from the San Diego Astronomy Association at the West Sycamore Staging Area to view the nighttime sky through telescopes. It will be a dark night at West Sycamore, perfect for the Great Nebula in Orion. Rain or cloudy skies cancel event. Sunset 5:10 pm. Viewing Begins at Dusk. Where: End of Stonebridge Parkway, Scripps Ranch 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. The entrance to West Sycamore is at the very east end of Stonebridge Parkway. Starts at dusk. Park on the paved street and walk past the gate into the park where telescopes are set up. Friday, January 20, 5:15pm; **free**. West Sycamore – Mission Trails Regional Park, 17160 Stonebridge Parkway. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lunar New Year AXIS Event

Enjoy a free, family-friendly event as we ring in the Year of the Rabbit with cultural performances by local artists. Monday, January 23, 5:30pm; **free**. Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

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

Chinese New Year Celebration Chinese New Year Celebration with Refreshments Free Energy Healings Wellness Gifts. RSVP for free ticket Sunday, January 22, 3pm; **free**. Bamboo Garden Wellness Center, 162 South Rancho Santa Fe STE A30. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Well + Fest '23 Creating community, connection & consciousness through music, movement and mindfulness Outdoor Yoga + Fitness Classes, Live Music, Wellness Work-

shops Exclusive SoCal instructors, Local DJ's, Bands and Artists SUP Yogo + Pilates, Psychic Healing, Sound Baths, Ear Seeding Artist's Row, Vegan Vendors, Massage, Chiropractic Community Connection Consciousness. Saturday, January 21, 10am; \$39-\$59. Wellness Lounge Mission Bay LLC, 1548 Quivira Way. (MISSION BEACH)

Wim Hof Advanced Instructor, Miles Lukas, is a black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and has danced at the top of a mountain shirtless with Wim Hof. Saturday, January 21, 11:30am; \$117-\$197. 18 and up. Heart Yoga, 3788 Mission Blvd, San Diego, CA 92109

THEATER

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.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee features a book by Rachel Sheinkin and a score by William Finn. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion. At least the losers get a juice box. Evening shows are rated R for language. OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, JAN. 22.

Blues in the Night Yvette Freeman Hartley's director's note tells us that this musical revue sings “the tale of three women and one man's broken love life while living in a cheap Chicago hotel in 1938.” And there are nods in that direction: Anise

Ritchie's Lady from the Road pauses in her perusal of her scrapbook to let us know that Ciarra Stroud's Girl with a Date has a broken heart and is looking to mend it with new love, and that Karole Foreman's Woman of the World used to be a big deal, but now it's just cheap wine from a fancy decanter. But Elijah Rock's Man in the Saloon remains something of an enigma — and come to think of it, he doesn't seem all that blue. Actually once the songs start in, neither do the girls — Lady from the Road takes a happy, naughty stroll down memory lane with “Take Me for a Buggy Ride,” Girl with a Date is excitedly “Taking a Chance on Love,” and even Woman of the World recalls “Stompin’ at the Savoy.”

Those are good songs, and they're sung by good, distinctive singers. But they're nobody's idea of blues. Really, there's a lot more sex than sadness in the lyrics — “Kitchen Man” very nearly cuts its double entendres to singles with lines like “Oh how that boy can open clams, no one else can baste my hams” — especially in the first act. It's a fine performance, but after a while, you might start to wish for more of a narrative through-line. You've got a man up there on stage — why not use him to give those ladies a right to sing the blues? Yes, they do sing that one: act two is a little heavier on the suffering and sorrow, but only a little. Director Hartley's note goes on to assure you that Blues in the Night “will take you on a bouncing, soulful buggy ride through love that will help wipe away any blues you may have,” and that's probably a better description of what's going on here. It's a feel-good show, not a feel-bad one. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SUITE D, 858-481-1055. CALL FOR SHOWTIMES

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. 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

MOVIES

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 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)

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. (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 there to 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. 2022. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

STREAMING

Chimes at Midnight — The script is a patchwork of five plays by Shakespeare, principally *Henry IV, Parts I and II*. Its richest vein is the elegiac, and accordingly it makes a fitting last gasp for Orson Welles as a director (it was, after all, the last full-length feature completed by him) — and, in the role of Falstaff, for Orson Welles as an actor as well: older, wider, still as crude an actor as ever. Like Alexander Nevsky, it would be worth seeing for its climactic battle scene alone — a bone-rattling exhibition of Medieval savagery, counterpointed with the sight of the armored star running around like a teapot on legs. With Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud, Margaret Rutherford, and Ralph Richardson (narrator). 1967. — D.S. ★★★★★ (HBO MAX)

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind — Charlie Kaufman,



Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: Memories are made of this.

scriptwriter of *Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*, and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, drills a new tunnel into his favorite fictional locale, the human brain, this time by way of the science-fictional device of an illicit memory-erasure service called Lacuna, Inc. (“Technically speaking, the procedure is brain damage, but it's on a par with a night of heavy drinking.”) Both halves of a failed romance avail themselves of the service, first the female half, and then (in distress over his former lover's failure to recognize him) the male, who belatedly changes his mind and begins to struggle against the erasure in mid-stream. The old theme of cold-science-versus-warm-humanity emerges. And inasmuch as the protagonist is asleep for the operation, the flow of

fragmentary memories, riddled with surrealistic dislocations and juxtapositions, takes on aspects of cognitive dreaming as well as psychoanalytic free association. The French origins of director Michel Gondry, who earlier collaborated with Kaufman on *Human Nature*, prompt us to draw a connection to Alain Resnais quicker than we otherwise might. The latter's explorations of the mind in general and memory in specific are, fittingly enough, far more cerebral (*Hiroshima Mon Amour*, *Last Year at Marienbad*, *Providence*), though he himself was not above making use of a science-fictional device: the haywire time machine in *Je T'Aime, Je T'Aime*, pinballing its human guinea pig through the lowlights of an unhappy love affair. (The theme of

cold-science-versus-warm-humanity emerged there, too.) Gondry, a music-video and TV-advertising veteran, with a common weakness for the wacky and the tacky, has none of the refinement of Resnais, but that's no reason to condemn him out of hand. A popularized, a vulgarized version is preferable to none at all; it might even inspire the odd viewer or two to follow the trail back to the fountainhead. Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Wilkinson, Elijah Wood. 2004. 20. — D.S. ★★ (AMAZON PRIME)

Frances Ha — Can we just go ahead and agree that the actress Greta Gerwig is (for better and for worse) our generation's Katherine Hepburn? Adore or despise, she is a force of nature, something to be reckoned with. Here, she makes vaguely misanthropic director Noah Baumbach put down his torturer's tools in favor of something positively humane. (Maybe it helped that she co-wrote the screenplay.) Mind you, Baumbach still puts his heroine through her paces: her disappointments on nearly every front — love, money, artistic dreams, even friendship — are expressed by her increasingly unsexy living arrangements. (It's New York City, so where you live says even more about who you are than usual.) But the suffering isn't of the numbing-dumbing variety; instead, it's the thrasher that separates the wheat from the chaff. The black-and-white images of the city, the pathology of bad relationships, and Gerwig's awkward glamor will surely recall Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, but then, there are worse things to recall. (2013) 2022. — M.L. ★★★★★ (NETFLIX)

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ONLY IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 3

f t i @KnockAtTheCabin | #KnockAtTheCabin

Sandbox:
Friday, 9pm — SeoulFul: A KMusic Dance Party. **Free.**

Side Yard:
Saturday, 6pm — Tim Rose.
Wednesday, 6pm — Christian Taylor.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Grady Spencer & the Work. \$15.
Sunday, 8pm — Hibuo. \$15.
Monday, 8pm — Auz Fontaine. **Free.**
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Moxi & Loon and Spit Vipers. \$12.

South Carlsbad State Beach Campground:
Thursday, 4:30pm — The Soto Six. **Free.**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas:
Friday, 7pm — Hutchins Consort: Bach and Rock. \$20-\$35.

St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church:
Friday, 7:30pm — Ars Lyrica Houston: Crossing Borders. \$10-\$50.

Sycuan Casino:
Wednesday, 8pm — Collective Soul. \$69-\$274.

Til-Two Club:
Thursday, 9pm — Slappin' Hands with Ric Scales. **Free.**
Friday, 8pm — Strikers and Howlin Roosters. \$10.
Saturday, 9pm — Rapture. \$5.
Sunday, 8pm — Turnstyled, Junkpiled. **Free.**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diegoito:
Saturday, 7pm — Peter Mayer. \$20-\$30.

University Club Atop Symphony Towers:
Saturday, 11am — Tim Rose.

Vista Library:
Tuesday, 1:30pm — The Swingin' with Dean show. **Free.**

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Thursday, 12pm — Ben Benavente.
Saturday, 12pm — Casey Turner. **Free.**
Sunday, 12pm — Kekoa.

Winstons Beach Club:
Sunday, 3pm — The Doors & Cream Tributes. \$10.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Balboa Theatre:
Saturday, Feb. 11 — KODO. \$28-\$70.

Bang Bang:
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Nils Hoffmann.

Bellamy's Restaurant:
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Jake Taylor Smith.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Dalton Gazette.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Johnny Martin.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Colin James. \$25.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Led Zepagain. \$26-\$46.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — The Wood Brothers.
Wednesday, Feb. 1 — The Wood Brothers.
Thursday, Feb. 2 — Save Ferris.
Friday, Feb. 3 — Grateful Shred.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Grateful Shred.
Monday, Feb. 6 — Loudon Wainwright III.
Tuesday, Feb. 7 — Foghat.
Wednesday, Feb. 8 — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. \$35-\$62.

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.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Friday, Feb. 3 — Motown: The Music That Changed America. \$35-\$75.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Motown: The Music That Changed America. \$35-\$75.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Motown: The Music That Changed America. \$35-\$75.
Sunday, Feb. 5 — Motown: The Music That Changed America. \$35-\$75.

Cannonball:
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Jemille Violet.

Casbah:
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Frankie & the Witch Fingers. \$15.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Junior Boys.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — The Neighbors and Agonista. \$12.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Love for L Dula. \$30.
Monday, Jan. 30 — Nathan Raney, Brujoy Bruja, Gable. \$7.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Tripp.io and The Jam Berries.
Wednesday, Feb. 1 — Black Joe Lewis.
Thursday, Feb. 2 — Deb Talan (of the Weepies).
Friday, Feb. 3 — Dune Rats and Chastity.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Nick Hakim.

Che Café:
Thursday, Jan. 26 — Candy and Bib.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Read Or Die Book and Zine Fair. \$10.

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. 26 — The 3D Blues Band.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Eddie Lightner & Duke Paul Acoustic Duo.

LOCAL five

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Find LIVE FIVE online at sandiegoreader.com/music



CARRY THE STONE

On Thursday, January 19, the Music Box hosts *Carry the Stone: An All-Star Tribute to the Music of Pink Floyd*. The core band features locals Josh Taylor and Sam Hunt (guitars and vocals), Josh Weinstein (keys and vocals), Ken Dow (bass and vocals), Jonny Tarr (guitar, sax, and vocals), Larry Grano (drums and vocals), and singers Lauren Leigh and Sandi King. Guest vocalists include Gregory Page, Whitney Shay, Jeff Berkley, Chloe Lou, and Kori Gillis.



MIKE KENEALLY

Former Zappa band guitarist Mile Keneally has a new album called *The Thing That Knowledge Can't Eat*, with one track called "Celery" that features guitar solos recruited from Steve Vai. "You'll know which of the solos are him when you hear them, he's kinda recognizable," says Keneally. The video for "Celery" is an excerpt from Finnish director Mikko Keinonen's upcoming short film *The Complete Adventures of the Unrelated Sound Guy*.



DEAD CROSS

Founding Dead Cross drummer Dave Lombardo has teamed up with his wife, Canadian born singer/songwriter and pianist Paula Lombardo, to launch a new band called Venamoris. "Several months after meeting Paula in 2010, she hesitantly shared with me her past decade-long career as the lead backup singer for Wayne Newton," says Lombardo. "She later played me some of the demos she recorded throughout the years...I was determined to persuade her to return to her creative self."



THE TREBELS

The Trebels were a mod-inspired 1980s garage rock and R&B band based in Imperial Beach. Their name was inspired by a Tijuana group called the Trebles whose guitarist Tio Chato gave lessons to a founding Trebel. The band will reunite to play a 40 Year Anniversary Party on Saturday, January 21, at the Casbah, for a bill that includes The Loons, Alvino & the Dwells, and DJ Tony the Tiger.



JEWEL & JULIO IGLESIAS JR.

Singer-songwriter Jewel is featured on a new collaborative single from Julio Iglesias Jr. covering George Michael's "Careless Whisper," slated for the upcoming Iglesias album *Under the Covers*, produced by Grammy award winner Rudy Perez. "Together," says Jewel, "we wanted to illustrate both sides of the story, opposing ends of the partnership, but locked together in harmony, like most complicated relationships."

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Fri, 1/20
THE PLAGUES
Distractionz • Deathboys
Razor Nights

Sat, 1/21
INCITING RIOTS
Wabash Cannons • Dying Species

Sun, 1/22
SMIRK (LA)
Intermission • Saffron

Mon, 1/23
LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS

Tue, 1/24
SOMETHING FUNKY
Funk, Jazz, Blues, Soul,
& Boogaloo

Fri, 1/27
MINDPOWER
DJ Mike Giant • Profile
Marasulu
Stress Skateboards/Tower
Bar Deck Release

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OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: SAN CARLOS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

HEY, WHAT ARE THE KIDS ALL DOING IN THE GARAGE? IT LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT OUT ONE OF YOUR OLD 1980S BOOMBOXES.

I'M AFRAID TO LOOK.

WE WANTED TO SEE HOW IT WORKS.

WE THOUGHT IT'D BE AS EASY TO PUT TOGETHER AS IT WAS TO TAKE IT APART.

NOTHING IS.

OVER-HEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALLEN.SANFORD

Thursday, Feb. 2 — Deadheads Night.

Duke's La Jolla:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Ke'Ahi.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Farrah Camu.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Casey Turner.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve:

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

Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — David Shyde.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Helena Holleran.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Rachel Jay.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Andrew Peña.

Fairmont Grand Del Mar:

Saturday, Jan. 28 — David Shyde.

Farmer & the Seahorse:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Sean McCole.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Freddie Walton.

Frankie's:

Sunday, Jan. 29 — Jazz Jam. **Free.**

Garage Kitchen + Bar:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Adam Bergoch.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Adam Bergoch.

House of Blues:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Morat. \$35-\$85.
Thursday, Feb. 2 — M.A.G.S.
Friday, Feb. 3 — The Moss.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Danny Ocean.
Thursday, Feb. 9 — GloRilla.
Friday, Feb. 10 — A Flock of Seagulls and Strangelove.
Friday, Feb. 10 — Larkin Poe.

L'Auberge Del Mar:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Jemille Violet.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Whitney Shay. **Free.**
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Jesse Johnson.

La Valencia Hotel:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Keni Yarbrow.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Jemille Violet.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Shay Skylar.

Madam Bonnie's:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Andrea Loraine Jazz Band. **Free.**
Saturday, Jan. 28 — The Mad Hat Hucksters. **Free.**

Magnolia Performing Arts Center:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Prince Again: Tribute to Prince. \$15-\$32.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Minding the market and confirming the canon

I had some solitary cleaning projects on my plate this last week and decided to use the time to cover some ground with a composer with whom I'm not too familiar. I considered a few options, such as Alexander Glazunov and Hugo Wolf, but I decided to go with Hans Pfitzner. I had just discovered Pfitzner's Christmas opera *Das Christel-fein* and enjoyed it. Had I neglected Pfitzner unfairly?

I decided to listen to his most famous work, the opera *Palestrina*, which is based on an episode in the life of Renaissance composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, as he faced the threat of polyphony being removed from the Catholic Church. I found the music to be tedious. The topic is tedious as well, with the entire second act being dedicated to the Council of Trent. Councils of any type don't make for great opera. Maybe I had neglected Pfitzner fairly.

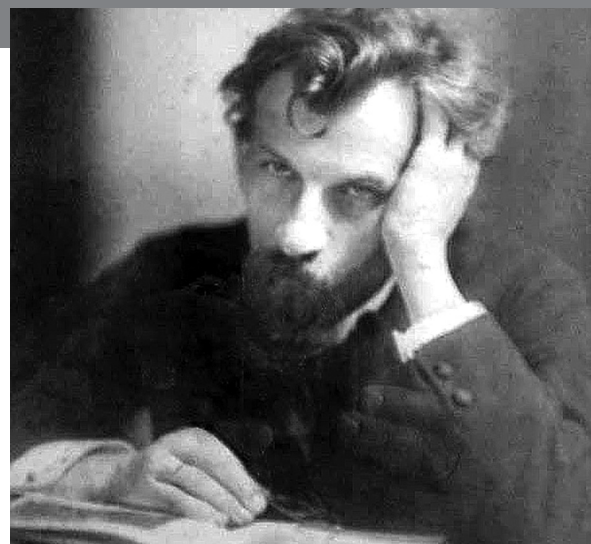
Next, I tried his *Symphony*

in G-Major. Good God. I found my task of cleaning horizontal blinds one by one to be more interesting. I was starting to believe I wasn't missing much with my neglect of Pfitzner. Then I tried his *Piano Concerto Opus 31*. Not bad. The music had some direction, and avoided what I perceived as aimless whimsy in the symphony. I was coming back around. According to Wikipedia, Richard Strauss considered Pfitzner's *String Quartet in D-Major Opus 13* to be a masterpiece. That was enough to get me to listen. Yes, this was a great piece of music. I came around a little bit more. After searching through Pfitzner's list of compositions I settled on his *Symphony in C-Major "An die Freunde,"* which means "To the Friends" or "To my Friends." This piece was short, but I liked it.

With my chores completed, I sat down to go over my experience and decide if I would become a champion

of Pfitzner. The verdict: I will not. My time with Pfitzner has come to an end, except for the *String Quartet Opus 13*. I will revisit this piece. I will also revisit *Das Christel-fein* next Christmas.

When involving oneself with classical music, there is a temptation to consider oneself smarter than the market. That is rarely the case. The classical music market has had hundreds of years to refine its major players, and I find it to be pretty accurate. I might like to see Anton Bruckner get more attention than his pupil Gustav Mahler, but Bruckner is by no means neglected. That said, there are individual pieces of music that might be unfairly neglected. I think Amy Beach gets the right amount of attention as a composer, but I also think her *Piano Concerto in C-minor* would be more welcome to my ears than yet another performance of either of Frédéric Chopin's piano concertos.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WANDA VON DEESCHITZKINOWSKI

Fairly neglected? Hans Pfitzner circa 1910.

Classical Music this week

Hutchins Consort: Bach and Rock

The music of J.S. Bach paired with rock & roll, including the premiere of Steve Huber's new arrangement of the Who's "Quadrophonia." The Hutchins Consort plays on the eight scaled violins of the violin octet designed and built by famed luthier Dr. Carleen Hutchins and are the first successful attempt to create an acoustically balanced set of instruments that can sound truly like violins across the entire range of written music. Friday, January 20, 7pm; \$20-\$35. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas, 890 Balour Drive.

Leif Ove Andsnes

Leif Ove Andsnes brings us a program of lush, brooding pieces including the famed Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 31. The Norwegian virtuoso has won acclaim worldwide, and with its foremost orchestras, while building an extensive, award-winning discography. JANAČEK Piano Sonata I.X.1905 VUSTIN Lamento BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110 DVORÁK Poetic Tone Pictures, Op. 85. Thursday, January 19, 7:30pm; \$44-\$94. Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Avenue.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Seabird:

Sunday, Jan. 29 — DevvLov.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Tunewave, Peach Cooler, Moon Talk. \$15.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Semi-Charmed Kinda Night - A 90s Party. \$15.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Film School and MØAA. \$15.
Monday, Jan. 30 — Auz Fontaine. **Free.**
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Catbamboo and Ando San.
Wednesday, Feb. 1 — King Pari and Vicky Farewell.
Thursday, Feb. 2 — Surfer Joe and The Tourmaliners.
Friday, Feb. 3 — Mac Sabbath.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — The Mattson 2 and Paul Cherry.
Wednesday, Feb. 8 — David Hillyard & The Rocksteady 7.
Thursday, Feb. 9 — SUUNS and Lorelle Meets the Obsolete.
Friday, Feb. 10 — Jackie Mendoza and V&koum.
Saturday, Feb. 11 — Death Cab For Karaoke.
Sunday, Feb. 12 — Jeffrey Martin and Taylor Kingman.

Soma:

Thursday, Feb. 2 — JID and Smino.

Sound:

Friday, Feb. 3 — Ziggy Marley.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Ziggy Marley.
Saturday, Feb. 11 — Steve Aoki.

Spin Nightclub:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Fatima Hajji. \$20-\$25.

JR Jarris.

Thursday, Feb. 2 — DJ Savon.
Friday, Feb. 3 — RJD2.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — The Floozies and Maddy O'Neal.
Sunday, Feb. 5 — Twisted Gypsy.
Friday, Feb. 10 — Beyonce Vs Rihanna.
Saturday, Feb. 11 — Jungle Brothers.

Nick & G's:

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Anna Ballew.

Observatory North Park:

Friday, Jan. 27 — Niko Moon. \$38-\$115.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Trampled By Turtles.
Saturday, Feb. 4 — Yacht Rock Revue.
Tuesday, Feb. 7 — Margo Price and Lola Kirke.
Thursday, Feb. 9 — Eden.
Saturday, Feb. 11 — Bikini Bottom Rave.

Panama 66:

Sunday, Feb. 12 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:

Saturday, Feb. 11 — Richie Furay and Back to the Garden.

Poway's Irish Pub:

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

Pure Project Vista:

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Saturday Sessions: Austin Burns. **Free.**

Rustic Root:

Tuesday, Jan. 31 — David Shyde.

Mission Bay Resort:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Johnny Martin.
Friday, Jan. 27 — Israel Maldonado.
Saturday, Jan. 28 — Helena Holleran.
Sunday, Jan. 29 — Freddie Walton.
Monday, Jan. 30 — Jemille Violet.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Tim Rose.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — The Edge. **Free.**
Friday, Jan. 27 — P-Tek. **Free.**
Thursday, Feb. 2 — Soul Seekers.
Thursday, Feb. 2 — Soul Seekers. **Free.**

Friday, Feb. 3 — FreeMartin.

Saturday, Feb. 4 — 91 Octane.

Free.

Thursday, Feb. 9 — James Allen.

Free.

Thursday, Feb. 9 — James Allen

Country Band.

Friday, Feb. 10 — Thea the Band.

Free.

Music Box:

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Inspector. \$42.

Friday, Jan. 27 — Dolly Disco

Dance Party. \$15-\$25.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — The FABBA

Show. \$15-\$19.

Sunday, Jan. 29 — The Music of

Steely Dan. \$37-\$64.

Thursday, Feb. 2 — Savon, AbJo,

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THE GONZO REPORT

Eddie in the Amphitheater

A concert veteran meets a sailor on his Maiden voyage

Chula Vista's North Island Credit Union Amphitheater is less than 30 miles from D.Z. Akin's, the place from which Mrs. Steffenhagen and I set out at 4:30 pm. The Iron Maiden show isn't slated to start until 8, but I know the doors open at 5, much like European festivals where it's first come, first served. (I also know that my proximity to the performers is likely to be further impacted by the fan club members who have won the drawing in a "first to the barrier" contest.) I'm used to local traffic patterns, but for some reason, it seems impossible to reach the venue. At one point, we spot a group of metalheads jumping out of their car and running into a clearing. My wife rolls down the window to offer them a ride, but their black hair and black leather jackets fade into the darkness, until all I can see is a "Maiden Mexico" flag streaming behind them. Having noticed the bounce in their steps and the gridlock ahead, I don't think their car broke down. I believe they know a shortcut and have the right idea.

A man in a red staff jacket offers only an interpretive dance instead of tangible directions to the "V.I.P." parking we paid for. But once we're in line, it moves faster than I'm used to, and it's not long before we gain access to the grounds. I am pleased. This is an Iron fucking Maiden show, and my fellow fans are like family I'm meeting for the first



Eddie makes his first appearance at the show, dressed as a samurai warrior.

time. In my experience, Maiden concerts defy convention in all things. The unwritten rule of not wearing the concert performer's shirt is ignored. Most attendees sport gear from years and tours past, and it takes only a cursory scan to count shirts from 16 tours and 12 countries — including Sweden and England. Several fans stand in line to buy even more merch. Because this is my 21st Maiden show, and because I've seen this tour already, the pull toward the booth is less powerful than usual. At first, anyway. Then I see a shirt designed just for the California dates, showing Maiden's undead mascot Eddie surfing...on sharks. It's a wearable trophy, one that I visit three different booths to score in my size. The Mrs. spots a jersey and balks at the price tag. I do not balk, however. There are few things I find more attractive than my wife in an Iron Maiden shirt.

Priority is given to getting to the seats and not missing a note, so we always account for merch lines and beverage purchasing in our timeline. Missing any part of a show for an overpriced can of water is unacceptable. A sailor sitting next to me admires my tattoo, the one with the cover of the band's second album, *Killers*. This is his first time seeing them, and he questions me cautiously, not

wanting any spoilers. He's correcting me on the make of the prop plane used in their opener on the last leg of the tour when UFO's "Doctor Doctor" blares through the house speakers. The song has served as Maiden's intro tape since the early days, and fans sing along, as loud and as frenzied as they will be for the headliner.

The band's performance is a shared experience, exhibiting the bombast of a Kiss concert but influenced by the theatrics of

Marillion, with maximum-volume history and literature lessons thrown in. I can't resist looking around when Eddie makes his first appearance of the night, dressed as a samurai warrior. The nearby sailor is screaming loud enough to be heard over the band, and behind me, the entire row is wall-to-wall smiles.

Post-show, my friend Chad, with whom I have seen most of my Maiden shows, yells at me from the floor. He was one of those lucky few who was first to the barrier, and his knees are screaming for a chance to sit down. Security is cool when I explain he's a concert buddy, one I haven't seen in over a year, and they let us chat for a minute before telling us to leave.

The afterglow of satisfied fans is dimmed by a few self-vetted twits who dictate what the setlist "should have been." They complain about the inclusion of too many new songs, despite over half of the evening's selections coming from the first five records. I laugh as a group of fans walk by who weren't even a thought when the song "Flight Of Icarus" was released, all singing the chorus of that track as if the band were still onstage. Their song drowns out the twits and attracts other singers as they move through the exiting stream of humanity. ■

Find The Gonzo Report online at sandiegoreader.com/gonzo

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<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. JAN. 28</p> <p>DAMAGE, INC. with special guests</p>	<p>THU. FEB. 16</p> <p>EARLY MOODS with special guests</p>
<p>FRI. FEB. 10</p> <p>D.R.U.G.S. Varials, The Callous Daoboy's, 156/Silence</p>	<p>FRI. FEB. 17</p> <p>WACKEN METAL BATTLE Gravity Grave, Fadrait, The Oathbreakers, Maskerratt, Parasitic Existence, Drillbit</p>
<p>WED. FEB. 22</p> <p>TSUNAMI BOMB Death By Stereo, The Hammerbombs</p>	<p>TUE. FEB. 21</p> <p>ROTTING CHRIST Carach Angren, UADA, Gaerea</p>

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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.

BAY PARK

Off Shore Tavern: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks. *Saturday*, 9pm-close: All beer \$1 off, \$4 house wine, \$4.25 well drinks.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

Tower 13: *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3 Tower Blonde, Tower IPA, Calidad Mexican Lager, \$5 house margaritas and house wines, \$7 La Marca Prosecco Splits and food specials.

CARLSBAD

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

Boar Cross'n: *Tuesday*, 7pm to close: \$5 beer & a shot *Wednesday*, Open-close: \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3 well drinks *Sunday*, Open-7pm: \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3 well drinks

CARMEL VALLEY

Death By Tequila: *Monday*, 3-6pm: \$9 classic margaritas, \$18 margarita Flights, \$10 cocktail of the month, \$6 Mexican lager, \$9 select wines, \$8 DxDt 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 DxDt 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

BOOZE NEWS

BY MATTHEW FLYNN

Two for six at Burgeon

It's standard operating procedure for breweries to concoct anniversary releases. But for its sixth anniversary, **Burgeon Beer Company** amplified the trend and brewed not one, but two commemorative beers. "We knew for sure one of the beers would be an IPA of some sort," explains Anthony Tallman, Burgeon's head brewer and co-founder. "Simply put, we landed on a West Coast IPA over a Hazy IPA because that's the style that we prefer to drink. We decided on the use of the CGX product so that we still continue to experiment and offer something new and unique to our custom-

ers. The American Lager had been something we've been wanting to brew, and we figured, 'Why the hell not do it for such a special occasion?'"

The CGX product Tallman refers to is a concentrated lupulin version of Nelson and Strata hops, which contains all the hops' aroma and flavor without the vegetative material. Tallman's team dialed back the malt bill of Subliminal Sync West Coast IPA to give the ale a lower ABV (6%) and focus on the tropical and citrus fruit flavor provided by the hops concentrate.

As for the American Gold Premium Lager, Tallman notes, "We wanted to brew something a little out of the realm of what we've typically done at Burgeon. We used 2 Row, 6 Row, Flaked Rice, and Flaked Corn to achieve a sweeter perceived malt character that finishes dry and clean, and leaves you craving the next pint." With the lager's sharper focus on the malt profile, Burgeon has provided two distinct anniversary beers for diverse palates: a bitter, hoppy West Coast IPA; and a lighter, sweeter American Lager.

Matthew Zirpolo, Burgeon's president and co-founder, credits a strong beer scene with the brewery's success, "Our community is the reason why we have been so successful. They have



Burgeon says cheers to six years with two releases

supported us from day one and continue to do so. We truly believe we have the best beer community in the world. That very community has taught us the importance of support, which is something we have focused on as a company." Burgeon's upcoming releases are manifestations of that focus. As the anniversary releases are tapped, three new collaborative beers are in the tanks,

waiting to be canned and kegged. Tallman divulges, "The first beer will be Rainbow Pulp, a Hazy IPA collaboration with **Great Notion** from Portland, OR, brewed with Strata, Citra, and Nelson. The second will be Western Grit, a West Coast IPA collaboration with **Westbound and Down Brewing** from Idaho Springs, CO brewed with Mosaic, Simcoe, Simcoe Cryo, Citra, and Chinook. Lastly, and releasing much later due to additional lagering time: Reverb, a Bohemian Pilsner collaboration with **Ruse Brewing** from Portland, OR."

Rainbow Pulp and Western Grit are scheduled for a February 3rd release, while Bohemian Pilsner will be released mid-March. The anniversary releases debuted at Burgeon's anniversary festival on January 14 and are on tap now.

For more craft booze news, see sandiegoreader.com/news/booze-news

CORONADO

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

Nicky Rottens: *Monday*, 3-6pm: \$8 select mules all night. *Tuesday*, 3-6pm: \$4 any canned beer. *Wednesday*, 3-6pm: \$5 draft pints. *Thursday*, 3-6pm: 22 ounce draft for pint price. *Friday*, 3-6pm: \$6 mimosas and Bloody Marys. *Saturday*, 3pm-6pm: \$5 drafts, well cocktails, house wines. \$5 pretzels & beer cheese, side of fries, tots, \$6 buffalo wings, \$7 house nachos, \$8 chicken fritters & fries, \$10 chicken lettuce cup.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

Madam Bonnie's: *Tuesday*, 4:30- 6:30pm: \$5 Madam Bonnie's Blonde Ale and 13th Step Shot, \$6 house wine, \$12 signature cocktails. \$10 two rotisserie tacos and a beer. *Wednesday*, All Day: One third off all wine bottles, \$20 flight of three wine barrel finished whiskeys, \$10 whiskey barrel aged wine by the glass. \$15 chef's cheese plate. *Thursday-Saturday*, 4:30- 6:30pm: \$5 Madam Bonnie's Blonde Ale and 13th Step Shot, \$6 house wine, \$12 signature cocktails. *Sunday*, Surf and

Turf Special: \$75 three course dinner for two with a bottle of house wine.

The Whiskey House: *Wednesday-Sunday*, 4-7pm: \$4 French pale lager, \$5 Moscow mule, whiskey sour, Daiquiri, house wines (red, white, sparkling), \$9 Carsberg Danish pilsner (1 liter can). Add a shot of house whiskey to any beer for \$1.

EAST VILLAGE

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

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.

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.

Spiro's Mediterranean Cuisine: *Daily*, 3-6pm: \$2 off wine and beer.

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 HILLS

Farmer's Bottega: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 4-6pm: \$6 draft beers, \$3 off glasses of wine, discounted specialty cocktails, appetizers, and flatbreads.

MISSION VALLEY

Lazy Dog: *Monday-Thursday*, 3-6pm and 9pm-close: \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini. *Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini. *Sunday*, 9pm-close: \$3-\$8: Housemade sangrias, well drinks, drafts, house wine, Asian pear martini.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

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

NORTH PARK

Original 40 Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$2 off all beer and wine.

Redwing Bar & Grill: *Wednesday-Friday*, 3pm-6pm: \$4.50 24 oz. Tall Boys.

Rouleur Brewing Company: *Tuesday*, 9pm-close: \$5 pints *Wednesday*, All day: \$1.50 Beast Mode Wings (minimum 4)

Second Chance Beer Lounge: *Monday*, 3-8pm: \$6 pints

OCEAN BEACH

The Holding Company: *Tuesday-Friday*, 4-6pm: Half off draft beer, half off most whiskeys & tequila, \$2 pint beer of the day, \$4 well drinks, \$10 pitchers of beer, \$15 off all towers

Lucy's Tavern: *Monday-Friday*, 12pm-6pm: \$5 Espolon blanco, \$5 Mellow corn, \$5 Skrewball, \$1 off wells and pitchers. All day \$7 12oz PBR or BUD cans & mellow corn whiskey shot. *Saturday-Sunday*, All day: \$7 12 ounce PBR or BUD cans & mellow corn whiskey shot.

OLD TOWN

Home & Away: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$1 off glass of wine, draft and bottled beer, well drinks, \$3 to \$6 off specialty cocktails. \$2.75 tacos. *Tuesday*, 3-6pm: Taco Tuesday specials, see server.

Old Town Mexican Café: *Tuesday*, Half off well drinks and selected appetizers all day.

PACIFIC BEACH

710 Beach Club: *Tuesday*, 6pm-close: 2 for 1 tequila shots, \$5 Margs, \$4 Dos XX & Pacifico's, 2 tacos for \$7.10 *Wednesday*, 7pm-close: 2 for 1 whiskey shots, \$5 chicken tenders *Thursday*, 7:30pm-close: \$5 beers *Sunday*, 7:30pm-close: \$7.10 slushies

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

Red Baskets. *Tuesday*, .

Latitude 32: *Wednesday-Saturday*, 4-6pm: \$3-\$5.50 beer and wines.

The Local Pacific Beach: *Monday*, 4-7pm: Half off appetizers.

The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: *Tuesday-Sunday*, 5-9pm: Bottles cocktails to go.

POINT LOMA

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

The Wine Pub: *Daily*, 4-6pm: \$5 craft beers on draft, \$5 select red and white wines.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego: *Friday*, All day: Clam chowder \$5 cup, \$7 bowl. After 4pm: Prime rib \$24.

SAN CARLOS

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

SAN MARCOS

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

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

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Nestor's birria brothers

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La Central, the other Fernandez birrieria

La Central; 1290 Hollister St., Nestor. At first glance, the arrival of La Central Birrieria & Menuderia doesn't seem momentous. Birria, after all, has spent the past few years becoming the most talked about Mexican meat dish on the planet. We've seen a crowd of birria restaurants (or *birrierias*) open up all around San Diego, so why should this one stand out? The reason comes into focus once you consider the restaurant's alternate name: La Central by Miguel Fernandez.



On the right, a regular birria taco; on the left, a birria *tatemado* taco, where the shredded beef is seared crisp.

That would be Miguel Fernandez, formerly of Ed Fernandez Restaurant, the local institution that made headlines a couple months back when it was named the number one taco shop in America by (the occasionally correct) Yelp.

Having worked in restaurants since their teens, Miguel and his brother Jorge opened that restaurant nearly 20 years ago, naming it after a dearly remembered middle brother. This was not long after their experiment selling birria out of a food truck on weekends saw sales numbers quadruple over the first several weeks, and well more than a decade before social media would take birria worldwide. Heck, the stuff wasn't even prevalent in San Diego yet.

Fernandez Restaurant attracted lines long before the Yelp anointment, putting it just ahead of the South Bay Drive-In Theatre as the top destination in Nestor, a small border community squeezed in between Imperial Beach and San Ysidro. And if there's anything surprising about the fact Miguel Fernandez has opened a new *birrieria*, it's that he's done so, once again, in Nestor, roughly 800 feet from his first.

The way Miguel tells it, he and Jorge had different ideas about growing their business, so a couple years ago, Miguel sold his stake in the restaurant to his brother. However, Miguel still felt very connected to Nestor, and to regular clientele he'd welcomed to the restaurant for so many years.

Early in his career, Miguel had worked at the formative downtown restaurant, Dobson's, where he learned the ways of its founder, Paul Dobson, known for maintaining a strong, personal presence in his dining room.

Miguel Fernandez operates the same way. I watched him warmly greet familiar faces as they walked in the door, and I got the same treatment as a newcomer, even before I told him my employer. Miguel speculated that 90 percent of his customers that day had been regulars at Fernandez Restaurant, and I believed him. For one thing, Fernandez is closed Monday and Tuesday, so for these days at least, La Central offers the unquestioned best birria in Nestor. Then there's the whole Yelp thing. If Fernandez Restaurant was crazy busy before being named the country's the best taco shop, imagine the effort it takes to find a seat now.

Naturally, I had to ask: is La Central's birria the same recipe that gained so much success up the road? On this, Miguel hedges. The recipe's not written down, he suggests, but La Central works with the same ingredients, and all his brothers learned to make birria in the same kitchen, cooking with their mom. So not precisely the same, maybe, but it might take eating at both places on the same morning to notice the difference. So it's nice that the two shops are so close together.

The menus are quite similar, if not identical, including birria plates (\$12-15), tacos (\$3.25-\$4.50), quesadillas (\$3-8) and *consomé*s (\$3-6), with options to include cheese (*quesabirria*), beef tendon (*con nirvio*), or keto preparation (fried cheese, no tortilla). Given that birria is often enjoyed as a breakfast food, there is likewise a birria taco featuring both cheese and fried egg (here it's called the *comandante*, \$6).

Perhaps more relevant, there's the option to get your birria *tatemado*, meaning the braised, shredded beef is seared to a crispy finish, much like crispy carnitas. Due to the richer flavor of the sear, this way is my personal favorite. But whichever you choose, the homemade corn tortillas will be outstanding, and I can never stress this enough: always order a side of *consomé* at any *birrieria* so you can dip your tacos!

La Central also serves birria bowls with rice and beans, birria burritos, birria tortas, and birria *mulitas*. And yes, it serves menudo — daily here, rather than just on weekends — but I still have yet to acquire a taste for tripe, so ask me again in ten years.

Starting at \$3.25 for a basic birria taco, La Central's prices prove slightly higher than those at its familial neighbor. When the lines do get long, Miguel has plans to streamline take-out orders to keep business at a crisp pace. He's also expanding the concept into other venues. There's already a La Central Beer & Wine Garden at the Chula Vista Center mall (serving birria on weekends),



El Comandante, a quesabirria taco made with birria *tatemado* and topped with a fried egg.

and a pair of La Central food trucks are coming soon to bring birria to corporate lunches and other events.

Once this Fernandez family birria is on the road, other fixed locations may follow. But first, Miguel will likely open another specialty shop next door to his Nestor *birrieria*. For that business, he wants to tackle carne asada.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

99¢ Fish Tacos Rubio's Turns 40 with 99¢ Fish Tacos Wednesday, January 25, 10am; Rubio's - East Mission Bay Dr., 4504 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

10th Anniversary Party Drink specials and live music with Victor Santana. Thursday, January 19, 7pm; **free**. Blind Burro, 639 J Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Gospel Brunch Hosted by Sister Nun-of-the-Above (Tootie) with the Sisters of Sequin. Each entree includes unlimited Mimosas, Champagne, or Bloody Marys. Sundays, 12pm; through Saturday, December 30, Lips Restaurant, 3036 El Cajon Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

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

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PERSONALS

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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 Kearney Mesa area: Shiloh stole my sleeveless peach blouse with white polka dots on it. I want it back! Now! Nancy (858) 505-0685.

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going to heaven one day. If you said it, please give me a call, Travis (619) 706-7529. God bless.

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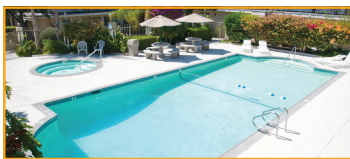
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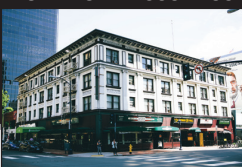
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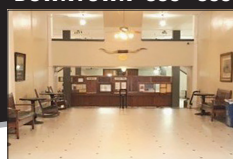


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SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH STUDY CNRI of San Diego seeking schizophrenia research study patients, must be drug free, 18-60 years old. Compensation range from \$100 per day up to \$250 per day. Please call Travis (619) 706-7529. Referral number only.

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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, unique music. See KNSJ.org. Contact Tim.Taylor@KNSJ.org.

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

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 agarcajr14@sbcbglobal.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.

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ROAM

I was sitting on South Fortuna Peak, picking the mud out of my trail runners with a stick, when I heard a voice from behind me ask, “Are you doing the 5-Peak Challenge, son?”

I pulled out an earbud and spun around to see an elderly man with a white beard and a wide-brimmed hat, leaning on his trekking poles. His face was rosy and his eyes friendly.

“I am,” I said with a grin. “What gave it away?”

“Well, your clothes are soaked, and you got more mud on you than a wild hog.”

I looked at the back of my legs, which were flecked with specks of clay, then laughed. “Yeah, I’m doing the challenge in one go by foot.”

“At once? Well, that’s quite the endeavor.”

“Thank you,” I said. “I know these peaks pretty well and wanted to ring in the new year with a challenge.”

“That’s as good a reason as any,” said the man. “I did the challenge myself a few years back, but over the course of a few months.” He nodded to the 5-Peak Challenge pin that was hanging off his backpack strap. It looked exactly like the one I had in my desk drawer.

“Well, it’s not a race,” I replied. “What matters is that you enjoy doing it.”

The man nodded, and his eyes seemed to twinkle. Then he asked where I started my hike.

I pointed at Cowles Mountain and said, “On the backside at the Barker Way Trailhead. I went up the fire road to avoid the crowd. Then I jogged over to Pyles Peak before turning around and heading down the frontside of Cowles.”

“How far is that?” he asked.

“Oh, a little under six miles, with an elevation gain of just under 2000 feet.”

A breeze twirled by and a thin ray of light peered through the clouds. “And how many peaks do you have left?” he inquired.

“One. From Cowles, I jogged past the Visitor Center along Father Junipero Serra until I



The tower is barely visible on a cloudy Cowles Mountain.

got to the dam. Then I went up Oak Canyon to the Fortuna Saddle and hiked straight to the top of North Fortuna. I decided it would be easier to do that third, since it was a steeper incline. Then I turned around and crossed the saddle to get here.”

“That’s what, another eight miles?” he asked.

“About seven. But the elevation gain isn’t as steep, it’s only 1400 feet or so.”

“And now you only have one more to go,” he said while turning to look across the valley toward Kwaay Paay (kweye pie) Peak. We chatted for a bit longer, but my knees were starting to stiffen, so I got up to signal that it was time to go. The man offered to snap a photo of me on the peak with my phone, which I agreed to; then I thanked him and said goodbye before going on my way.

It was a gray day and the trail was slick. Winter had just arrived, but a hint of spring was beginning to poke through the earth, thanks to the recent rainstorms. I had walked back to the Fortuna Saddle and was peering down the long sloping path before me. It was steep and muddy, and I was concerned about my tired feet, which had grown cold and numb while resting on South Fortuna. Burdened by fatigue, I took one cautious step down the muddy hill, then another. The effort was slow and tedious, but I



Me on South Fortuna, photo by the old guy.



Looking up at Kwaay Paay.

arrived at the bottom without incident — only to suddenly lose my footing and fall flat on my face.

Sitting there like a worm in the mud, I sat and wondered whether I should just give up, when beside me, I saw a tiny blade of grass sticking through the soil. It stood against the breeze, reaching for the sun, and in my exhaustion, I could hear it cheering me on in a soft voice. I sat there a while longer without grace or pride, watching the clouds roll in, then I picked myself up and wandered into Oak Canyon like a tired coyote limping into the brush.

There I met a shallow stream that I walked alongside before stopping at a small waterfall to wash myself. Some kids ran over and began splashing around below me in a swimming hole. Their parents clutched their coffee cups with concern and hissed at the kids to not get too close to me. As the mud washed off me, I flashed the parents an amused smile before starting on the path again in a light jog, gliding over wet stones and passing under century-old oak trees. The sound of my footsteps was muffled by damp leaves, and a fine mist obscured the path. Hikers drifted by with wonder on their faces as they took in the canyon’s beauty.

Passing the Old Mission Dam, I lifted my tired eyes up to Kwaay Paay, its peak hidden in the clouds. Chaparral lined its steep hills, out of which I saw the trail spooling like a winding ribbon. I did not feel intimidated. Instead, my heart grew light and I greeted my old friend once more with renewed strength. Years of hiking up the mountain had led to familiarity, then affection, and finally deep respect.

I had climbed Kwaay Paay hundreds of times, until it was no longer a place to visit, but a constant beacon of light that helped me weather the storms of my life. Like a ship seeking a lighthouse, I was drawn to the peak because it allowed me to navigate the currents of my life more clearly. With each ascent up

the mountain, I faced my limitations, which gave way to an expanse of emotions ranging from frustration to joy. As I grew stronger, the emotions became more subtle and complex, and over time, I began to distinguish these delicate feelings, until I saw them as a series of bewildering colors that collided and splintered across an endless spectrum of light — and that no one color defined me.

The mountain became a torch to guide me, and gradually, I began to see that its light wasn’t constant, but flickered with its own subtleties. The more I gazed into this ever-burning flame, the more I saw that it too consisted of a tapestry of colors that changed with every passing day, through every passing season, from the sweltering summer at sunset to the freshness of spring at sunrise, and that like me, the mountain was entangled from beginning to end in its own colorful threads of light; until at last I understood that all those pretty colors were the sum of one light that had hidden itself in a sea of beautiful moments, as if they were shining through a glass prism. Many of those moments I had seen, but I knew there would be many more that I did not. And as I stood on the frontier of my awareness and peered into oblivion, I wondered what beautiful and fiery sunrises and sunsets the mountain had witnessed across the seasons of my life that I had not the sight to see.

When I reached the peak, the mountain evoked a new color and I was embraced by a silent sorrow; the kind which you can find on the last page of a good book. My challenge was done. I didn’t fall to my knees with tears of joy, and no one patted me on the back. Instead, my knees throbbed, my shoulders ached, and my legs quivered. The adventure was over, so I turned around and let the mountain guide me home.

— Ryan Brothers

5 PEAKS OF MISSION TRAILS

Located in San Carlos, the 5-Peak Challenge is a very strenuous hike. Given its length of 17 miles and an elevation gain of around 4300 feet, the hike will take most people 6 to 9 hours if they try in one day. Dogs are allowed but not recommended.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 13 miles
Hike length: 17 miles • **Difficulty:** Very Strenuous • **Season:** Year-Round



A quiet Father Junipero Serra road.

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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.

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

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Unclear on the Concept

— Apparently spiritual Zen wasn't enough for Buddhist monks at two small temples in northern Thailand, *The Washington Post* reported. As part of an investigation into drug abuse in the Phetchabun province, officials visited the monasteries on Nov. 25 and discovered that all of the monks – even the abbot – tested positive for methamphetamine. "I was frightened because I never thought the monks would be addicted to drugs," said Sungyut Namburi, the village headman. But the monks' behavior gave them away. "When I inspected the abbot's shelter, I was stunned because it was a mess," Sungyut said. The monks were forced to leave the monkhood and enter rehab. For now, "the temple is empty," Sungyut said.

Not Fit for Office

— Bud May, 37, of Kyle, South Dakota, lost his bid for a state House of Representatives seat in 2022 -- and it may have been a good thing. On Nov. 13, May was arrested and charged with second-degree rape after an alleged assault on a woman in a bar bathroom stall, the *Argus Leader* reported. When he was asked in court whether the interaction was consensual, he replied, "I'm 6-foot-8, it's all consensual." Police reported that when they found the victim, she was cowering behind the bar and had dirt and blood on her, which she said was May's because he was in an earlier altercation. May appeared in court on Nov. 14 for a separate incident, and he has three outstanding warrants from the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety from September and October.

Least Competent Criminal

— When alleged thief Jonathan James Frazier, 35, snatched a surveillance camera from the backyard of a home in Tullahoma, Tennessee, the camera's owner received a motion alert and watched on his cellphone as Frazier stashed it in his backpack, then pulled it out and sold it "to a male subject that police were able to identify," the *Tullahoma News* reported. The live feed continued at the purchaser's home, where officers caught up with the loot; the purchaser told them where they could find Frazier, and Frazier confessed to the larceny.

In (Not So) Hot Water

— About 200 ice-fishing enthusiasts had to be evacuated from Upper Red Lake, Minnesota, on Nov. 28 after a large chunk of ice broke free from the main shoreline, stranding them about 30 yards away, WDIO-TV reported. The Beltrami County Sheriff's office received a 911 call around 11:30 a.m.; employing a drone to assess the situation, officers used a temporary bridge to reach the fishers, along with airboats and water rescue boats. All anglers were returned to safety.

Picky, Picky

— The *Cowboy State Daily* reported on Nov. 27 that Vern and Shireen Liebl are hoping to make a move to Wyoming, with one very particular criterion dictating which city they choose: the public library. The Liebls have been traversing Wyoming, visiting libraries, for the last 3 1/2 months, hoping to see each one the state has to offer. There have been a few standouts along the way, they report:

In Glenrock, Vern said, "They have these skylights up there, and it's like blonde wood, and it just feels so light and airy." He also loved the name of the library in Ranchester: the Tongue River Library. His infatuation with libraries also extends to bookstores: "I think that one of the finest smells in the world is to go into an old bookstore ... and just inhale the essence of the paper," Vern said.

Our Litigious Society

— Amanda Ramirez of Hialeah, Florida, filed a class-action lawsuit against Kraft Heinz Foods Co. on Nov. 18, seeking \$5 million. Her complaint? Velveeta's microwavable Shells & Cheese instructions indicate the dish is ready in 3 1/2 minutes, but Ramirez says that is "false and misleading because the product takes longer than the 3 1/2 minutes to prepare for consumption." The suit goes on to say that the 3 1/2 minutes are merely the time needed for microwaving the product, which is just one of several steps. Kraft Heinz told Fox Business that the suit is "frivolous" and that they will "strongly defend against the allegations in the complaint."

Awwww

— Geoff Banks, 100, of Devon, England, and Celesta Byrne, 100, of Texas, have a unique bond: They've been pen pals since 1938, the BBC reported. Their friendship blossomed when they were in their 20s and an educational project put them in touch with each other. Since then, they've kept up with technology, switching to emails and video calls, and the two met in person in 2002.

Banks calls Byrne "a very interesting person. We exchange stories and she's very good to talk to." Byrne shuts down any suggestion of romance over the years: "There wasn't 'globbally globbally' stuff, it was just normal neighbor people."

It's Nice To Have a Hobby

— High Point, North Carolina, resident Vic Clinco is believed to have the largest collection in the world of hot sauce, WFMV-TV reported on Nov. 29. He started 26 years ago with three bottles; today he displays almost 11,000 bottles in his basement shrine. "It has turned into an obsession," Clinco admits. He's become such a celebrity in the hot sauce "culture" that manufacturers send him samples of their new varieties. "I want it to be shared with anyone that has the love of the heat as I do," he said. He hopes to hold tastings to introduce others to the love of the spicy condiments.

That's One Way To Do It

— With home prices in New Zealand taking their biggest drop in 30 years, one homeowner who's looking to sell is trying to sweeten the offer. The owner of 22 Dungle Avenue in Flat Bush is offering a free Tesla with the purchase of their \$1.8 million home, *Sky News* reported. The new owner will be asked to choose the color of the electric car, which will be ordered new and delivered to the home from the manufacturer. And with six parking spots, they can park it sideways if they want.

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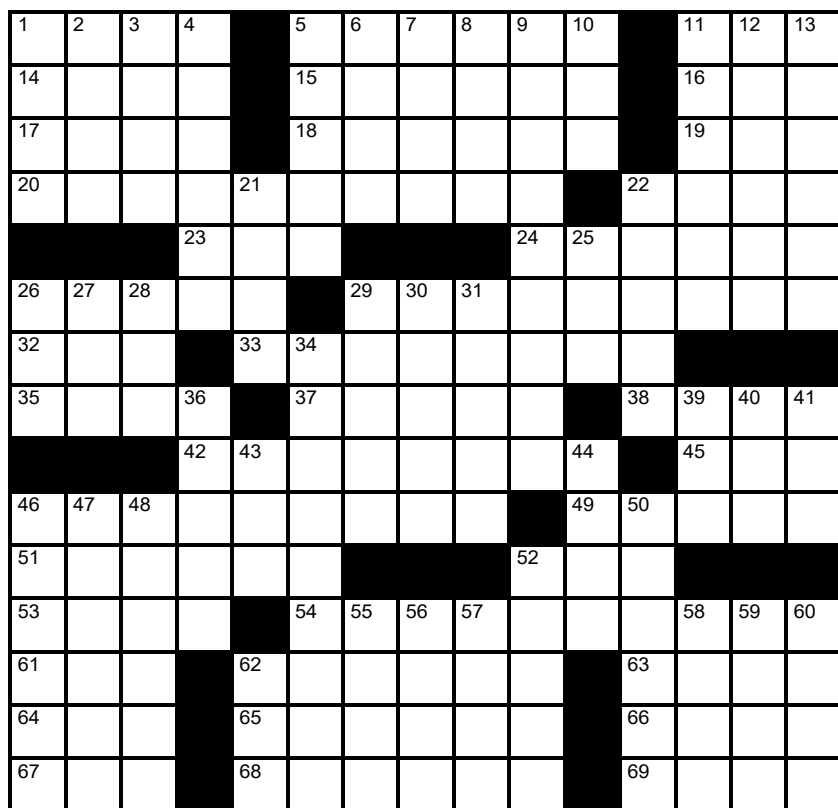
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Across

- 1.** With 69-Across, actress who'd have a fun time introducing herself on Talk Like a Pirate Day?
5. Some distance runners
11. Karaoke venue
14. Atop
15. Mark in the low 90s
16. Org. concerned with mental health
17. Red and Yellow, for two
18. First First Lady
19. Something to build on
20. Actress/inventor who'd have a fun time introducing herself on Talk Like a Pirate Day?
22. Qualified
23. Rejections
24. Put new film into

26. '80s-'90s entertainment combo

29. Actor who'd have a fun time introducing himself on Talk Like a Pirate Day?

32. "Yee-____!"

33. Becomes slippery, in a way

35. "That's wrong ____ many levels!"

37. How a pirouette is done

38. 1815 novel with the line "You must be the best judge of your own happiness"

42. The casino in "Casino"

45. PC key

46. Best-selling crime novelist who'd have a fun time introducing himself on Talk Like a Pirate Day?

49. Emerged from sleep

51. Ambrose who wrote the 1890 short story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

52. Ingredient in a Manhattan

53. Supreme Hindu goddess

54. Drummer who'd have a fun time introducing himself on Talk Like a Pirate Day?

61. Cheer for Real Madrid

62. Walking obediently, as a dog

63. DVR pioneer

64. In a bad way

65. Suspect

66. Think piece?

67. Grammy winners ____ Lonely Boys

68. It might produce a six-pointer, for short

69. See 1-Across

Down

- 1.** Booty
2. Fencing blade
3. It's found between the shoulders
4. Well-harmonized
5. Some fiercely protective "bears"
6. Quran authority
7. Pre-euro currency
8. ____ 'acte (intermission)
9. It flows into the Rhine
10. Org. created under FDR
11. Last name in 2015's "Creed"
12. Electrically balanced, in chemistry
13. Like every Quentin Tarantino movie

21. Greiner of "Shark Tank"

22. Oscar nominee Woodard

25. Broad shoe spec

26. Nevertheless, briefly

27. Touring band's vehicle

28. Cars spotted in the game punch buggy, for short

29. Game with a lengthy buildup?

30. Up and about

31. Hungry cow, maybe

34. ____ effort

36. "Scary Movie" actress Cheri

39. Repeated Warhol subject

40. Time's 1963 Man of the Year, for short

41. Had wings, say

43. "Abbott Elementary" network

44. Declares

46. An "effective anti-seizure medication," per the Mayo Clinic

47. Danny of "Moonstruck"

48. Video game segments

50. Emmy winner Patricia of "Thirtysomething"

52. Caramel-filled candies

55. Maker of the Split Decision Breakfast

56. "99 Luftballons" singer

57. Understands

58. Verdi opera set in ancient Egypt

59. KOA visitor

60. Katy Perry hit with the lyric "Louder, louder than a lion"

62. NYC dance troupe

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

S	I	P	S		J	A	C	K		C	L	A	M	P
U	R	A	L		A	T	A	N		O	E	S	T	E
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SUDOKU

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLE:

MEDIUM:

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

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EST. 2019

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CHECK
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EVERY
SUNDAY

C9-0000359-LIC

*non combinable



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San Diego's Hottest And Most Trendy Dispensary

Oz special:

1oz (28g)
Zips

\$75
+ tax

1oz (28g)
flower
smalls

\$30
+ tax

Zips 6pk
Prerolls

2 for
\$25
+ tax

1 full
gram Zips
Cartridge

\$12
+ tax
(Limit 8)

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100mg
gummies
packs

\$13
+ tax

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Sunday BOGO 50% off Flower + Pre-Rolls
+ All AMBER BOGO \$5

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Tuesday Buy 2, get third for \$1

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+ vapes + All Amber BOGO \$5

Thursday 25% off storewide

Friday and Saturday BOGO 50% off
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Present this coupon
and get 30% off
your next purchase.*

30%
OFF

Valid through
01/28/2023



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SCAN ME

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C10-0000213-LIC



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40% OFF

**ENTIRE
PURCHASE**

EXPIRES 02/02/23

WEED FOR WARRIORS

01/24/23

**8AM UNTIL SUPPLIES
LAST (70 BAGS)**



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ORIGINALS



SAN DIEGO

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SCAN ME

25%
OFF
1ST TIME
VISIT

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VALID FROM 1/19-1/26 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

15%
OFF
RETURNING
CUSTOMERS

Flight

CULTIVATED BY
ORIGINALS

PREMIUM INDOOR FLOWER

1/2 OZ'S • \$60
\$64.65 OUT THE DOOR



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PLEASE BRING IN THIS AD OR TAKE A PIC TO GET THE DEALS LISTED

C10-0000775-LIC

GSG PL, INC. C10-0000298-LIC



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20% OFF! 7:00AM - 8:00AM

**GET IT DELIVERED IN AS QUICK AS
- 30 MINUTES! -**

**\$10 EDIBLES
\$15 EIGHTHS NUG
\$12 EIGHTHS SHAKE**

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ALIEN LABS 1/8TH

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Get 1 Free**



HASHISH
CONCENTRATE DRIP

**Buy 2
Get 1 Free**



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**Buy a
Cart Get a
Battery**



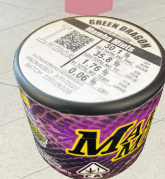
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**Buy Any CBX 1/8th
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Product
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BUY 1 GET 1 (MIX MATCH)

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C10-0000772-LIC

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20% OFF

CODE: READER20

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CHULA VISTA TELEGRAPH
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Chula Vista, CA 91910

CHULA VISTA H STREET
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885 East H Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

VISTA
Open Daily 9AM - 10PM
2465 Dogwood Way
Vista, CA 92081

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20% off is valid online on January 18-25, 2023, with a one-time use promo code on at select locations while supplies last. This promotion is subject to change and cannot be combined with other offers.
Know the risks associated with cannabis: marchandnash.com/risks | C10-000076-LIC, C10-0000541-LIC, C10-0000636-LIC, C10-0000778-LIC, C10-0000887-LIC, C10-0000908-LIC, C10-0000984-LIC | RSP-22-01

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* Treatment plans vary case by case, restrictions may apply. Call office for details. Offers cannot be combined. Offers for cash patients only. For insurance patients, insurance fees apply. Offers good through 2-20-23. **No-Needle system cannot be used on all cases. Use of conventional anaesthesia may still be required. ***Not all patients qualify for same day implants. Questions can not be answered over phone. Implant consult appointment is required. CT x-ray and bone graft not included.



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